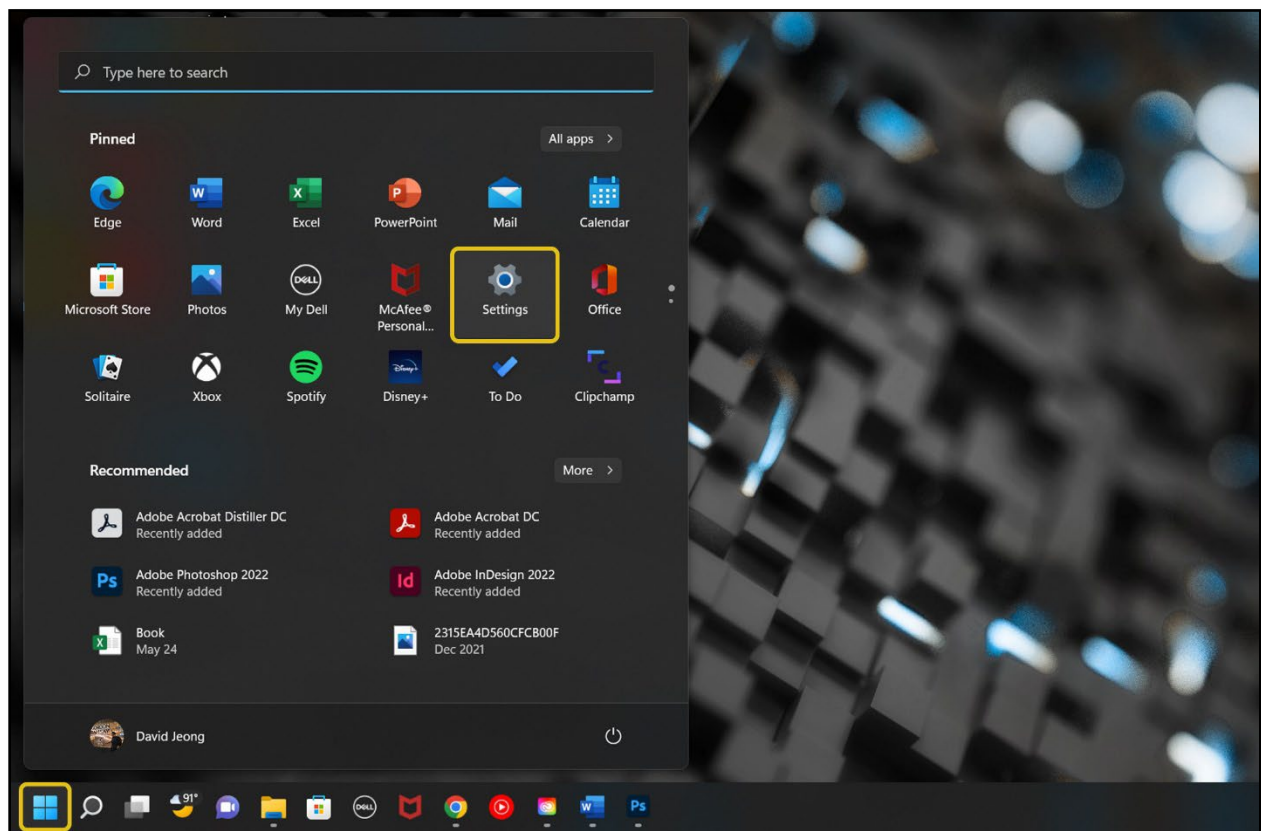# How to Reset Your PC—Windows 11

The longer you've had your computer, the more likely it's having issues—taking forever to boot up, programs crashing, or the dreaded blue screen of death. The problem is, that you might not know what's causing these issues. It could be the weird, "free" program you downloaded before, too many cat pictures in your C drive, or just your computer being too old. After one too many blue screens of death, you may decide to wipe everything to see if that helps. But the big question is, how?
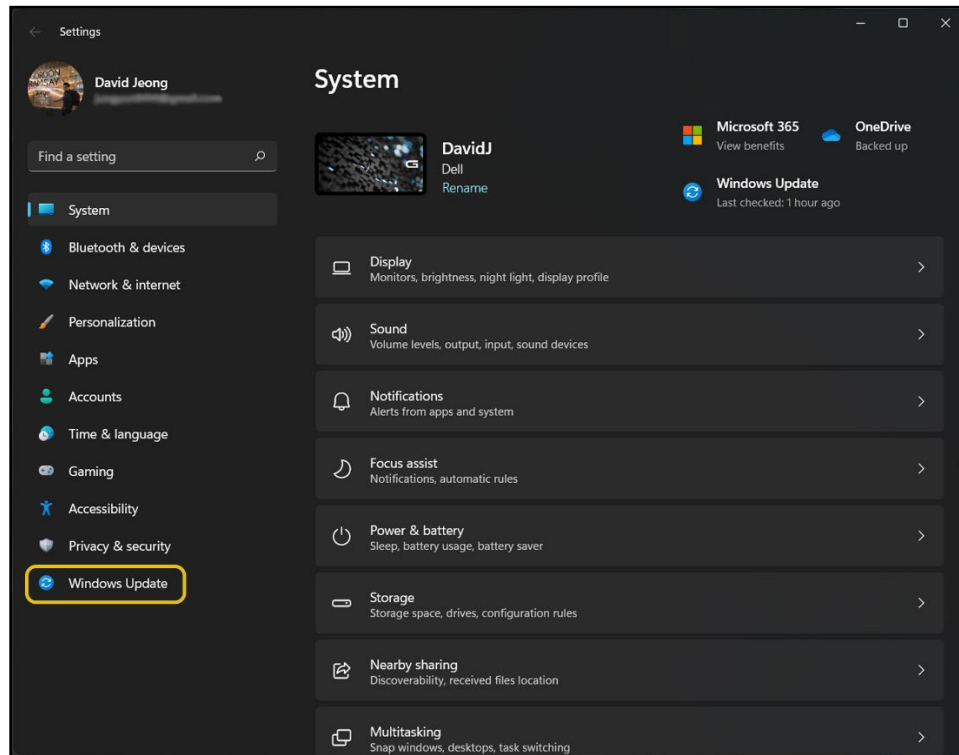
Resetting your Windows 11 can give your PC the fresh start it needs, and it's a lot simpler than you may think. Back in pre-Windows 7 era, resetting your Windows required the original Windows installation disc and a series of careful clicks. However, with newer Windows, all you need to do is open up your settings to reset your PC.
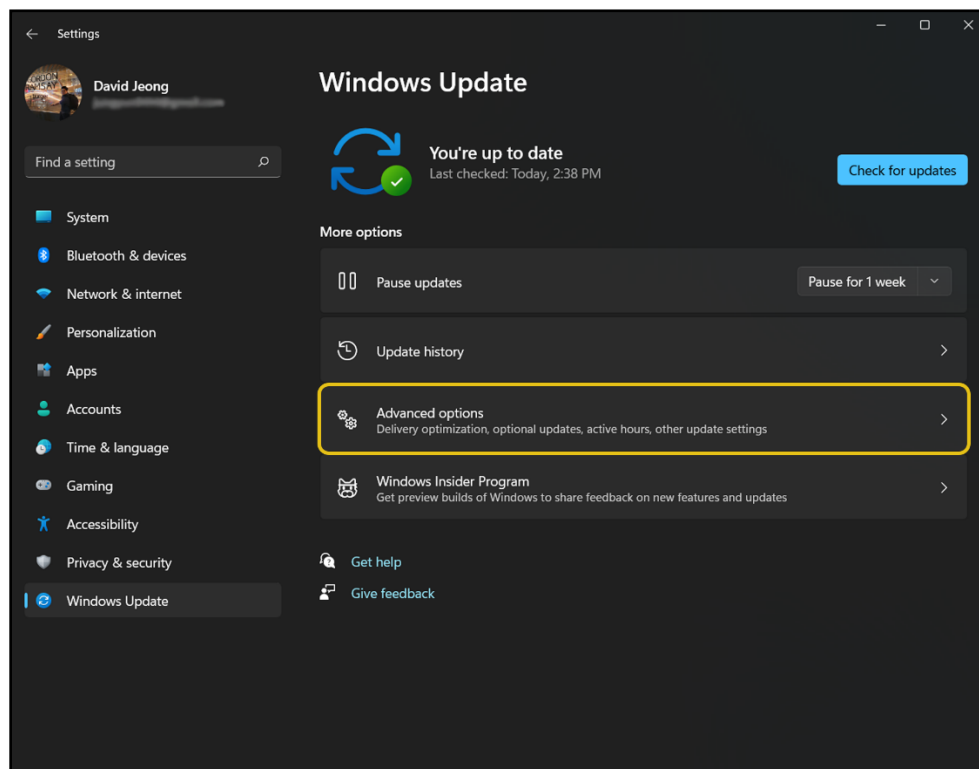
Resetting your Windows 11

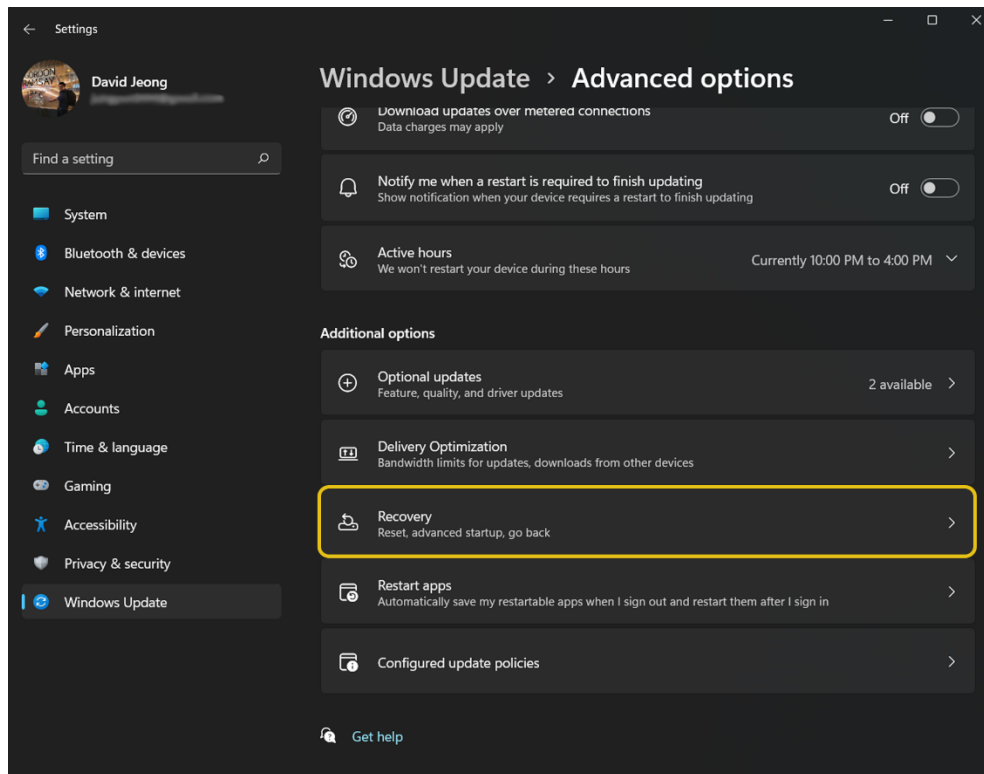1. Click **Start (⊞)**, then **Settings (⚙)**

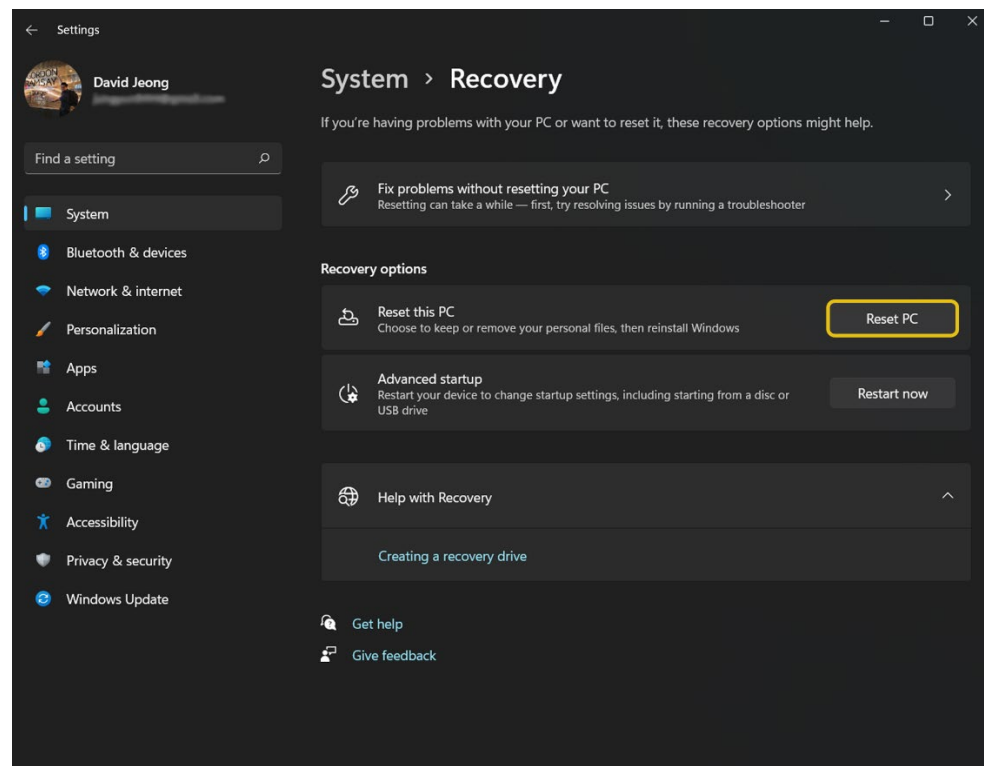2. Click **Windows Update** from the sidebar menu
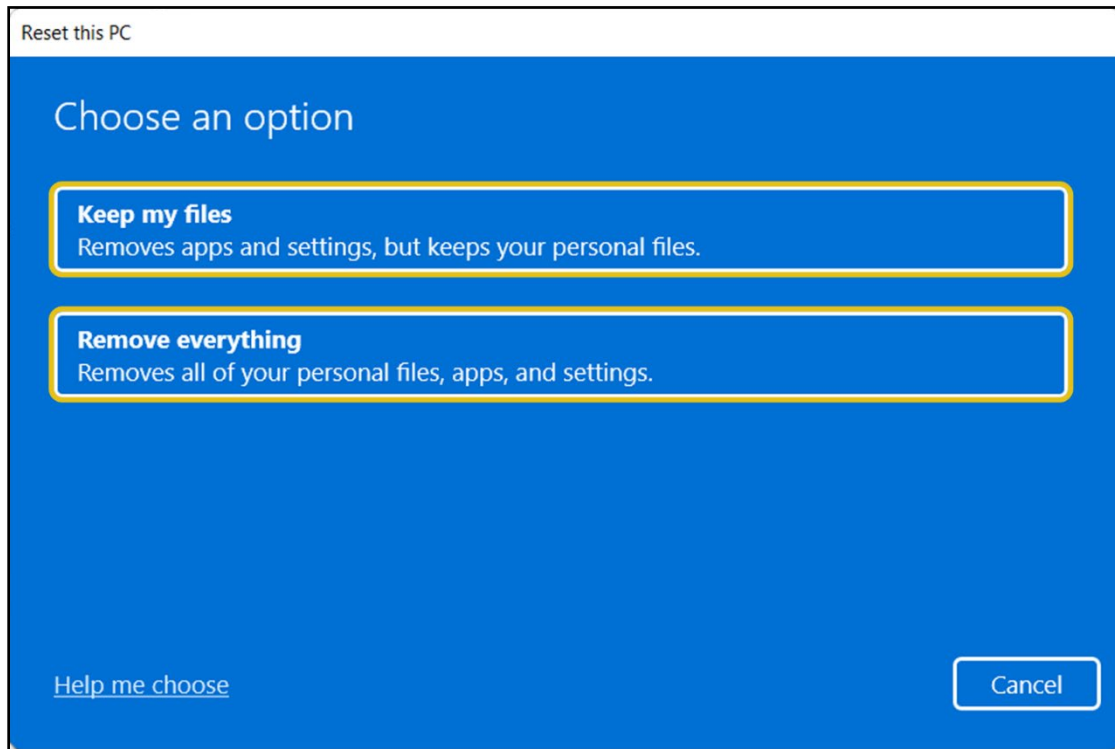

3. Click **Advanced Option**

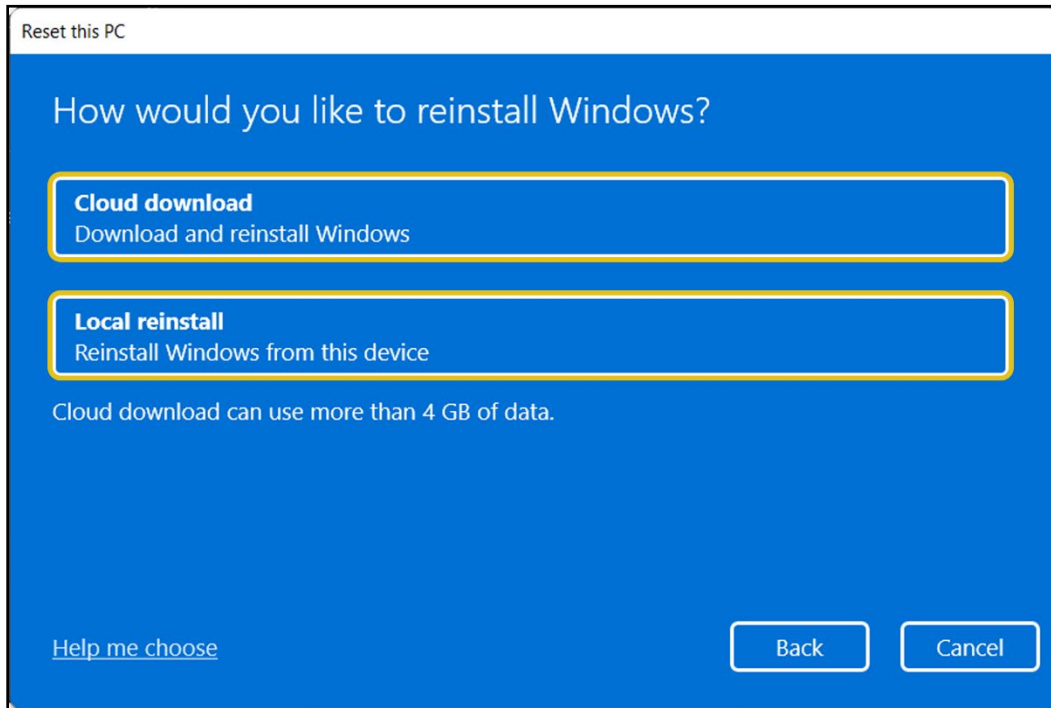4. Scroll down and click **Recovery**

5. Click **Reset PC**

6. Click either **Keep my files** or **Remove everything**
   a. **Keep my files** option will reset your Windows while keeping your files
   b. **Remove everything** will reset your Windows to the factory setting
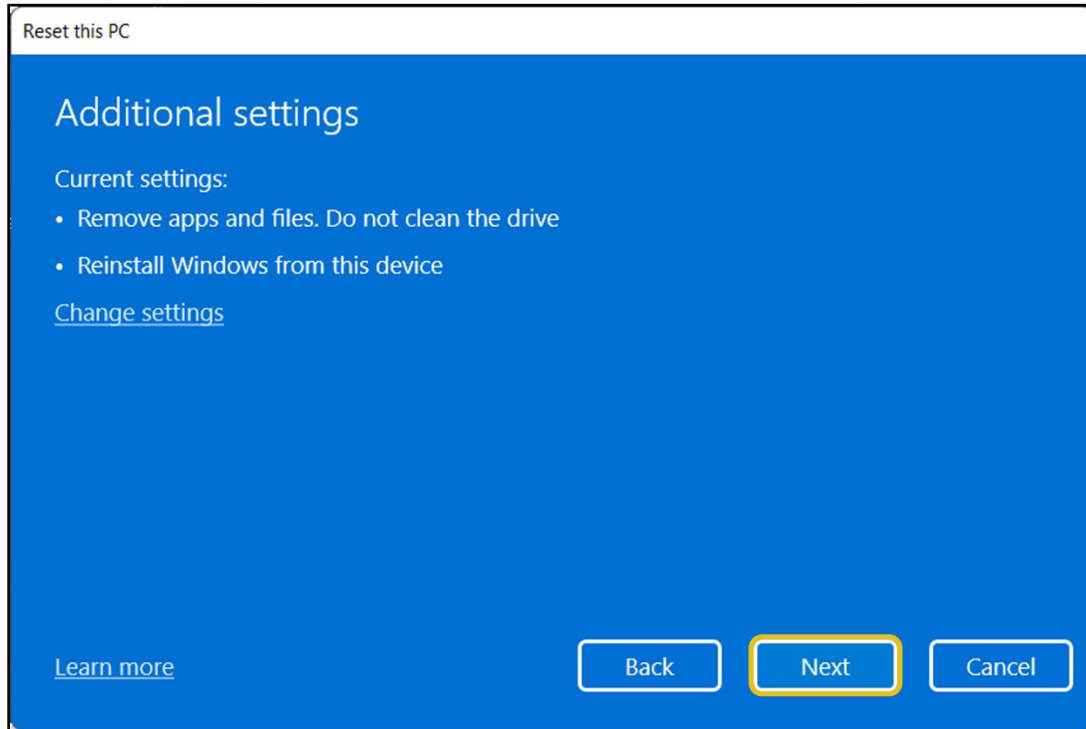

NOTE: If you are resetting your Windows to fix an issue, the **Remove everything** option is recommended as it will delete any hidden virus in your files.
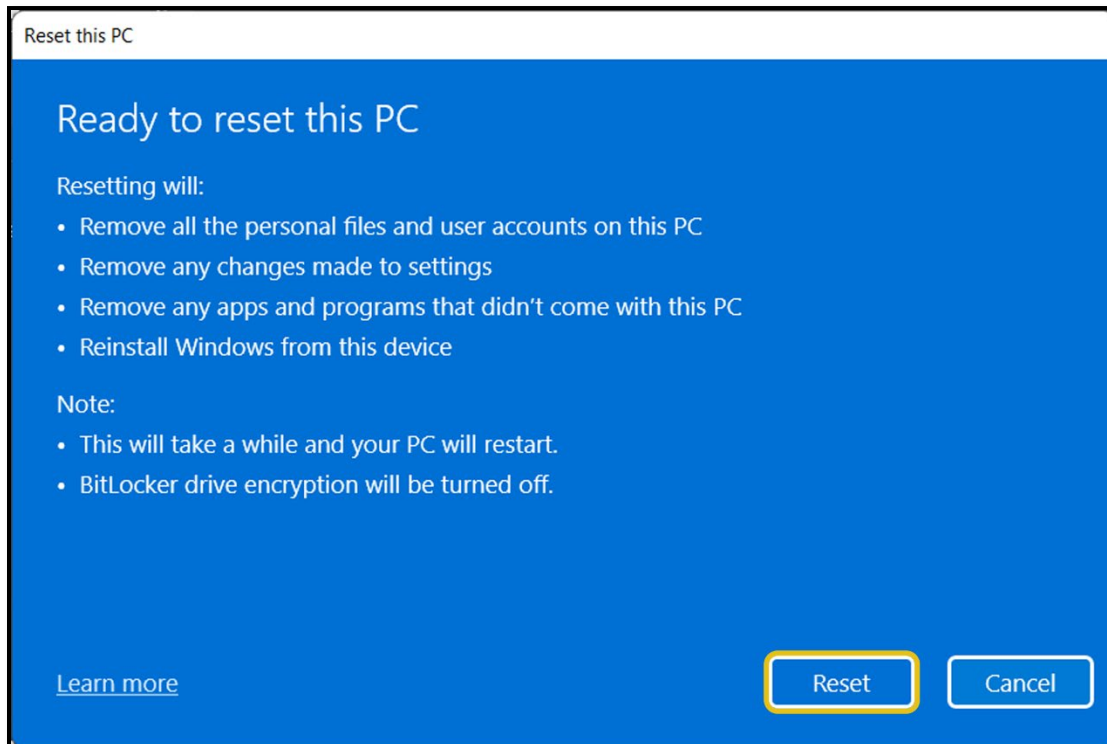
7. Click either **Cloud download** or **Local reinstall**
    a. **Cloud download** option—Downloads a new copy of Windows 11 for reinstallation. This option will **NOT** apply any default applications, drivers, or settings initially installed on your PC by the manufacturer
    b. **Local reinstall** option—Uses Windows 11 files on your PC for reinstallation. If your PC is pre-built by a manufacturer (such as Dell, ASUS, Alienware, etc.), this option will automatically apply any applications, drivers, and settings initially set by the manufacturer

Reset this PC

How would you like to reinstall Windows?

Cloud download
Download and reinstall Windows

Local reinstall
Reinstall Windows from this device

Cloud download can use more than 4 GB of data.

Help me choose   Back   Cancel

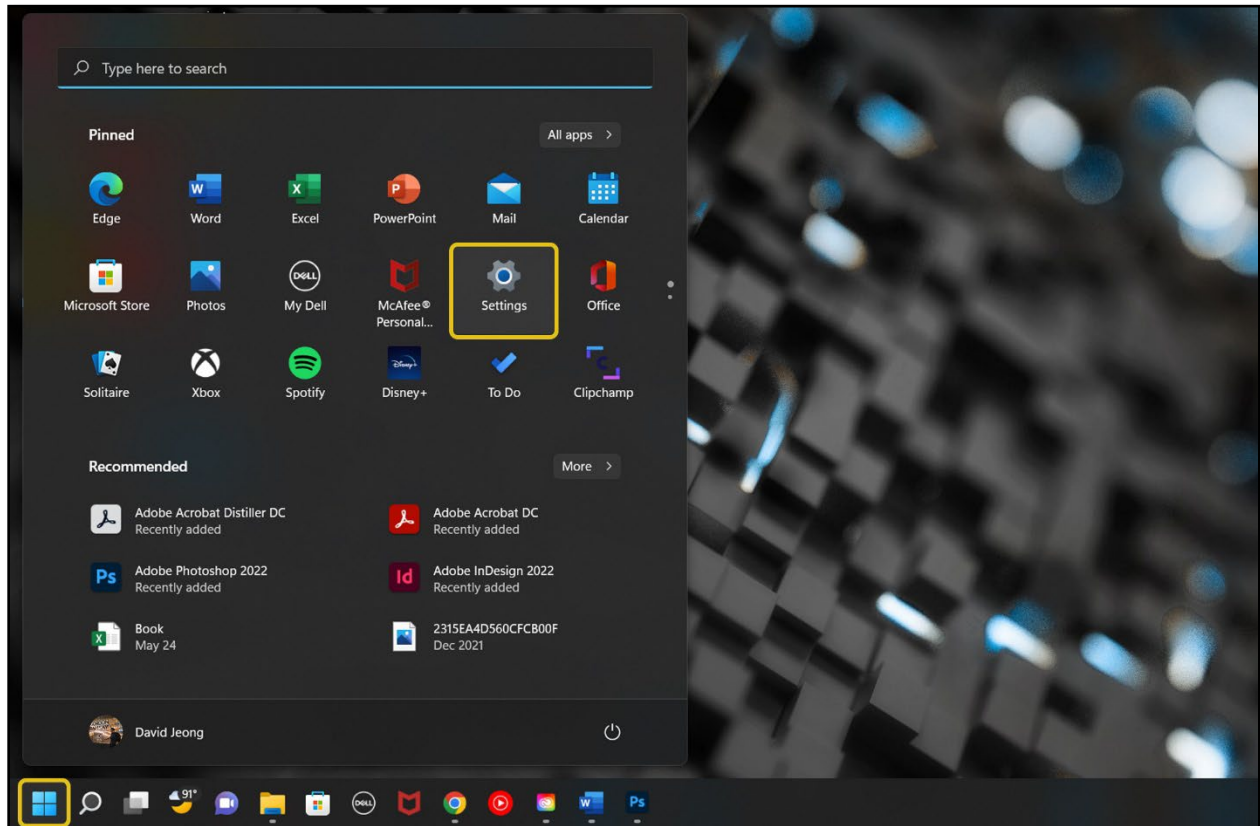8. Ensure the shown settings are appropriate and click **Next**

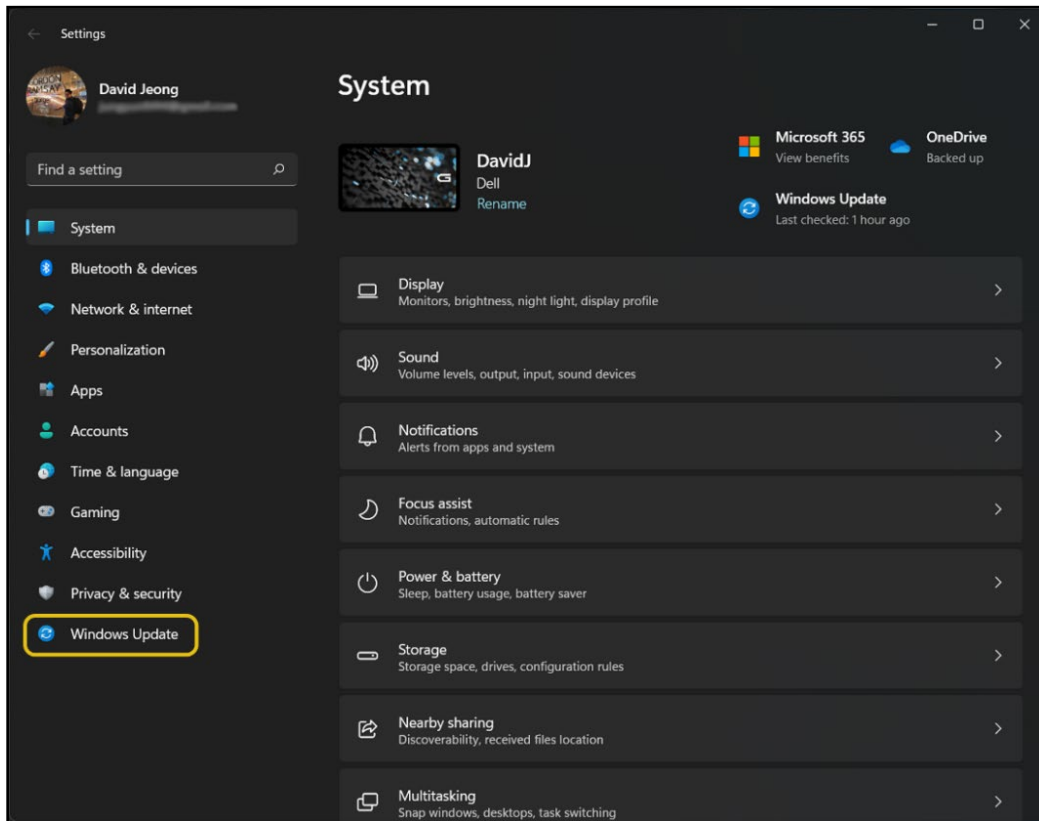9. Click **Reset** to start resetting your PC

Updating your Windows 11

After resetting your PC, you should update your Windows to ensure it has the latest security patch. Also, some applications may not operate properly if your Windows is not updated to the latest version. Here's how you can update your Windows 11.
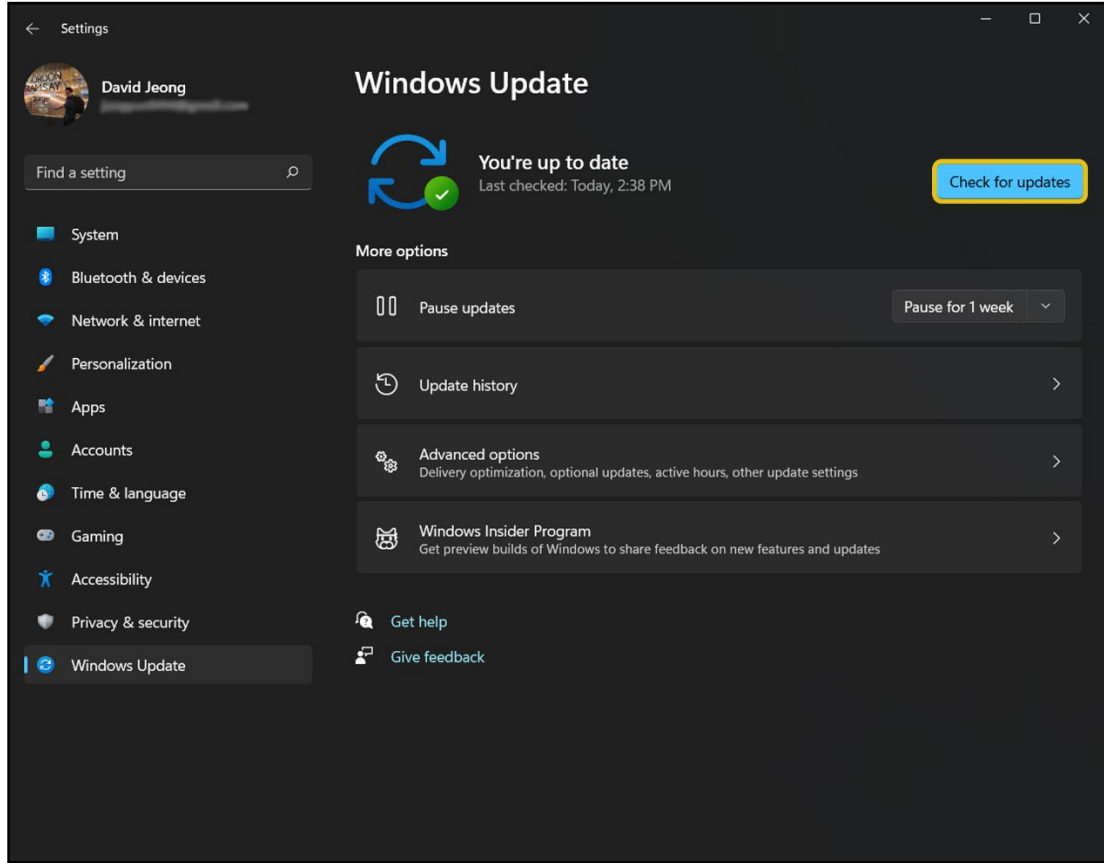
1. Click **Start (**◼**)**, then **Settings (**⚙**)**

2. Click **Windows Update** from the sidebar menu

3. Click **Check for updates**

4. Wait for the Windows to download and update to the latest patch

After updating your Windows, download any applications you wish and ensure they operate properly. If your applications are having any issues, you may need to download additional drivers for your software and hardware (such as your keyboard, mouse, audio, speaker, etc.). You can download drivers for your software and hardware by going to their manufacturer's website.