

# Instructions to reset a program on Windows to the default installation state

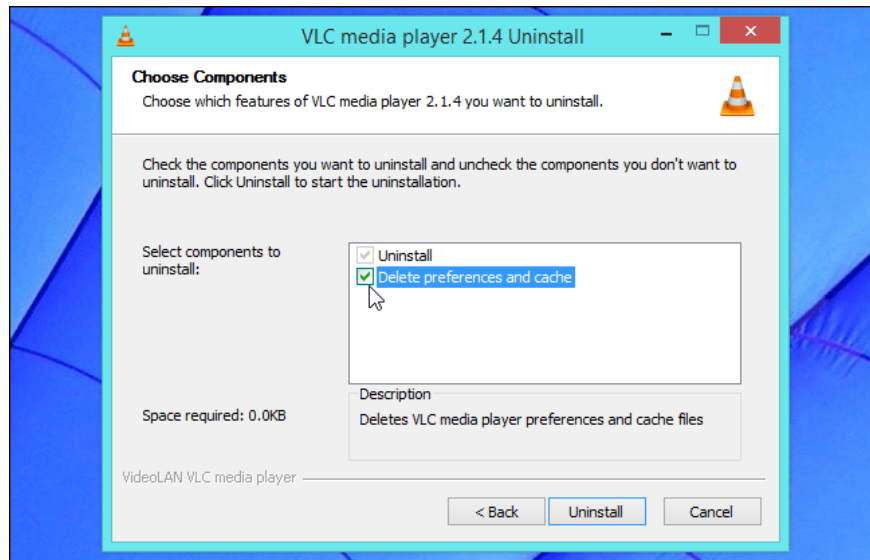
If any program on your Windows computer is not working properly, simply reinstall the program to fix the error. However, you need to reset the program to the default settings. For some programs, the reset process is quite simple, but with some programs this process is not very simple at all.

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## 1. The easiest way

To reset the installation of any program to the default mode, the simplest way is to simply uninstall the application and select the option **Delete preferences** or **Delete settings** in the **Uninstall** pane. By default this option is usually not available.



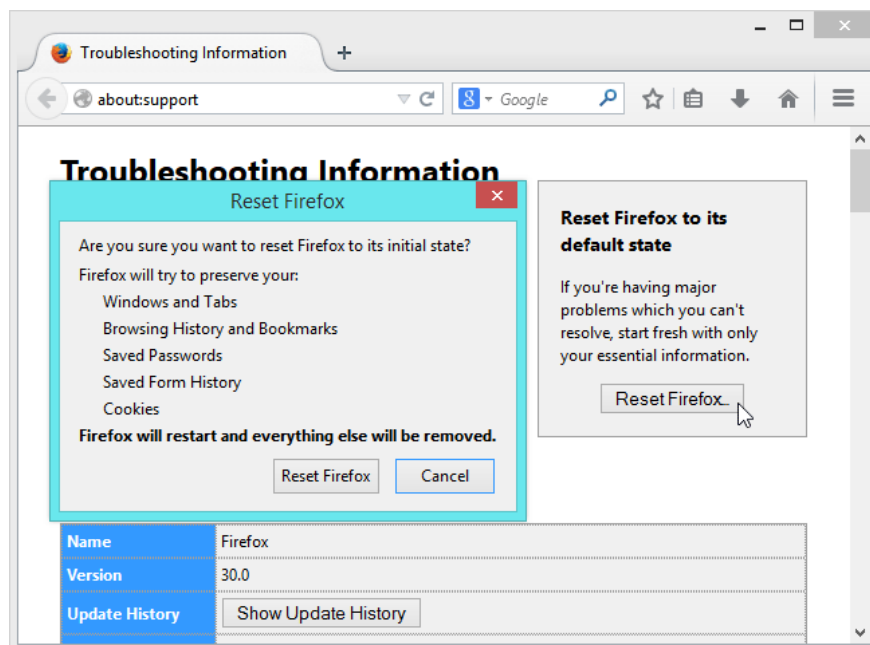
After uninstalling the program, proceed to reinstall the program.

However, not all programs have these options available in the installer. If the program does not have this option available, you can refer to some of the ways below.

## 2. Use the Reset Option option

Some programs have built-in **Reset** options. For example, in Firefox, you can reset it to the initial installation state without you having to "move your hand" into the Firefox profile folder.

You can access this option on your Firefox browser by clicking on the 3 dash line icon in the top right corner of the screen, then clicking the Help button with the dot question icon (?), Selecting **Troubleshooting Information** then click **Reset Firefox**.



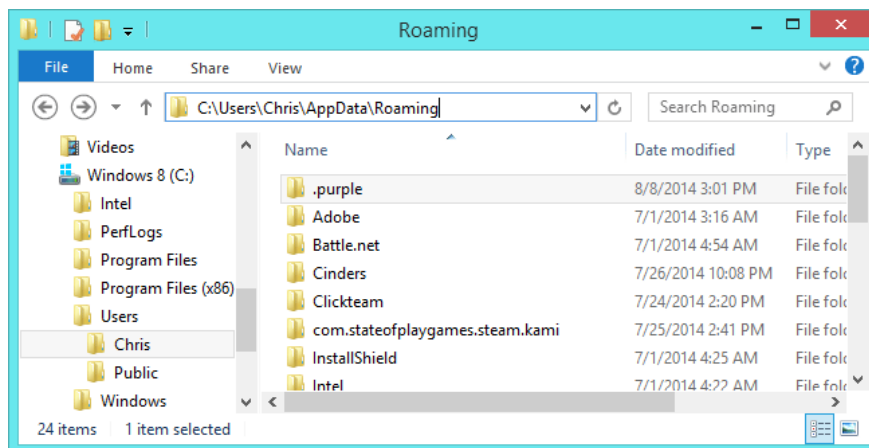
On some other browsers like Chrome, Internet Explorer, . there are similar options.

### 3. Find and delete program settings

Before proceeding to delete any installation of a program, you should consider carefully. If you accidentally delete the wrong folder or Registry key, it means that you "delete" the installation of other programs and cause problems related to the system configuration.

Locations to install programs are stored in:

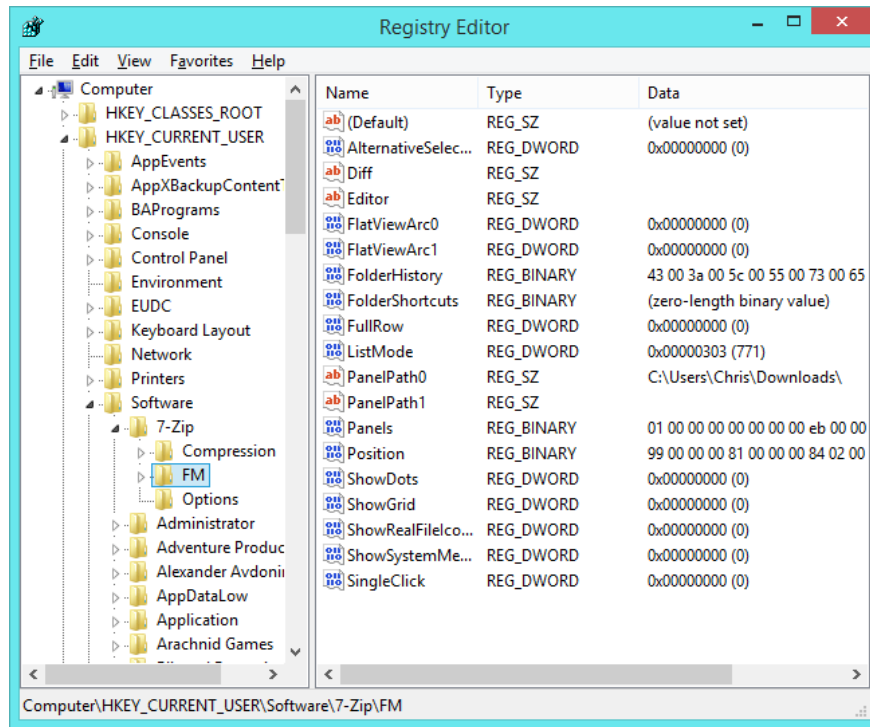
#### - User AppData account directory:



You can access this folder by entering **C: UsersNAMEAppData** in the File Explorer or Windows Explorer address bar and then pressing Enter.

By default this directory is hidden. Most settings of applications are stored in AppDataRoaming, however many settings are stored in the **AppDataLocal** folder.

#### - Windows Registry:



You can open the Windows Registry by pressing the Windows + R key combination to open the Run command window, then enter regedit there and press Enter.

Now you will find the installation of any program at **HKEY\_CURRENT\_USERSoftware** or **HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINESoftware** .

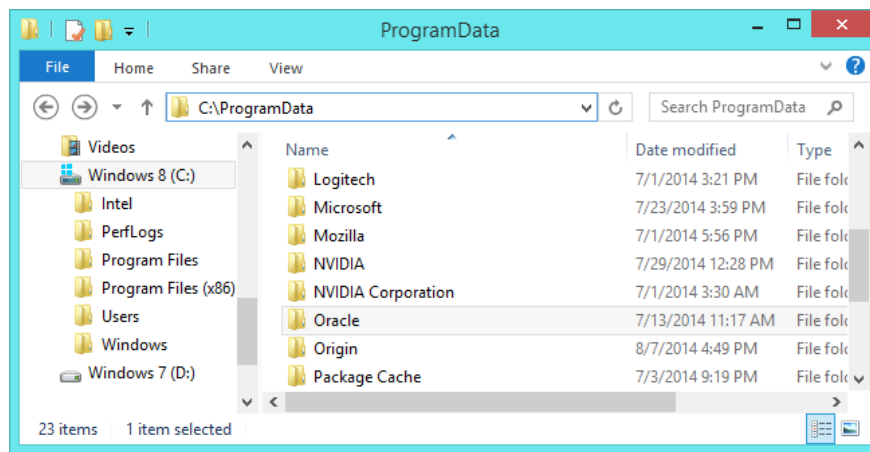
To delete the settings of a program, you just need to find the key (or directory) of the program, right-click it and delete the key (folder).

**Note :**

You must be very careful when performing the process, because accidentally deleting the wrong key will cause many problems on your system.

For example, if you want to "wipe" the installation of the Mumble program, then you must find and delete the **HKEY\_CURRENT\_USERSoftwareMumble** key. However, do not delete **HKEY\_CURRENT\_USERSoftwareMicrosoft** key because it will cause serious problems that you cannot anticipate.

**- ProgramData folder:**



This directory is located in **C: ProgramData** . Just enter **C: ProgramData** in the File Manager manager address bar and press Enter to access the folder.

When you delete a folder of any program, it means that all settings of the program will be erased.

If you try to 'write' applications in the Program Files folder, Windows will force older programs to store their settings there.

Also the application can store its settings anywhere. For example, many games store settings and save games in a folder located in the Documents folder.

A few other applications store settings right in the main user directory **C: UsersNAME** .

Some other programs store its settings in different locations, such as in the AppDataRoaming and Registry folders.

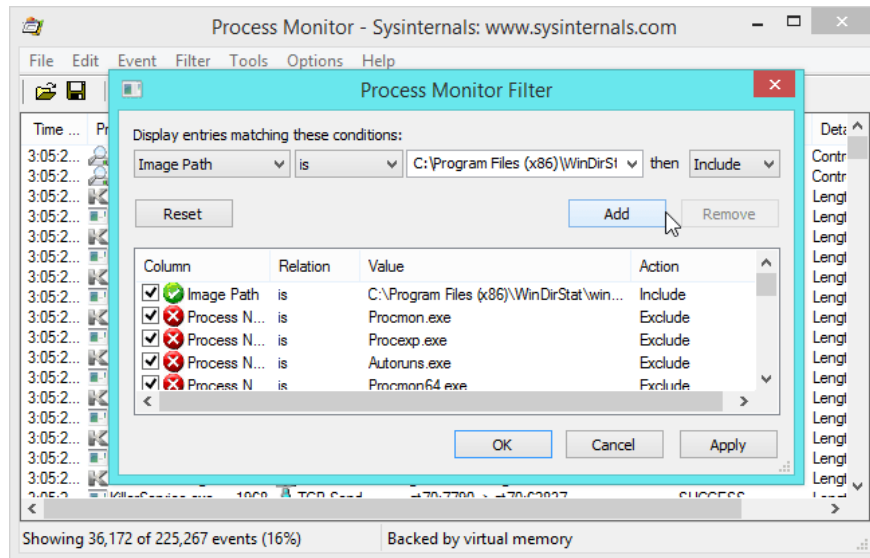
## 4. Check the programs with Process Monitor

Process Monitor will display the location of a program to store its settings.

Download Process Monitor to your computer and install it here.

All you need to do is run Process Monitor and open the application you want to reset. Process Monitor will correctly log the files and registry keys of the program and will notify you of the program's installation location. In addition, you can use Process Monitor to see exactly what files and settings you are using.

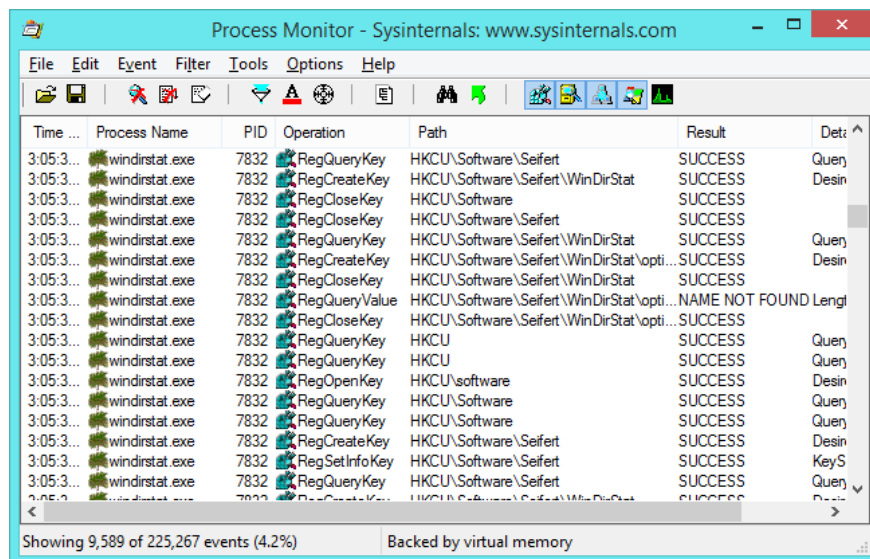
Click **Menu Filter** , then select **Filter** . Create a "Image Path" folder and select the path of the program in the Dropdown Menu.



Now you will see events related to specific programs. Scroll down the list and find the location of the installation program. Here you will see WinDirStat reading the settings from the Registry key:

### **HKEY\_CURRENT\_USERSoftwareSeifertWinDirStat**

Close the program window, delete the registry keys and the appropriate files to reset the default settings. Once done, you can reinstall the program.



Some programs can recover from the deleted registry key and run with the default settings. Some other programs, users must install to create the registry key for those programs.

Also you can reinstall Windows or refresh your computer to delete all settings that you install the application.

### **Refer to some of the following articles:**

1. Instructions 2 simple ways Reset Windows 10 (Part 1)

1. Instructions 2 simple ways Reset Windows 10 (The last part)
1. Instructions to reset Windows 10 password without using the 3rd tool

**Good luck!**

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