

Windows 10

What is *Fast start-up*?

Windows 10 starts up faster after a *Shut down* due to a feature called *Fast Start-up*. This only operates after a *Shut down*. If you *Restart* a Windows 10 computer, it does a full (and slower) restart, not a *Fast Start-up*. [Click here for more detailed information about Fast Startup.](#)

When you shut down with Fast startup enabled it actually takes longer to shut down because it stores a snapshot of your system before it turns off.

Microsoft enables Fast start-up by default.

Fast start-up can cause problems

When starting up following a shut down you may experience unexplained problems which disappear if you do a Restart, such as instability, failed startups, drivers not loading properly, security applications failing to operate correctly, etc. Turning *Fast start-up* off often resolves such issues.

If your C drive is a Solid State drive (shown as SSD or eMMC in your computer specifications), Fast start-up should be turned off, because (a) it has very little effect on start-up time, and (b) it causes unnecessary wear on the SSD.

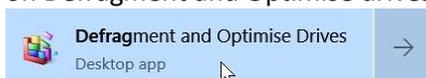
If your C drive is a spinning Hard disk drive (HDD), turning fast start-up off will increase the start-up time following a Shut down, but speed up the shut down process.

How to tell if your C drive is a Hard disk drive or Solid state drive

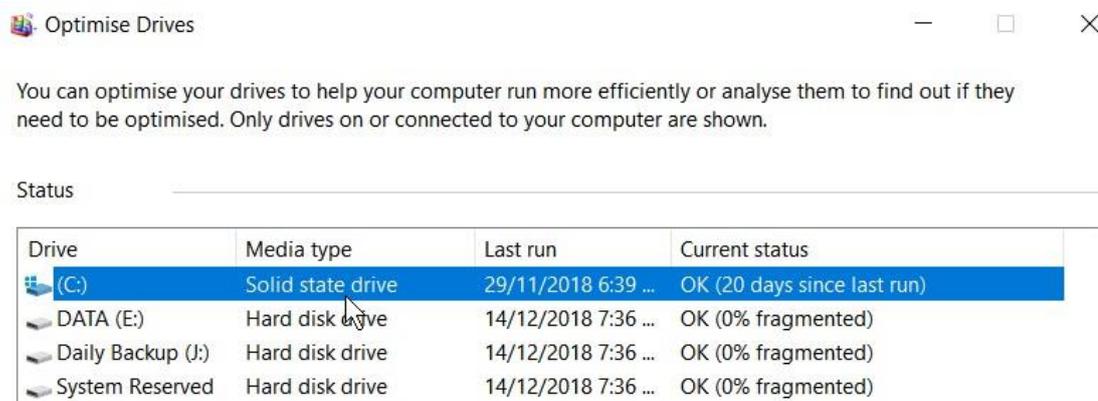
Your computer specifications should specify HDD, SSD or eMMC.

Alternatively, you can find out as follows:

1. Open the Windows app called Optimise Drives – click Start, type “defrag” (no quotes), click on Defragment and Optimise drives



2. It will tell you if your C drive is a Hard disk drive or Solid state drive. Note – don't run the optimiser – this is all handled automatically by Windows 10.



How to disable *Fast start-up*

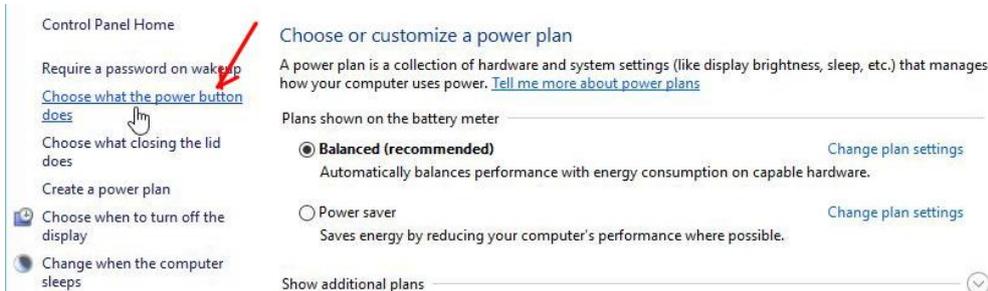
Right click the Start button and left click Power Options



Find the section called Related power settings (in the Power settings window, this may be in the middle or on the right, click on *Additional power settings*



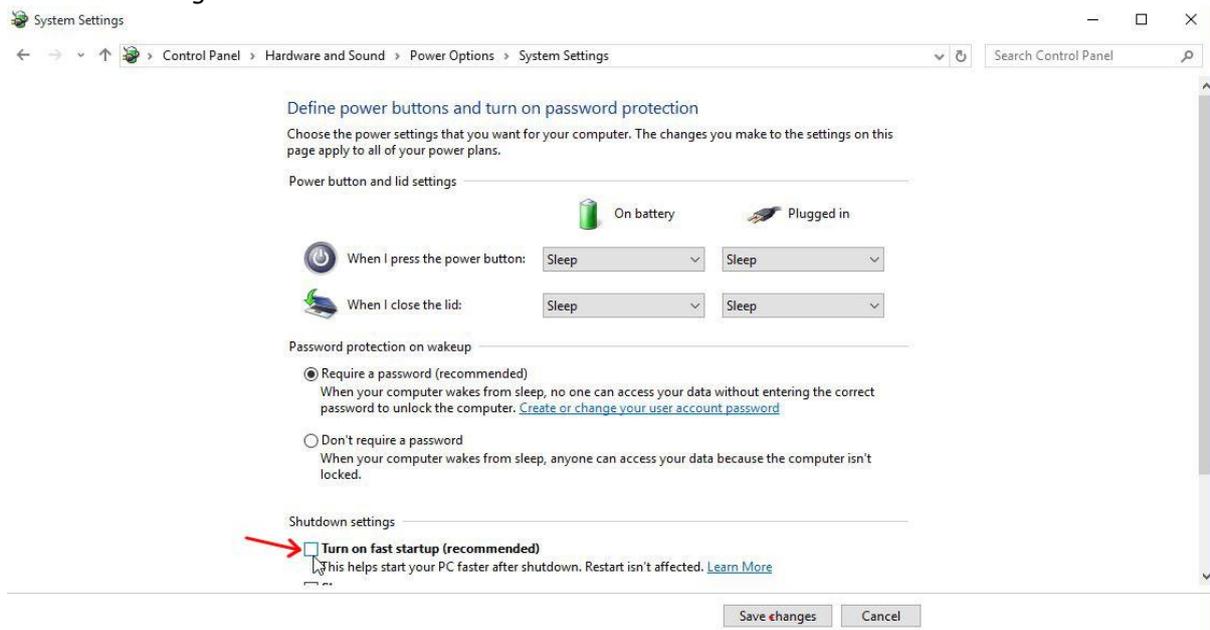
Click on *Choose what the Power buttons do*



Click on *Change settings that are currently unavailable*



Scroll down to *Shutdown settings* and Uncheck the box *Turn on Fast Startup*
Click *Save Changes*



The screenshot shows the Windows System Settings application window. The title bar reads "System Settings". The breadcrumb navigation path is "Control Panel > Hardware and Sound > Power Options > System Settings". A search bar on the right contains the text "Search Control Panel".

The main content area is titled "Define power buttons and turn on password protection". Below this title is a subtitle: "Choose the power settings that you want for your computer. The changes you make to the settings on this page apply to all of your power plans."

The settings are organized into sections:

- Power button and lid settings**: This section has two sub-sections: "On battery" and "Plugged in".
 - Under "On battery":
 - "When I press the power button:" has a dropdown menu set to "Sleep".
 - "When I close the lid:" has a dropdown menu set to "Sleep".
 - Under "Plugged in":
 - "When I press the power button:" has a dropdown menu set to "Sleep".
 - "When I close the lid:" has a dropdown menu set to "Sleep".
- Password protection on wakeup**:
 - The "Require a password (recommended)" radio button is selected. Below it is the text: "When your computer wakes from sleep, no one can access your data without entering the correct password to unlock the computer. [Create or change your user account password](#)".
 - The "Don't require a password" radio button is unselected. Below it is the text: "When your computer wakes from sleep, anyone can access your data because the computer isn't locked."
- Shutdown settings**:
 - The "Turn on fast startup (recommended)" checkbox is unselected. A red arrow points to this checkbox. Below it is the text: "This helps start your PC faster after shutdown. Restart isn't affected. [Learn More](#)".

At the bottom right of the window, there are two buttons: "Save changes" and "Cancel".