

Instructions to edit or replace Boot.ini file on Windows XP

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This INI file contains important information when starting your computer, so when you start Windows on the screen an error message will appear.

```
/LIST          List the entries already in the boot list
/DISABLEDREDIR  Disable redirection in the boot loader
/REDIRECT      Enable redirection in the boot loader with the specified
               configuration
               example: bootcfg /redirect con1 115200
                       bootcfg /redirect useBiozSettings

C:\WINDOWS>bootcfg /rebuild
Scanning all disks for Windows installations.
Please wait, since this may take a while...
The Windows installation scan was successful.
Note: These results are stored statically for this session.
      If the disk configuration changes during this session,
      in order to get an updated scan, you must first reboot
      the machine and then rescan the disks.
Total identified Windows installs: 1
[1]: C:\WINDOWS
Add installation to boot list? (Yes/No/All): Y
Enter Load Identifier: Windows XP Professional
Enter OS Load Options: /Fastdetect
C:\WINDOWS>
```

Follow the simple steps below to fix damaged / corrupted Boot.ini files or replace the Boot.ini file if the file has been deleted:

Note : Repairing or replacing Boot.ini files usually takes about 10 minutes, but the time may be much longer if you have to locate the CD on Windows XP.



Step 1:

Enter Recovery Console on Windows XP. Recovery Console is the advanced diagnostic mode of Windows XP with special tools that allow you to restore Boot.ini files.

Refer to the steps for importing Recovery Console on Windows XP [here](#).

Step 2:

When you go to the command line (details in step 6 in the link refer to the steps to import Recover Console on Windows XP), type the following command and press Enter:

```
bootcfg / rebuild
```

Step 3:

The **Bootcfg** utility will scan your hard drive for any settings on Windows XP and then display the results.

Follow the remaining steps to add your Windows XP installation to the boot.ini file:

Step 4:

You will first receive a message asking if you want to *add settings to the Boot list (Add installation to boot list?)* ? (Yes / No / All). Press **Y** and press **Enter** .

Step 5:

Next you will be asked to enter Load Identifier: This is the operating system name.

For example, you can enter Windows XP Professional or Windows XP Home Edition and press Enter.

Step 6:

Finally, you will be asked to enter OS Load: Enter / **Fastdetect** then press **Enter** .

Step 7:

Take the Windows XP CD, type **Exit** and then press **Enter** to restart your computer.

From now on your computer can boot normally without receiving any further error messages.

In newer versions of Windows, such as Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8 and Windows 10, boot configuration data is stored in BCD data files, not boot.ini files.

You can refer to some of the following articles:

1. **Install Windows XP from a USB Flash drive**
2. **5 steps to troubleshoot "Stop 0x0000007B" errors on Windows XP**
3. **The trick to help Windows XP continue to be updated**

Good luck!

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