

Windows 8 Required and Recommended Settings

This document is presented to IDEXX Cornerstone* Practice Management System customers who will be using Microsoft® Windows® 8 in their practice. This document outlines our required and recommended settings for using Windows 8 with the Cornerstone system. Cornerstone 8.3 Service Pack 4 or higher is required for use with Windows 8 or 8.1. Windows 8.1 is recommended due to the user interface enhancements.

Required Settings for use with Cornerstone

The settings in this section are required for the best Cornerstone experience.

Set Control Panel to Show All

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click the **View by:** drop-down list and click **Small icons**.
3. Close the Control Panel.

Disable User Account Control

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **User Accounts**.
3. Click **Change User Account Control settings**.
4. Slide the adjustment bar to **Never notify**.
5. Click **OK** and click **Yes** at the User Account Control prompt.
Note: If prompted, click **Yes! Restart the computer**.

Disable IPv6

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Network and Sharing Center**.
3. Click **Change adapter settings**.
4. Right-click the **connected** network connection and click **Properties**.
5. Uncheck **Internet Protocol Version 6 (TCP/IPv6)**.
6. Click **OK** and close the Network Connections window.

Enable File Sharing

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Network and Sharing Center**.
3. Click **Change advanced sharing settings**.
4. In the Domain, Private and All Networks sections select the following settings:
Note: Depending on configuration, some options may not be available.
 - a. Click **Turn on file and printer sharing**.
5. Click **Save changes** and close the Network and Sharing Center window.

Disable Power Save Settings

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Power Options**.
3. On the left, click **Create a power plan**.
4. In the Create a power plan window, select **High Performance**.
5. In the Plan Name field, type **IDEXX Power**.
6. Click **Next** and click **Create**.
7. Under IDEXX Power, click **Change plan settings**.
8. Click **Change advanced power settings**.
9. In the Power Options window, expand **Hard Disk**.
10. Under **Hard Disk**, expand **Turn off hard disk after**.
11. Click **Setting** and set **Setting (Minutes)** to **0** (zero).
Note: If applicable, set **On battery** to **0** (zero).
12. Click **OK** and close the Edit Plan Settings window.

Disable Network Card Power Save Settings

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Network and Sharing Center**
3. Click **Change adapter settings**.
4. Right-click the **connected** network connection and click **Properties**.
5. Click the **Configure** button.
6. Click the **Power Management** tab.
7. Uncheck **Allow the computer to turn off this device to save power**.
Note: This check box may not be present on some systems.
8. Click **OK** and close the Network Connections window.

Disable the Windows Firewall

Note: A hardware firewall (router) is recommended in place of a software firewall.

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Windows Firewall**.
3. Click **Turn Windows Firewall on or off**.
4. In the Domain and Private network location settings section, click **Turn Off Windows Firewall (not recommended)**.
5. Click **OK** and close the Windows Firewall window.

Recommended Settings for use with Cornerstone

The settings in this section are recommended for the best Windows experience.

Set Network Location to Private

1. Press the **Windows key+i**.
2. Click **Change PC Settings**.
3. Click **Network**.
4. Click the connected network connection.
5. Select the **ON** option under Find devices and content.

Set Default Program Photo Viewer

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Default Programs**.
3. Click **Set your default programs**.
4. In the Programs window, select **Windows Photo Viewer**, click **Set this program as default**, and click **OK**.

Disable Sharing Wizard

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Folder Options**.
3. Click the **View** tab in the Folder Options window.
4. Scroll to the bottom and uncheck **Use Sharing Wizard (Recommended)**.
5. Click **OK** and close the Control Panel.

Show Extensions for Known File Types

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Folder Options**.
3. Click the **View** tab in the Folder Options window.
4. Uncheck **Hide extensions for known file types**.
5. Click **OK** and close the Control Panel.

Disable Screen Saver

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Personalization**.
3. Click **Screen Saver**.
4. Choose none from the drop-down menu.
5. Click **OK** and close the Personalization window.

Display Percentage

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Display**.
3. Click **Smaller—100% (default)**.
4. Click **Apply** and close the Display window.

Configure Action Center

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Action Center**.
3. Click **Change Action Center settings**.
4. Uncheck **Windows Update, Internet security settings, Network firewall, User Account Control and Windows Backup**.
5. Click **OK** and close the Action Center window.

Add Command Prompt Option to the Context Menu

Note: This is only available in Windows 8.1. Windows 8 displays the Command Prompt option by default.

1. Right-click the **Task Bar** and click **Properties**.
2. Click the **Navigation Tab**.
3. Uncheck **Replace Command Prompt with Windows PowerShell in the menu when I right-click the lower-left corner or press Windows key+X**.
4. Click **OK** and close the Taskbar Properties window.

Show All Notification Area Icons

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Notification Area Icons**.
3. Check **Always show all icons and notifications on the taskbar**.
4. Click **OK** and close the Control Panel.

Add Critical System Icons to the Desktop

1. Press the **Windows key+X** and click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Personalization**.
3. Click **Change desktop icons**.
4. Check **Computer, Recycle Bin, User's Files, and Network**.
5. Click **OK** and close the Personalization window.

Setup Automatic Updates

1. Press the **Windows key+X**, click **Control Panel** and click **Windows Update**.
2. Click **Change settings**.
3. In the Important updates section, choose **Download updates but let me choose whether to install them**.
4. Click **OK** and close the Control Panel window.

Note: Updates may start to download right after you click OK.

For further assistance, please call IDEXX Support at 1-800-695-2877.



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