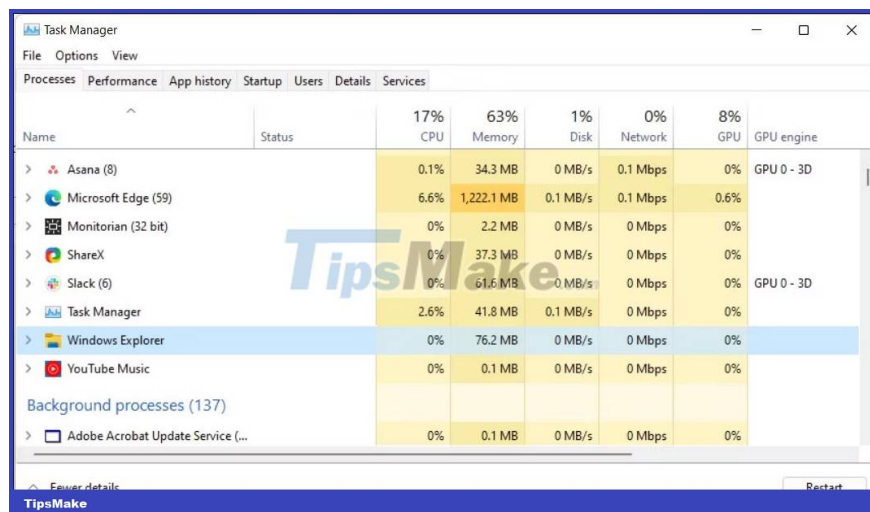


How to fix Windows 11 Taskbar not working

The Windows 11 taskbar provides access to frequently used applications, virtual desktops, Start menu, and quick settings. If the Taskbar stops working, you may have problems navigating your computer.

To quickly fix a frozen or unresponsive Taskbar, open Task Manager and stop the Windows Explorer service. However, the Taskbar can also stop working due to bad Windows updates, corrupted system files, and problems with system services. Depending on the problem, you will need to try a variety of solutions to fix when the Windows 11 Taskbar stops working or won't load.

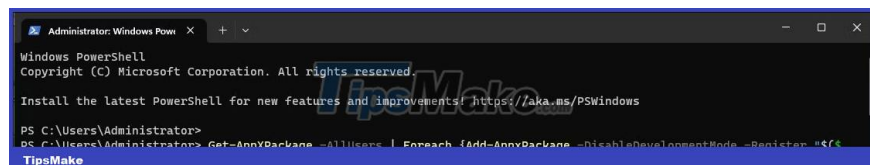
1. Restart Windows File Explorer



Windows Explorer is responsible for how you interact with the Windows 11 user interface. Restarting the service restarts the GUI process and fixes any temporary glitches that caused the Taskbar to stop working.

Your screen may flicker momentarily when Windows Explorer restarts. Your taskbar should start working now.

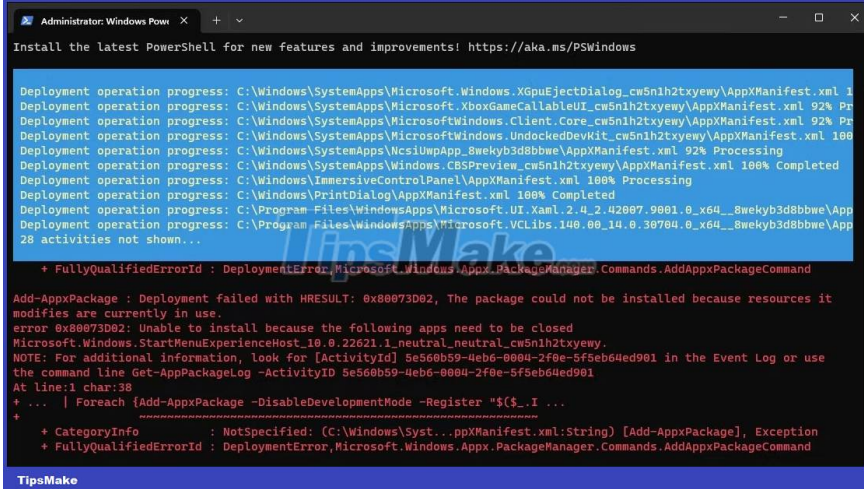
2. Install and re-register all Windows apps for all accounts



The Windows 11 taskbar may stop working due to problems with built-in applications and user accounts. To fix the problem, you can install and re-register all the pre-installed applications using the PowerShell cmdlet. Doing so will restore the Taskbar to its normal working state.

To install and re-register all Windows applications:

1. Press the **Win** key and type **powershell**.
2. Right click on **Windows PowerShell** and select **Run as administrator**.



```
Administrator: Windows Pow...
Install the latest PowerShell for new features and improvements! https://aka.ms/PSWindows

Deployment operation progress: C:\Windows\SystemApps\Microsoft.Windows.XGpuEjectDialog_cw5n1h2txyewy\AppXManifest.xml 100% Completed
Deployment operation progress: C:\Windows\SystemApps\Microsoft.XboxGameCallableUI_cw5n1h2txyewy\AppXManifest.xml 92% Processing
Deployment operation progress: C:\Windows\SystemApps\Microsoft.Windows.Client.Core_cw5n1h2txyewy\AppXManifest.xml 92% Processing
Deployment operation progress: C:\Windows\SystemApps\NcsiUwpApp_8wekyb3d8bbwe\AppXManifest.xml 92% Processing
Deployment operation progress: C:\Windows\SystemApps\Windows.CBSPreview_cw5n1h2txyewy\AppXManifest.xml 100% Completed
Deployment operation progress: C:\Windows\ImmersiveControlPanel\AppXManifest.xml 100% Processing
Deployment operation progress: C:\Windows\PrintDialog\AppXManifest.xml 100% Completed
Deployment operation progress: C:\Program Files\WindowsApps\Microsoft.UI.Xaml.2.4_2.42007.9001.0_x64_8wekyb3d8bbwe\AppXManifest.xml 100% Completed
Deployment operation progress: C:\Program Files\WindowsApps\Microsoft.VCLibs.140.00.14.0.30704.0_x64_8wekyb3d8bbwe\AppXManifest.xml 100% Completed
28 activities not shown...

+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : DeploymentError,Microsoft.Windows.AppX.PackageManager.Commands.AddAppxPackageCommand

Add-AppxPackage : Deployment failed with HRESULT: 0x80073D02, The package could not be installed because resources it
modifies are currently in use.
error 0x80073D02: Unable to install because the following apps need to be closed
Microsoft.Windows.StartMenuExperienceHost_10.0.22621.1_neutral_neutral_cw5n1h2txyewy.
NOTE: For additional information, look for [ActivityId] 5e560b59-4eb6-0004-2f0e-5f5eb64ed901 in the Event Log or use
the command line Get-AppPackageLog -ActivityID 5e560b59-4eb6-0004-2f0e-5f5eb64ed901
At line:1 char:38
+ ... | Foreach {Add-AppxPackage -DisableDevelopmentMode -Register "$($_.I ...
+ ~~~~~
+ CategoryInfo          : NotSpecified: (C:\Windows\Syst...ppXManifest.xml:String) [Add-AppxPackage], Exception
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : DeploymentError,Microsoft.Windows.AppX.PackageManager.Commands.AddAppxPackageCommand

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```

3. In the PowerShell window, type the following command and press **Enter**:

```
Get-AppxPackage -AllUsers | Foreach {Add-AppxPackage -DisableDevelopmentMode -Register "$($_.Id)"} >
```

4. Now, Windows will try to install and re-register all built-in Windows applications. You'll see a red error message that the app already exists and cannot be reinstalled. Ignore the message and wait for the process to complete until you see the following line:

```
PS C:\Users\Administrator>
```

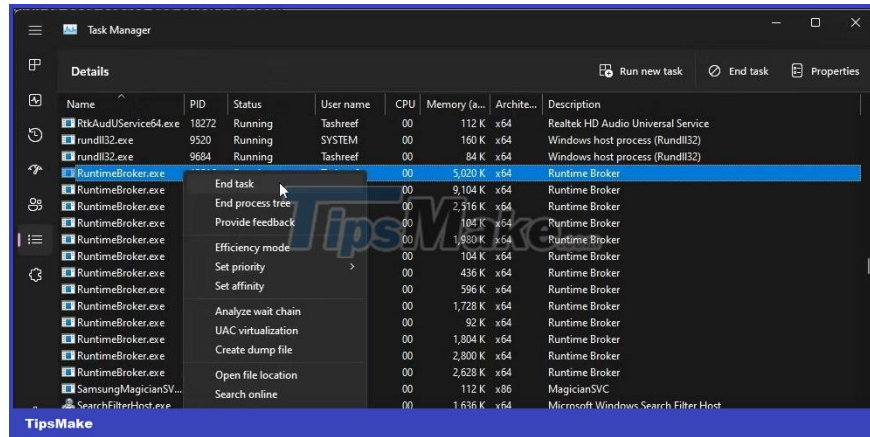
5. Close PowerShell and restart the computer. If you don't want to perform a system reboot, restart Windows Explorer in Task Manager.

3. Uninstall a recently installed version of Windows Update

If the Taskbar started not working after installing a Windows update, uninstall the update to see if it fixes the problem. Windows feature updates can sometimes damage more than they can fix.

Fortunately, you can uninstall updates in Windows 11 using the update history feature. Update history shows all recent updates installed for Windows 11. You may need to dig a little to find an update that coincides with the time the Taskbar stopped working. Next, uninstall the update and restart your PC to see if the Taskbar works again.

4. Close the system service causing the conflict



Problems with some system services, such as searchhost.exe and runtimebroker.exe, can cause the Taskbar to stop working. You can restart these services in Task Manager to resolve the issue.

To restart system services in Task Manager:

1. Open Task Manager.
2. In Task Manager, open the **Details** tab in the left pane.
3. Next, locate the following services. Right click on each service and select **End Task** .

ShellExperienceHost.exe SearchIndexer.exe SearchHost.exe RuntimeBroker.exe

4. After you restart all services, close Task Manager and restart your computer. After the computer restarts, check if the Taskbar is working.

5. Enable XAML for the Start menu with Registry Editor

Another great tip to troubleshoot Taskbar not working is to make the Start menu use XAML and address issues that might cause the menu to stop working.

This is an alternative for Windows 10, but it also works on Windows 11. That said, this method involves modifying the Windows Registry. Incorrectly modifying the registry can cause system crashes. Make sure to create a restore point and backup the registry before trying the steps below.

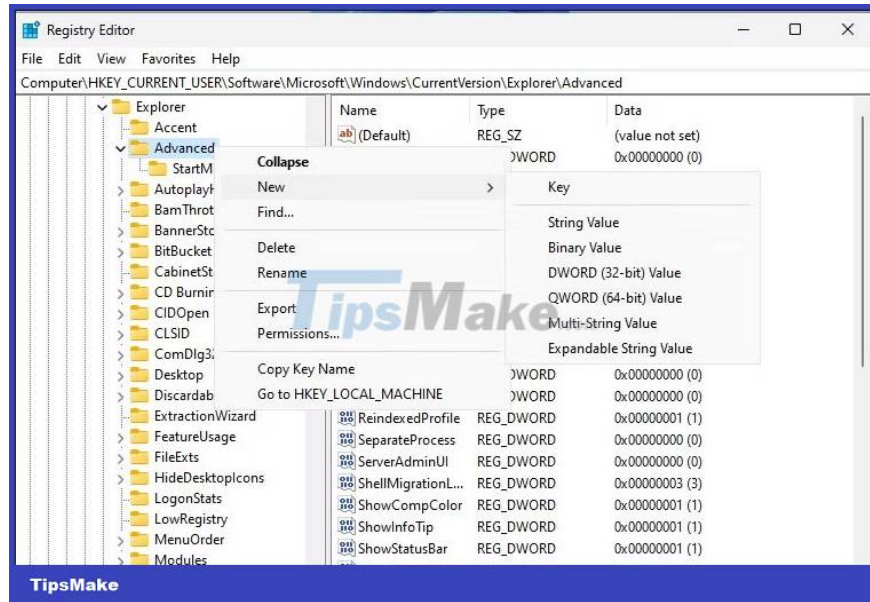
To enable XAML for the Start menu using the Registry Editor:

1. Press **Win + R** to open Run.
2. Type **regedit** and click **OK** . Click **Yes** if prompted by **User Account Control**.

3. In Registry Editor, navigate to the following location. You can copy and paste the registry path for quick navigation:

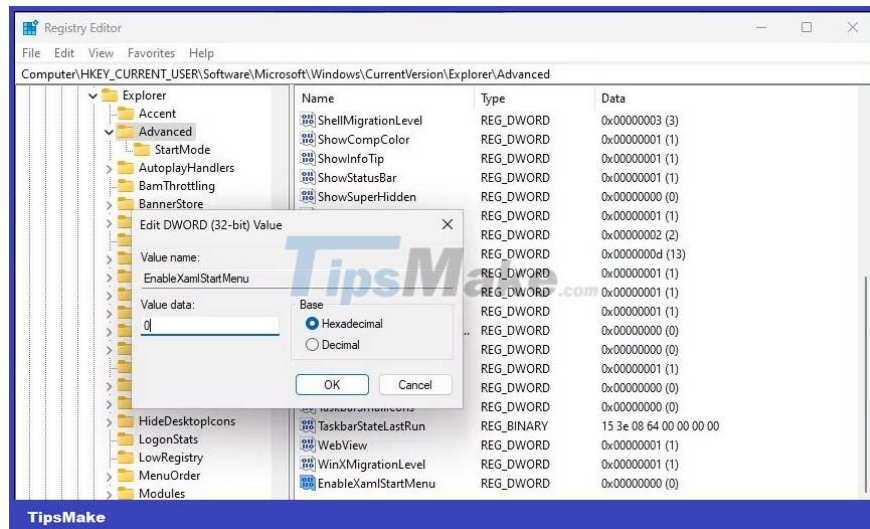
Computer\HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Advanced

4. Next, in the left pane, right-click the **Advanced** key and select **New > DWORD (32-bit) Value** .



5. Rename the value to **EnableXamlStartMenu**.

6. Next, double-click the newly created **EnableXamlStartMenu** value to modify it.



7. Enter **0** in the **Value data** field and click **OK** to save the changes.

8. Close Registry Editor and restart the PC.

6. Run System File Checker and DISM

Windows has a number of command-line utilities that restore and repair the system. For example System File Checker (SFC) can scan your system for missing or corrupted files and repair them.

Alternatively, you can also use the Deployment Image Service Management (DISM) utility to repair a damaged Windows system image and restore your Windows without reinstalling the operating system.

If the Taskbar doesn't load due to file system corruption, run the DISM utility to repair the Windows image first. Next, run System File Checker to fix problems with protected system files. Both processes may take a while to complete.

7. Perform a system restore

You can use a recent system restore point to restore your PC to an earlier point when the Taskbar was working properly. A restore point helps you restore the Windows operating system when a driver, feature or application update crashes the system.

To use a restore point, make sure you've set up your PC to create a restore point automatically. The restore point affects system files and applications, and your data will not be affected in the process.

Your system may reboot a few times while the system restore is in progress. Leave the system in standby mode and wait for the process to complete. When the system reboots, you will see a success message. If not, try again with the same restore point or a different restore point if available.

8. Create a new user account

Corrupt user profiles can cause some system functions to stop working. To fix the problem, create a new user account and try accessing the Taskbar.

You can create new user accounts in Windows 11 from Settings, using the **User Accounts**, **Command Prompt** and **Local Users and Groups** dialog boxes . Next, log in to your new user account and check if the Taskbar is up and running.

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