

How To Fix a Computer That Won't Turn On - What To Do When Your Computer Won't Start

All of these "Computer Won't Start" troubleshooting guides apply no matter what Windows operating system you have installed on your hard drive, including Windows 8, 7, Vista, and XP. Steps 1 through 5 even apply to other PC operating systems like Linux.

Categories

1. [Don't Panic! Your Files are Probably OK >>](#)
2. [Computer Shows No Sign of Power >>](#)
3. [Computer Powers On... and Then Off >>](#)
4. [Computer Powers On But Nothing Happens >>](#)
5. [Computer Stops or Continuously Reboots During the POST >>](#)
6. [Windows Begins to Load But Stops or Reboots on a BSOD >>](#)
7. [Windows Begins to Load But Stops or Reboots Without an Error >>](#)
8. [Windows Repeatedly Returns to the Advanced Boot Options Screen >>](#)
9. [Windows Stops or Reboots On or After the Login Screen >>](#)
10. [Computer Doesn't Fully Start Because of an Error Message >>](#)
11. [More "Computer Won't Turn On" Tips](#)
12. [PC Boot Up Flow Chart](#)
13. [Repairing Bootup Issues - Videos](#)

Quick Links for Categories - About.com

1. [Recovery Tools](#)
2. [How To Fix a Computer That Shows No Sign of Power](#)
3. [How To Fix a Computer That Turns On and Then Off](#)
4. [How To Fix a Computer That Turns On But Displays Nothing](#)
5. [How To Fix Stopping, Freezing, and Reboot Issues During the POST](#)
6. [How To Fix Blue Screen of Death Errors](#)
7. [How To Fix Stopping, Freezing, and Reboot Issues During Windows Startup](#)
8. [How To Fix a Computer That Always Stops at the Advanced Boot Options](#)
9. [How To Fix Stopping, Freezing, and Reboot Issues During Windows Login](#)
10. [How To Fix Errors Seen During the Computer Startup Process](#)

Boot Up Repair Flow Charts

1. [PC Repair Flowcharts](#)
2. [Power Supply](#)
3. [Power Diags FlowChart](#)
4. [Motherboard/RAM](#)

1. Don't Panic! Your Files are Probably OK

When faced with a computer that won't start most people tend to panic, worried that all the data on their PC is gone forever. It's true that the most common reason a computer won't start is because a piece of hardware has failed or is causing a problem but that hardware isn't *usually* a hard drive the part of your computer that stores all of your files.

In other words, your music, documents, emails, and videos are *probably* safe - just not accessible at the moment. So take a deep breath and try to relax. There's a good chance you can figure out exactly why your computer won't start and then get it back up and running.

[Recovery Tools](#)

2. Computer Shows No Sign of Power

Try these steps if your computer will not turn on and is showing no sign at all of receiving power - no fans running and no lights on the computer [case](#).

Important: You may or may not see a light on the back of your PC depending on the kind of [power supply](#) you have and the exact cause of the problem.

Note: Don't worry about the [monitor](#) yet. If the computer is not turning on because of a power issue then the monitor certainly can't display anything from the computer. Your monitor light will likely be amber/yellow if your computer has stopped sending information to it.

[How To Fix a Computer That Shows No Sign of Power](#)

3. Computer Powers On... and Then Off

Follow these steps if, when you turn your computer on, it promptly powers back off.

You'll probably hear the fans inside your computer turn on, see the lights on the front of your computer turn on or flash, and then it will all stop. You won't

see anything on the monitor and you may or may not hear beeps coming from the computer before it shuts off by itself.

Note: As in the previous scenario, don't worry about the state your monitor is in. You may have a monitor issue as well but it's not possible to troubleshoot it quite yet.

[How To Fix a Computer That Turns On and Then Off](#)

4. Computer Powers On But Nothing Happens

If your computer seems to be receiving power after turning it on but you don't see anything on your monitor, try these troubleshooting steps.

In these situations, the power lights will stay on, you'll likely hear the fans inside your PC running, and you may or may not hear one or more beeps coming from the computer.

This situation is probably the most common in my experience working with computers that won't start. Unfortunately it's also one of the most difficult to troubleshoot.

[How To Fix a Computer That Turns On But Displays Nothing](#)

5. Computer Stops or Continuously Reboots During the POST

Use this guide when your computer powers on, shows at least *something* on the monitor, but then stops, freezes, or reboots over and over again during the [Power On Self Test](#) (POST).

The POST on your computer may look like the screenshot to your left or may instead simply show your computer maker's logo.

Important: Don't use this troubleshooting guide if you encounter an issue during the loading of the operating system, which occurs *after* the Power On Self Test is complete.

Troubleshooting Windows related reasons why your computer won't turn on begin with #6 below.

[How To Fix Stopping, Freezing, and Reboot Issues During the POST](#)

6. Windows Begins to Load But Stops or Reboots on a BSOD

If your computer begins to load Windows but then stops and displays a blue screen with information on it then try these steps. You may or may not see the Windows

splash screen before the blue screen appears. This kind of error is called a STOP error but is more commonly referred to as a [Blue Screen of Death](#) or a BSOD. Receiving a

BSOD error is a common reason why a computer won't turn on.

Important: Choose this troubleshooting guide even if the BSOD flashes on screen and your PC restarts automatically without giving you time to read what it says.

[How To Fix Blue Screen of Death Errors](#)

7. Windows Begins to Load But Stops or Reboots Without an Error

Try these steps when your computer powers on, starts to load Windows, but then freezes, stops, or reboots over and over again without generating any kind of error message.

The stopping, freezing, or reboot loop may happen on the Windows splash screen as shown to the left or even on a black screen, with or without a flashing cursor.

Note: If your computer won't start and you see a blue screen flash or remain on the screen, you're experiencing a Blue Screen of Death and should use troubleshooting guide #6 above.

Important: If you suspect that the Power On Self Test is still going on and that Windows has not yet started to boot, a better troubleshooting guide for why your computer won't turn on might be #5 above. It's a fine line and sometimes hard to tell.

[How To Fix Stopping, Freezing, and Reboot Issues During Windows Startup](#)

8. Windows Repeatedly Returns to the Advanced Boot Options Screen

Use this guide when nothing but the [Advanced Boot Options](#) screen appears every time you restart your computer and none of the Windows startup options work.

In this situation, no matter which [Safe Mode](#) option you choose, your computer eventually stops, freezes, or restarts on its own, after which you find yourself right back at the

Advanced Boot Options menu. This is a particularly annoying way in which your computer won't turn on because you're trying to use Windows' built-in ways to solve your problem but you're getting nowhere with them.

[How To Fix a Computer That Always Stops at the Advanced Boot Options](#)

9. Windows Stops or Reboots On or After the Login Screen

Try this troubleshooting guide when your computer powers on, Windows shows the login screen, but then freezes, stops, or reboots here or anytime after.

The stopping, freezing, or reboot loop may happen on the Windows login screen, as Windows is logging you in (as shown to the left), or any time up to Windows fully loading.

[How To Fix Stopping, Freezing, and Reboot Issues During Windows Login](#)

10. Computer Doesn't Fully Start Because of an Error Message

If your computer turns on but then stops or freezes at any point, showing an error message of any kind, then use this troubleshooting guide.

Error messages are possible at any stage during your computer's boot process, including during the POST, at any time during the loading of Windows, all the way up to the Windows desktop appearing.

Note: The only exception to using this troubleshooting guide for an error message is if the error is a Blue Screen of Death.

See #6 above for a better troubleshooting guide for BSOD issues.

[How To Fix Errors Seen During the Computer Startup Process](#)

More "Computer Won't Turn On" Tips

Articles On Fixing PCs Not Booting Up

[MS How to fix a computer that won't start](#)
[What to do if Your Computer Won't Turn On](#)
[How To Diagnose Hardware Problems When Your Computer Won't Turn On](#)
[The PC Won't Turn On: Troubleshooting for Power Loss](#)
[Run System File Checker sfc /scannow Offline in Windows](#)
[Troubleshooting Windows Will Not Start](#)
[How to fix a computer that won't start](#)
[How to Repair NTLDR Missing or Corrupt on Bootup](#)
[Hard Drive Not Found Error on boot up](#)
[Unmountable Boot Volume Error Message or BSOD Fix](#)
[Repair Ntldetect.com / NTLDR Missing / Corrupt on Bootup with PowerSuite](#)
[Repair Ntldetect.com / NTLDR Missing / Corrupt on Bootup with no WinCD](#)
[Fixing "BOOTMGR is missing" Error While Trying to Boot Windows](#)
[Edit a Registry on Non-Booting Computer or without Booting into Windows](#)
[How to use the Bootrec.exe tool to repair startup issues in Windows](#)
[NTLDR is compressed. Press CTRL+ALT+DEL to restart](#)
[WinXP Logon Screen does not appear and the PC continuously restarts](#)
[How to Disable a Service or Device that Prevents Windows from Starting](#)
[The PC Won't Turn On: Basic Troubleshooting for Power Loss](#)
[MbrFix - How to Use MbrFix with all its Options](#)
[How To Fix BOOTMGR is missing Error in Vista / 7](#)
[How to Troubleshoot Windows Boot Problems using BootMed](#)
[How to Fix Windows 7 When It Fails to Boot](#)
[How to Boot to the Advanced Boot Options in Windows 7](#)
[How to Boot to the System Recovery Options in Windows 7](#)
[Fixing "BOOTMGR is missing" Error While Trying to Boot Win7](#)
[Using System Restore to Recover your Windows 7 Computer](#)
[How To Resolve Windows 8 Boot Issues](#)
[Troubleshooting and analyzing Blue Screens of Death](#)
[How To Diagnose Hardware Problems When Your Computer Won't Turn On](#)
[Unmountable Boot Volume \(STOP 0?000000ED UNMOUNTABLE_BOOT_VOLUME\)](#)
[Really Nasty MBR Infection - Practical Advice](#)
[Available commands within Windows Recovery Console](#)
[Ransomware: How to Remove it with Autoruns When PC Will Not Boot](#)
[Manually Remove a Virus with Autoruns](#)
[Recover a corrupted registry that prevents Windows XP from starting](#)
[Repair the Hal.dll Error Message in Windows XP](#)
[How To Repair or Replace Boot.ini in Windows XP](#)
[Recover a Corrupted Windows XP System with NTLDR or NTDETECT Missing](#)
[How to fix "Missing or Corrupt NTFS.sys" Error in Windows XP](#)
[How to Fix Windows 7 and Vista When It Fails to Boot](#)
[How to Do a Repair Install to Fix Windows 7](#)
[How To Fix BOOTMGR is Missing Errors in Windows 7](#)
[Recover a Corrupted Registry that Prevents Windows 7 from Starting Manually](#)
[Restore Files and Folders with Previous Versions Feature in Windows 7](#)
[How to fix "no bootable device – insert boot disk and press any key" Windows 7](#)
[Repair the Hal.dll Error Message in Windows 7](#)
[More Articles Related to Troubleshooting Procedures](#)

Computer Boot Up Flow Chart

