My Xbox⁻ One



Bill Loguidice Christina T. Loguidice



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My Xbox[°] One

Bill Loguidice Christina T. Loguidice



800 East 96th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240 USA

My Xbox[®] One

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About the Authors

Bill Loguidice is a critically acclaimed technology author, as well as cofounder and managing director for the online publication, Armchair Arcade (www.armchairarcade.com). A noted video game and computer historian and subject matter expert, Bill personally owns and maintains more than 450 different systems from the 1970s to the present day, including a large volume of associated materials.

Bill is the author of the following major books: Vintage Game Consoles: An Inside Look at Apple, Atari, Commodore, Nintendo, and the Greatest Gaming Platforms of All Time (2014), CoCo: The Colorful History of Tandy's Underdog Computer (2013), My PlayStation Vita (2012), My Xbox: Xbox 360, Kinect, and Xbox LIVE (2012), Motorola ATRIX For Dummies (2011), Wii Fitness For Dummies (2010), and Vintage Games: An Insider Look at the History of Grand Theft Auto, Super Mario, and the Most Influential Games of All Time (2009).

Bill was also a writer and producer on the 2014 feature film documentary on the history of video games titled *Gameplay: The Story of the Videogame Revolution* and is hard at work on other exciting books, articles, and creative projects.

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Christina is the author of the following major books: *Cancer Nutrition and Recipes For Dummies* (2013), *My PlayStation Vita* (2012), *My Xbox: Xbox 360, Kinect, and Xbox LIVE* (2012), and *Wii Fitness For Dummies* (2010).

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Dedications

Bill and Christina: To our new niece, Jenna Josephine Renzi, with all of our love.

Christina:

To my Onkel Pete and Tante Astrid. Thank you for being such amazing people and for all the wonderful times spent with you in the Berkshires. The lovely memories will reside with me forever.

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Prologue: Getting to Know the Xbox One

This book explains how to tap into the powerful features of the Xbox One so it can take its rightful place as the centerpiece of your home entertainment system. Despite its name, the Xbox One is actually Microsoft's third console, after the Xbox, which debuted on November 15, 2001, and the Xbox 360, which debuted on November 22, 2005.

The Xbox One debuted on November 22, 2013. It proved an immediate hit, selling more than 1 million consoles in the first 24 hours of its rollout, spanning just 13 initial countries. The Xbox One represents a fresh start for Microsoft because none of the games or accessories for their previous consoles work with the new system. In fact, the Xbox One interface has more in common with the Windows 8 and Windows Phone operating systems than it does with even the latest version of the Xbox 360.

Understanding the Prerequisites

The Xbox One breaks from the tradition set by previous generations of consoles by only working with one type of display, a minimum 720p high-definition or better television or monitor with an HDMI input. Fortunately, most televisions sold within at least the last 5 to 10 years meet this requirement, and, if for some reason you don't already have one, you can get large, 1080p-capable displays for little more than what you paid for your console. Likewise, although not strictly a requirement, the Xbox One can take great advantage of a quality sound system either through its HDMI Out or S/PDIF (optical audio) ports.

What About 4K Ultra HD?

Compared with standard high-definition televisions (HDTVs) that have a maximum resolution of 1920×1080, 4K Ultra HD displays have a maximum resolution of 3840×2160, as well as an increased color gamut. For now, both the exorbitant prices of these 4K displays and the lack of content that takes advantage of the increased resolution puts Ultra HD capabilities out of the reach of the average consumer. Impressively, both the Xbox One itself and the high-quality HDMI cable that it comes with support 4K Ultra HD displays, so if you do end up eventually getting such a television, your console will support it. Keep in mind, however, that "support" and having actual content natively in that resolution are two very different things. At this time, no Xbox One games display at 4K resolution, and it's unlikely that any games will display at 4K resolution in the near future.

Of all the new features in Xbox One, one of the most impressive is its capability to integrate your cable or satellite box with it. Although a cable or satellite receiver box is not required, the HDMI In on your console would be awfully lonely without it. The benefit of connecting such a box to your Xbox One is that not only can you reuse the primary HDMI input on your television (freeing other inputs for other devices), but you can also enhance the use of your cable or satellite service. If your cable or satellite receiver box does not presently connect to your television via HDMI, then you must contact your service provider for a newer model that the Xbox One can take advantage of.

It's Not All Good

It might be tempting to use the Xbox One's HDMI In for something other than a cable or satellite receiver box, such as an Xbox 360. Unfortunately, the pass-through chaining process introduces a slight delay that might impact devices like other video game consoles that depend on near-instantaneous response when a controller command is issued. As such, it's best to use the HDMI In for devices that only play video. Finally, although an existing wired or wireless network is not strictly a requirement after initial setup is finished, you're limited to playing only retail game discs unless you go online. Similarly, without an Xbox Live Gold account (see Chapter 3, "Examining Xbox Live"), access to the most interesting Xbox One features, like many of the video and music services, Skype video chat, and online gameplay, are not available.

Unboxing Your Xbox One

Freeing your Xbox One from its box can be an exhilarating, but somewhat tedious process. All Xbox One packages come with, at minimum, the console, Kinect sensor, wireless controller and AA batteries, chat headset, 6.5-foot (2-meter) HDMI cable, power supply and power cord, and various documents, so there are plenty of items to extract. Luckily, no tools are required for removing and setting up your system other than your hands and some patience.

However, before you start trying to hook up the Xbox One to your TV, sound system, or cable or satellite receiver box, it's wise to familiarize yourself with all of its parts so that you can plan accordingly. For instance, you ultimately want to place your Xbox One console in a location where it's both stable and there's enough clearance around the unit to ensure none of its ventilation openings are blocked. You also need to make similar arrangements for the Kinect sensor, along with providing it a clear view of your living space. If a wireless Internet connection is not available, you want to place your console close enough to make a wired connection to your home network; otherwise, you'll have to make do without many of the connected features that make the Xbox One so great. Nevertheless, even if you choose to eschew online features and just want to play disc-based games, you still need a broadband Internet connection for first-time setup to download an initial update before your shiny new console will even let you play.

Breaking Down the Components

Each of the components included in the Xbox One's box has a variety of connectors or inputs, as well as a range of other features. Familiarizing yourself with these major features makes setup and use easier.

Xbox One Console

Your Xbox One includes a variety of buttons and ports, located on the front, left, and rear of the console. Inside the console is a 500GB hard drive, which gives you plenty of storage space for game downloads, movie and music purchases, and so on. Of course, eventually, even that much storage space will become cramped, so it's nice to know that Microsoft plans to add support for external hard drives, attached via one of the Xbox One's three USB ports, in the future.

Now, let's review the features on the front of the Xbox One console:

- **Disc slot**—This is where you load and unload a Blu-ray, DVD, or audio CD disc. Once a disc is inserted part of the way into the slot, it is automatically pulled into the console and read.
- **Eject button**—Press this button to eject a disc that is inside the console.
- Xbox button—This is the power button and LED status indicator.





Now take a look at the features on the left side of the Xbox One console:

• **USB 3.0 port**—Use this port to connect wired accessories, such as the Xbox One Play & Charge Kit (see "Accessorizing Your Xbox One" in Chapter 4, "Personalizing Your Xbox One Experience").

- **Eject hole**—If a disc ever gets stuck in your console, you can use this to manually eject it. See "Manually Eject Discs" in Chapter 1, "Setting Up Your Xbox One," for how to use the eject hole.
- Accessory Pairing button—Press this button when you want to connect additional wireless accessories, such as a wireless controller, to your console.
- Cooling vent—This vent allows heat to escape from your console. This vent should never be blocked. Similarly, the entire right side of the console has a cooling vent.



Keeping Your System Clean

One way to help maintain your Xbox One and its components in top working condition is to keep dust out of and off of them. Although not strictly necessary, before cleaning your console or any of its components, unplug all connections. Only use a dry microfiber cloth to remove dust, as liquids or other materials may damage the finish or internal components.

Finally, take a look at the features on the rear of the Xbox One console:

- Power supply port—The power supply plugs directly into this port.
- **HDMI Out**—One end of the included HDMI cable plugs into here, while the other end plugs into your television. See "Hook Up Your Xbox One" in Chapter 1 for more information on connecting to your television.
- S/PDIF—This port provides optical audio output, which is typically used to connect to sound systems. An optical audio cable is not included. See "Display & Sound" in Chapter 2, "Navigating Your Xbox One's Dashboard and Settings," for more information on connecting to a sound system.



- **HDMI In**—The HDMI cable from your cable or satellite receiver box optionally plugs in to here. See Chapter 1 for more information on connecting a cable or satellite receiver box.
- **USB 3.0 ports**—USB stands for *universal serial bus*. These ports enable you to attach peripheral devices to your console, such as a wired controller or, eventually, a flash or hard drive for additional storage capacity. Your console has three of these ports, one on the side and two in back.
- **Kinect port**—This is the dedicated Kinect USB port, handling both data and power for this motion and voice control camera device.
- **IR Out**—This is an infrared (IR) output port for connecting an optional IR blaster. See "Accessorizing Your Xbox One" in Chapter 4 for more information on IR blasters.
- **Networking port**—This is an Ethernet, or network, port, allowing for a wired connection.
- Lock port—This port enables you to connect a laptop lock to keep your console secured in areas where physical security may be an issue. See "Accessorizing Your Xbox One" in Chapter 4 for more on what to use with the lock port.
- Cooling vent—This vent enables heat to escape from your console. This vent should never be blocked.

Kinect Sensor

The new Kinect sensor offers several improvements over its predecessor for the Xbox 360, including a wide-angle lens, nearly three times the resolution, and the capability to see in the dark thanks to an active IR sensor. It also can see objects that are closer to the sensor (within 3 feet) and track up to six different bodies (skeletons) at once. Other new features include the capability to detect a player's heart rate, facial expressions, 25 individual joints (even fingers!) and the precise rotation of those joints, weight put on each limb, and speed of movements, as well as the capability to track gestures performed with the wireless controller. It's also an IR blaster, so it can control your cable or satellite receiver box, television, and sound system.

Kinect's microphone remains active at all times, so it's always ready to receive voice commands from the user when needed, even when the console is in Sleep mode (but not when it is powered off). Although it's not necessary to keep Kinect active or even plugged in, if you don't, you'll clearly be missing out on some interesting functionality.



Wireless Controller

How do you follow up the Xbox 360's controller when it was already considered one of the greatest ever made? Simple—keep just about everything that was so great about it, improve upon its weaknesses (the D-pad), and then add new features such as faster response time, impulse triggers that deliver precise vibration feedback, and infrared LEDs that can be tracked by Kinect. Best of all, up to eight of these new Xbox One controllers can be paired to one console (with Kinect keeping track of who's who), making for some crazy local multiplayer sessions for games that support it.

Now, take a look at the features of the Xbox One wireless controller:

Understanding Digital and Analog

You'll hear a lot about *digital* and *analog* when it comes to your controller. Digital uses discrete values and analog uses a continuous range of values. The digital D-pad and buttons register as on or off. For example, with the D-pad, if you move an in-game character left, it simply moves left. The analog sticks and triggers allow for a finer degree of control. For example, with the analog stick, you can control how quickly an in-game character moves left.



- Left stick—The primary analog control stick, which functions much like a D-pad, but due to its analog nature (detecting minute movements) is not as precise when navigating menus. It also functions as a button when you press down on it, often bringing up secondary functions or in-game menus.
- Left and right bumpers—Digital buttons that often act as quick scroll buttons in menu screens, with the right bumper scrolling right and the left bumper scrolling left.
- **Xbox button**—A digital button with a wide range of functions. If the console is off (LED status indicator off), hold this button to turn on the

console. If the console is already on and the controller is off (LED status indicator off), hold this button to turn on the controller. If both the console and controller are already on, hold this button down to bring up the option to turn off the console or controller. With both the controller and console on, press this button at any time to show the Home screen (see Chapter 2). Finally, when viewing two snapped apps, where you move one to the right side of your screen while you do something else on the main part of your screen, press this button twice in rapid succession to toggle between the two apps.

- X, Y, A, B buttons—Digital buttons that can serve any assigned menu or in-game function. Typical usage for the X button is to cancel or exit a selection. Typical usage for the Y button is to bring up a menu. Typical usage for the A button is to accept selections. Typical usage for the B button is to go back to a previous screen or exit a screen.
- D-pad—A digital control that provides eight-directional input, enabling you to go up, down, left, right, up and left, up and right, down and left, and down and right. Some games do not allow use of the D-pad for movement but map certain in-game functions to it.
- **Right stick**—The secondary analog stick, often used to look around and adjust the camera angle in games that provide this functionality. It is also sometimes used for moving around in games, though use of the left stick for this function is much more common. The right stick also functions as a button. For example, in games that enable you to adjust the camera angle, pressing the button might return the camera's vantage point to the center.
- View button—A digital button used to focus in on an activity in a game or app, such as accessing the address bar in Internet Explorer (see Chapter 10, "Surfing with Internet Explorer"). The function of this button varies depending on the app or game, with some completely ignoring its existence.
- **Menu button**—A digital button to access game- and app-specific menu options, such as Settings or Help, along with commands within the user interface, such as pressing the equivalent of Enter on a keyboard.
- **Right and left triggers**—Analog buttons that act as up and down quick scroll buttons in menu screens, with the left trigger scrolling down and the right trigger scrolling up. These are also called impulse triggers, which means they can feature rumble effects during gameplay.

- **IR window**—Infrared LEDs that are hidden behind the smoked plastic cover. These help Kinect see the controller and are used for autopairing controllers to the console (see "Assigning a Profile to a Wireless Controller" in Chapter 4).
- USB charge port—A Micro-USB port used to connect a USB cable to the controller for charging the optional Xbox One Play & Charge Kit or third-party equivalent (see "Accessorizing Your Xbox One" in Chapter 4). With a USB to Micro-USB cable plugged between the console and controller, the controller can also act like a wired controller, with no need for batteries.
- **Connect button**—A button used to sync a controller with a new or different Xbox One console (see "Connecting Additional Controllers" in Chapter 1).
- **Battery cover**—A cover for the compartment where the included AA batteries go.
- **Expansion port**—An accessory port, used to attach add-ons like the included Xbox One chat headset.

Chat Headset

The included headset enables you to chat with friends and family in both party chat (see Chapter 6, "Making the Social Connection") and supported online multiplayer games (see Chapter 5, "Getting Your Game On"). Now take a look at the features of the Xbox One chat headset:

- Earpiece—Enables you to hear friends and family.
- **Microphone**—Enables your friends and family to hear you. The whole earpiece and microphone assembly rotates to accommodate use on the left or right ear.
- **Expansion port connector**—Plugs in to the expansion port on the Xbox One wireless controller to establish and secure a connection.
- Mute—Mutes your microphone so that others can no longer hear you.
- Volume up/down—Increases (when you press +) or decreases (when you press –) the volume you hear in the earpiece.



What to Expect from This Book

We wrote this book with few assumptions made about reader skill level or any preliminary understanding of its many topics. If something needs explaining, we explain it. Although you can skip to a chapter of interest, each chapter does build upon what came before it. In this way, if you read the book from its first chapter to its last, you can be assured that you'll be armed with all you need to know about the Xbox One. With such a foundation, you can more easily understand and make great use of any new Xbox One features Microsoft adds over the years.

Find out about all the features that Xbox Live makes possible

Learn about the different Xbox Live membership levels

			õ
	Subscription Xbox Live Gold	PURCHASE OPTIONS	
	Renew your membership todayl	12 Month Xbox Live Gold	\$59.99
	Get the most from your Xbox One with unrivaled multiplayer gaming, premier	1 Month Xbox Live Gold	\$9.99
	entertainment apps, Internet Explorer, and exclusive member benefits. With Xbox Live Gold, you can stay connected with friends; family, and Xbox Live members around the world.	Use a code	
<u>0</u>	Additional subscriptions and requirements apply for some Xbox Live Gold features. See xbox.com/Live. Broadband Internet, games, and media		
	content sold separately. Subject to Xbox		

In this chapter, you learn about Xbox Live and the different membership levels, earning achievements, accessing your account on other consoles, and how updates work.

- → Understanding Xbox Live Memberships
- → Joining Xbox Live
- → Redeeming Codes
- → Paying for Purchases with PayPal
- → Earning Achievements for Games and Media
- → Accessing Xbox Live Gold Anywhere
- → Connecting to Xbox on the Web
- → Enjoying Xbox Live Rewards
- → Understanding Updates

3

Examining Xbox Live

Xbox Live is a Microsoft service that enables online multiplayer gaming, access to various digital media and services, and system and app updates. It was first made available in 2002 for the original Xbox console and has evolved considerably since then, with new features added regularly, including expansion of the service to other platforms, such as computers and mobile devices. It is available both as a limited free service and as a subscription-based service with a wide range of benefits. Joining Xbox Live and maintaining an Xbox Live Gold membership is crucial to getting the most out of your console.

Understanding Xbox Live Memberships

The free Xbox Live service is known as *Xbox Live Free* (it was previously known as *Xbox Live Silver*), whereas the paid service is known as *Xbox Live Gold*, with the latter offering access to considerably more features and services, as demonstrated in Table 3.1. As a bonus, the same Xbox Live account works across other Microsoft platforms, including the Xbox 360.

Games with Gold

Games with Gold provides Xbox Live Gold members with at least two free games each month. Originally a limited-time promotion for the Xbox 360, Microsoft has confirmed that the service will continue and offer similar benefits for the Xbox One starting in late 2014.

Although an Xbox Live Gold membership makes many more features and services accessible to you on your Xbox One, several have additional requirements (for example, a Netflix subscription to access Netflix content). In addition, much of the digital content on the various digital marketplaces on offer is not free. For example, the only downloadable games that are generally free are ad-supported games or online multiplayer titles that offer in-game purchases. Making purchases from any of the marketplaces requires having an existing balance, using a prepaid card or code, or having a credit card or PayPal account on file. See the "Redeeming Codes" and "Paying for Purchases with PayPal" sections later in this chapter for more information.

Feature	Xbox Live Free	Xbox Live Gold	Additional Requirements
Avatar creation and customization	Yes	Yes	None
Bing	Yes	Yes	None
Downloadable games and game add-ons	Yes	Yes	None
Family settings	Yes	Yes	None

Table 3.1Sample Comparison of Features and Services Offered by Xbox LiveFree Versus Xbox Live Gold

Feature	Xbox Live Free	Xbox Live Gold	Additional Requirements
Free demos and game previews	Yes	Yes	None
Voice chat	Yes	Yes	Headset or Kinect
Xbox Video	Yes	Yes	None
Amazon Instant Video	No	Yes	Amazon Prime subscription
ESPN	No	Yes	WatchESPN-affiliated ISP
Game DVR	No	Yes	None
Hulu Plus	No	Yes	Hulu Plus account
Internet Explorer	No	Yes	None
Netflix	No	Yes	Netflix account
NFL on Xbox	No	Yes	Cable or satellite provider subscription
OneGuide	No	Yes	None
Online multiplayer gaming	No	Yes	None
Party chat	No	Yes	Headset or Kinect
Skype	No	Yes	Kinect and a Skype account
SmartMatch	No	Yes	None
Twitch.tv	No	Yes	Twitch.tv account
Upload Studio	No	Yes	None
Xbox Music	No	Yes	Xbox Music Pass subscription

You can purchase an Xbox Live Gold membership directly through your Xbox One, but you will likely save some money if you shop around. Check other retailers before you buy, such as game stores and online merchants. At Amazon.com, for instance, you can opt to purchase a card that contains a code that gives you access to Xbox Live for a certain amount of time, or you can opt to receive the code via email once you make your payment. If using a third-party retailer, just be sure to use one that is reputable, especially if you opt to receive your code electronically.

Joining Xbox Live

If you would like to go beyond the default free account, you can sign up for an Xbox Live Gold membership directly on the console. Follow these steps to get your Xbox Live Gold membership:

- 1. Go to the Home screen.
- **2.** Press the Menu button on the controller and select Settings.

Alternatively, you can say "Xbox, go to settings," from any screen, or select the Settings tile on the Home screen.



- 3. Select Subscriptions.
- 4. Press the A button on the controller to select Learn About Gold Membership.
- 5. Press the A button to continue past the unnecessary promo screen.



Learn about Gold membership



- 6. If you want to select one of the available membership options, select a displayed option and then proceed to step 7. If you have a code, select Use a Code and see the next section, "Redeeming Codes." If you want to decline signing up, select No Thanks to return to step 4. (From there, you can press the B button to back out of the Subscriptions settings.)
- If you don't already have a credit card on file, select Add a Credit Card to enter your credit card information.

Each year, your membership automatically renews at the current rate. To cancel auto renewal, log in at xbox.com/accounts. See the "Connecting to Xbox on the Web" section later in this chapter for more information about accessing Xbox information on the Web.

 Enter the requested information in each remaining onscreen step, starting with the cardholder's name. Your Xbox Live Gold membership is now active for the specified period.

6 12 Month Xbox Live Gold \$59.99 1 Month Xbox Live Gold \$9.99 Use a code No thanks



Redeeming Codes

Prepaid codes are an alternative to making digital Xbox One purchases with a credit card or PayPal account, and also a way to redeem giveaways and other promotions. These codes are available from a variety of retailers and can be redeemed for digital content in Xbox One's Games, Movies & TV, Music, and Apps stores; these codes can also be used to start or extend an Xbox Live Gold membership. On the Xbox 360, prepaid codes were limited to manually entering a 25-character code. Now, on the Xbox One, you can choose to manually enter the 25-character code, or you can instead choose to use Kinect to quickly scan a QR code containing the same information.

What Is a QR Code?

QR codes stand for Quick Response codes. These codes are special, twodimensional bar codes that have become popular with some smartphone users for quickly displaying text-based information or going to a specific web address. Thanks to the Xbox One's Use a Code functionality and the Kinect's built-in camera, you can have that same convenient smartphone, camera, and app experience on your console.

Scanning Codes

If your console is on and Kinect is enabled, simply say, "Xbox, use a code." Kinect will view your room and wait for you to hold up a QR code from a redemption card, printout, or mobile device to its camera. As long as you're holding the QR code within 6 feet of the camera, Kinect should recognize and automatically redeem the code within a few seconds.



It's Not All Good

Sometimes when trying to scan a QR code displayed on your smartphone or other mobile screen, it just doesn't work. If you run into problems, you might need to turn down the screen's brightness to help Kinect better see the code.

As an alternative to the Kinect voice command, you can select the Use a Code tile in the Games store.



Select this option in the Games store to scan or manually enter a code

Enter a Code Manually

Besides redeeming a code from the Use a Code tile in the Xbox One Games store, you can also use a web browser. This is particularly handy for older redemption cards that lack a QR code or when you're away from your Xbox One.

From your computer, smartphone, or tablet web browser, go to https://account.xbox.com/en-US/ PaymentAndBilling/RedeemCode and follow these steps:

1. Click the Redeem button.



- **2.** Enter your Xbox Live credentials, then click the Sign In button.
- **3.** Enter your 25-character code, then click the Confirm button.
- 4. Click the Confirm button.

Although somewhat superfluous, these steps also work from the Xbox One's Internet Explorer app.



SMARTGLASS

Another alternative to manually entering the code on your console with your controller is using the SmartGlass app to enter the code from your smartphone or tablet. Although not quite as handy an alternative as using a web browser, it's nice to have yet another option for redeeming codes. Refer to Chapter 11, "Looking Through the SmartGlass," for more on SmartGlass.

Paying for Purchases with PayPal

PayPal, a wholly owned subsidiary of eBay, is one of the most popular online payment services on the Internet. The service enables users to send and receive money from associated bank accounts or credit cards.

Although you can easily add a credit card and billing address from the Payment & Billing section of Settings right on your console (see "Breaking Down the Settings Screen" in Chapter 2, "Navigating Your Xbox One's Dashboard and Settings"), if you want to leverage the convenience of a PayPal account, you need to do it from a web browser.

Connecting PayPal and Your Xbox One

From your computer, smartphone, tablet, or Xbox One Internet Explorer web browser, go to https://account.xbox.com/en-US/ PaymentAndBilling/AddPayPal and follow these steps:

 Enter your Xbox Live credentials, and then click the Sign In button.

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- 2. Click Next.
- If you already have a PayPal account, select Pay with My PayPal Account and enter the requested information. You're now finished. If you need to obtain a PayPal account, proceed to step 4.
- 4. Enter the required information under Create a PayPal Account.
- When finished entering the information, click on Agree and Create Account.

When you're finished, and after logging in to your Xbox One, your PayPal account will be listed under Payment Options in the Payment & Billing section under Settings, along with any credit cards. When it comes time to pay for a digital transaction, you can then quickly use your PayPal account or any of the other associated payment options.



Earning Achievements for Games and Media

Achievements are awarded for completing specific activities in a game. The required actions vary by title and could be anything from completing a game without using a certain weapon, to winning a certain number of online matches, to completing a game, or even by dying a certain way. In short,
achievements are up to the individual game developer's imagination and are a great incentive for getting the most out of a particular game or app.

Completing achievements boosts your gamerscore, which is an achievement system for bragging rights, and sometimes provides other rewards, like specific in-game perks. There are also challenges, which are timed events for games and apps that are usually geared toward completing new tasks. Although challenges don't boost your gamerscore, they can bring other types of recognition and in-game benefits.

Some challenges are tied to media achievements instead of just games, as it was on the Xbox 360. These often take the form of watching specific TV shows and movies or rating content in apps like Netflix, Hulu Plus, Crackle, Amazon Instant Video, and Redbox Instant. Like challenges, these media achievements don't affect your gamerscore, but they do show up in your list of achievements and are a fun way to game-ify your media consumption.

You can see what achievements and challenges are available and what you've already earned by doing one of the following:

- Select the Achievements tile on the Home screen (if present).
- If Kinect is active, say "Xbox, go to achievements."
- Select the Social tile and then Achievements.



to see what achievements and challenges are available

The Achievements screen is broken up into three sections. The first section is Featured Challenges, where all of the timed challenges reside.



Timed challenge

Reveal more items in the section

The second section is Xbox One, where all Xbox One game, app, and media achievements are listed.



Game achievement

Media achievement

The third section is Other Achievements, where your achievements from other Xbox Live-compatible platforms, like the Xbox 360, are listed.



Achievements in progress on the Xbox 360 platform

A potential Xbox Live achievement from a Microsoft Windows platform

Selecting any of the tiles reveals how far away you are from any goals, what challenges remain, what achievements have already been unlocked, and what achievements remain locked.

Accessing Xbox Live Gold Anywhere

With an Xbox Live Gold account, any other local users of your home console, be they family or friends, will have access to your account's purchased games, as well as multiplayer gaming and app options, even if they don't have an Xbox Live Gold account of their own. In turn, if you log in to an Internet-connected Xbox One with your Xbox Live Gold account at a family member or friend's house, you can still enjoy full access to your profile, digital games, and apps, even if they don't have an Xbox Live Gold account. As a further bonus, you can be logged in to your Xbox Live Gold account on both an Xbox One and Xbox 360 simultaneously, but not two Xbox Ones.

Connecting to Xbox on the Web

Besides accessing various account and billing information on your console and through the Xbox One SmartGlass mobile apps (see Chapter 11), you can also visit the www.xbox.com website from your favorite browser. After logging in, you'll see My Account and Profile, Activity Feed, Friends, Messages, and code redemption (Redeem Code) options that apply to your Xbox Live account and any applicable Xbox One and Xbox 360 consoles:



Hover the cursor to see the additional options below My Account on a desktop browser, or tap the three lines on a mobile browser

- **My Account**—Selecting this option provides a summary of your recent digital transactions and active subscriptions, as well as links to adjust payment and billing information, and device-specific options such as console registration and repair status.
- **Profile**—Selecting this option provides Xbox One SmartGlass download links for Windows, Windows Phone, Apple iOS, and Android platforms. If you would like access to your actual profile information, including recent activity and editing options for your profile and avatar, click on your green profile name above My Account.
- Activity Feed—Selecting this option displays recent activity, including games played and apps accessed.

- **Friends**—Selecting this option displays pending friend requests and friends who are either presently online and offline, as well as their most recent activity. You can use the Find option to search all gamertags and then either send a message or friend request if they're not already a friend.
- Messages—Select this option to send a message to one or more friends from your existing list of friends.
- Redeem Code—Selecting this option displays the screen where you
 redeem a gift card, prepaid card, or promotional code. See the "Enter a
 Code Manually" section earlier in this chapter for more information on
 redeeming codes from this screen.
- **Sign Out**—Selecting this option immediately logs you out. Select Sign In to log in again.

Issues with Xbox Live, Services, or Apps?

If you notice issues with Xbox Live or services and apps for either the Xbox One or Xbox 360, use your browser to log in to http://support.xbox.com/en-US/ xbox-live-status. Every possible service and app is listed with its current status of either "up and running" or one of several possible error or maintenance states.

Enjoying Xbox Live Rewards

As part of your Xbox Live Gold membership, you can sign up for Xbox Live Rewards. Xbox Live Rewards provides extra incentives, such as Rewards Credits or prizes, for taking surveys, playing games, watching videos, and doing various other activities on your Xbox One. Earn enough Rewards Credits and you'll be able to convert those credits to money to purchase digital goods from the various Xbox One stores. To join Xbox Live Rewards, use your web browser to go to www.xbox.com/en-US/live/rewards?xr=shellnav and click on the Join Xbox Live Rewards button.



Understanding Updates

With today's fast-moving technology, updates are inevitable, and that includes updates for both your console and its games and apps. These updates either fix bugs or add new features (sometimes both), and, unfortunately, eventually become mandatory. If you choose not to accept a mandatory update, you will no longer be allowed to connect online. For a particular game or app, this might not be a deal breaker, but if it's a console update, this means all online functionality will be disabled. In short, unless you have a very good reason for avoiding an available update, as a certain sports apparel company likes to say, just do it.

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