

MS Windows XP Repair Function

- **Why do I need it?** That dreaded Blue Screen of Death. That's right, the BSOD
- **What is It?** - Allows user to Repair OS files to an original state

This presentation centers
around Dell Computers.
I have had success with others,
but not as frequently.
In addition, Dell provides you
with a OEM OS CD for this
purpose.

If I do not attempt a repair, the alternative is a complete OS install. All programs need to be reinstalled. A very time consuming and tedious process.

You've installed a seemingly innocent piece of S/W or H/W, restarted your Computer, and suddenly you see this horror in front of your eyes: A big blue screen with some cryptic message on it. Try restarting again, same thing. You're dead.

First, I try restarting the PC again, several times. For whatever reason, it sometimes repairs itself (but not often).

Second, I try F8 at boot and select “Last Known Good Configuration”. (Usually doesn’t work either).

Third Step, I back-up data. I will query the mentee if they have important files, pictures etc. that will cause extreme anguish or potential divorce if it is lost.

This is not usually necessary
since most people have their
data backed up anyway!

So, you say, how do I back up data if I can't boot?

I use one of two methods.

1. I have a USB interface tool that allows me to hook the mentee HDD into my PC USB port.
2. Install the Mentee HDD onto my PC and backup to my PC.

The Resource CD comes in several flavors:

Windows XP Home

Windows XP SP1

Windows XP SP1a

Windows XP SP2

Not sure if a Windows XP SP3 CD exists but could be created.

Note: If you have SP1a, SP2 or or SP3 and attempt to use to restore with Home or SP1, you will get a message that “The version you have is newer than the version you are creating”.

Find an SP2 Disk.

Now the real fun starts. I insert the Restore CD and reboot. (Of course I checked the BIOS settings to insure the CD ROM is the first boot device)! The message “Press any key to boot from CD” is displayed.

After some time (about 5 minutes) the OS files are deleted and recopied to the HDD and the following screen will appear.

To setup Windows XP now, press
ENTER.

To repair a Windows XP
installation using Recovery
Console, press R. What If
??

To quit Setup without installing
Windows XP, press F3.

You will select the second option and press “R”. The following screen will appear:

Microsoft Windows(R) Recovery Console

The Recovery Console provides system repair and recovery functionality.

Type EXIT to quit the Recovery Console and restart the computer.

1: C:\WINDOWS

(2: D:\WINDOWS)

Which Windows Installation would you like to log onto
(To cancel, press ENTER)?

You enter the number 1 (or 2).
The next screen will ask for the
“Administrator Password”, just
select “Enter”.
At this point there are several
options to attempt to repair the
system.

CHKDSK /R – Checks the HDD and repairs bad sectors. Some times this is the only fix needed. On reboot the system recovers. Other commands are: Fixmbr, Fixboot, Bootcfg etc. Sometimes Google will reference the BSOD error message and which command to use.

If, upon reboot, the system has not recovered, you must restart the PC, boot the Restore CD and when you get to the screen for options instead of selecting “R” option, you select “To setup Windows XP now, press ENTER”

The screen that appears will list all known instances of installed OS's and will ask which one you want to repair.

Windows XP Home edition Setup

If one of the following XP Installations is damaged set up will attempt to repair it.

Use the Up Down Arrow Keys to select an installation.

To repair the selected Installation,
select R.

To continue installing a fresh copy of
Windows XP without repairing select
Esc.

C:\ WINDOWS =“Microsoft Windows XP
Home Edition”

D:\ WINDOWS =“Microsoft Windows XP
Home Edition”

Selecting “R” results in the OS files being reinstalled. Programs or user data files are not affected.

If upon rebooting problems are still occurring, you must go back through the process.

When the select “R” or “ESC” option is presented, you must select “ESC”. You are given the option to delete the partition and reinstalling the OS or reinstall over the current Installation. Everything is lost!

At this point you should be finished and the system should boot. However, almost all the drivers and MS Windows updates will have to be reinstalled, but that's another presentation!!!