[See this page in the course material.]

Learning Outcomes

- Determine what operating system you have.

An operating system (OS) is system software that manages computer hardware and software resources and provides common services for computer programs. Nearly every computer program requires an operating system to function. The two most common operating systems are Microsoft Windows and Apple's macOS. This course's main focus will be Windows 10 and 7.

Although this class will be focusing on Windows 10 and 7, the things you will learn in this module can be done by any version of Windows or macOS. If you are not running Windows 10 or 7, you can find directions online by searching for the task you are trying to do and the name of your operating system. (For example, you might search for "create folder windows vista.")

Windows vs. Mac

Apple logo

To identify your operating system, start by narrowing down which brand of OS you have. Often you can determine whether you are running Windows or macOS without even turning on your computer:

- Is there an Apple logo somewhere on your computer?
- Does your computer have a Command key (⌘) on the keyboard?
- Was your computer purchased at an Apple store?

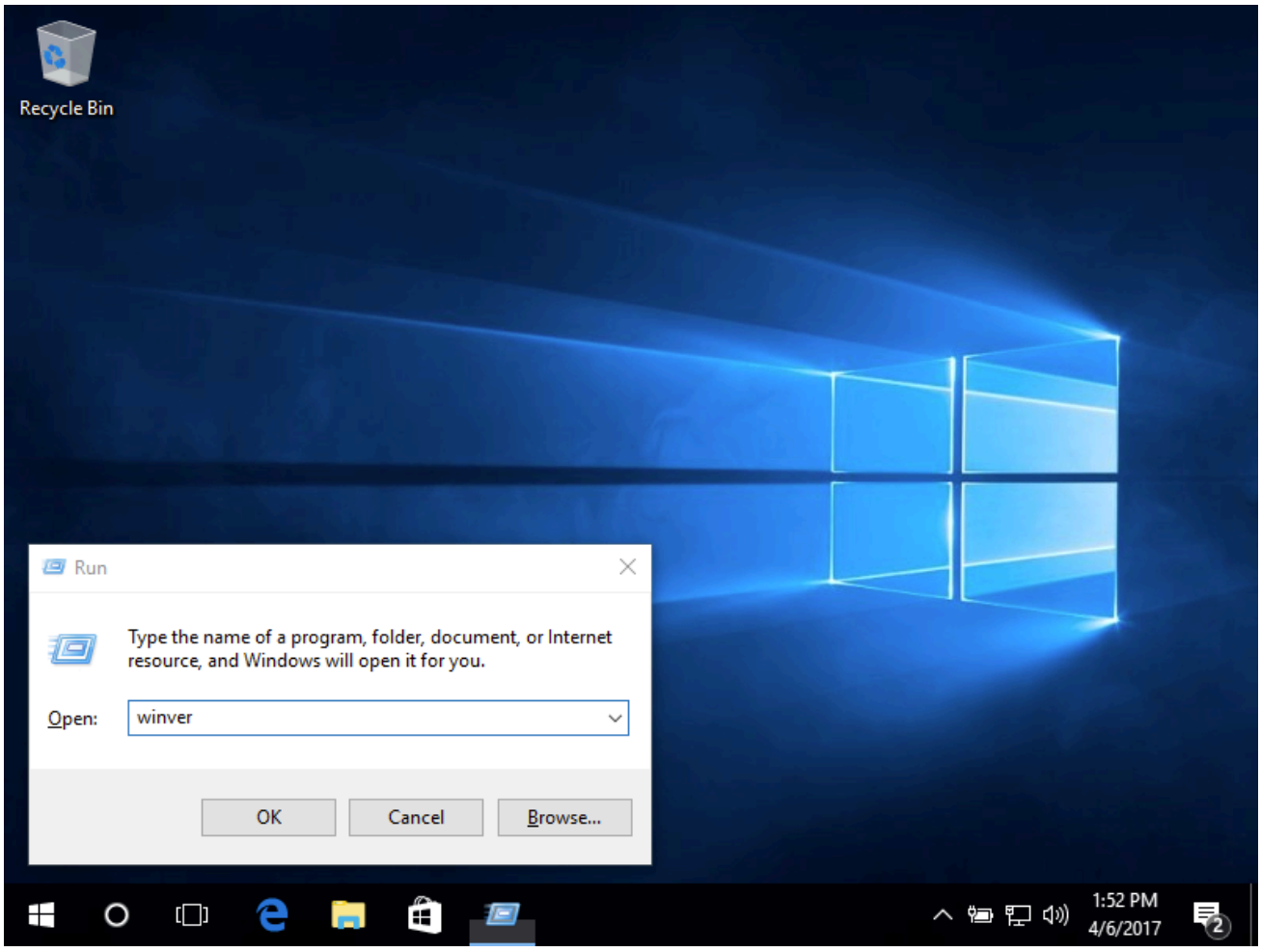
If the answer to any of those questions is *yes*, then you most likely have a computer that runs macOS.

Another good way to see whether you are running Windows or Mac is simply to turn the computer on. As the operating system boots up, it will display a logo. A Windows logo means you are running Windows, while an Apple logo means you are running macOS.

If you have determined that you are running Windows, there are many methods to determine your specific operating system, not all of which are listed here. **It doesn't matter which method you use**; what's important is figuring out which operating system you have. If one method doesn't work, try another.

Method 1

Press the Windows key (at the bottom of the keyboard, looks like four squares) and R key at the same time to open the Run dialog box. Type in "winver."

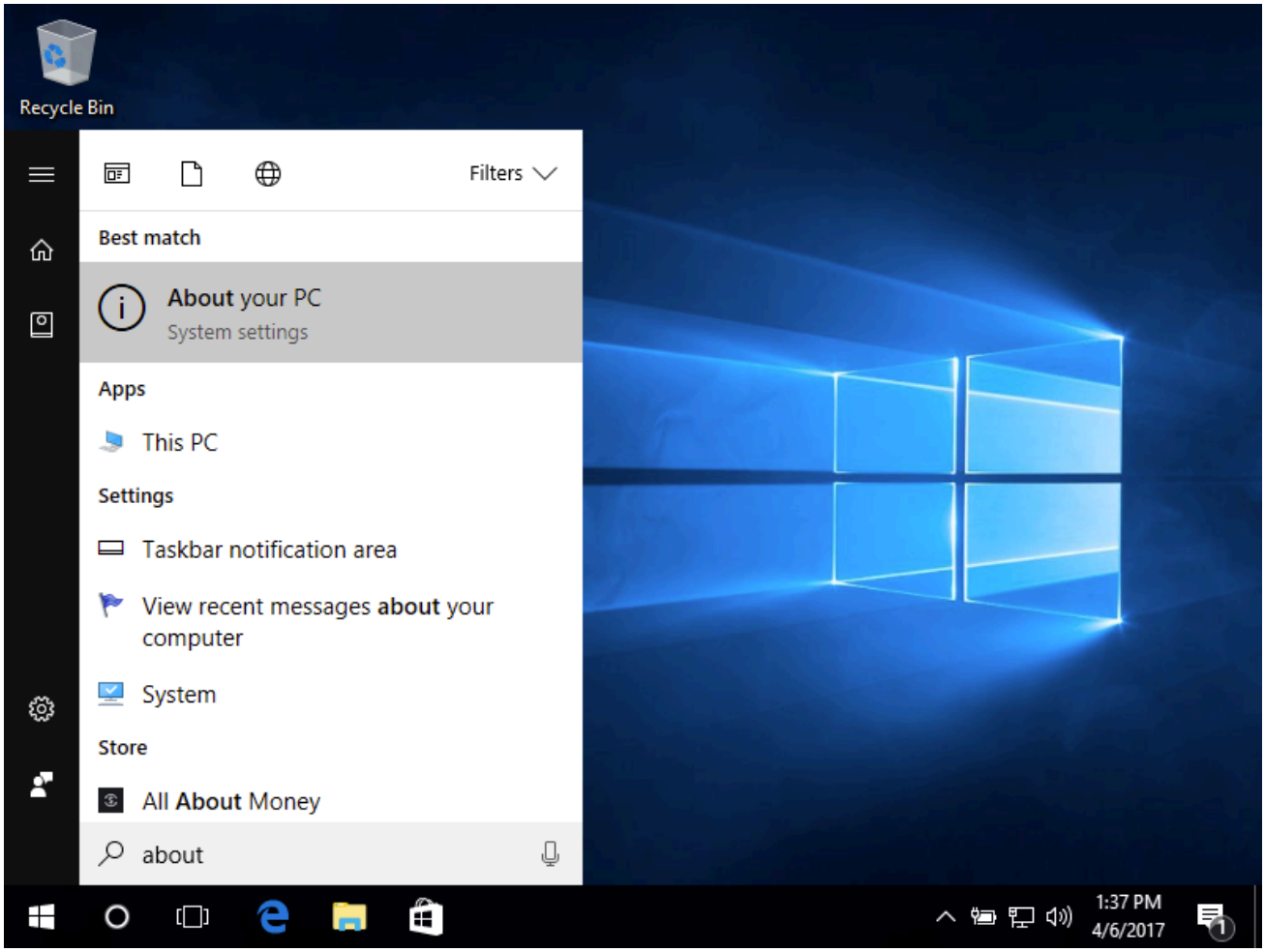


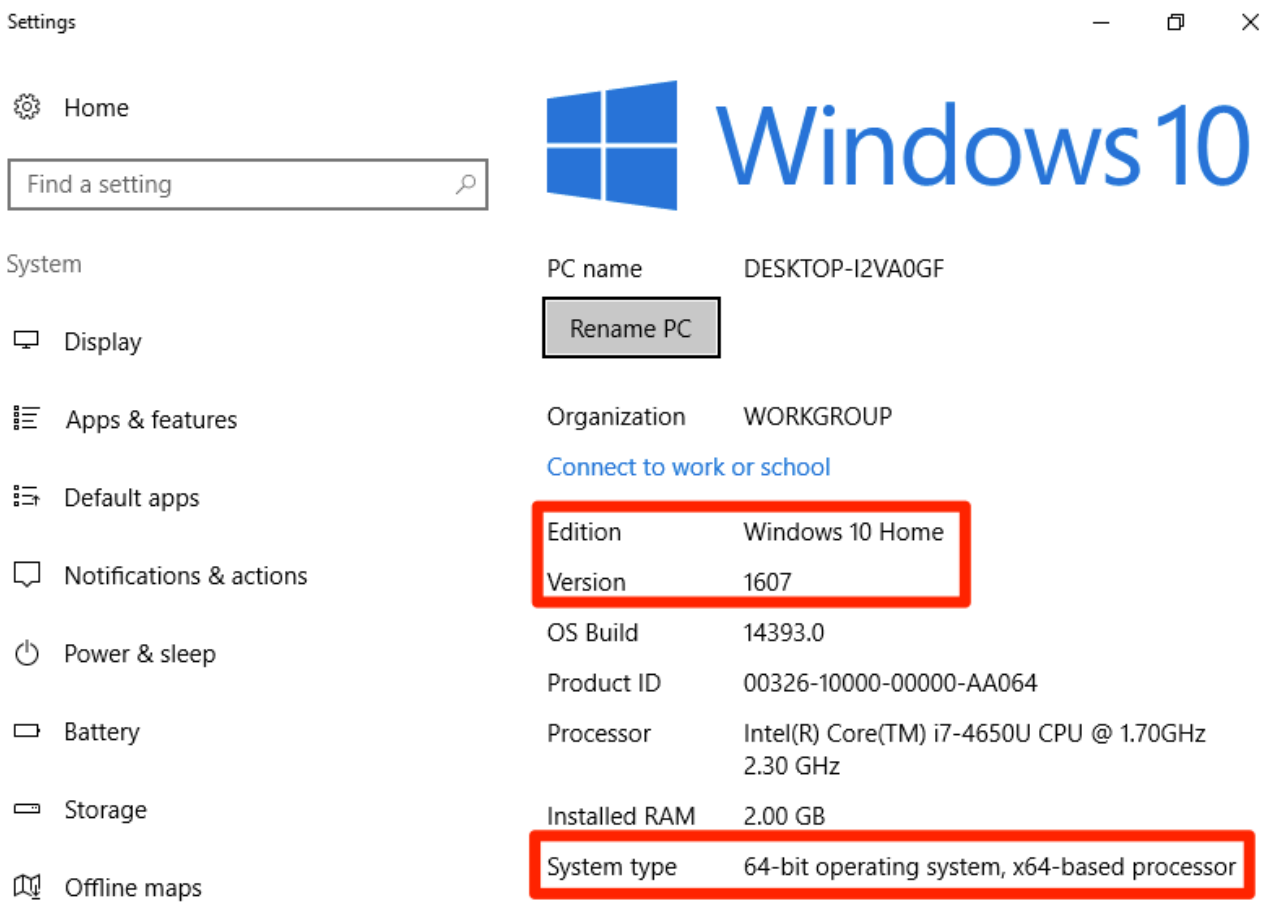
Click OK. A window should open called About Windows that tells you which operating system you are using.

This computer is using Windows 10.

Method 2

Open the Start menu by clicking the bottom left-hand corner of your screen. If you see a search text box, select it and then type “about” or “about your pc.” If you do not see a search text box, then just start typing “about” or “about your pc.” Select About your PC. If you do not see About your PC, try a different method.

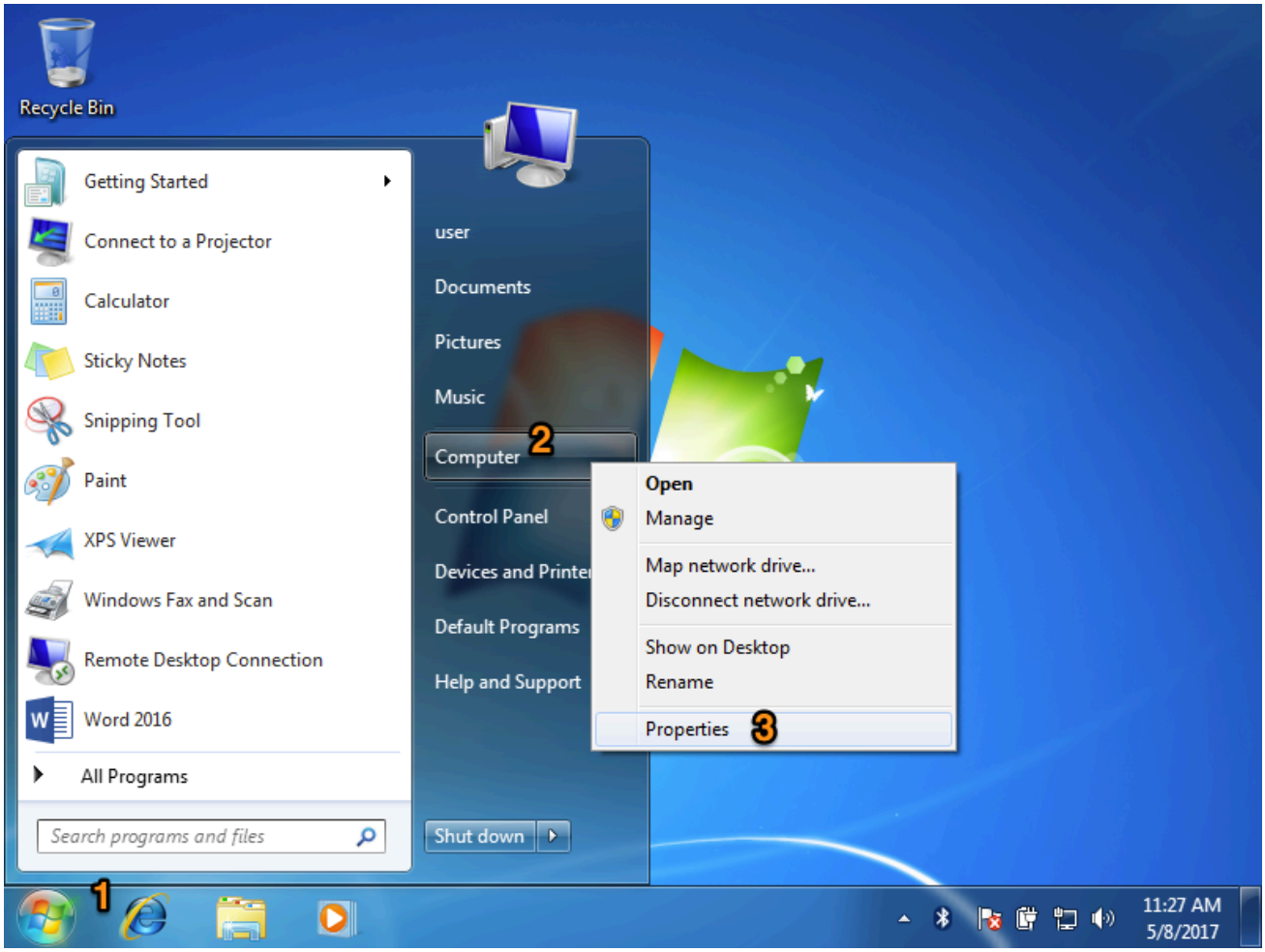

Recycle Bin
Filters
Best match
About your PC
System settings
Apps
This PC
Settings
Taskbar notification area
View recent messages about your computer
System
Store
All About Money
about
1:37 PM
4/6/2017

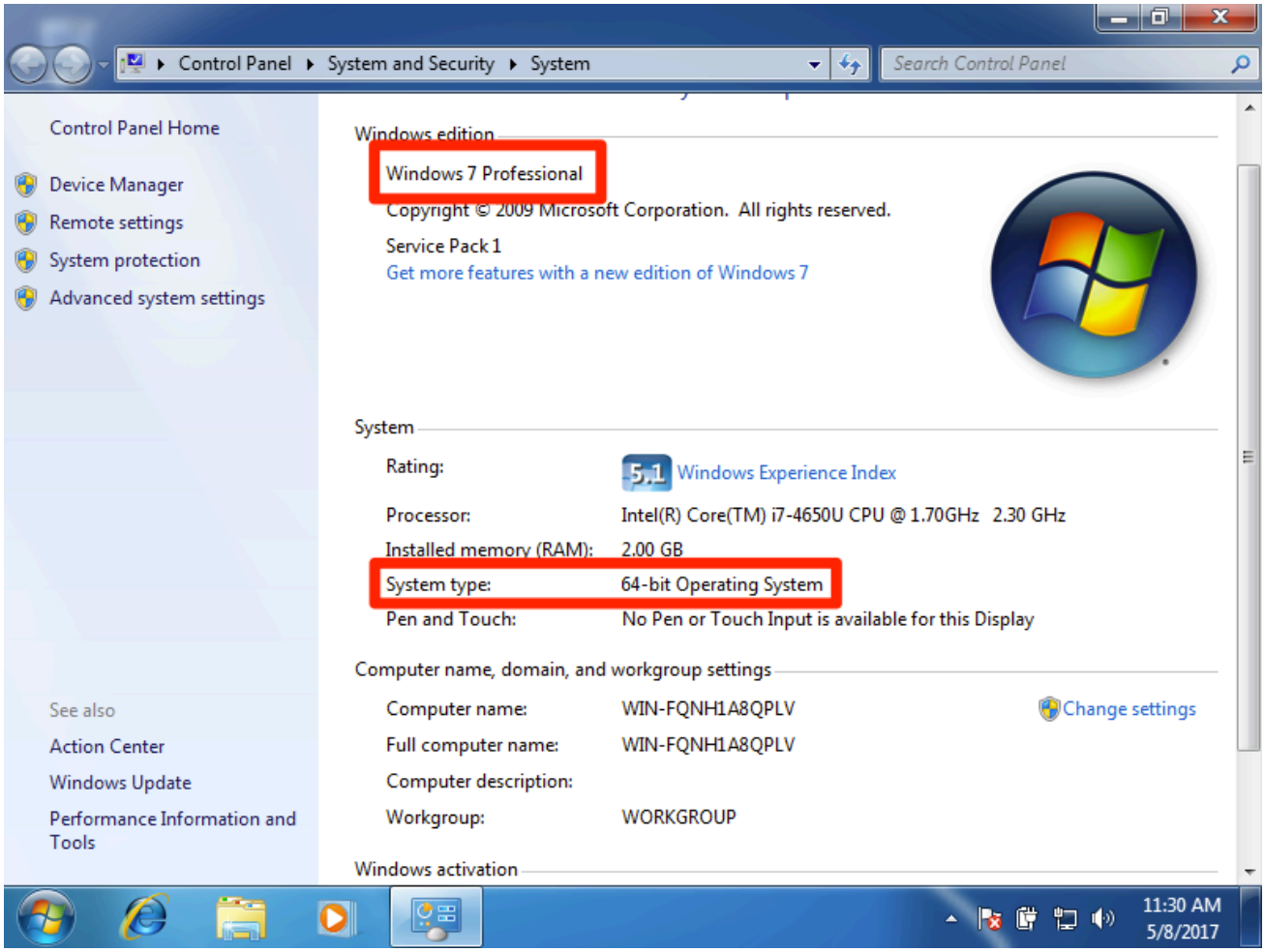


This computer is running Windows 10 Home Version 1607 with a 64-bit operating system.

Method 3

Open the Start menu by clicking the bottom left-hand corner of your screen. Right-click on Computer, then select Properties.

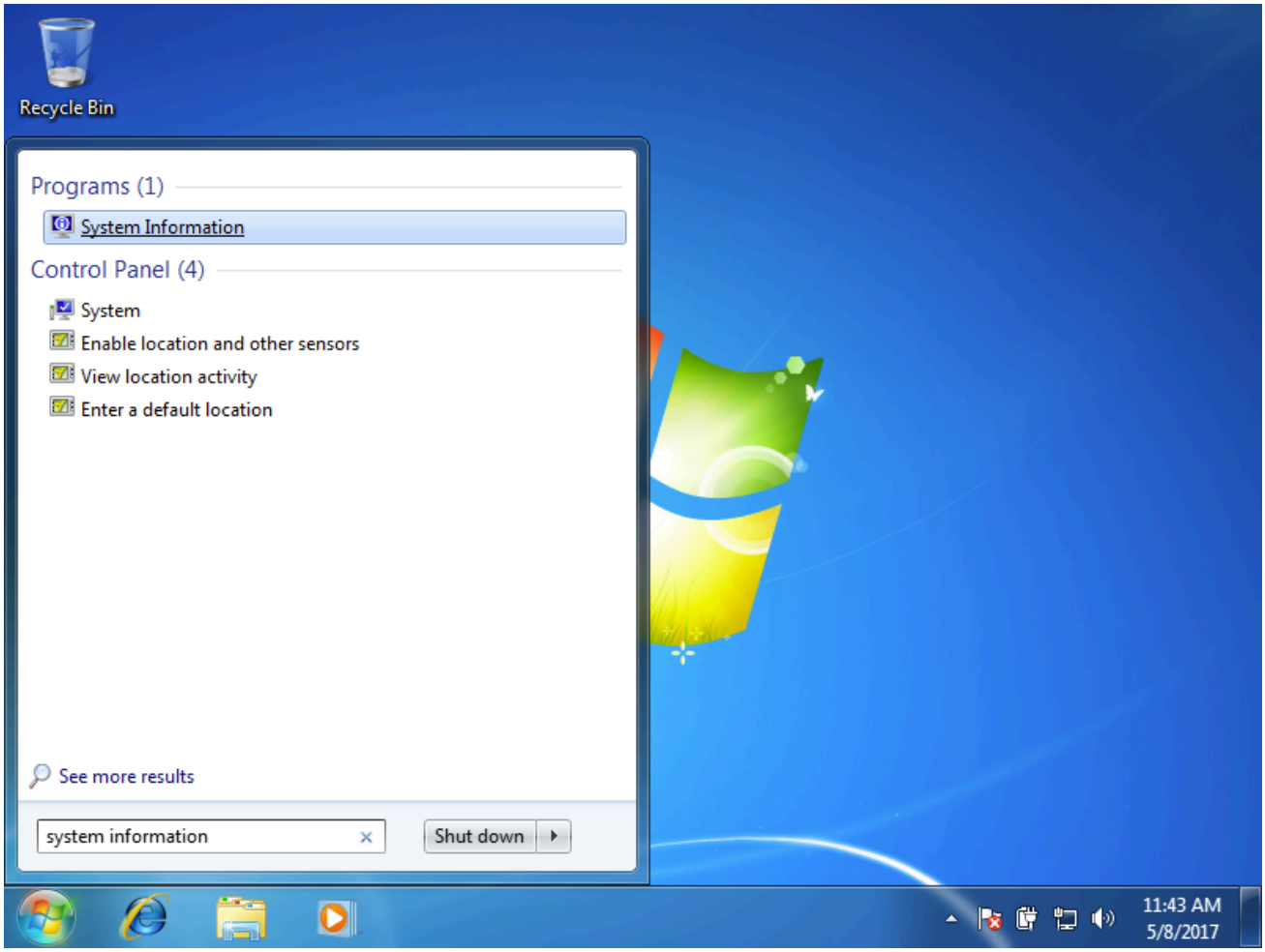

Recycle Bin
Getting Started
Connect to a Projector
Calculator
Sticky Notes
Snipping Tool
Paint
XPS Viewer
Windows Fax and Scan
Remote Desktop Connection
Word 2016
All Programs
Search programs and files
user
Documents
Pictures
Music
Computer
2
Control Panel
Devices and Printer
Default Programs
Help and Support
Shut down
Open
Manage
Map network drive...
Disconnect network drive...
Show on Desktop
Rename
Properties
3
1
11:27 AM
5/8/2017

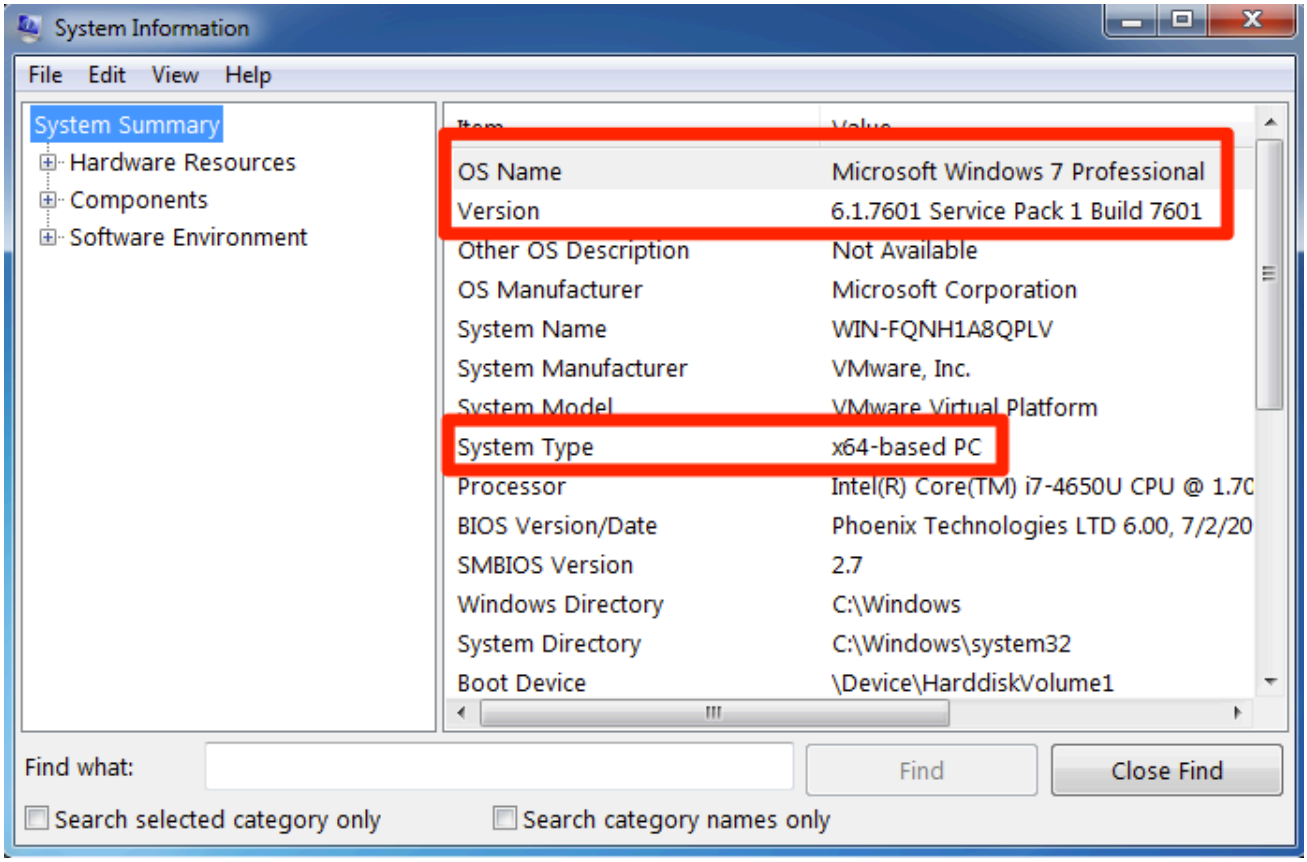


This computer is running Windows 7 Professional with a 64-bit operating system.

Method 4

Open the Start menu by clicking the bottom left-hand corner of your screen.If you see a search text box, select it and then type “System Information” in the search box. If you do not see a search text box, then just start typing “system” or “system information.” Select System Information under Programs. If you do not see System Information, try a different method.


Recycle Bin
Programs (1)
System Information
Control Panel (4)
System
Enable location and other sensors
View location activity
Enter a default location
See more results
system information
Shut down
11:43 AM
5/8/2017



This computer is running Windows 7 Professional with a 64-bit operating system.

Methods 2–4 also provide additional information on your computer that is useful for troubleshooting and determining what programs you will be able to run. For example, many software programs have a version for a x32-based processor and another for a x64-based processor. For the purposes of this course, you only need to know which edition of Windows you have.

Practice Questions

See this interactive in the course material.

Licenses and Attributions

CC licensed content, Shared previously

- definition of OS. **Provided by**: Wikipedia. **Located at**: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operating_system. **License**: *CC BY-SA: Attribution-ShareAlike*

Public domain content

- Apple logo. **Provided by**: Wikipedia. **Located at**: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Apple_logo_black.svg. **License**: *Public Domain: No Known Copyright*

Lumen Learning authored content

- Identifying Your Operating System (OS). **Authored by**: Lumen Learning. **License**: *CC BY: Attribution*

</div