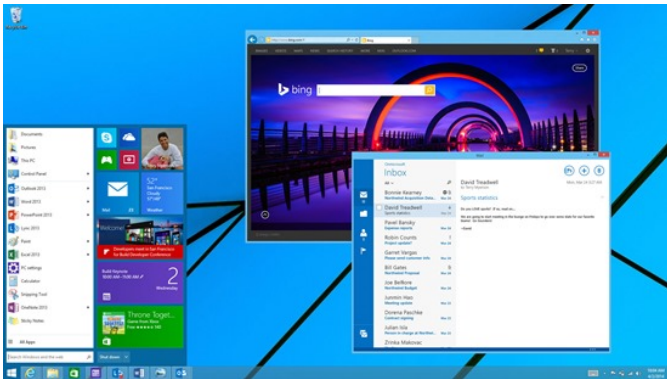


Microsoft Names Cloud Head, Details Windows Updates

Written by Marco Attard
04 April 2014

Microsoft has a busy week as CEO Satya Nadella promotes Cloud and Enterprise acting leader Scott Guthrie to group executive VP before detailing the Windows 8.1 and Windows Phone 8.1 updates at BUILD 2014.



Guthrie joined Microsoft in 1997 and is credited with "critical contributions" to .NET, Azure and other parts of the Microsoft ecosystem. His promotion is part of yet another Microsoft executive reshuffle, one seeing ex-Nokia CEO Stephen Elop named Devices Group executive VP and the formation of a new Xbox division led by Microsoft Studios head Phil Spencer.

Later the company details the post-Steve Sinofsky future of Windows at BUILD 2014. The upcoming Windows 8.1 Update sees the touch-friendly OS return to a more keyboard- and mouse-friendly UI, since the Start button makes a much demanded comeback.

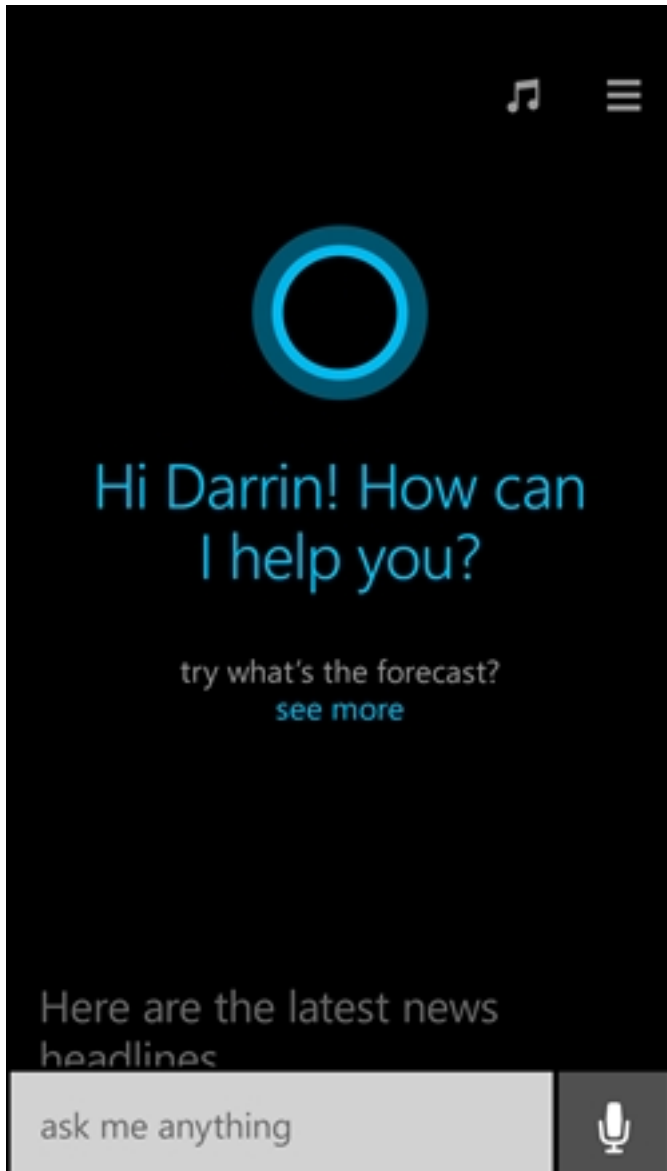
Further UI refinements include a boot straight to desktop feature and a redesigned Windows Store pre-pinned to the taskbar.

Meanwhile operating Systems group executive VP Terry Myerson confirms the Start menu will make a showing in a future Windows version. A next version of the OS will allow Universal Windows Apps to run in window mode (as opposed to full-screen), but Myerson fails to specify whether it will be Windows 8.1 Update 2, or Windows 9 Threshold.

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