

What's included.

- ◆ **Forms.** This first release for the 2026 filing season contains the most widely-used forms for Form 1040 returns. We will be adding forms not yet included in the coming days until all forms supported by *Tax Preparer* are included, so you should *Check for Updates frequently* to keep up to date with the latest additions. **CAUTION:** *Be sure to read the IMPORTANT new step at the bottom of this page to ensure an accurate return that includes dependents.*
- ◆ **E-file.** (*Standard and Premium Level ONLY*) The ability to generate e-file output is included, including complete pre-transmission error checking, *but the output will NOT yet be available to your transmission software, as we are awaiting approval from the IRS.* Nevertheless, you can generate e-file output in order to perform pre-transmission error-checking so that you will be ready once we receive IRS approval and embed it in a new release of our software. Those of you who ordered any of our e-file transmission products should have their transmission software from our 3rd-party provider (PDP) before we receive approval from the IRS. **TIP:** You can most easily install the transmission software *after* you have installed this release of *Tax Preparer* on your computer.
- ◆ **Manuals.** The latest version of our *User's Guide (Rev. Jan. 2015)* is included. Our on-screen *Tax Forms Guide* is included, but is not yet updated for the current tax season. Nevertheless, you can use this manual for help with most forms.
- ◆ **IRS forms and publications.** (*Standard and Premium Level ONLY*) A broad range of IRS-supplied forms, instructions, and publications is included. These IRS documents include most information relevant to Form 1040 returns that had been released by the IRS by the time we completed this release of *Tax Preparer*. However, there are some important publications and form instructions that the IRS has not yet updated, which will be included in future updates as they are released by the IRS.

Installation is both 32-bit and 64-bit compatible. The installation disk uses a custom Windows installer that is compatible with both 32-bit and 64-bit Windows. The installer detects which you are using and tailors the installation to your computer. Therefore, you don't really need to know which version your computer uses; your installation should be successful either way.

Installation. Installation is self-guided once started. However, if the installation does not complete, you may have to temporarily turn off any anti-virus or other security features to keep them from interfering with the installation. In addition, if your computer is set up for multiple users, you will have to "Run as Administrator."

Start-up. Once installed, you can start *Tax Preparer* by double-clicking the icon on your desktop for *Tax Preparer 2026 - 1040* or the icon for *2026 U.S. Individual 1040* in the program group *HowardSoft Tax Preparer* (in your list of *All Programs*).

IMPORTANT *new* step after translate. If you use our translate feature to start your current return using some data from the prior year, there is one MANDATORY STEP you must take this year for any return with dependents. Because of the IRS's major change in the format for reporting dependents on Form 1040, you must itemize and view EACH AND EVERY dependent worksheet after you have translated the return.

64-bit vs. 32-bit versions of Tax Preparer

Feature	64-bit	32-bit
Prior data	Data from filing seasons prior to 2014 cannot be accessed because our 2014 Edition was the first 64-bit compatible edition.	Data from <u>all</u> prior years can be accessed through prior editions of Tax Preparer.
Look and Feel	<u>Improved visual impact</u> with fully scalable modern sans-serif font that's sharp and clear at all window sizes, a solid colored auto-calc block, and a non-blinking editing cursor. Icon in upper left corner is familiar Tax Preparer icon with a drop-down menu that provides alternatives to keyboard hot keys.	Non-scalable font with serifs and digital-looking letters, a dotted auto-calc block, and a blinking editing cursor. Icon in upper left corner is system C-prompt with drop-down menu that is only partially functional.
Copy and Paste*	<u>Easy copy and paste using hot keys</u> . Press <i>Win-Ctrl</i> while using mouse to highlighting the area to copy, and highlighted area is copied to Windows clipboard when you release the mouse button. Press <i>Win-Ctrl-V</i> to paste data from clipboard to Tax Preparer.	<u>Hot keys not available for Copy and Paste</u> . Must use drop-down menu for icon in upper-left corner of window, choosing Edit from that menu to see Mark, Copy, and Paste.
Change window size*	Repeatedly tap <i>Win-F11</i> to shrink window in steps to as small as 585x365 pixels. Repeatedly tap <i>Win-F12</i> to enlarge window in steps to as large as your full resolution (entire screen). <u>New size is saved for all</u> 64-bit editions of Tax Preparer.	<u>Flexible window resizing not available</u> . Must select a font of different size and shape through drop-down menu for icon in upper-left corner. New font is saved <u>only</u> for edition you used to change it.
Change window position	Drag window's title bar with your mouse to the position you want. <u>New position is saved for all</u> editions of Tax Preparer.	Drag window's title bar with your mouse to the position you want. <u>New position is <i>not</i> saved</u> .
Default window size and position	Size and position of <u>window starts how you left it</u> in your last Tax Preparer session <u>except</u> that window is repositioned if necessary to make the entire window visible.	Last size is restored but <u>not</u> last position.
Drop-down menu	Drop-down menu from icon in upper left corner provides <u>fully functional</u> alternatives to keyboard hot keys.	Drop-down menu from icon in upper-left corner is <u>only partially functional</u> .
Windows-graphic printing	Compatible for <u>all</u> computers with a Windows-compatible printer.	<u>Some software interferes</u> with Windows printing.
Laser-graphic printing	<u>Not available</u> . (Instead, a disk file is produced for use with an older computer.)	Available for PCL4-compatible HP laser printer and tax font connected through a parallel port (LPTx).
All installed editions icon	<u>Not available</u> . (Each edition must be started from its own icon, and no editions prior to the 2014 Edition are 64-bit compatible.)	Start any edition from a single icon.

* *Win* refers to the key with a Windows logo, between the left *Ctrl* key and the left *Alt* key.

F11 and *F12* are the last two function keys in the row above numbers on the keyboard.

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