



IconChanger 2026

User guide · 0.97.10 BETA

IconChanger 2026 creates icon packages and manages Windows icons. The Create packages workspace starts without live changes and provides responsive tiles. Change system is explicitly selectable; applying a package requires confirmation.

Quick start

1. Start IconChanger normally. Create packages is the default workspace and does not apply live changes.
2. Choose an icon folder or paste its path, select category and subfolder options, then choose Search icons.
3. Process additional categories in sequence; assignments in other categories stay in the draft.
4. Review 72-pixel tiles and actual targets. Select assignments and correct them with Choose icon or drag and drop. Windows targets require ICO; supported docks and Start11 require PNG.
5. Open package reads existing packages with name, description and all assignments, including targets absent on this PC.
6. Enter package name and description. Add wallpapers supports multiple variants; choose the default wallpaper. Add cursor INF reads the scheme without applying it.
7. Save package stores all selected categories with wallpapers and cursors. PNG preview saves an overview of the draft.
8. Apply to Windows is a separate action requiring explicit confirmation. Unavailable targets are ignored.
9. Select Change system for individual live changes. Categories, suggestions, Undo and Reset are available there.
10. Search, loading, export and application show an activity indicator. Protected changes may require separate administrator approval.
11. Start the target app and refresh Taskbar. Custom launchers are available through Open launchers; Store apps may keep their pinned package icon.
12. Explorer folder view offers icons instead of thumbnails at all sizes. File thumbnails are affected too; Restore previous setting restores the view.
13. After restarting Windows, open IconChanger and Taskbar to restart the saved window-icon helper. No automatic startup is installed.

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Notes

- Two workspaces in one application: Create packages and Change system
- Package workspace with precise recursive search, 72-pixel tiles, actual targets, manual selection and drag and drop
- Search one category or all categories; edit package name, description and complete assignments
- Add wallpaper variants and cursor INF without applying them; select a default wallpaper
- Save PNG package overviews; Apply to Windows is a separate confirmed action
- Taskbar, shortcuts, folders, system, Control Panel, apps and file types
- Separate target groups for Nexus/Winstep, Start11, QuickStart Dock and FlickDock
- Precise recursive search with names, aliases and manifests; up to three suggestions with ICO/PNG priority
- Shared packages, Package mode without live changes, Start from zero, wallpapers and cursor INF
- Unassigned filter, focus on the last edited target, Undo and complete reset
- WinUI 3 with previews, activity indicator, German/English, system/light/dark themes and on-demand UAC elevation
- Taskbar also detects running apps without classic shortcuts; a background helper updates window icons and assignments are saved
- Start the target app first, then refresh Taskbar. Store apps may keep their pinned package icon; custom launchers are accessible through Open launchers
- Explorer folder view offers icons instead of content thumbnails at all sizes. This also affects file thumbnails and the previous setting can be restored
- Folder assignments preserve other desktop.ini settings and write Unicode with consistent IconResource/IconFile entries; existing icons can be reassigned
- Windows 11 live-folder layers cannot reliably be replaced globally through arbitrary named Shell Icons values
- Visible previews load asynchronously, cancel when scrolled away and use a bounded image cache; image loading errors are logged locally
- Native title bar follows system, light, and dark themes; Windows 11 retains rounded corners for normal windows and high contrast uses system colors
- Previews retain the largest available image up to 1024 pixels without artificially enlarging small icons; the image cache is limited to 64 MiB
- Dialog previews survive opening and temporary reparenting of WinUI content
- General folder icons: Folder and Directory default associations are updated in addition to Explorer icon slots; previous values are backed up and restored

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- Reopen existing Explorer windows if needed. Individually customized desktop.ini folders and content thumbnails may keep different icons; Windows security settings are not globally relaxed
- Tile previews reload after a new search, category changes and scrolling; manual icon replacement refreshes the native-resolution image
- Start11: all saved pinned groups, including the Start group, are discovered. IconChanger uses consistent identities while preserving existing assignments
- Start11 and FlickDock use exact app identities for all applications, including Office executable identities and complete installed app names; generic suffixes such as App or EXE do not generate matches. These targets receive PNG suggestions only
- Explicit structured system names such as sys-system-this-pc, sys-system-recycle-bin-empty and sys-drive-fixed are recognized; unknown subgroups are not guessed. sys-settings names require a matching supported target; a classic export slot does not automatically represent a live-editable Windows 11 setting
- Packages retain all assignments even when their targets are absent on this PC; package name and description survive saving again
- Package import stores icons in the permanent data directory instead of the temporary .NET program folder; included wallpapers and cursors survive opening and saving
- Load package opens the complete draft without changing Windows. Edit all assignments under Packages, enter name and description and choose Save package draft. Save current configuration is a separate Windows snapshot
- Apply loaded package applies the edited draft only after confirmation; unavailable targets are ignored
- Repair old temp references checks existing assignments and backs up their paths before making changes. Missing source files cannot be recovered automatically; protected targets may require administrator rights

Use at your own risk. The creator is not liable for damage to the system.