

# Why doesn't Windows have an "expert mode"?

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 [devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20030728-00](http://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20030728-00)

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Raymond Chen

We often get requests like this:

There should be a slider bar somewhere, say on the Performance Tab, that ranges from Novice to Advanced. At the highest level, all the geek settings are turned on. At the Novice level, all the settings for beginners are turned on. In between, we can gradually enable stuff.

We've been trying to do something like this since even before Windows 95, and it doesn't work.

It doesn't work because somebody who is a whiz at Excel will rate themselves as Advanced even though they can't tell a CPU from a box of Cracker Jacks.

They're not stupid. They really **are** advanced users. Just not advanced at the skill we're asking them about.

And before you go mocking the non-geeks: Even geeks don't know everything. I know a lot about GUI programming, but I only know a little about disk partitioning, and I don't know squat about Active Directory. So am I an expert?

Raymond Chen

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