

How to unregister and reset Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) distros on Windows 10

This guide will show you how to unregister and reset the Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) distro to the default settings in Windows 10.

Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) is a new feature of Windows 10 that allows you to run Linux command line tools directly on Windows, along with traditional desktop applications and modern Windows Store applications.

When activating Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL), you can install WSL distro applications from the Microsoft Store.

This guide will show you how to unregister and reset the Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) distro to the default settings in Windows 10.

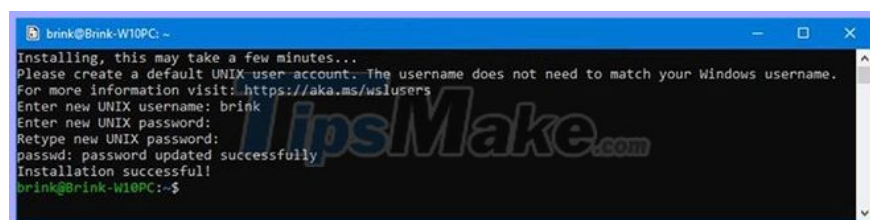
Unregister and reset the Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) distro in Settings

1. To know how to reset the WSL distro application in **Settings** , see the article: [Instructions to reset a program on Windows to the default installation state.](#)



Reset applications in Windows

2. You can now run this WSL distro application to reinstall and set up the distro with the new UNIX username and password.



You can run this WSL distro application to reinstall and set up the distro

Unregister and reset the Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) distro in the Command Prompt

1. Open Command Prompt.

2. Copy and paste the command below that corresponds to the version of Windows 10 into the Command Prompt and press Enter. Write down the name of the available WSL distro that you want to unsubscribe.

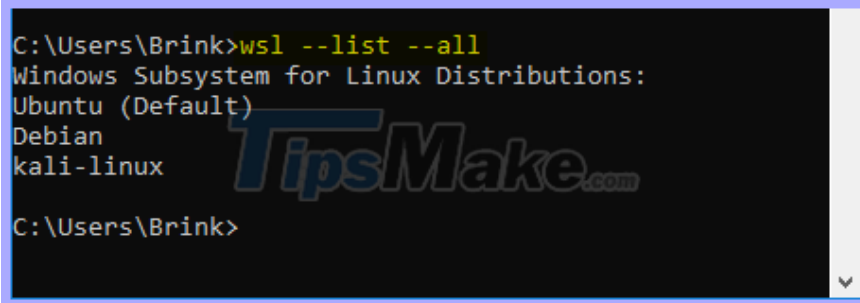
(For Windows 10 version 1903 and above)

```
wsl --list --all or wsl -l --all
```

Or:

(For versions of Windows 10 earlier than 1903)

```
wslconfig /list /all or wslconfig /l /all
```



```
C:\Users\Brink>wsl --list --all
Windows Subsystem for Linux Distributions:
Ubuntu (Default)
Debian
kali-linux
C:\Users\Brink>
```

Copy and paste the command corresponding to the Windows 10 version

3. Enter the command below that corresponds to your version of Windows 10 into the Command Prompt and press Enter.

(For Windows 10 version 1903 and above)

```
wsl --unregister
```

Or:

(For versions of Windows 10 earlier than 1903)

```
wslconfig /unregister
```

Replace the above command with the actual WSL distro name (for example, "Ubuntu") from step 2 that you want to unsubscribe.

For example: `wsl --unregister Ubuntu`

```
C:\Users\Brink>wsl --unregister Ubuntu
Unregistering...
C:\Users\Brink>
```

Command to unregister Ubuntu

4. When done, you can close the Command Prompt if you like.

5. You can now run this WSL distro application to reinstall and set up the distro with the new UNIX username and password.

```
brink@Brink-W10PC: ~
Installing, this may take a few minutes...
Please create a default UNIX user account. The username does not need to match your Windows username.
For more information visit: https://aka.ms/wslusers
Enter new UNIX username: brink
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
Installation successful!
brink@Brink-W10PC:~$
```

Reinstall and set up the distro with the new UNIX username and password

Unregister and reset the Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) distro in PowerShell

1. Open PowerShell.

2. Copy and paste the command below for your version of Windows 10 into PowerShell and press Enter. Write down the name of the available WSL distro that you want to unsubscribe.

(For Windows 10 version 1903 and above)

```
wsl --list --all or wsl -l --all
```

Or:

(For versions of Windows 10 earlier than 1903)

```
wslconfig /list /all or wslconfig /l /all
```

```
Windows PowerShell
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Try the new cross-platform PowerShell https://aka.ms/pscore6

PS C:\Users\Brink> wsl --list --all
Windows Subsystem for Linux Distributions:
Ubuntu (Default)
Debian
kali-linux
PS C:\Users\Brink>
```

Enter the command in Powershell

3. Enter the command below corresponding to Windows 10 version into PowerShell and press Enter. (For Windows 10 version 1903 and above)

```
wsl --unregister
```

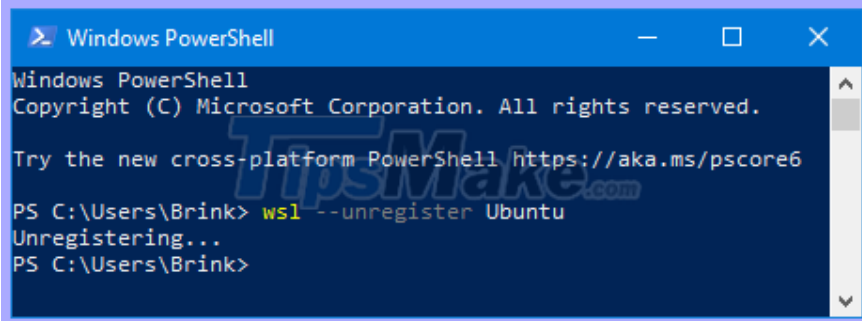
Or:

(For versions of Windows 10 earlier than 1903)

```
wslconfig /unregister
```

Replace the above command with the actual WSL distro name (for example, "Ubuntu") from step 2 that you want to unsubscribe.

For example: `wsl --unregister Ubuntu`



```
Windows PowerShell
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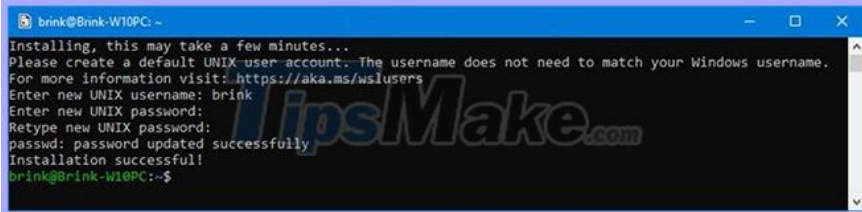
Try the new cross-platform PowerShell https://aka.ms/pscore6

PS C:\Users\Brink> wsl --unregister Ubuntu
Unregistering...
PS C:\Users\Brink>
```

Unregister the WSL distro using PowerShell

4. When done, you can close PowerShell if you like.

5. You can now run this WSL distro application to reinstall and set up the distro with the new UNIX username and password.



```
brink@Brink-W10PC: ~
Installing, this may take a few minutes...
Please create a default UNIX user account. The username does not need to match your Windows username.
For more information visit: https://aka.ms/wslusers
Enter new UNIX username: brink
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
Installation successful!
brink@Brink-W10PC:~$
```

Set up the distro with the new UNIX username and password

You finished reading the article "**How to unregister and reset Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) distros on Windows 10**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.