Top 20 shortcuts for taming Windows

Managing windows is probably one of the most fertile areas for keyboard shortcuts because otherwise, you manipulate them solely with the mouse. Here's our top-20 list of must-know shortcuts for taming your windows; you'll never have to move your hands from the keyboard.

Function	Shortcut
Switch between open windows	Alt + Tab
Minimize/restore all but the active window	Windows key + Home
Minimize all windows	Windows key + M
Maximize window	Windows key + up-arrow
Minimize/restore window	Windows key + down-arrow
Make all windows transparent so you can see the desktop	Windows key + spacebar
Dock window to left or right half of screen	Windows key + left- or right-arrow
Zoom in/out *(In default view, you must zoom in before zooming out.)*	Windows key + plus/minus sign
Lock screen	Windows key + L
Open Run dialog	Windows key + R
Open Search box	Windows key + F
Open Windows Explorer to computer	Windows key + E
Expand Folders view in Win Explorer to show where you are	Control + Shift + E
Go up a level in Windows Explorer	Alt + up-arrow
Choose display mode/switch monitors *(Useful for presenters or dual-monitor users)*	Windows key + P
Launch apps pinned to the Taskbar *(1 is the left-most app; Windows Key+T cycles through all apps.)*	Windows key + (number 1-9)
Cycle through Gadgets	Windows key + G
Rotate a picture clockwise *(Use Control-click to select the pictures in a folder, then rotate them all at once).*	Control + period (Clockwise) Control + comma (Counter-clockwise)
Turn Sticky Keys on and off *	Press Shift five times
Turn Mouse Keys on and off *	Left-Alt + left-Shift + Num Lock

* Note that both Sticky Keys and Mouse Keys display a warning message when you turn them on and off. You can disable the warning boxes in the Control Panel's Ease of Access Center by choosing **Set up Mouse Keys** or **Set up Sticky Keys.**

This list is just a sample of the dozens of shortcuts available. For a full accounting of Windows 7 interface shortcuts, see Microsoft's Windows 7 Help & How-to site.