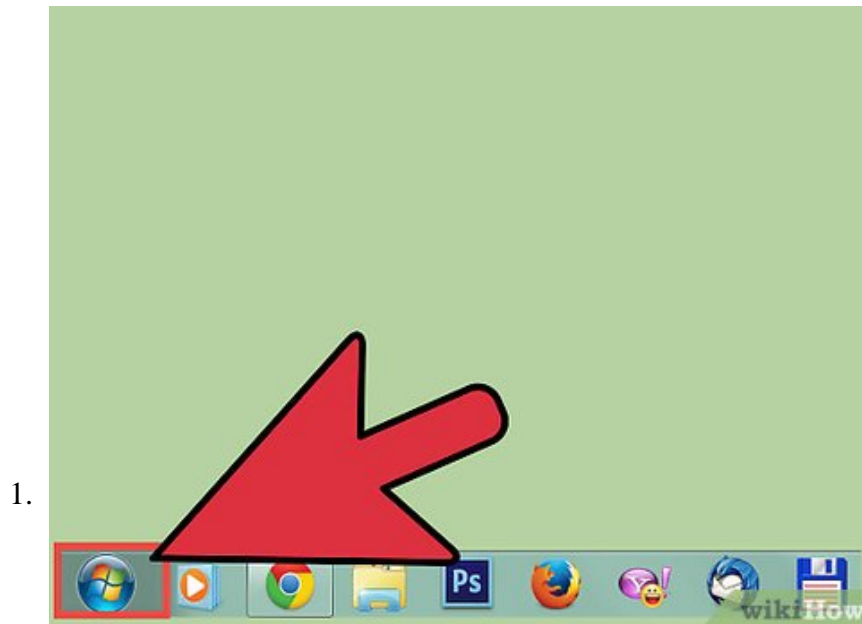


How to Repair Defective or Missing System Files in Windows

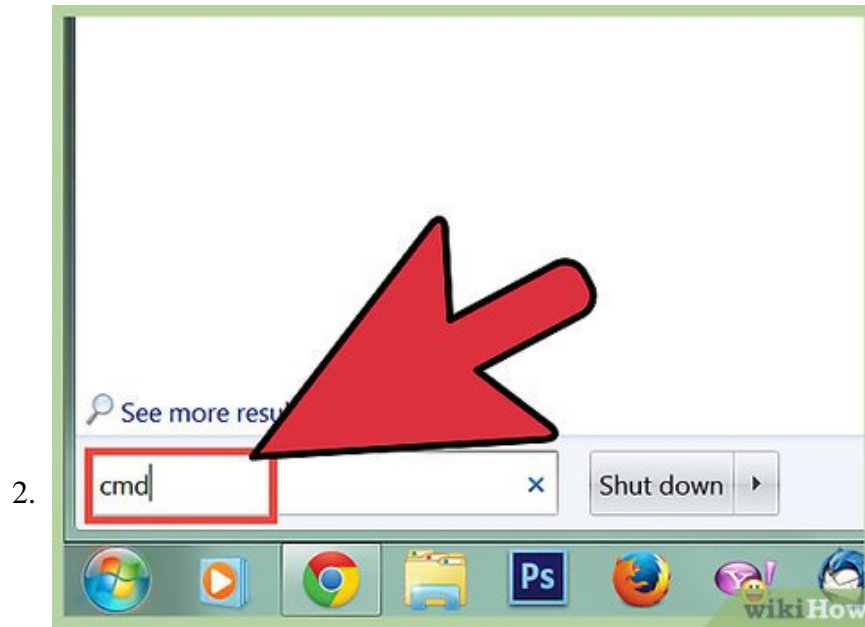
Many Windows problems are caused by damaged or missing system files. Damaged or missing system files may stem from malware, failed updates, botched installations, and more. System File Checker is a component of Windows which can...

Part 1 of 4:

Starting and Using System File Checker

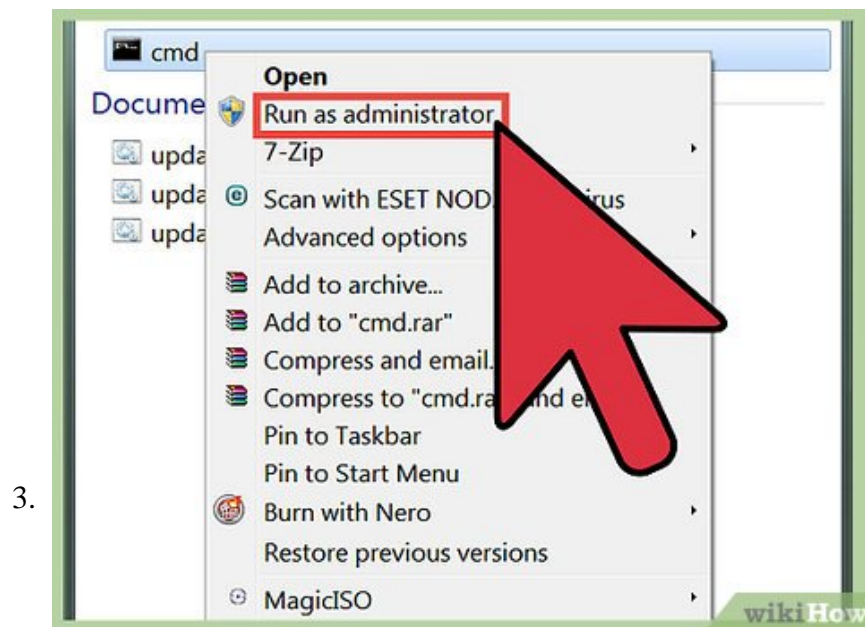


Open the Start menu. Click the Start button.



Search for Command Prompt. Type *cmd.exe*.

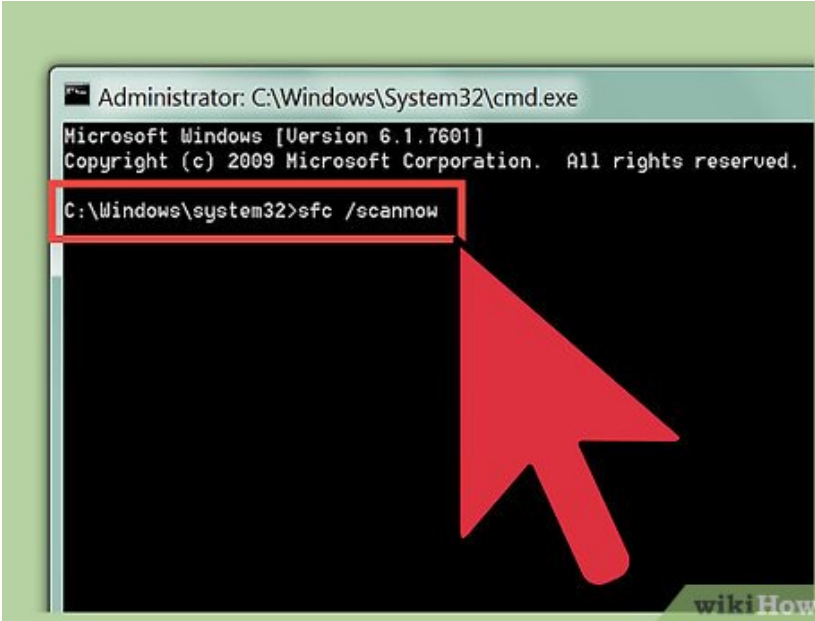
1. Users of Windows XP must click *All Programs* then the *Accessories* subcategory.



Start Command Prompt as an administrator. Right click *cmd.exe* to open the context menu and click *Run as administrator*.

1. Users of Windows XP must hold the **Shift** key while right clicking *Command Prompt*, click *Run As* to open a dialog window, select the *The following user* radio button, type *Administrator* as the user name and the password of the account (usually blank), and click **OK**.
2. Click **Yes** on the User Account Control dialog if it appears.

4.



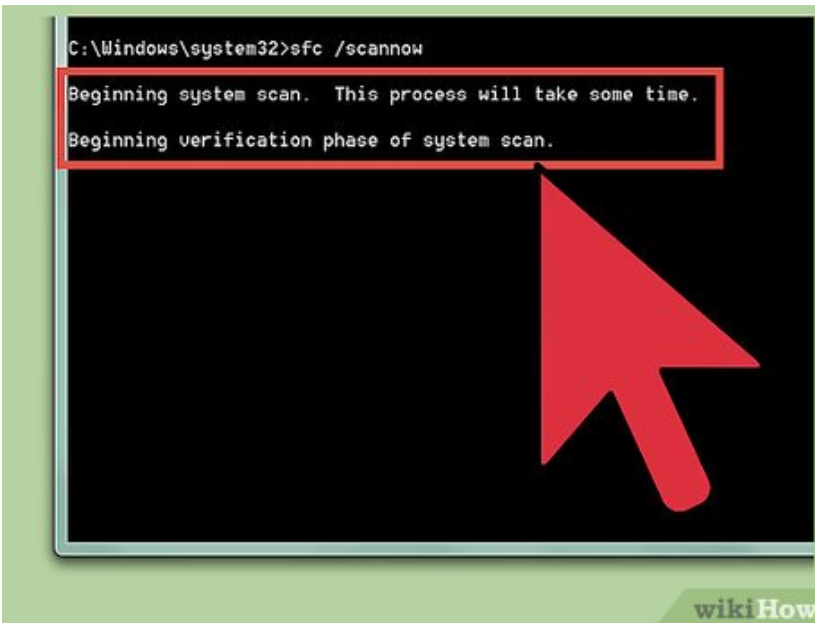
```
Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Windows\system32>sfc /scannow
```

A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window. The title bar reads "Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe". The main text area shows the Windows version and copyright information. The command prompt shows the command `sfc /scannow` has been entered and is highlighted with a red box. A red mouse cursor arrow points to the end of the command. The "wikiHow" logo is visible in the bottom right corner.

Start System File Checker. In Command Prompt, type `sfc /scannow` and press the `Enter` key on your keyboard.

5.



```
C:\Windows\system32>sfc /scannow
Beginning system scan. This process will take some time.
Beginning verification phase of system scan.
```

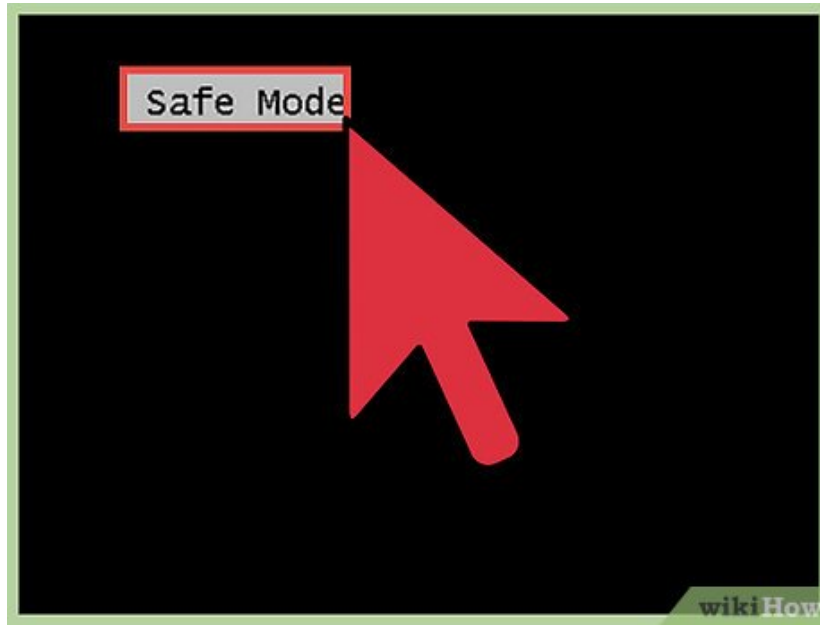
A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window showing the output of the `sfc /scannow` command. The output text is highlighted with a red box. A red mouse cursor arrow points to the end of the output. The "wikiHow" logo is visible in the bottom right corner.

Wait until System File Checker finishes checking and fixing your system.

Part 2 of 4:

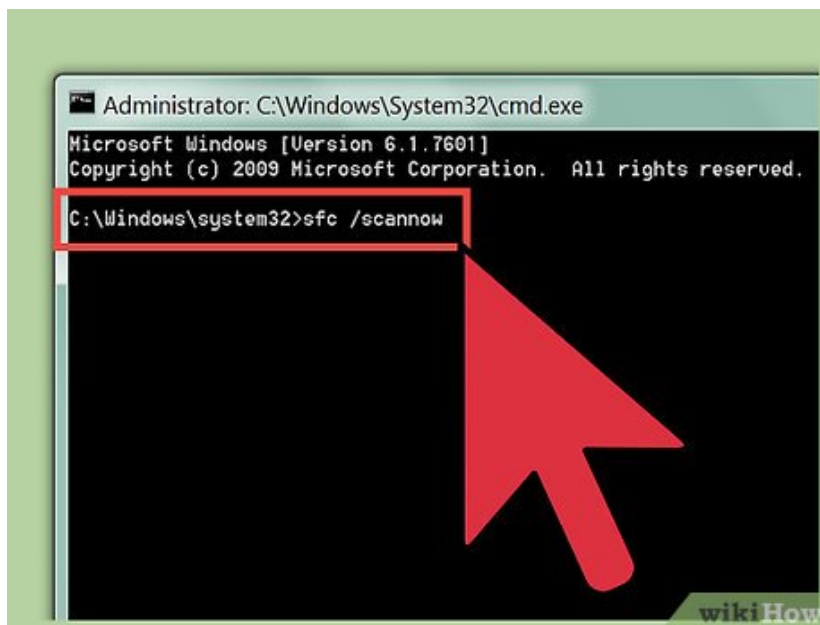
Starting and Using System File Checker Via Safe Mode

1.



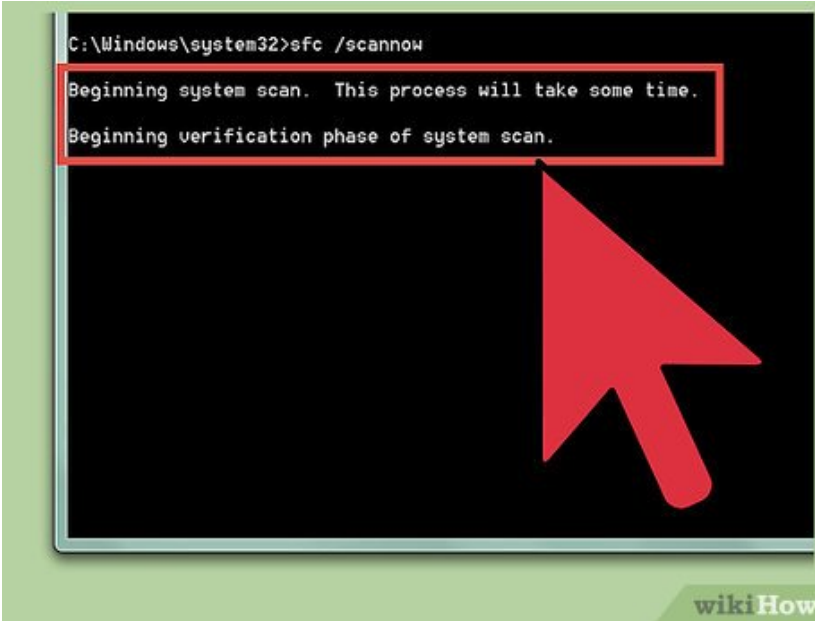
Start Windows in Safe Mode with Command Prompt.

2.



Start System File Checker. In Command Prompt, type *sfc /scannow* and press the `Enter` key on your keyboard.

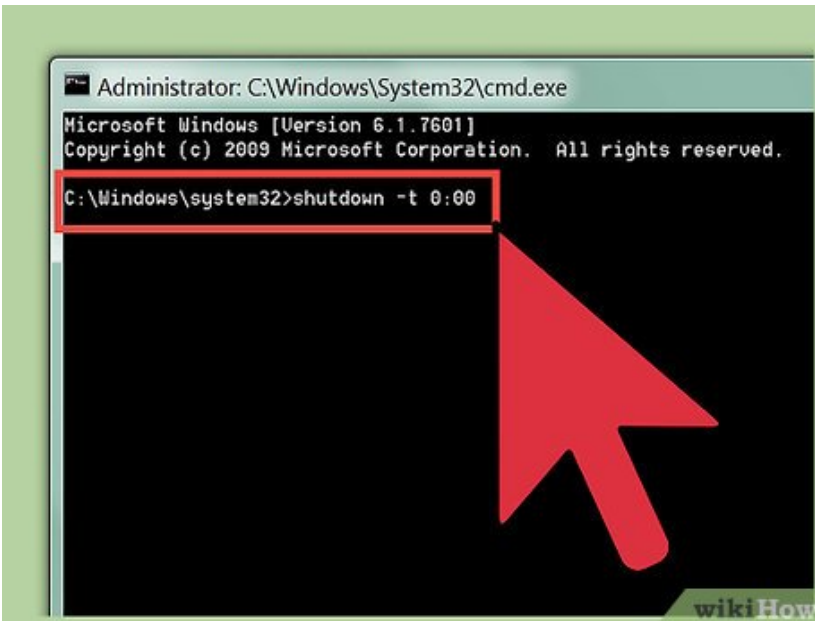
3.



```
C:\Windows\system32>sfc /scannow
Beginning system scan. This process will take some time.
Beginning verification phase of system scan.
```

Wait until System File Checker finishes checking and fixing your system.

4.

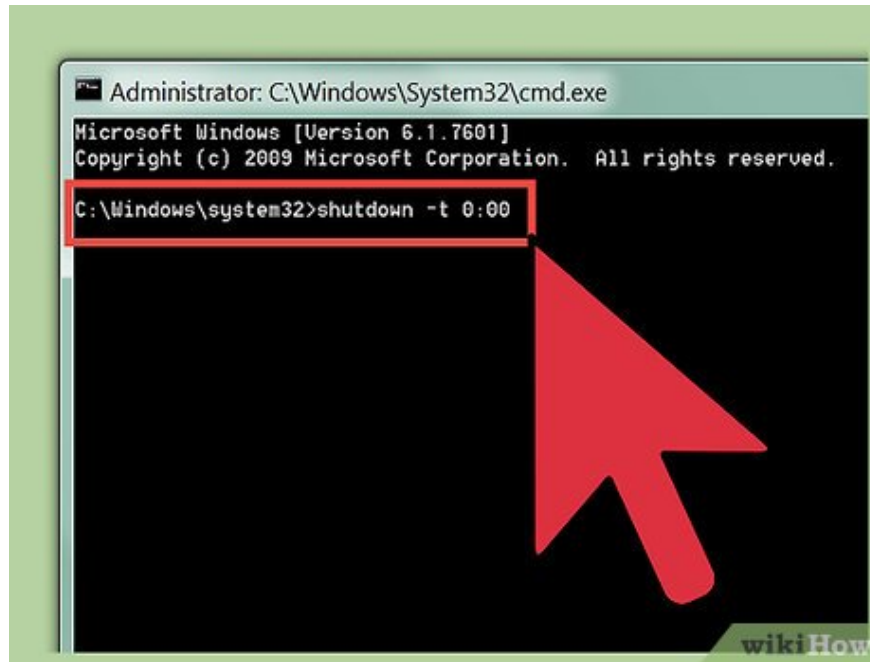


```
Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
C:\Windows\system32>shutdown -t 0:00
```

Shut down your computer by typing `shutdown -t 0:00` into Command Prompt and pressing the `Enter` key on your keyboard.

Part 3 of 4:

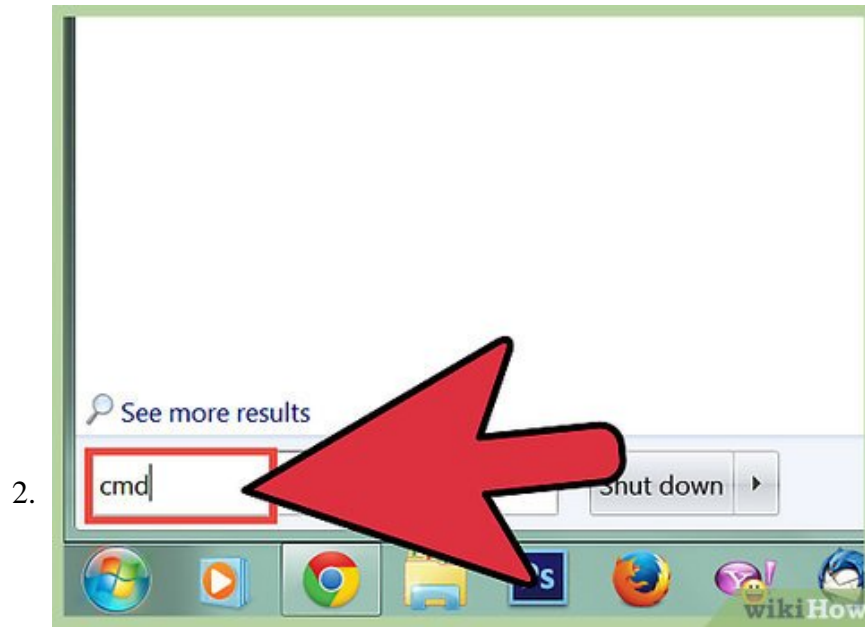
If You Experience an Error While Trying to Start System File Checker



Start the Trusted Installer and Windows Module Installer Services

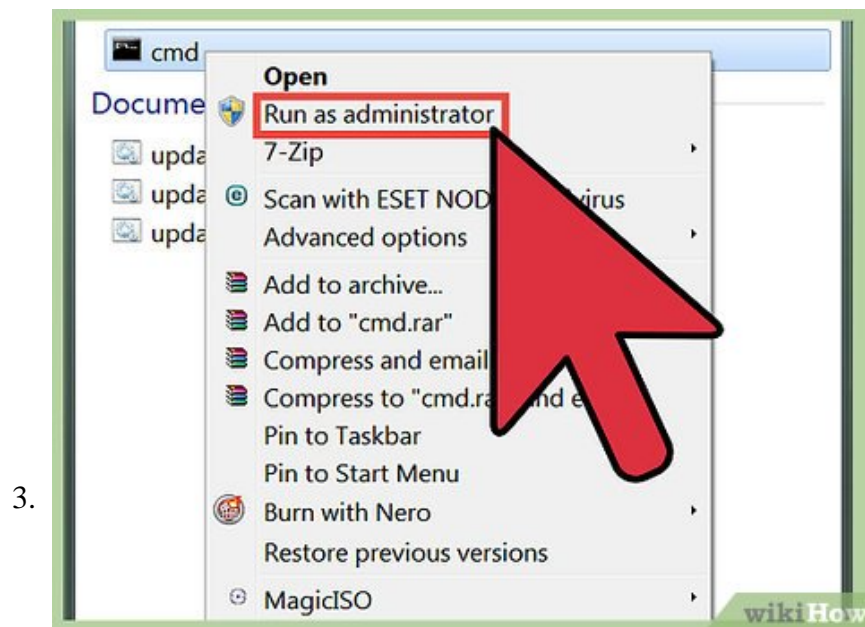


Open the Start menu. Click the Start button.



Search for Command Prompt. Type *cmd.exe*.


1. Users of Windows XP must click *All Programs* then the *Accessories* subcategory.



Start Command Prompt as an administrator. Right click *cmd.exe* to open the context menu and click *Run as administrator*.

1. Users of Windows XP must hold the **Shift** key while right clicking *Command Prompt*, click *Run As* to open a dialog window, select the *The following user* radio button, type *Administrator* as the user name and the password of the account (usually blank), and click **OK**.
2. Click **Yes** on the User Account Control dialog if it appears.

4.



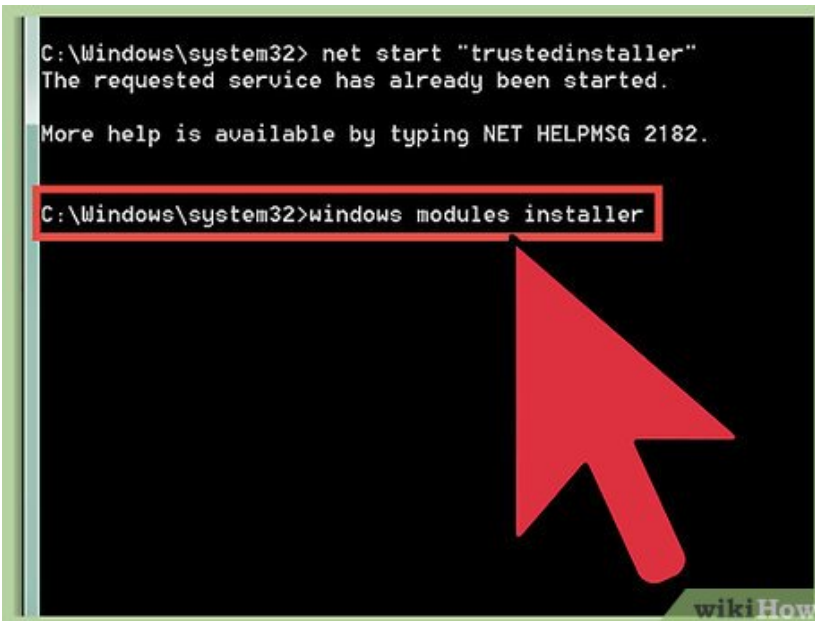
```
Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Windows\system32> net start "trustedinstaller" _
```

A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window. The title bar reads "Administrator: C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe". The window content shows the Microsoft Windows version (6.1.7601) and copyright information. The command prompt shows the user is at the C:\Windows\system32 directory and has entered the command "net start "trustedinstaller"". A red rectangular box highlights the command, and a red mouse cursor points to it. A "wikiHow" logo is visible in the bottom right corner.

Start the Trusted Installer service. Type `net start "trustedinstaller"` into Command Prompt and press `? Enter`.

5.



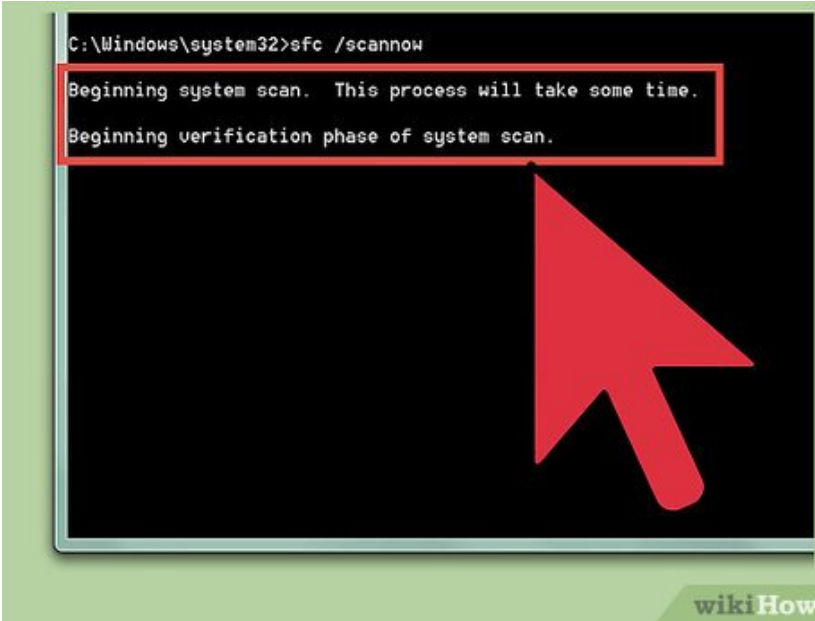
```
C:\Windows\system32> net start "trustedinstaller"
The requested service has already been started.
More help is available by typing NET HELPMSG 2182.

C:\Windows\system32> windows modules installer
```

A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window. The title bar is partially visible. The window content shows the output of the previous command: "The requested service has already been started." and "More help is available by typing NET HELPMSG 2182." The command prompt shows the user is at the C:\Windows\system32 directory and has entered the command "windows modules installer". A red rectangular box highlights the command, and a red mouse cursor points to it. A "wikiHow" logo is visible in the bottom right corner.

Start the Windows Modules Installer service. Type `net start "windows modules installer"` into Command Prompt and press `? Enter`.

6.



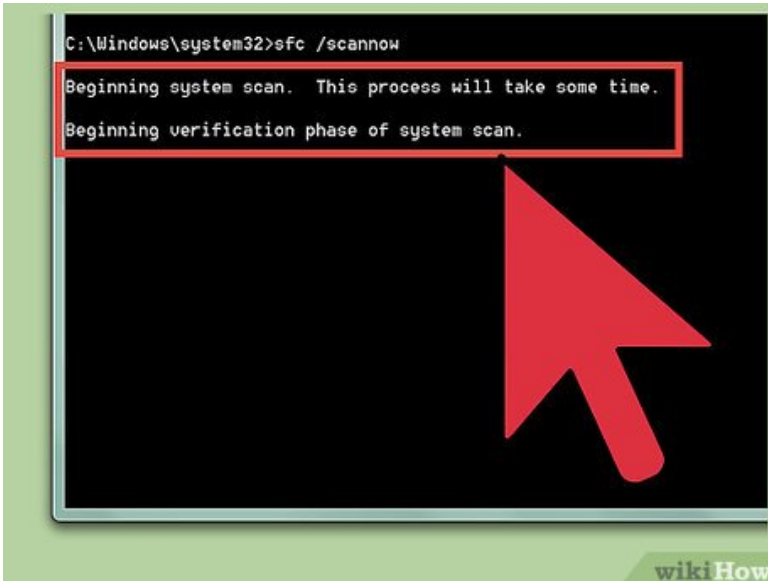
```
C:\Windows\system32>sfc /scannow
Beginning system scan. This process will take some time.
Beginning verification phase of system scan.
```

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Follow the Steps of Part 1.

If Starting the Services Does Not Resolve the Error

1. Follow the steps of Part 2 to resolve the problem.
2. Make sure you aren't attempting to start System File Checker in the 64-bit version of Command Prompt.
 1. The title of the Command Prompt window should not say *C:WindowsSysWOW64cmd.exe*.



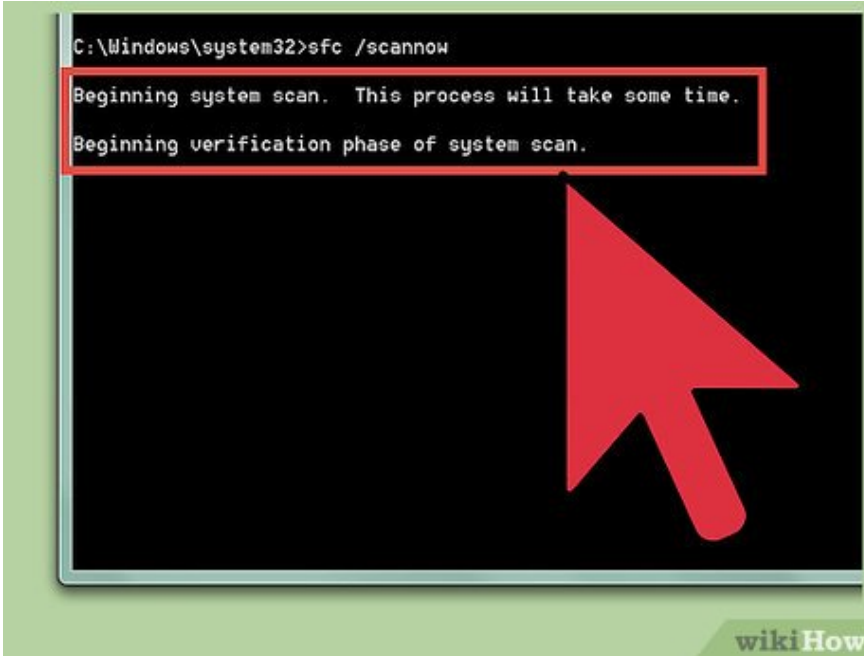
```
C:\Windows\system32>sfc /scannow
Beginning system scan. This process will take some time.
Beginning verification phase of system scan.
```

wikiHow

Part 4 of 4:

Interpreting the System File Checker Results

After System File Checker finishes checking your system for errors, it will present you with a message. The following are the messages and what they mean.

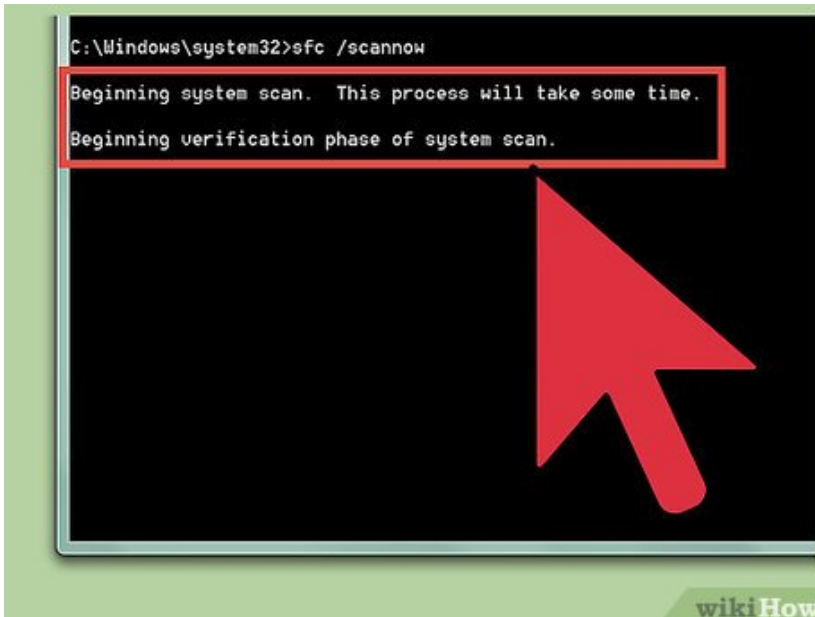


```
C:\Windows\system32>sfc /scannow
Beginning system scan. This process will take some time.
Beginning verification phase of system scan.
```

wikiHow

Windows Resource Protection did not find any integrity violations.

1. This means that no damaged or missing system files were found.

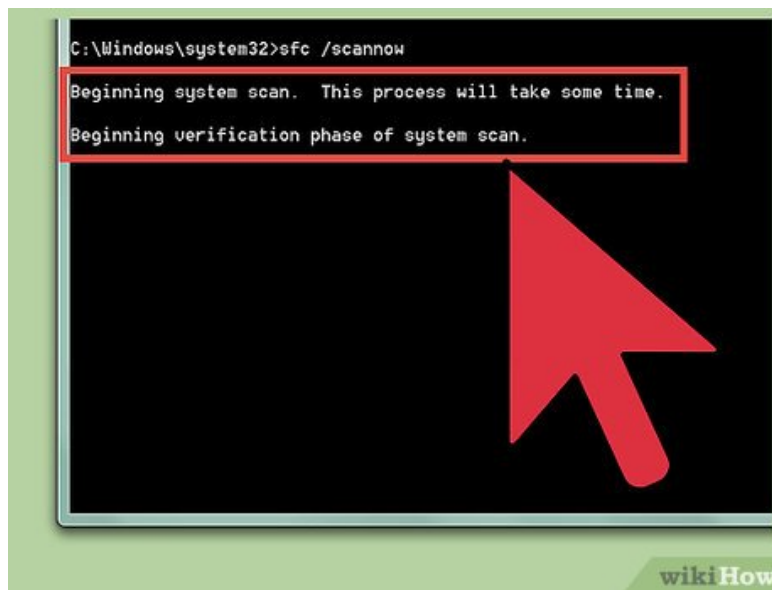


```
C:\Windows\system32>sfc /scannow
Beginning system scan. This process will take some time.
Beginning verification phase of system scan.
```

wikiHow

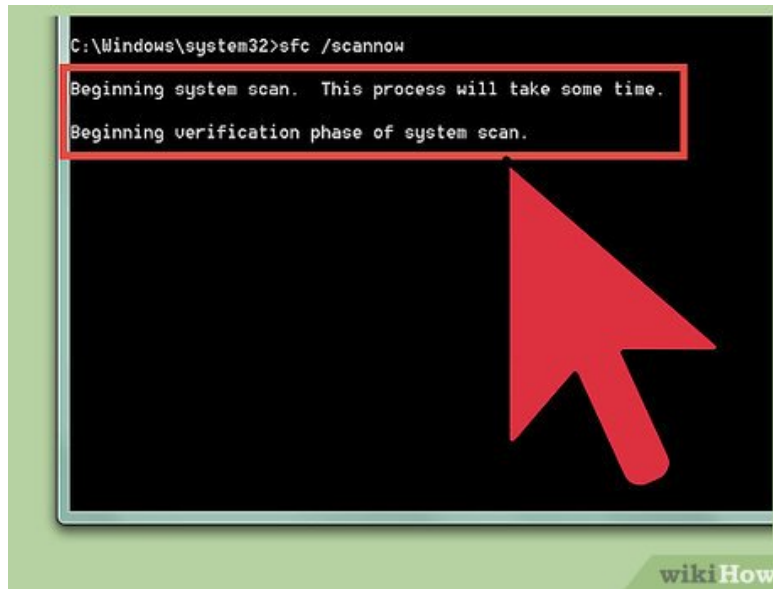
Windows Resource Protection could not perform the requested operation.

1. This means that System File Checker failed to work correctly, but it does not necessarily mean that problems were detected.
2. To fix this error:
 1. Make sure that folders called *PendingDeletes* and *PendingRenames* exist under `%WinDir%\WinSxSTemp`.
 1. Press the `?Win+R` keys simultaneously on your keyboard to open the Run dialog.
 2. Type `%WinDir%\WinSxSTemp` into the Run dialog and click to open Windows Explorer.
 3. Search for folders called *PendingDeletes* and *PendingRenames* in Windows Explorer.
 4. If the folders are missing, copy them into the Windows Explorer window from another computer running the same operating system from the same location.
 2. Follow the steps of Part 2.



Windows Resource Protection found corrupt files and successfully repaired them. Details are included in the CBS.Log %WinDir%\LogsCBSCBS.log.

1. System File Checker found and fixed problematic system files and a log, which is a summary of the repairs made, has been created.
2. To view the log (optional):
 1. Press the `?Win+R` keys simultaneously on your keyboard to open the Run dialog.
 2. Type `%WinDir%\LogsCBSCBS.log` into the Run dialog and click .
 3. The log will be displayed.



Windows Resource Protection found corrupt files but was unable to fix some of them. Details are included in the CBS.Log %WinDir%LogsCBSCBS.log.

1. Problematic files were found, but System File Checker failed to repair some of them.
2. To fix the files automatically (may not always work):
 1. Boot into Safe Mode.
 2. Open Command Prompt as an administrator. Click the Start button, type *cmd*, right click the first search result, then click *Run as administrator*.
 3. Type *Dism /Online /Cleanup-Image /RestoreHealth* and press `?Enter`.
3. To fix the files manually (advanced):
 1. Determine the files that need to be repaired.
 1. Open the Start menu. Click the Start button.
 2. Click *All Programs* in the Start menu.
 3. Expand the *Accessories* folder in the Start menu.
 4. Start Command Prompt. Click *Command Prompt* under the *Accessories* folder.
 5. Type *findstr /c:"[SR]" %windir%LogsCBSCBS.log >"%userprofile%\Desktopsfcdetails.txt"* into Command Prompt and press the `?Enter` key on your keyboard.
 6. Double click the *'sfcdetails.txt'* file from your desktop to open Notepad.
 7. Navigate through Notepad to look for any corrupted files which System File Checker failed to correct, and note the file names.
 2. Find a working version of the file(s).
 1. On another computer that is running the same edition of Windows as the computer you are trying to repair, locate the file that was not successfully repaired and copy it onto a removable drive.
 2. Search for the file online if it is not available on another computer, and download it from a safe source.
 1. Be sure to check the downloads for viruses before using them to repair the computer.
 3. Take full control of the corrupted system file on the computer you are trying to repair.
 1. On the computer that needs to be repaired, open the Start menu. Click the Start button.

2. Click *All Programs* in the Start menu.
 3. Expand the *Accessories* folder in the Start menu.
 4. Start Command Prompt as an administrator. Right click *Command Prompt* under the *Accessories* folder to open the context menu and click *Run as administrator*.
 5. Click on the User Account Control dialog.
 6. Type `takeown /f ""` into Command Prompt and press on your keyboard.
 1. should be replaced with the path of the corrupted file that you want to replace. (E.G. `Takeown /f "C:WindowsSystem32notepad.exe"`)
 7. Type `icacls "" /GRANT ADMINISTRATORS:F` into Command Prompt and press on your keyboard.
 1. should be replaced with the path of the corrupted file that you want to replace. (E.G. `icacls "C:WindowsSystem32notepad.exe" /GRANT ADMINISTRATORS:F`)
4. Replace the corrupted file.
1. Open the Start menu. Click the Start button.
 2. Click *All Programs* in the Start menu.
 3. Expand the *Accessories* folder in the Start menu.
 4. Start Command Prompt as an administrator. Right click *Command Prompt* under the *Accessories* folder to open the context menu and click *Run as administrator*.
 5. Click on the User Account Control dialog.
 6. In Command Prompt, type `Copy "" ""` and press on your keyboard.
 1. should be replaced with the path of the good copy of the file (depending on where you stored the good version of the problematic file).
 2. should be replaced with the path of the bad version of the file.
 3. (E.G. `Copy "F:notepad.exe" "C:WindowsSystem32notepad.exe"`)

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