

Microsoft® Windows® XP

Installation Guide



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Notes, Notices, and Cautions



NOTE: A NOTE indicates important information that helps you make better use of your computer.



NOTICE: A NOTICE indicates either potential damage to hardware or loss of data and tells you how to avoid the problem.



CAUTION: A CAUTION indicates a potential for property damage, personal injury, or death.

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About This Guide

Before shipping your computer, Dell installed the Microsoft® Windows® XP operating system on your computer's hard drive. This document explains what to expect when you begin to use the Dell-installed Windows XP operating system and how to perform an operating system reinstallation. The following topics are covered:

- Getting started
- Setting up the operating system
- Shutting down your computer
- Using the Program Compatibility Wizard
- System Restore
- Reinstalling Microsoft Windows XP
- Obtaining technical assistance

Getting Started

Review your Microsoft Windows XP operating system documentation for important product information before you begin. The documentation contains an overview of the operating system, explanations of new features, descriptions of common tasks, and troubleshooting information.

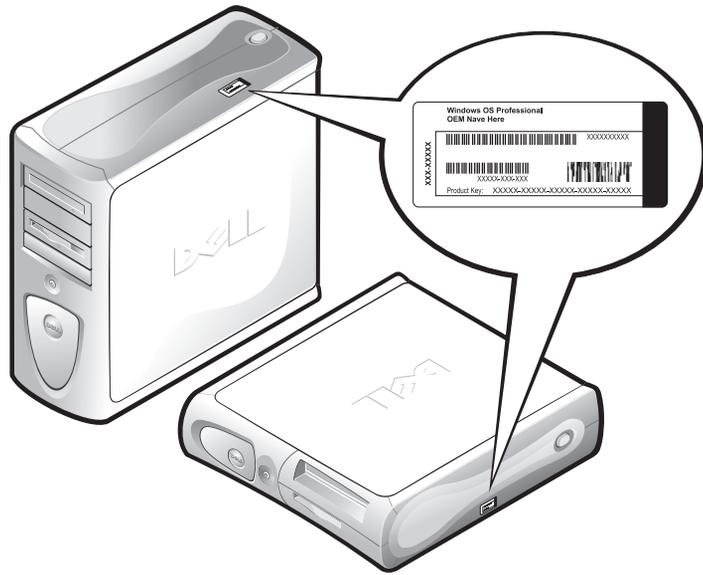
You need the following information before beginning setup. For future reference, record the information below.

- Administrator password (case sensitive) _____
- User name _____
- Organization name _____
- Product Key (also called a Product ID number) _____

 **NOTE:** Before turning on your computer for the first time, review this document to find out which devices should be connected or installed before setting up the operating system for the first time.

 **NOTE:** The Product Key is the bar code number on the sticker that is located on the external side cover of your computer. You may be prompted for the Product Key when using the *Operating System* CD under certain conditions.

NOTE: If you are on a local area network (LAN), check with your network administrator before setting up the Windows XP operating system. Your network administrator may be able to provide information relevant to the setup process, such as the computer name, the administrator password, and required network protocols.



Connect the keyboard, monitor, mouse, and network cable (if applicable). For instructions, see the setup documentation that accompanied your computer.

NOTE: Do not connect devices such as printers or install items such as expansion cards before you complete your operating system setup. These devices should only be connected or installed afterward.

Setting Up the Operating System

Your Dell™ computer is preconfigured with Windows XP already installed on the hard drive. Before turning on your computer for the first time, you must connect the keyboard, monitor, mouse, and network cable (if applicable).

NOTE: Do not interrupt the operating system's setup process. Doing so may render your computer unusable.

To set up Windows XP for your computer, turn on your computer and follow the instructions on the screen.

Windows XP includes a number of new and redesigned features. To take a product tour and become acquainted with some of these new features, click the **Start** button, point to **All Programs —> Accessories**, and then click **Tour Windows XP**.

For information and assistance in using, configuring, and troubleshooting your computer and installed hardware devices and software, visit the Help and Support Center. To open the Help and Support Center, click the **Start** button, and then click **Help and Support**.

Shutting Down Your Computer

 **NOTICE:** To prevent data loss or corruption, it is important that you perform the following shutdown procedure before you turn off your computer.

To shut down your computer, perform the following steps:

- 1 Exit any application programs in which you are working.
- 2 Click the **Start** button and click **Turn Off Computer**.
The **Turn Off Computer** window appears.
- 3 Click **Turn Off** to shut down your computer.

A message appears stating that your computer is shutting down. The computer automatically turns off after the shutdown process is complete.

Using the Program Compatibility Wizard

A program compatibility feature is provided in Windows XP that solves some issues that may be encountered when attempting to run older application programs. Using the Program Compatibility Wizard, you can configure a program to run in an environment closer to Windows 95, Windows 98/Millennium Edition (Me), Windows NT[®] 4.0 with Service Pack 5, or Windows 2000.

To use the Program Compatibility Wizard:

- 1 Click **Start**, point to **All Programs —> Accessories**, and click **Program Compatibility Wizard**.

 **NOTE:** Windows XP Professional includes security and networking features not available in Windows XP Home Edition. When a Windows XP Professional computer is connected to a domain, different options appear in certain windows related to security and networking.

 **NOTE:** If your Windows XP Professional computer is connected to a domain, click the **Start** button, and then click **Shut Down**. When the **Shut Down Windows** screen appears, select **Shut Down** from the drop-down box, and then click **OK**.

- 2 When the welcome screen appears, click **Next>**.
- 3 Select how you want to locate the program to run with compatibility settings: from a list, available on a CD, or manually located. Then click **Next>**.
- 4 Select the type of operating system for which the program was designed or on which it ran successfully, and then click **Next>**.
- 5 If necessary, as for some games, select display settings for the program.
- 6 Click **Next>**.
- 7 To test the compatibility settings for the program, click **Next>**.
After you have determined whether the program is running correctly, return to the **Program Compatibility Wizard** window.
- 8 Select **Yes** if the program ran correctly, **No, try different compatibility settings**, or **No, I am finished trying compatibility settings** and click **Next>**.
- 9 Select either **Yes** to send information about the settings you used and whether they fixed the problem, or select **No**, and then click **Next>**.
- 10 Click **Finish** to close the wizard.

System Restore

System Restore provides the capability to restore the operating system, in the event of a problem, to a previous state without losing personal data files.

System Restore actively monitors system file changes and some application file changes to record or store previous versions before the changes occurred. System Restore maintains a rolling record of restore points; to limit the amount of space used, older restore points are purged to make room for newer ones.

 **NOTE:** System Restore does not revert user data or document files, so restoring does not cause loss of work, mail, or browsing history and favorites.

In the event of a serious operating system problem, System Restore can be used from Safe Mode or Normal Mode to go back to a previous system state, restoring optimal system functionality.

To return your computer to a previous, stable condition, perform the following steps:

- 1 Click the **Start** button, point to **All Programs** —> **Accessories** —> **System Tools**, and then click **System Restore**.
- 2 Select **Restore my computer to an earlier time** and click **Next**.
The **Select a Restore Point** screen appears. The calendar on the left indicates in bold the dates on which restore points were created.
- 3 Click a date, click a restore point for that date, and click **Next**.
- 4 Click **Next** to confirm the restore point selection and complete the restore process.

After System Restore finishes collecting data, the computer automatically restarts and the **Restoration Complete** screen appears.

- 5 Click **OK**.

If you are not satisfied with the results of the restoration, you can repeat the preceding steps, using a different restore point, or you can undo the restoration.



NOTE: Dell recommends that you make regular backups of your data files. System Restore does not monitor changes to or recover your data files. In the event the original data on the hard drive is accidentally erased or overwritten or becomes inaccessible because of a hard-drive malfunction, backup files are required to recover lost or damaged data.

Reinstalling Microsoft Windows XP

This section provides instructions for using the *Dell Operating System CD* and *Dell ResourceCD* if you need to reinstall the Windows XP operating system on your Dell computer.



NOTICE: Before performing the installation, back up all data files on your primary hard drive. For conventional hard drive configurations, the primary hard drive is the first drive detected by the computer.

To reinstall Windows XP, you need the following items:

- *Dell Operating System CD*
- *Dell ResourceCD*
- Product Key (Product ID Number) _____



NOTE: The Product Key is the bar code number on the sticker that is located on the external side cover of your computer. You may be prompted for the Product Key when using the *Operating System CD* under certain conditions.



NOTE: The *Dell ResourceCD* contains drivers that were factory-installed during assembly of the computer. Use the *ResourceCD* to load any required drivers, including those drivers required if your computer has a redundant array of independent disks (RAID) controller.

 **NOTE:** If you have a Dell Precision™ Workstation computer with a 3Dlabs Wildcat II 5110 video card, read “Reinstalling the 3Dlabs Wildcat II 5110 Video Driver” before you begin to install Windows XP.

 **NOTE:** Some Dell computers allow you to boot to the CD by pressing <Ctrl><Alt><F8> while the computer is booting. Select **IDE CD-ROM device** when the **Boot Device Options** menu appears.

Before reinstalling the Windows XP operating system to correct a problem, try correcting the problem by performing a Windows System Restore (see “System Restore”).

 **NOTE:** The operating system CD provides options for reinstalling your Windows XP operating system. The options can potentially overwrite files installed by Dell and possibly affect programs installed on your hard drive. Therefore, Dell does not recommend that you reinstall your operating system unless instructed to do so by a Dell technical support representative.

To install Windows XP, perform the following steps:

- 1 Insert the *Operating System* CD into the CD or DVD drive.
- 2 Turn off the computer, and then turn the computer on again. If the computer boots to the CD, skip to step 4.

 **NOTE:** When the *Press any key to boot from CD* message appears, *quickly* press any key.

If the computer does not boot to the CD, continue to step 3.

- 3 Enter system setup and make sure that the boot sequence is set to boot first from the CD device. Restart your computer.
- 4 When the **Windows XP Setup** screen appears, press <Enter> to select **To set up Windows now**.
- 5 Read the information in the **License Agreement** window, and then press <F8> on your keyboard to agree with the license information.
- 6 If your computer already has Windows XP installed and you want to recover your current Windows XP data, type R to select the repair option, and then go to step 15.

If you want to install a new copy of Windows XP, press <Esc> to select the fresh copy option, and then press <Enter> on the next screen to select the highlighted partition (recommended). Then follow the instructions on the screen.

- 7 The **Windows XP Setup** screen appears and Windows XP begins to copy files and install the devices. The computer automatically restarts multiple times before it requires additional input.
- 8 When the **Welcome to Microsoft** screen appears, click the green arrow icon at the bottom of the screen to continue. Follow the on-screen directions to finish.

- 9 When the **Regional Settings** screen appears, select the settings for your locale, and then click **Next**.
- 10 Enter your name and organization in the **Personalize Your Software** screen, and then click **Next**.
- 11 If you are reinstalling Windows XP Home Edition, enter a name for your computer when the **Computer Name** window appears, and then click **Next**.

If you are reinstalling Windows XP Professional, enter a name for your computer and a password when the **Computer Name and Administrator Password** window appears, and then click **Next**.

- 12 If you have a modem installed, the **Modem Dialing Information** screen appears. Enter the requested information, and then click **Next**.
- 13 Enter the date, time, and time zone in the **Date and Time Settings** window, and then click **Next**.
- 14 If you have a network card in your computer, select the appropriate network settings. If you do not have a network card, you will not see this option.

Windows XP begins to install its components and configure the computer. The computer automatically restarts.

- 15 When the **Welcome to Microsoft** screen appears, click the green arrow icon at the bottom of the screen to continue. Follow the on-screen directions to finish.
- 16 Remove the CD from the drive.
- 17 Reinstall the appropriate drivers using the *ResourceCD*.
- 18 Reinstall your virus protection software.

Reinstalling the 3Dlabs Wildcat II 5110 Video Driver

When reinstalling Windows XP on a Dell Precision Workstation computer with a 3Dlabs Wildcat II 5110 video card, perform the following steps after Windows reboots to finalize installation:

- 1 If a **Display Settings** window appears during reboot, click **OK**, and then click **Cancel** in the **Monitor Settings** window.
- 2 When a **Display Settings** balloon opens from the taskbar, click the **X** in the upper-right corner to close it.

If you fail to follow these instructions, Windows XP will default to a screen resolution too large to display the taskbar. To set the monitor to a 640 x 480 pixel resolution, perform the following steps:

- 1 Right-click on the desktop, and then click **Properties**.
- 2 Click the **Settings** tab, and then click **Advanced**.
- 3 Click the **Adapter** tab, and then click **List All Modes**.
- 4 Select **640 by 480, High Color (16 bit), Default Refresh**, and then click **OK**.
- 5 Reinstall the video driver using the *ResourceCD*.
- 6 Adjust screen resolution as desired.

Obtaining Technical Assistance

 **NOTE:** Some locations outside the continental U.S. provide fee-based software support, whereas others continue offering software support free of charge for an indefinite period. Please call your local Dell representative for information about which type of software support is available in your location.

After 30 days, operating system technical assistance is provided through a fee-based service. You can purchase technical assistance on a per-incident call or on a contract basis. For more information on these options, contact technical support via the appropriate number provided in the topic titled “Getting Help” in your online *User’s Guide*.

To access your online *User’s Guide*, click the **Start** button, click **Help and Support**, and then click **User and system guides**.



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