

# Fix File Explorer not responding error in Windows 11/10

If File Explorer is not working, you will not be able to access Files, Folders, and Drives on your computer. You can find below the steps to fix File Explorer Not Responding issue in Windows 10/11.

File Explorer, also known as Windows Explorer is a built-in File Manager utility that comes pre-installed on Windows 10/11 computers and also on devices running older versions of Windows Operating System.

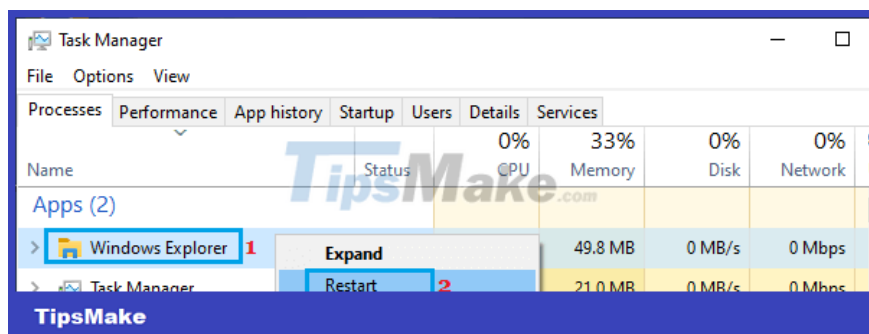
All in all, File Explorer works flawlessly and makes it really easy to manage Files, Folders, and external drives attached to your computer.

In most cases, File Explorer not responding issue in Windows 10/11 can be fixed by restarting File Explorer using Task Manager.

If this doesn't work, you can fix the problem using other methods as provided below.

## 1. Restart File Explorer using Task Manager

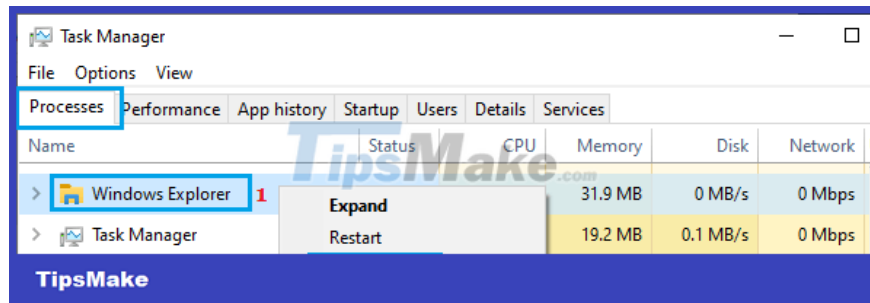
Right-click the Start bar and click **Task Manager** . On the Task Manager screen, right-click the Windows Explorer entry and click **Restart** .



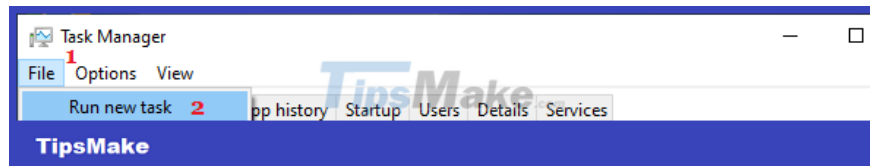
Then try opening File Explorer and see if it works properly.

## 2. End File Explorer and restart

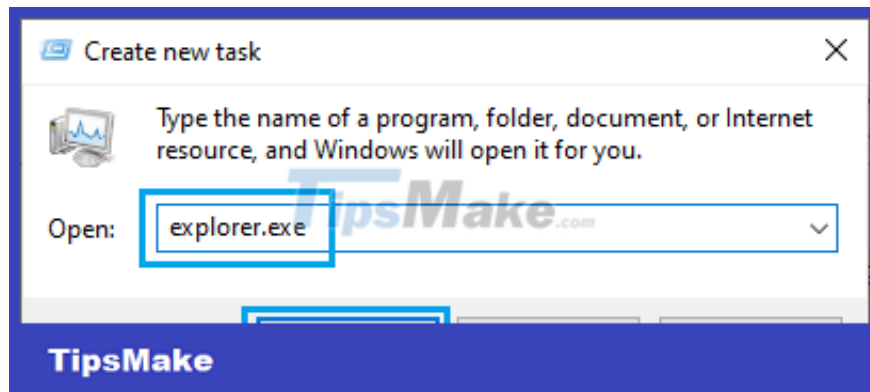
Open **Task Manager** > right click on the Windows Explorer entry in the 'Process tab' and click **End Task** .



Next, click the **File** tab and select the **Run New Task** option in the menu that appears.



Type **explorer.exe** in the Run Command window and click **OK** .



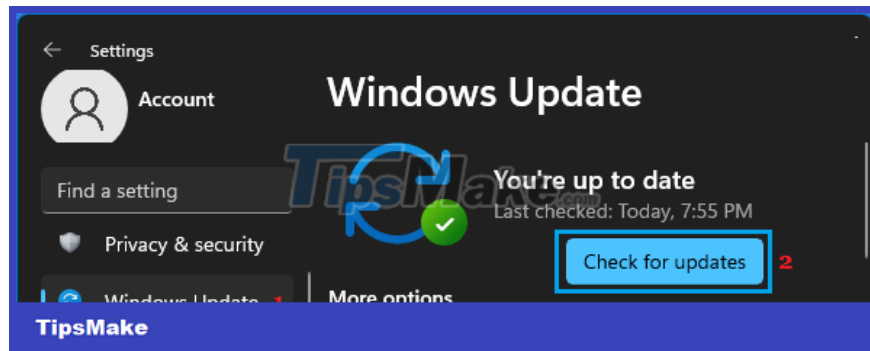
Then try using File Explorer and see if it works properly.

### 3. Install updates

Sometimes, the problem is caused by Windows Update waiting to be installed on the computer.

**Windows 10:** Go to **Settings** > **Update & Security** > select **Windows Update** in the left pane and click the **Check For Updates** button .

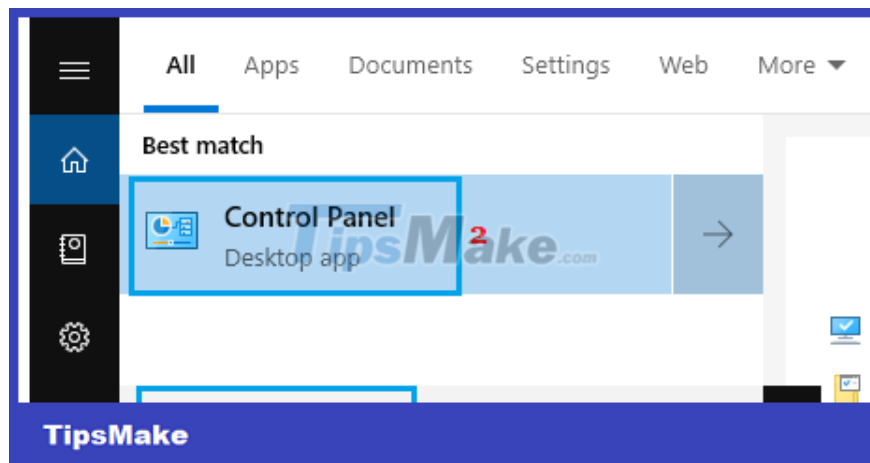
**Windows 11:** Go to **Settings** > click **Windows Update** in the left pane. In the right pane, click the **Check for Updates** button .



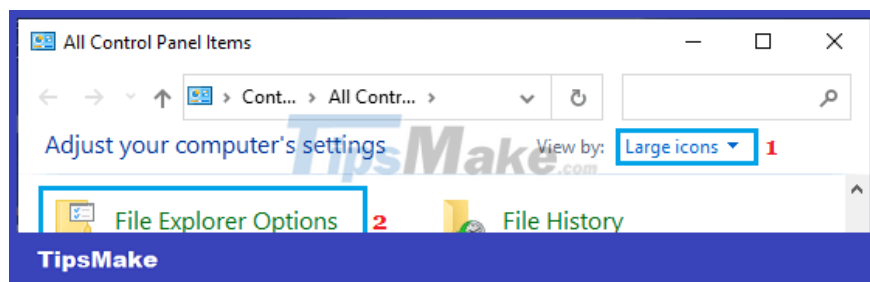
Allow Windows to check for updates and follow the instructions to download and Install updates (If available).

#### 4. Clear File Explorer's cache

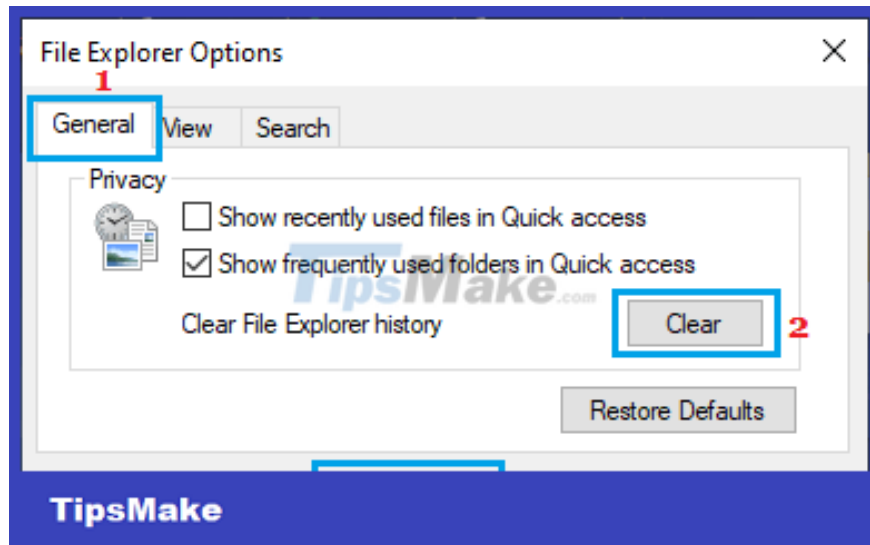
Type Control Panel in the Search bar and click **Control Panel** App in the search results.



On the Control Panel screen, switch to Large Icons view and click **File Explorer Options**.



On the File Explorer Options screen, switch to the **General** tab and click the **Clear** button.

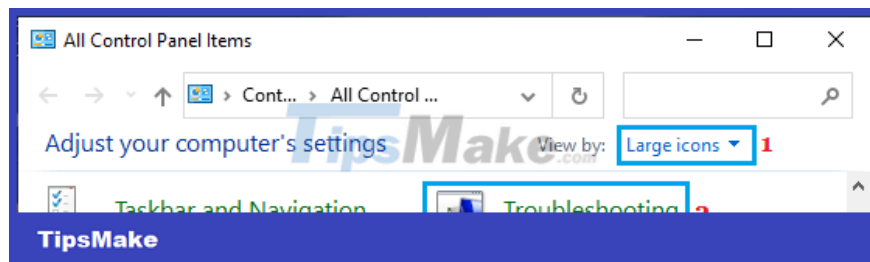


Click **OK** and try using File Explorer.

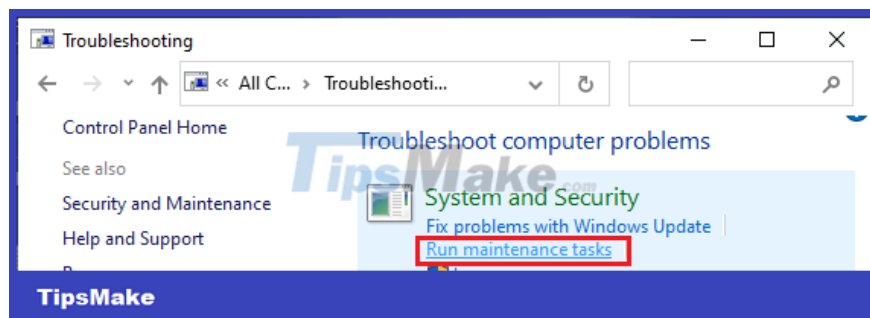
## 5. Use the Troubleshooting troubleshooter

The System Maintenance Troubleshooter available in Control Panel can help fix the problem.

Open **Control Panel** > **switch to Large Icons** view and click **Troubleshooting** .



On the Troubleshooting screen, click the **Run Maintenance Tasks** option .

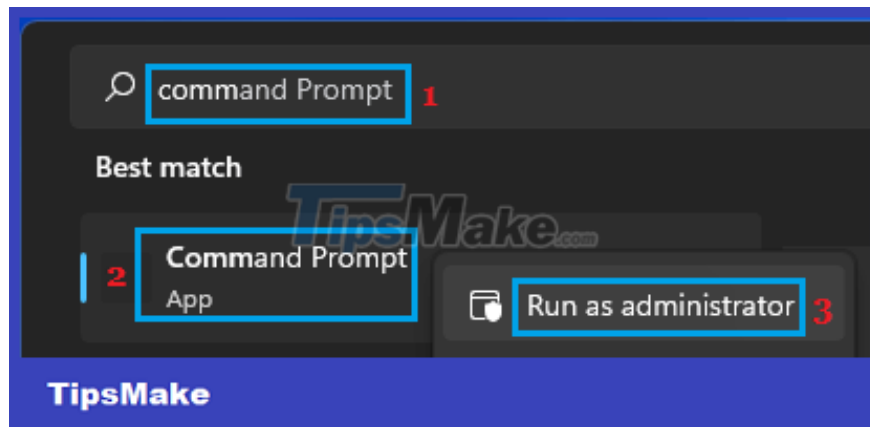


Follow the instructions to complete the process. Once the process is complete, try using File Explorer again.

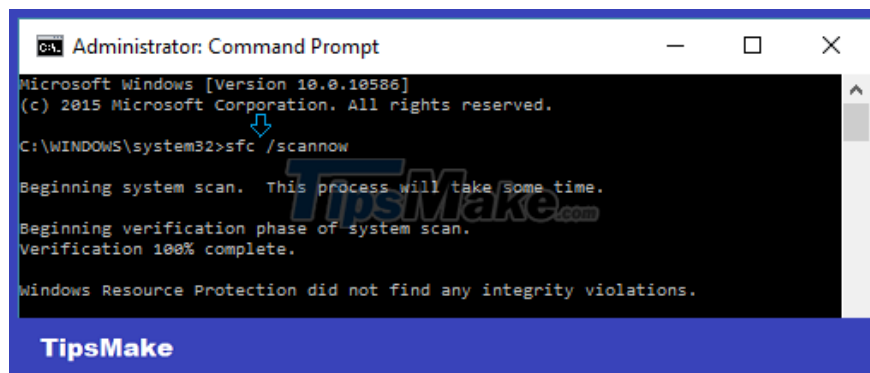
## 6. Repair system files using SFC

In rare cases, the problem could be due to corrupted or corrupted System Files.

Type **Command Prompt** in the Search bar > right-click **App Command Prompt** in the Search results and select the **Run As Administrator** option .



On the **Command Prompt** window , type **sfc /scannow** and press the **Enter** key on your computer keyboard.



**Note:** There should be a space after **sfc** .

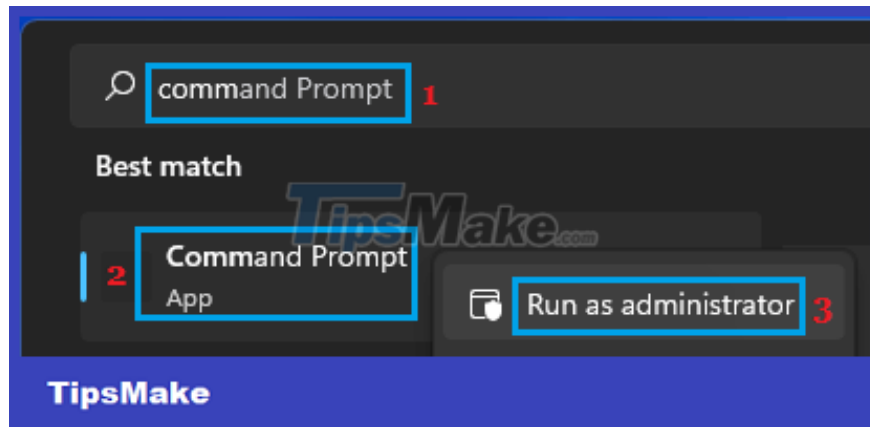
Patently wait for Windows to scan your computer for System File Errors and fix them.

If Windows cannot fix the error, it will display the message 'Windows Resource Protection found corrupt files but was unable to fix some (or all) of them'.

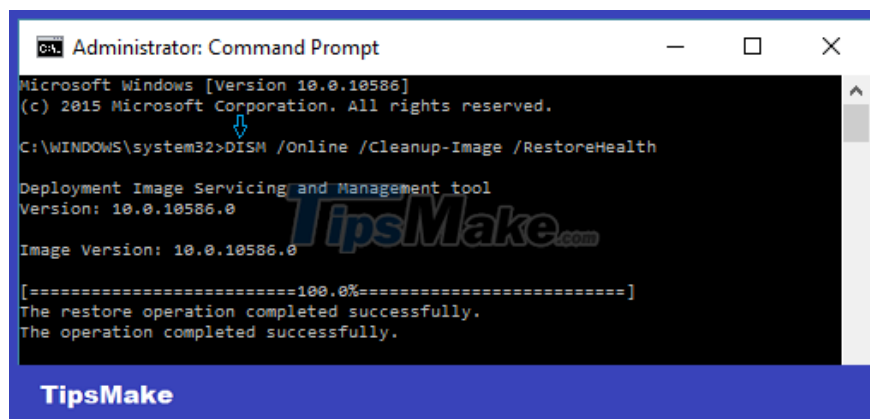
If this happens, you can try to fix the problem using the DISM Tool as provided below.

## 7. Repair system files using DISM

Type **Command Prompt** in the Search bar > right-click **App Command Prompt** in the Search results and select the **Run As Administrator** option .



On the command prompt screen, type **DISM /Online /Cleanup-Image /RestoreHealth** and press the **Enter** key



**Note:** There should be a space after DISM, Online and Cleanup-Image.

Wait for the DISM tool to check your computer for errors and fix them.

After the DISM command finishes running, restart the computer and run the SFC command again to replace the remaining damaged files (if any) with the correct files.

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