

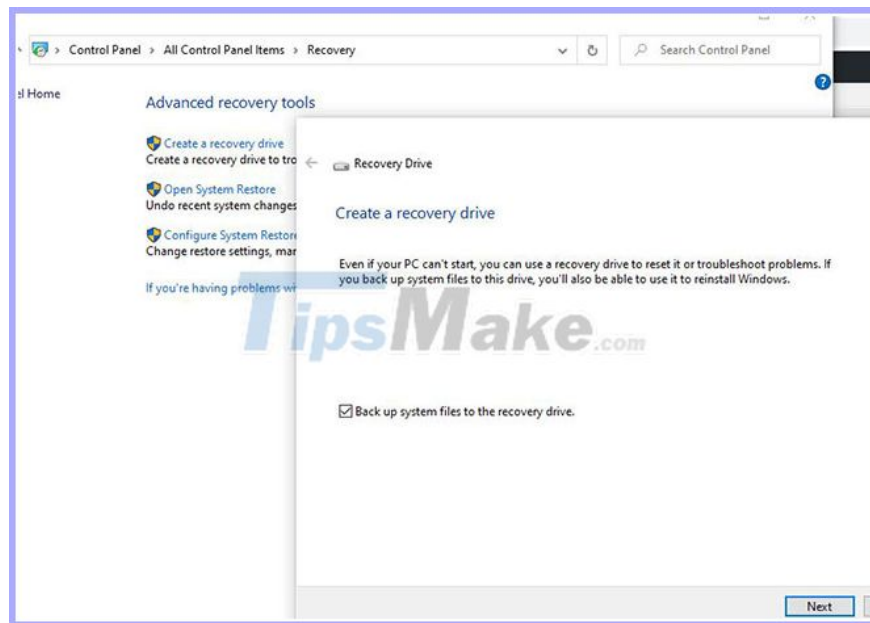
Difference between Recovery Drive and System Image in Windows 10

If you confuse these two great backup options and don't know which one is going to work for you, the following article will help you find the difference between Recovery Drive and System Image in Windows 10.

Creating backups of important data is a very good habit. And, if you are using Windows 10, then there are various options for creating data backups. In particular, the two most useful methods to create backup data are Recovery Drive and System Image.

If you confuse these two great backup options and don't know which one is going to work for you, the following article will help you find the difference between Recovery Drive and System Image in Windows 10.

What is Recovery Drive?



The role of Recovery Drive is to bring the computer system back to its original state. As you can guess from the name, the role of Recovery Drive is to bring the computer system back to its original state. The initial state can be anything - the original installation or a copy of your Windows environment.

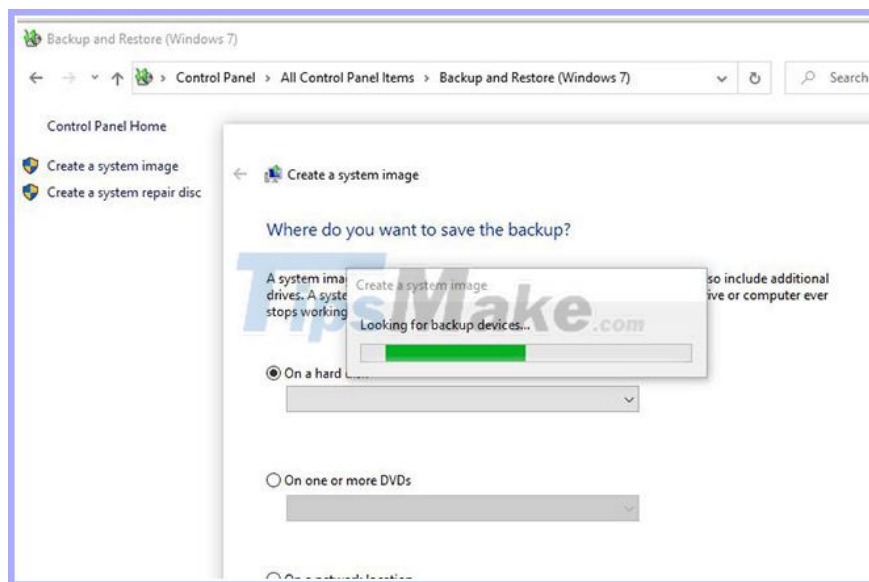
This feature is quite similar to using the factory reset option on an Android or iOS device. This feature will almost format your entire computer, but will not include desktop applications and any other personal data.

This is because this setting will bring the computer back to the way it was when you first started it, but usually with a smaller capacity. All third-party applications and programs are left behind in this process. So this is not a good choice when you have to retrieve deleted files or other data.

This is the last step used in situations such as when the computer stops responding, encounters a problem and nothing else works for you. Some people also call Recovery Drive a Recovery Disk or System Recovery Disc. People used to use CDs or DVDs to store backups in the past, but now pen drives are preferred because they're easy to carry around.

Today, most computer devices come with Recovery Drive built in, but are hidden from users to protect the integrity of the drive. However, with Windows 10, this feature has been replaced, because you need a separate bootable USB Recovery Drive.

What is System Image?



System Image creates a copy of the entire hard drive partition

System Image is very different from Recovery Drive because it creates a copy of the entire hard drive partition (a large file). System Image is often used to create backups for primary partitions or when you install Windows operating systems. This is because it contains user data, program files, registry entries, all other operating system-related files and folders.

In the usual sense, the System Image file is larger than Recovery Drive (because all user data, along with third-party applications and programs installed on the computer, are backed up). By using this file, you can easily access a specific file and folder from there without performing the entire recovery process.

This option is preferred when you have to recover a deleted file or application. On the other hand, it will remove the other drives present in the computer from the process. That's why Microsoft has bundled different backup options in the system for users to use on demand.

Check out the article: How to back up and restore Windows 10 from System Image for how to use this useful tool.

What is the difference between Recovery Drive and System Image?

System Image allows you to recover everything on your system, including multiple drives. On the other hand, Recovery Drive only allows you to copy the most needed files from the system drive.

Obviously, both Recovery Drive and System Image are important parts of the backup process. When you want to restore some applications or files, you should use System Image. For user settings, Recovery Drive is a suitable option. That is why both are equally useful and important.

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