

## Cool Microsoft Tricks

### Microsoft Windows XP Game Advisor

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/games/gameadvisor/default.mspix>

This site is really cool! It actually has useful information about games and whether they will run on your computer and Windows XP. Check it out. It even has a neat program called “Will it run on my computer” that analyses your PC and tells you whether a particular game will run or not.

### Windows XP Media Center Edition

There are a few “flavours” of Windows XP, there is “Home Edition”, there is Professional Edition” *and* there is “Media Center Edition.”

The Media Center Edition ships only with a Media Center Qualifying PC. These PCs will have TV input connectors, TV Output connectors, and other media enhanced hardware connectors. The Media Center Edition of Windows XP will come with a remote control to control all of the media such the TV Channels and the music files on your computer. I’ve seen one of these Media PC’s and they are THE COOLEST! It is the closest thing I’ve seen to properly merging the stereo and television with the computer.

Find out more at <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/mediacenter/default.mspix>

### Media Player 10

Even if you aren’t going to buy new Media Center PC there is still something we all (well those of us with Windows XP) can do to make our computer play our music and other media better. Go and download Microsoft Media Player Version 10! I love it!

It is better at playing music files by more efficiently organizing your library of music. It is better at burning music CDs, and by *better* I mean *easier*. My favorite new feature of Media Player Version 10 is that it will “rip” music files into mp3 format. Previous versions insisted on using a format called .wma. Who uses wma files? We all want to use mp3s! So now I can take my newly purchased original music CDs and “rip” them into mp3 format in just a few minutes.

Take my word for it, don’t hesitate any longer, go and download Media Player 10 at <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/mp10/default.aspx>.