

Microsoft Copilot

Copilot is Microsoft's bespoke Artificial Intelligence "chat" application. It's also a PC spec.

Microsoft has developed its own Artificial Intelligence system that is offered in two "flavors": The first is a free conversational chat interface, like ChatGPT, that lets you search for specific information, generate text such as emails and summaries, and create images based on your text prompts.

The second is a "pro" version that integrates Copilot with Microsoft Office applications like Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. This version of Copilot incorporates information from the user's files – including those in OneDrive and Sharepoint (a corporate file-sharing application) – to help summarize documents and analyze data. It's \$20/month and is aimed chiefly at corporate users.

To try Copilot, go to www.copilot.microsoft.com or click the Copilot icon on your Windows 11 taskbar. If you use the Edge browser, you may see the Copilot icon in the upper right corner. And if you are already viewing a webpage, Copilot will open in a panel on the right.

Copilot+PC

Unrelated to Microsoft Copilot that I just discussed, Microsoft recently created a new category of PC hardware, dubbed "Copilot+PC." It's designed for AI tasks such as live translations and graphics automation (for example, turning a photo into what looks like a painted image) and will soon include a "recall" feature that builds a "memory" of your day-to-day tasks for future reference.

In other words, while Copilot is an application akin to ChatGPT, Copilot+PC is a computer specification.

Nerd Discussion About Copilot+PC

Most major PC manufacturers offer a Copilot+PC version of their laptops, and they're as fast as blazes. Many now use a new central processor chip based on the Advanced RISC Machines (ARM) design to achieve these high processing speeds and long battery life. On the other hand, Microsoft designed Windows to work with chips made by Intel and AMD, and the newer ARM-based version of Windows may not be compatible with some non-Microsoft software.

In other words, if you use Windows for more mundane tasks, like web browsing, email, or preparing documents, you probably don't need a Copilot+PC. You can always ask us.

Epilogue

ChatGPT and Microsoft Copilot can help satisfy your intellectual curiosity by collecting and summarizing information from myriad web pages and online documents. That doesn't mean they're perfect, and you must review their responses, but these "large language models" offer an excellent starting place to start a new page in your lifelong learning.

If you need computer help just fill out the form at Tech Lab – Center for Modern Aging Princeton (cmaprinceton.org) to set up an appointment.



Sharon just asked Copilot to list the instructions for making gefilte fish. Look how happy she seems to be!



The Copilot icon is quite colorful, unless you're reading this in black-and-white.