



Windows Vista™

Windows Vista Mobile Device Center Step by Step Guide

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Abstract

Windows Mobile Device Center is the new name for ActiveSync in Microsoft® Windows Vista™, and provides overall device management features for your Windows Mobile-based devices in Windows Vista, including Smartphone and Pocket PCs. All of the features previously available in ActiveSync are available Windows Mobile Device Center, including synchronization and setting up your partnership.

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Windows Vista Mobile Device Center Step by Step Guide

Windows Mobile Device Center is the new name for ActiveSync in Microsoft® Windows Vista™, and provides overall device management features for your Windows Mobile-based devices in Windows Vista, including smartphones and pocket PCs. All of the features previously available in ActiveSync are available in Windows Vista, including synchronization and setting up your partnership. However, most of the user interface has changed in an effort to enhance your ability to easily and intuitively find device-related tasks and improve the overall usability of those tasks.

Please note that only a portion of Windows Mobile Device Center is included in this release of Windows Vista. This primarily includes core device connectivity components, which allows the operating system to recognize that a Windows Mobile-based device has connected and load the appropriate device drivers and services. Included with this is our Windows Mobile Device Center base application that enables some basic functionality, including the ability to browse the contents of your device, use desktop passthrough to sync with Microsoft Exchange, and change some general computer and connection settings.

In this guide

This guide is an early draft of the Windows Mobile Device Center Step by Step Guide for Windows Vista to help support the Technology Adoption Program, and only covers the Windows Mobile Device Center base application as explained above.

This guide covers the following scenarios for using the Windows Mobile Device Center base application:

- [Hardware requirements for Windows Mobile Device Center in Windows Vista](#)
- [Connecting your Windows Mobile-based device](#)
- [Browsing the contents of your Windows Mobile-based device](#)
- [Copying the contents of the Windows Mobile-based device to the desktop](#)
- [Using your computer's network connection to synchronize with Exchange](#)
- [Adding media to your device from Windows Media Player](#)
- [Accessing Windows Mobile Device Center](#)

- [Known issues](#)
- [Additional Resources](#)

Hardware requirements for Windows Mobile Device Center in Windows Vista

We officially support WM2005-based devices and WM2003-based devices for .

Scenarios for using Windows Mobile Device Center

Scenario 1: Connecting your Windows Mobile-based Device using a USB cable

To start using the Windows Mobile Device Center base application, you must first connect your Windows Mobile-based device to a computer running Windows Vista.

Use the USB cable or cradle provided by your device manufacturer to connect your Windows Mobile-based device to a computer running .

To connect your Windows Mobile-based Device using a USB cable

1. Connect one end of the cable to the USB port on a computer running .
2. Connect the other end of the cable to the Windows Mobile-based device.
3. Windows Mobile Device Center base application will launch automatically.

Note

Upon first connect, it may take a few seconds for the appropriate drivers to load. The Windows Mobile splash screen will momentarily be displayed and then immediately launch the Windows Mobile Device Center base application.

Scenario 2: Browsing the contents of your Windows Mobile-based device

You can use the following commands when browsing the contents of your Windows Mobile-based device are:

- Open – opens picture and media file
- Copy – copies the file from device to desktop or vice versa
- Delete – prompts confirmation dialog to permanently delete the file or folder
- Rename – renames the file (currently not functional)
- Properties – opens the file properties dialog

▶ **To browse the contents of your Windows Mobile-based device**

1. Connect your Windows Mobile-based device to a computer running as outlined in Scenario 1.
2. In the Windows Mobile Device Center base application, click **File Management**. This opens the Mobile Device folder for your Windows Mobile-based device.
3. Browse the files on your Windows Mobile-based device as you would any files on the computer.

 **Note**

When you double-click a folder in the Mobile Device folder, it may take a few seconds for the folder to open because it is being read from the device.

Scenario 3: Copying the contents of the Windows Mobile-based device to the desktop

Using the Windows Mobile Device Center base application, you can copy information from the computer to the Windows Mobile-based device and vice versa. Copying a file creates separate versions of the file on your Windows Mobile-based device and computer. Because the files are not synchronized, any changes made to the file will not affect the copied file.

▶ **To copy contents on the Windows Mobile-based device to the desktop**

1. Connect your Windows Mobile-based device to a computer running as outlined in Scenario 1.
2. In the Windows Mobile Device Center base application, click **File Management**. This opens the Mobile Device folder for your Windows Mobile-based device.
3. In the Mobile Device folder, go to the file that you want to copy onto your Windows Mobile-based device or computer.

4. Do one of the following:
 - To copy the file to your device, right-click the file, and click Copy. Right-click the desired folder on your device, and click Paste.
 - To copy the file to your computer, right-click the file and click Copy. Right-click the desired folder on your computer, and click Paste.
 - Drag and drop the file from its original location to the desired folder on your device or computer.

Scenario 4: Using your computer's network connection to synchronize with Exchange

When connected to the desktop, you will be able to synchronize directly with the Exchange server through desktop passthrough, provided that your Windows Mobile-based device has been preconfigured to synchronize with your Exchange server.

▶ To sync with Exchange via desktop passthrough

1. Connect your Windows Mobile-based device to a computer running as outlined in Scenario 1.
2. On your Windows Mobile-based device, go to ActiveSync, and click **Sync**.
3. Your Windows Mobile-based device will use the computer's network connection to synchronize with your Exchange server.

Scenario 5: Adding media to your device from Windows Media Player

▶ To add media to your Windows Mobile-based device from WMP

1. Connect your Windows Mobile-based device to a computer running as outlined in Scenario 1.
2. In the Windows Mobile Device Center base application, click **Pictures, Music, and Video**. This opens Windows Media Player.
3. To finish adding media to your Windows Mobile-based device from Windows Media Player, follow the instructions "Synchronizing content to devices" in Windows Media Player Help.

Scenario 6: Accessing Windows Mobile Device Center

For the current release of Windows Vista, the Windows Mobile Device Center base application can be accessed through the control panel.

▶ To access the Windows Mobile Device Center from the control panel

1. Open Control Panel, click Classic View, and then click Windows Mobile Device Center.



Note

The Windows Mobile Device Center may be moved under Communications and Sync group in Category View.

Known issues

The following are known issues in the current release.

- Windows firewall blocks device driver installation preventing device connection.
 - Workaround: Disable the firewall via the Windows Firewall control panel.
- The Windows Mobile Device Center UI sometimes fails to launch on subsequent device connects.
 - Workaround: Disconnect and reconnect the device.
- The application blocking code to prevent previous versions of ActiveSync from being installed onto is not functional.
- Disconnecting the device from while the Connection Settings dialog box is open may hang the dialog box and become unresponsive.
 - Workaround: Open Task Manager, click **Connection Settings**, and then click **End Task**.

Additional Resources

If you are a beta tester and part of the special Technology Adoption Program (TAP) beta program, you can also contact your appointed Microsoft development team member for assistance.