

# 10 things to do when Windows XP does not start

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## 1, Use Windows boot disk

One of the first things to do to solve the problem when Windows XP fails to boot is to use the boot disk. Boot floppy is the right choice if the problem is caused by the boot record of the main partition or system files used to boot Windows error.

To create a boot disk, insert the floppy disk into the floppy drive (the same Windows XP operating system), go to **My Computer**, right-click the floppy disk icon, select **Format** from the menu that appears. When you see the Format dialog box appear, remove all default settings and then click the **Start** button on the dialog box. When the format finishes, close the Format dialog box and return to My Computer, double-click the drive icon C (Windows drive) to access the root folder and copy the following 3 files to the floppy:

1. Boot.ini
2. NTLDR
3. Ntdetect.com

After you have created the boot disk, insert the disk into the floppy drive of the error system and press Ctrl + Alt + Del to restart the computer. When booting the system from the boot floppy, the computer will bypass the primary partition and boot files on the hard drive, instead it will try to boot Windows XP normally.

## 2, Use Last Known Good Configuration

You can try to boot the operating system using the Last Known Good Configuration feature. With this feature, you can remove any changes that may cause system errors in the *CurrentControlSet* registry key, which is the key that defines the hardware and driver settings. The Last Known Good Configuration feature will change the content of the *CurrentControlSet* key with a copy of itself created during the last system startup when no problems have occurred.

To use Last Known Good Configuration, you must first restart the computer by pressing Ctrl + Alt + Del. When receiving the **Please select the operating system to start message** or hear a beep, press **F8** to display the Windows Advanced Options menu. Select the **Last Known Good Configuration** item from the menu and press

**Enter .**

Always remember that you can only use the Last Known Good Configuration feature the first time you encounter an error. In case the error occurred after the first startup has failed, the copy file of *CurrentControlSet* key has also failed.

### **3, Use System Restore**

Another tool that can help you in this case is System Restore. System Restore is a background program and constantly checks for changes in key components of the system. When it detects an imminent change, System Restore immediately creates backups (called restore points) of key components before that change takes place. In addition, System Restore is configured by default to create restore points once a day.

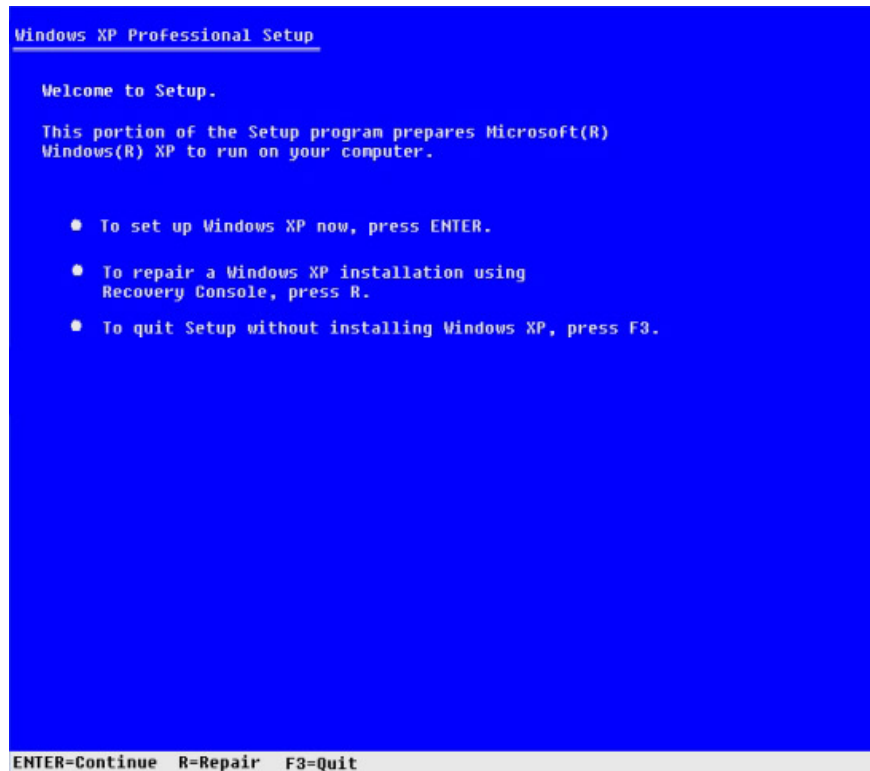
To use System Restore, you must first restart your computer by pressing Ctrl + Alt + Del. When you see the **Please select the operating system to start message** or hear a beep, press **F8** to display the Windows Advanced Options menu. Select **Safe Mode** from the menu and press **Enter .**

When Windows XP has been started in Safe mode, click the **Start** button, go to **All Programs | Accessories | System Tools** and select **System Restore .** Because you are running the computer in the optional Safe mode in the System Restore wizard window, it opens only **Restore My Computer To An Earlier Time** and it is selected by default, so your next task is to click on **Next** button. Follow the instructions to select the restore point and start the system recovery process.

### **4, Using Recovery Console**

When the Windows XP boot problem is not resolved, you need to use a more robust method. The Windows XP CD is a good method and it will give you a tool called Recovery Console.

To boot from the Windows XP CD, insert the disc into the CD-ROM drive of the error system and press Ctrl + Alt + Del to restart the computer. When the system starts booting from the CD, follow the steps that are asked to download the basic files needed to run Setup. When you see the **Welcome To Setup** screen, as shown in Figure A, press the **R** key to start the Recovery Console process.



Picture A

You will see a Recovery Console menu, as shown in Figure B. It displays a folder containing the operating system's system files and a prompt to select the system you want to log into. Just press the number corresponding to the list on the keyboard, you will be prompted to enter the **Administrator** password.



Figure B

## 5, Fix the error Boot.ini file

When the Windows XP operating system starts to load, the Ntldr program will move to the Boot.ini file to determine the location of the resident system files and options that can be enabled for the operating system to

continue loading. Therefore, if there is an error in the Boot.ini file itself, it may not respond to Windows XP parameters to boot the system properly.

If you think that Windows XP cannot be booted because Boot.ini has failed, you can use the special Recovery Console version of the **Bootcfg** tool to fix it. Of course, you must first boot the system using the Windows XP CD and access the Recovery Console as instructed in section 4.

To use the Bootcfg tool from the Recovery Console command, enter the following command:

### **Bootcfg / [parameter]**

With *[parameter]* is one of the following options:

1. / Add - Scans all Windows installations on your hard drive and allows you to add a new entry to the Boot.ini file.
2. / Scan - Scans all Windows installations on the hard drive.
3. / List - List each entry in the Boot.ini file.
4. / Default - Set the default operating system to boot.
5. / Rebuild - Completely recreate the Boot.ini file. Users will have to confirm each step.
6. / Redirect - Allows the boot system to be redirected to a specific port when using the Headless Administration feature. The Redirect parameter comes with two other parameters [Port Baudrate] | [UseBiosSettings].
7. / Disabledirect - Disables redirection.

## **6, Modify partition boot sector error**

Partition boot sector is a small section located on the hard drive partition containing the file system information of the operating system (NTFS or FAT32), although it is a very small computer language program but it is decided to download the system. operating.

If you think that Windows XP won't boot because the partition boot sector is corrupted, you can use a special Recovery Console tool called **Fixboot** to fix it. Boot the system with the Windows XP CD and access the Recovery Console as shown in section 4.

To use the Fixboot tool, enter the Recovery Console command you type:

### **Fixboot [Domain name]:**

With *[Domain Name]* is the *drive* letter you want to write a new partition boot sector.

## **7, Fix the error master boot record**

The master boot record is located in the first sector of the hard drive and it is responsible for loading the Windows boot process into the machine. The master boot record contains a partition table of the drive which is also a small program called the Master boot code, which is responsible for determining the active or bootable partition in the partition table. When this process starts, the partition boot sector will take over and start loading Windows. If the master boot record is corrupted, the partition boot sector cannot perform its job and Windows

will not start.

If you think that Windows XP won't boot because the master boot record is corrupted, you can use the Recovery Console **Fixmbr** tool to fix it. First, boot the system using the Windows XP CD and access the Recovery Console as shown in section 4.

To use the Fixmbr tool, enter the Recovery Console command line:

**Fixmbr [Name]**

With *[Name]* is the name of the drive where you want to write a new master boot record. For example, the format name section for a C drive configuration may start as follows:

**DeviceHardDisk0**

## **8, Disable the automatic restart process**

When Windows XP encounters a fatal error, the default setting for this error is to automatically restart the system. If an error occurs when Windows XP is booting, the operating system will start getting stuck in a restart loop instead of starting normally. In this case, you will need to disable the automatic restart option in the system error.

When Windows XP starts booting and you see the **Please select the operating system to start message** or hear a beep, press the **F8** key to display the Windows Advanced Options menu. Then, select the **Disable The Automatic Restart item on the System Failure** and press the **Enter** key. Windows XP will now hang when it encounters an error and, if possible, it will display a stop message so you can know the problem is in error.

## **9, Restore from a backup**

If you don't seem to be able to repair the Windows XP system that's corrupted and you have a recent backup, use it to restore the system from a backup device. The method used to restore the system depends on the backup utility you used, so you will have to follow the utility's instructions to restore your system.

## **10, Perform upgrade error correction**

If you are unable to restore a corrupted Windows XP system and do not have the latest backup, you can perform a bug fix (overwrite the old Windows). Perform reinstallation of the operating system in the same directory, just like when you upgrade to another Windows version. This type of installation will almost solve all Windows problems, not just failing to boot.

Doing this type of installation is very simple. Insert the Windows XP CD into the CD-ROM drive, restart the system from the CD. When the initial preparation process is finished, you will see the *Windows XP Setup* screen (as shown in Figure A above). Press **Enter** to start the Windows XP Setup process. You will now see the *License Agreement* page and need to press the **F8** key to agree with the license agreement. The installation process will then search the hard drive and the version of Windows XP installed on your computer. When found, it will prompt the second Windows XP Setup screen as shown in Figure C.

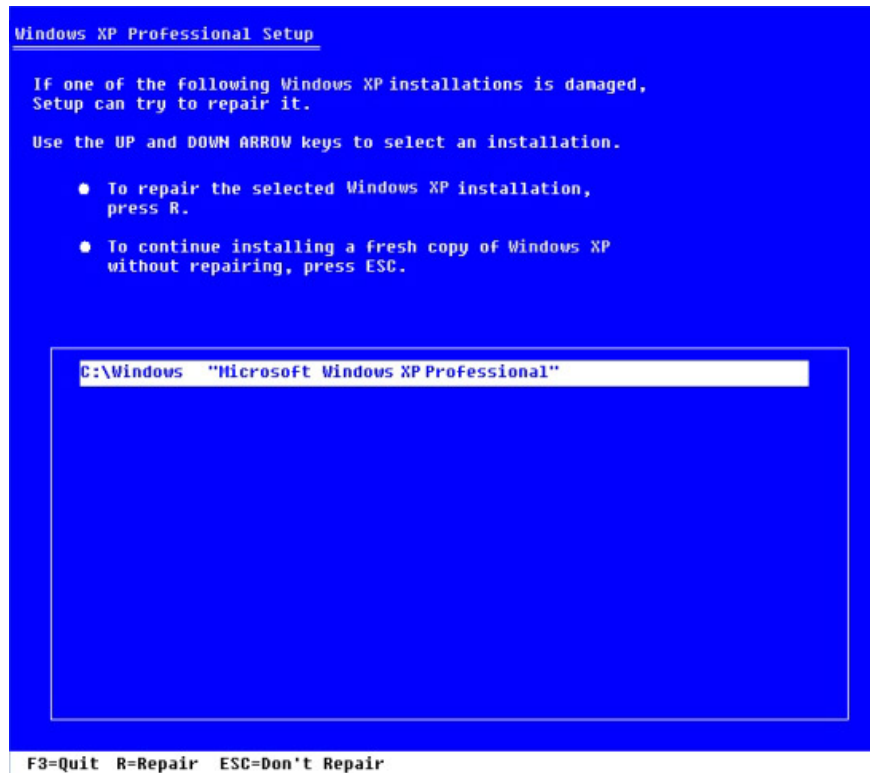


Figure C

This screen will give you a choice between pressing **R** to repair the selected installation or press **Enter** to install a completely new operating system. In this case, the repair operation also means upgrading the error, so press the **R** key. The Setup process will look at the drives in the system, then it will start the upgrade process.

Keep in mind that, after upgrading a bug fix or installing a fix, you must reinstall all updates for Windows to block errors that may be hacker attacks.

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