

Bug-Bytes

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HOW TO REPAIR STARTUP PROBLEMS

If at some time in the future you find that your computer will not start, don't despair. Here are some tricks that may get your computer repaired.

1. Shutdown your computer.

Check to see if you left a CD, DVD, or possibly a floppy disk in the respective disk drive. If so, remove any of those disks from their drive(s). Leave your computer turned off for at least 15 seconds. Now attempt to restart your computer.

If your computer still cannot complete its startup routine then go to method 2.

2. Turn on your computer and press the F8 function key on your keyboard slowly a few times with pauses in between. Do this before your computer starts displaying characters on your screen, or just after it starts displaying characters on some computers..



What you are attempting to do is to get your computer into **Safe Mode**. You may have to experiment to get the timing just right to bring up the *Safe Mode* menu. When the menu displays, one of the options will be to select the **Last Known Good Configuration**. Select that option. Then restart your computer.

For XP, see this Microsoft link:

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/307852>

In *Safe Mode*, your computer attempts to load with just the bare minimum of driver support. Thus, if one of your hardware drivers is to blame for the startup failure, you will probably be able to start your computer. In *Safe Mode*, the screen will display in low resolution mode. It looks really strange, but it works.

3. If your computer still doesn't complete its startup routine (it hangs up) then attempt to start it in *Safe Mode* and select the *Safe Mode Network* option. Once you are in

Safe Mode, you may be able to manually resolve the problem.

If a new driver is the culprit, open the Device Manager in *Safe Mode* and look for a yellow exclamation mark. That will show you which driver has a problem. You can use the option to roll the driver back to its previous version, or if necessary, disable the driver. Expand the driver's information by double clicking on it to bring up its properties (or click on the plus sign or caret sign to the left of the driver category, such as for the Display Adapter. Now, attempt to restart your computer. Was the driver with the yellow exclamation mark the problem?.

4. Repair (reinstallation) your operating System from the Windows Installation CD. Do not pick the R option to use the recovery console. Follow the instructions below for your particular operating system version. It may be necessary to enter setup for your BIOS using the key sequence normally displayed on your screen during startup. The BIOS setup key sequence varies, but the keys are usually, Delete key, F1, F2, or F12. Make the CD drive the first drive to boot so you can repair the OS from the installation disk.

XP:

<http://www.michaelstevestech.com/XPrepairinstall.htm>

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/helpandsupport/learnmore/tips/doug92.mspx>

VISTA: PICK STARTUP REPAIR.

<http://www.bleepingcomputer.com/tutorials/tutorial148.html>

WINDOWS 7:

http://www.ehow.com/how_4836283_repair-mbr-windows.html

5. Run a program, such as *Malwarebytes*, to remove malware from your computer.

6. If your problem started just after you installed a new program or new hardware then consider uninstalling the program or hardware.

7. Before tragedy strikes, and you have Windows 7, create a system repair disk. You can boot from that disk and use the tools on the disk to repair your computer. Click on Start, and type Backup. Double click on the Backup and Restore program that will show up as part of your search.

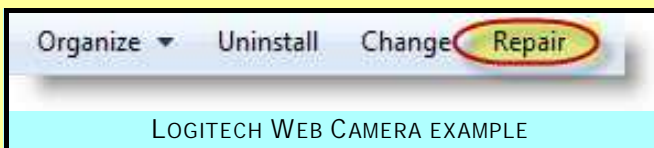
Note, you can also create a backup image of your important files to use to recover your computer.

HOW TO REPAIR AN APPLICATION

Just as there are repair procedures for your operating system so too there are procedures to repair one of your favorite applications, such as your word processor or one of many other applications.

First and foremost, keep your applications up to date. With many applications that is as simple as clicking on Help and then selecting Update or selecting the Web option. The program then connects to the internet, checks your version number, and downloads the most recent version of the program . . . or it tells you that you already have the latest version and no update is necessary.

For many applications, you can repair the faulty installation by opening Add or Remove program in the Control Panel (or Programs and Features in later versions of the OS) and then select the Repair option, if it is offered. If Repair is offered, or Uninstall/Change, then the application runs the installation routine and attempts to repair the existing application. The repair may even fix some registry errors. After the repair, you may have to update your personal preference settings.



See the Control Panel example shown above.

HOW TO RECOVER FROM BLUE SCREEN ERRORS

A blue screen error, sometimes called the blue screen of death (BSOD), can be due to many different causes. However, you can usually trace the cause to the most

recent change to your computer. For instance, the cause may be due to a new piece of hardware, a new hardware driver, or to the most recently installed piece of software.

Review the following two links if you need to fix a blue screen error, and review the additional suggestions as well. Make small changes and then restart your computer to see if you have fixed the problem. Repeat as necessary.

http://www.ehow.com/how_5627954_fix-blue-screen-internal-error.html

<http://www.pcauthorities.com/pc-errors/how-to-repair-blue-screen-errors>

Run Msconfig. Click on the startup tab. Uncheck all of the startup entries. Restore the checkmark for your internet security suite, if it needs to be included on the startup tab. Some internet security suites are instead started automatically from the services.msc file. Restart your computer. Restore any optional programs that you want to load and stay running after you start your computer. Keep the number of such programs to a bare minimum.

HARDWARE REVIEW: WIRELESS PRINTER CANON PIXMA MX860

If you are due to replace your printer, and you own a wireless network, consider buying a wireless printer. A wireless printer can be shared by moving it to wherever you find it is most convenient. Some wireless printers will print from a wireless router even if the main computer is turned off.



A wireless printer with which I am very familiar is the Canon Pixma MX860 printer. It is an all-in-one printer that will copy, fax, and scan, and it will even print photos directly from a digital camera memory card. The computer does not need to be turned on to print.

If the door on the front that provides access to the print output is left closed, it automatically opens when print pages are output. The printer includes a document feeder on the top.

The Canon Pixma MX860 is an example of a new class of computers that include a built-in wireless capability. That is a welcome addition, especially for people that previously had to resort to buying a separate wireless print server. At

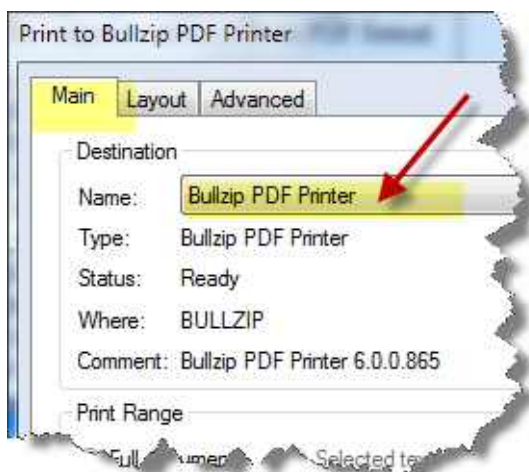
least with wireless as a built-in feature, you know that the wireless feature will work with that brand and model of printer you are using. That was not always the case with separate print servers. ☺

HOW TO CREATE PDF DOCUMENTS

Adobe invented the PDF format so that any document could be shared with other people without their having to own the program that generated the document. That is to say, PDF documents are device independent. The document can involve text, images, and even multimedia presentations. The first PDF documents were generated by an expensive program called *Adobe Acrobat*. *Adobe Acrobat* was designed to meet the needs of businesses.

However, these days you can generate your own PDF documents with a free or an inexpensive PDF generator program. One such free and popular program is *Bullzip PDF Printer*. It is a software driver that simulates a physical printer. Install the program, just once, and then select the Bullzip PDF Printer from your program's print dialog as though it is a physical printer. The output is sent to a file in PDF format. The print dialog will look like the screen shot below.

This newsletter is distributed in PDF form. However, to share a file with others, any document you can print can be converted to a PDF file. For instance, you can convert a PowerPoint Slide show (PPS), or a Picasa slide show to a PDF document. Converting those enables you to send slide shows to people who do not own PowerPoint, or who do not have a PowerPoint Viewer, or do not have an alternative office suite installed, such as OpenOffice, or a file viewer such as XNView. PDF stands for Portable Document Format.

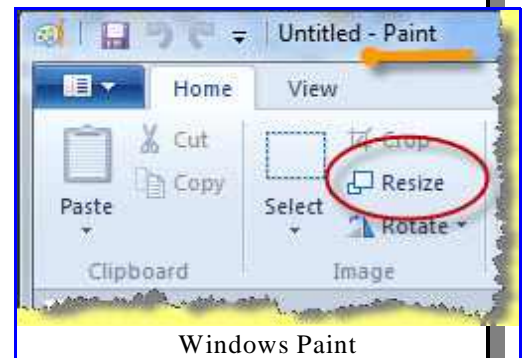


HOW TO RESIZE PHOTOS

Sometimes it is necessary to resize photos for a particular purpose. One such example is when you want to send photos as attachments and you do not want to overwhelm your recipient's computer when they receive those photos. For example, it is best to save digital photos in very high resolution so that the pictures will hold up later to editing and cropping. However, such photos are much too big to send to others in their original size. High resolution photos may be on the order of up to three feet wide. See the chart below to help you see the relationships between the number of Megapixels your camera can store, the resolution that you selected in the camera's setup, and the intended size of a print you may wish to print.

Sensor Resolution (megapixels)	Typical Image Resolution (pixels)	Maximum Print Size	Print Resolution
2.16	1800 x 1200	6 x 4 inch	300 dpi
3.9	2272 x 1704	7.6 x 5.7 inch	300 dpi
5.0	2592 x 1944	8.6 x 6.5 inch	300 dpi
7.1	3072 x 2304	10.2 x 7.7 inch	300 dpi
8.0	3264 x 2448	13.6 x 10.2 inch	240 dpi
10.0	3648 x 2736	18.2 x 13.7 inch	200 dpi
12.1	4000 x 3000	20 x 15 inch	200 dpi
14.7	4416 x 3312	22.1 x 16.6 inch	200 dpi
21.0	5616 x 3744	31.2 x 20.8 inch	180 dpi

You can resize photos using the built-in editing capability in a popular photo editor, such as **Adobe Photoshop Elements** or **Corel Photo Shop Pro**, or download one of the free single-purpose programs designed to resize photos, such as **FastStone Photo Resizer**, **Photo Magician**, or even **Windows Paint**. Click on Start, All Programs, Accessories, Paint. In Windows 7, search for Paint in the search field.



Alternatively, in Vista and Windows 7, you can resize photos when you insert photos in your mail program. For instance, in Windows 7, you insert the photo, click on layout and pick from some picture sizes, and where you want any text to appear in relation to the photo. You can also pick a frame for the photo. See the screen shot below. When resizing photos, resize them to a different folder so that you do not overwrite the original photos with the resized photos.



Win 7, Windows Live Mail Layout Menu



Your version of the operating system may already support a built-in photo resizer. To see if you have that capability, right click on a photo and look for Resizer or Picture Resizer in the drop down menu.

XP owner, take a look at this link.

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/learnmore/tips/eschelmann2.msp>

If you wish, there are even some free web picture resizers. You upload pictures that you want to resize (in batch mode) to the web and then resize all the pictures. Some of those web sites also let you do some minor editing, and to add picture frames.

Experiment to see which photo resizer works best for the way you work, and the projects that you have in mind. What works swell for a few photos may seem cumbersome when you need to resize a large number of pictures.



Generally, it is best to save your photos in JPG format rather than TIF to conserve file space, and to cut down on the amount of time it takes to send and receive photos. Files in JPG or JPEG format (Joint Photographic Ex-

perts Group) are compressed and you can control the quality level.

TIF (also shown as TIFF) files are not compressed and are always in the highest quality. However, their file size is considerably higher than that for the same picture saved as a JPG file. JPG photo quality holds up well as long as you don't get carried away with the percentage of compression.

Adobe and Corel (and others) sport proprietary file formats that are suitable for manipulating photos using layers. They are like painting on glass slides that are then stacked together.

You can achieve some spectacular results with layers. However, if you send such proprietary files to others in those special formats, they need the same program to open those files. You can get around that by saving a final version of the file in JPG format and sharing the converted files. Your recipients will thank you.



Smile! Hold It!