

Using MediaPortal

MediaPortal: Discover the Features

This Wiki section is the main **User's Guide** for those who are new to MediaPortal.. It describes how to navigate and use the main features and plugins installed with MediaPortal.

Basics

So, you've successfully [prepared your system](#), [installed](#) MediaPortal and completed [quick setup](#)? Well then: you're ready to start using MediaPortal!

Using MediaPortal is very intuitive. See [Basics](#) to learn about the MediaPortal interface.

Home Screen

When your first start MediaPortal you will see the Home screen. There are two options for the Home screen: [Home](#) or [BasicHome](#) and many ways you can configure your startup options.

Navigation

Navigating the MediaPortal interface is very intuitive. There are navigation features you may choose according to the input device you use (remote control, keyboard, mouse, touch screen, or other external devices like mini displays). See [Navigation](#) to learn the options available such as:

- [Keyboard shortcuts](#)
- [Remote keys](#)
- Mouse or Touch screen controls:
 - [Page up/down](#)
 - [Scroll bars](#)
 - [Top bar](#)

Menus

Most windows in MediaPortal offer built in [menus](#) which allow you to select:

- [Layouts](#) - [List](#), [Icons](#), [Big Icons](#), [Filmstrip](#), [Cover flow](#) and in a few windows [Big Icons List](#) (Album). The [Playlist](#) layout is available in playlist windows (instead of the normal list layout).
- [Views](#) - [Shares](#) (Explorer style), [Database](#), [Playlists](#)
- [Sort Options](#)

As well as navigate to other related windows or features, or perform related actions.

Note: Yes, there is both a Playlists layout and a playlists view.

Context Menu

[Context menus](#) enable you to perform additional actions which are relevant for the window you're using. They're sometimes called dialogs because they allow you to interact with MediaPortal.

Features

There are seven main features in MediaPortal. The main features display by default on the Home Screen when you start MediaPortal. Five of them display on the BasicHome screen in the default skin Blue3/wide. For an overview of features, see our webstie: [MediaPortal: Discover the Features](#). To learn how to use these features, see:

- [Videos](#)
- [DVD Disks/Images](#) (not on BasicHome)
- [TV](#)
- [Radio](#) (not on BasicHome)
- [Music](#)
- [Pictures](#)
- [Weather](#)

To disable or enable these features, or display features on either the [Home](#) or [Plugins](#) Window, see [Customizing > Configuration > Plugins](#).

You may also customize many aspects of each feature. See the specific feature under [Customizing > Configuration](#)

Plugins included in MediaPortal

Plugins add to the functionality of MediaPortal. A number of plugins are included with MediaPortal.

See [Using MediaPortal > Plugins](#), in particular:

- [LastFMScrobbler](#)
- [RSS News](#)
- [Wikipedia](#)
- [Sudoku](#)
- [Tetris](#)

For an overview of the types of plugins and their differences, see [Reference > Plugins](#)