

13 Uncommon Tips & Tricks for the Xbox One

Although a large segment of the population has caught Pokémon Go fever, nothing beats logging on Xbox One for some premium gaming time. This is the latest incarnation of Microsoft's ultimate gaming system.

You might have already dived in and started playing, but you could be missing out on maximizing your gaming experience. That can change by following these 13 uncommon tips and tricks for the Xbox One.

Cross Streaming Option

Do you have a Windows 10 device like a pad or laptop? You're in luck. Xbox One allows you to stream your games across platforms. The only caveat is that you need to be logged onto the same WiFi network.

To set up the streaming option, go to Settings > Preferences on your Xbox One. Look for "Allow game streaming to other devices" and check. Over on your Windows 10 device, open the Xbox app and then click connect. This should be on the bottom-left corner. The program will walk you through the remaining steps.

Snag a Screenshot

Part of the fun of playing on Xbox One is the bragging rights. Once you've hit a significant milestone in *Fallout 4* or met up with another unsavory character on *Grand Theft Auto V* you might want to capture that moment with a screenshot. This was a major headache with the first generation of Xbox One consoles. Microsoft heard the complaints and made the adjustments.

On Xbox One consoles made after March 2015, you can double-tap the Xbox button on the control pad then press Y. Boom. Screenshot taken. If you want to get fancy, then power up Kinect and call out, "Xbox, take screenshot." Sounds cool but it might be a bit clunky especially if you're hoping to grab and go.

Make Chatting Easy With Keyboard Connect

What's missing from Xbox One? A ChatPad accessory. Many gamers think that Microsoft wants to compel users to download their SmartGlass app to send texts across the phone. That kind of defeats the purpose. Sending out a message using the controller will take about a year. Instead, you can plug in a USB keyboard and get busy with lightning fast messaging. Doesn't even matter which port you plug into.

Catch Up On Twitter Trends

As you might have discovered by now, the Xbox OneGuide is a sweet satellite TV-channel hub. This lets you see in a flash what shows are blasting across Twitter at any given moment. By opening up the MiniGuide, you can see what's being said about your favorite TV show and join the hashtag conversation. This guide also lets you find out what on-demand movies are the most watched of the day. It's good to stay on top of things!

Wireless Headset for Your Jams

Sometimes you just got to crank it up to an eleven. Unfortunately, not everyone in the house is sharing your enthusiasm. That is why there's a headphone jack! In the past, this audio output only worked with officially licensed headsets, which puts a cramp in your style. Now, that output melds with your TV output when you plug in. In other words, any headset will work. As an added bonus, you can also go to Settings > Devices and turn any headset into a wireless set that is powered up by the controller. Sweet deal.

Unplug For Faster Game Install

If you're loading a monster game from a disc, then you want to get playing ASAP. Sadly, there is often a drag with the loading. The quick fix is to disconnect your Xbox One from the internet. Yes, go off the grid for the download. It will happen a lot faster when Xbox isn't trying to download patches and updates related to the game. Don't worry. Once your game is fully installed, and you log back on, all that access and updates will happen automatically. By then, you'll be playing so it won't matter!

Turn Your Phone into a Remote Control

Although the SmartGlass app might not work for messaging while playing (see above), it can help turn your Smartphone into a smart remote. The SmartGlass app has navigation features that let you zip through Internet Explorer while on Xbox One a lot quicker than the console would.

Share Games Fast

Buying a digital download of a game is easy. Once completed, it can be stored on your hard drive for continued use. Now, you can also share that game when you access a feature called "Xbox Live Home Gold." You'll find that on the settings apps, and it lets friends and family "borrow" that game whenever they want. Sharing is caring.

Order Pizza While Playing

Domino's Pizza wants to feed you fast. When you download their app onto the Xbox One, you can order up a pie without picking up the phone. Then you get to track the delivery dude through a real-time map. It's almost like *Grand Theft Pizza*.

Follow Real-Time Achievements

There is no sense playing unless you're keeping score. A nice feature on the Snap menu is "Achievements." This lets you see your achievements in real-time. Double-tap the home button brings up a plus-shaped panel that allows for quick switching between the game and your achievement rankings. At last, everything on one screen.

Get Free Money

We all like free stuff especially free money. Xbox One is doling out the cash in the form of credits in your rewards account. You earn them first by signing up for the Rewards Program on Xbox Live. Then you take a monthly survey to score credits. More credits can pile up with every download from the Xbox store including movies, TV shows, and music. You're going to be doing that anyway; why not make some money back? Whatever you earn can be used back in the store. Circle of life.

Skype with the Gang

Once you download the Skype app, you only have to say, "Xbox, Skype" and you can start video chatting with up to nine friends. Just make sure you're wearing something nice.

Get Free Games

Subscribing to Xbox Live Gold is going to open up a whole new world of goodies. That includes two free games every month. Best of all you get to keep those games for as long as you're a subscriber.