There aren’t too many major differences between the two styles of Explorer windows; however users who are accustomed to Windows XP might find the new navigation a bit tricky. Rest assured that the differences aren’t very drastic. We’ll start by looking over the Windows XP Explorer window.

At the top of our Windows XP window, we have our Menu bar, which contains a good deal of our functions.
Beneath the Menu Bar, we have our **Standard buttons** and our **Address bar**.

Lastly, we have our window content, which we use to navigate through our computer. Over to the left, we have some other panes for System Tasks, other useful links, and details for each item.

Now let's look at a **Windows 7 Explorer window**. When looking at the top, everything has been simplified and minimized.
By default, the new Explorer has gotten rid of the Menu bar; however it can be put back in by going to Organize, Layout, and then checking off Menu bar.

Although with a Windows 7 Explorer window, there is almost no need for the Menu bar. Most of its more practical features have been placed in the Standard menu under Organize.
The **Organize menu**, along with the **View**, **Preview pane**, and **Help** functions, are the only features constantly on the standard menu. Depending on where you are in the Explorer, you will have different functions.

For example, when starting from the Computer menu, with the local disk highlighted, you have options for hard disk **Properties**, **System properties**, and **Uninstalling programs**.

If we highlight the removable drive, we receive the **AutoPlay** and **Eject** options.
Entering the drive will bring up a completely new set of options.

The window panes in the new Explorer window are also a bit different. You have the option of using a **Preview pane**, which allows you to preview a file before opening it. This option won’t work for everything, but it is certainly useful for picture and text files.

The **Details pane** is now at the very bottom of the window.
One of the more prominent features in the new Explorer window is the **Navigation pane**. The Navigation pane is the quickest way to explore your computer.

Towards the bottom, you have your **links to each drive** in your computer. These links can be expanded and collapsed.
Above your drives, you have your Libraries, and above the libraries are your Favorites.

The Desktop, Downloads, and Recent Places are placed in the Favorites automatically. You can add other folders to your Favorites by dragging them to the Favorites section.
You can then remove Favorite links by right-clicking the link and selecting Remove.

The last thing we’ll go over is navigating with the address bar and the standard menu. Going back to Windows XP, the address bar also serves as a drop-down menu, which offers several links.

As we navigate through the Explorer, we can also use the Back and Forward buttons, as well as the Up button to move up one folder level.
Lastly, you can type in where you want to go as well.

Now let’s go back to the Windows 7. The address bar still drops down, but like many of the other features, it has been simplified and does not have as many links.

While there are still back and forward buttons, there is no more up button. This is because you can move up folder levels by clicking on the title of the folder in the address bar.

Finally, you can also type in where you would like to go, just as you could in XP.