A Complete Guide to Using System Restore in Windows 11

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Have you made an unwanted change to your Windows 11 PC and don't know how to revert it? Or perhaps you want to get your computer working after a system update turns out to be buggy? Luckily, you don't need to reinstall Windows 11 from scratch and risk losing your important files to fix that. Windows includes a System Restore feature that lets you revert your computer's state to the last usable version.



System Restore keeps taking a snapshot of Windows on your PC to create a 'restore point' where everything works fine. We'll share more about what system restore is, how it works, and how to use it on your Windows 11 PC to undo changes or fix software-related issues.

WHAT IS SYSTEM RESTORE AND HOW DOES IT WORK

System Restore is a legacy feature baked into Windows 11 to protect and revert your system to a specific restore point if something goes wrong. It creates a snapshot of your current system state, saved as a 'restore point' whenever your computer detects significant changes or you create one manually to ensure your system's safety.

Suppose something went wrong after installing a buggy software update or accidentally changing important system parameters in the registry. In that case, you can use System Restore to restore your PC to a previously working state. Also, the System Restore process does not affect personal files such as your photos or documents. However, it will remove all the apps, drivers, and even updates that you installed on the system after Windows created the system point.

HOW TO CONFIGURE AND ENABLE SYSTEM RESTORE IN WINDOWS 11

By default, Windows doesn't enable the System Restore feature. You'll need to turn it on for your Windows computer manually. Here's how you can enable and configure a System Restore Point manually on your Windows 11 PC:

Step 1: Click on Search on the Windows 11 taskbar, type *Create a restore point*, and select the Open button below the 'Create a restore point' result.



Step 2: Select the Hard Drive partition for which you want to create a System Restore Point, and click Configure.

System Properties	×
Computer Name Hardware Advanced System Protection Remote	
Use system protection to undo unwanted system changes.	
System Restore	
You can undo system changes by reverting your computer to a previous restore point. System Restore	
Protection Settings	
Available Drives Protection	
Available Drives Protection Local Disk (C:) (System) Off	
Available Drives Protection Local Disk (C:) (System) Off Configure restore settings, manage disk space, and delete restore points. Configure	
Available Drives Protection Local Disk (C:) (System) Off Configure restore settings, manage disk space, and delete restore points. Configure To create a restore point, first enable protection by selecting a drive and clicking Configure. Create	

Step 3: In the next window, select the 'Turn on system protection' option to enable System Restore. Adjust the Max Usage slider to allocate the necessary disk space for storing the System Restore Points.

System Protection for Local Disk (C:)	×
Restore Settings	
By enabling system protection, you can undo undesired changes by reverting your computer to a previous point in time.	
Turn on system protection	
O Disable system protection	
Disk Space Usage	
You can adjust the maximum disk space used for system protection. As space fills up, older restore points will be deleted to make room for new ones.	
Current Usage: 0 bytes	
Max Usage:	
10% (7.93 GB)	
Delete all restore points for this drive. Delete	
OK Cancel Apply	

Step 4: Click the Apply button to save the newly changed preferences.

HOW TO CREATE A SYSTEM RESTORE POINT IN WINDOWS 11

After enabling System Restore, it automatically creates a new restore point every week or when you install a system update/application. However, we recommend that you opt for creating System Restore points regularly or before making substantial changes to the registry and system preferences. Here's how you can manually create a System Restore Point in Windows 11: **Step 1:** Open the 'System Properties' window to create a System Restore Point (check the steps in the previous section). Click on Create.

System Properties	×
Computer Name Hardware Advanced System Protection Remote	
Use system protection to undo unwanted system changes.	
System Restore	-
You can undo system changes by reverting your computer to a previous restore point. System Restore	
Protection Settings	-
Available Drives Protection	
Configure restore settings, manage disk space, and configure	
Create a restore point right now for the drives that Create have system protection turned on.	
OK Cancel App	ly

Step 2: In the 'Create a restore point' dialog box, name the restore point, and click Create.

System Properties	\times
System Protection X	
Create a restore point	
Type a description to help you identify the restore point. The current date and time are added automatically.	_
Register Edit August 2022	
Create Cancel	
Local Disk (C:) (System) On	
Configure restore settings, manage disk space, and Configure	
Create a restore point right now for the drives that have system protection turned on.	
OK Cancel Ap	ply

Step 3: Click on Close to complete the process.

System Properties	\times
Computer Name Hardware Advanced System Protection Remote	
Use system protection to undo unwanted system changes.	
System Restore	
Y System Protection	
The restore point was created successfully.	
Close	
Configure restore settings, manage disk space, and Configure	
Create a restore point right now for the drives that have system protection turned on.	
OK Cancel Apply	

HOW TO USE SYSTEM RESTORE ON YOUR PC

Now that you know how to enable and create a system restore point, here's how you can use it to restore your Windows PC to an earlier stage if something went wrong, and you can still boot/start your PC:

Step 1: Open the 'System Properties' window again (follow the steps in the first section), and click on the System Restore button.

System Properties	\times
Computer Name Hardware Advanced System Protection Remote	
Use system protection to undo unwanted system changes.	
System Restore	
You can undo system changes by reverting your computer to a previous restore point. System Restore]
Protection Settings	
Available Drives Protection	
Local Disk (C:) (System) On	
Configure restore settings, manage disk space, and Configure	
Create a restore point right now for the drives that have system protection turned on.	
OK Cancel Apply	

Step 2: Click Next to commence the restoration process.



Step 3: Select a restore point you want to use. (we chose the 'Registry Edit August 2022' created for this guide). If required, click on 'Scan for affected programs' to see the changes made to the system before the restore point was created. Then, click Next.

🜮 System Restore				×
Restore your compute	er to the state it was in before t	the selected	event	Š
Current time zone: Pacifi	c Daylight Time			
Date and Time	Description		Тур	e
8/6/2022 12:41:50 AM	Register Edit August 2022		Mai	nual
	_		Scan for affe	ected programs
			2 can for and	
		< Back	Next >	Cancel

Step 4: Confirm the restore point you want to revert your system to. Once verified, click on Finish to commence the automated restoration process.

System Restore		×
	Confirm your restore point Your computer will be restored to the state it was in before the event in the Description field below. Time: 8/6/2022 12:41:50 AM (Pacific Daylight Time) Description: Manual: Register Edit August 2022 Drives: Local Disk (C:) (System) Scan for affected programs	
	If you have changed your Windows password recently, we recommend that you create a password reset disk. System Restore needs to restart your computer to apply these changes. Before you proceed, save any open files and close all programs.	
	< Back Finish Cancel	

HOW TO USE SYSTEM RESTORE WHEN COMPUTER WON'T BOOT

If you're trying to revert from a buggy update, there's a good chance that you can boot/login into your PC to commence the System Restore process. However, if you can't boot into your PC, here's how you can access System Restore from the Advanced startup options. Check our guide on different ways to access Advanced Startup Options in Windows 11

Otherwise, you may follow these steps:

Step 1: Start the computer and long-press the power button when you see the Windows logo and wait for your computer to reboot.

Step 2: Force reboot your PC up to 4 times until you see the Automatic Repair screen. Then, click on Advanced options.

Automatic Repair
Your PC did not start correctly Press "Restart" to restart your PC, which can sometimes fix the problem. You can also press "Advanced options" to try other options to repair your PC.
Restart Advanced options

Step 3: Click on Troubleshoot.



Step 4: Select Advanced options.

⊕ Troubleshoot	
Reset this PC Lets you choose to keep or remove your personal files, and then reinstalls Windows.	
Advanced options	

Step 5: Click on System Restore.



Step 6: The computer may ask you to enter the Administrator password. After that, click on the Continue button.

Step 7: Choose the restore point you want to revert to in the System Restore window. If required, click on 'Scan for affected programs' to see the changes made to the System before the restore point was created. Then, click Next.

Restore your computer	to the state it was in before the s	elected event	
			100
Current time zone: GMT-8:0	D		
Date and Time	Description		Туре
8/5/2022 11:41:50 PM	Register Edit August 2022		Manual
		Scan for	affected programs
		< Back Next	> Cancel

Step 8: Confirm the restore point you want to use. Once verified, click on Finish to start the system restoration process.

🜮 System Restore		×
	Confirm your restore point Your computer will be restored to the state it was in before the event in the Description field below.	
	Time: 8/5/2022 11:41:50 PM (GMT-8:00) Description: Manual: Register Edit August 2022 Drives: Local Disk (C:) (System)	
	Scan for affected programs	
	If you have changed your Windows password recently, we recommend that you create a password reset disk. System Restore needs to restart your computer to apply these changes.	
	Before you proceed, save any open files and close all programs. < Back	

LET THE SYSTEM RESTORE TAKE OVER AND DO ITS THING

Give time to your PC to apply all the changes, and it will restart to get Windows up and running. Do note that this process may take half an hour or more, depending on various factors like the size of the restore point, the age of the PC's hardware, etc. So, try not to turn off your computer or use it while the restoration is in progress.

After the restoration process completes, your PC will restart, and a window will appear saying that you've successfully restored your PC. The best part of the System Restore is that you don't have to lose your important files or installed applications. If you're stuck or have specific queries about System Restore, share them in the comments below.