

# WINDOWS REPAIR - NO BOOT - DISM/SFC REPAIR

This guide explains how to repair the Windows partition when it's too broken to complete booting or enters the recovery environment. If the Windows install is no longer detected or considered bootable, you must look into fixing the boot partition. This is best done after making sure the Windows install isn't corrupted, so this should be the first step.

To begin with, you will need to create a Windows install USB of the same version you're trying to repair—you want the most recent version. Do not attempt to use an older/out-of-date install media to perform the repairs; it will likely fail.



Boot into the install USB on the computer in question. Click next at the start but in the following screen select “Repair your computer”.



Next click on TROUBLESHOOT and then on COMMAND PROMPT.

The first step is to locate the install drive for Windows, on a one drive system this is easy and traditionally it will be the C drive. In CMD we can input **C:** to change to the drive. Then type in **DIR** to list out the drive directory and confirm you are in a Windows install drive. It will include the Windows folder and Program Files folders.



```
10 PM <DIR> temp
43 AM <DIR> Users
31 AM <DIR> Windows
```

Next check for the letter assigned to your install media. Quickest way is to use the diskpart command. So type in **diskpart** to enter the program and then **list vol** to list the volumes of the drives currently attached and their drive letters. Then type enter **exit** to quit the program.

```

Administrator: X:\windows\SYSTEM32\cmd.exe - diskpart
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19041.2965]
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

:\Sources>diskpart

Microsoft DiskPart version 10.0.19041.964

Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation.
On computer: MININT-LAL80C2

DISKPART> list vol

 Volume ###  Ltr  Label        Fs  Type     Size  Status     Info
-----  --  -----  -----  -----  -----  -----
 Volume 0      C               NTFS  Partition  464 GB  Healthy
 Volume 1      ESD-USB       FAT32  Partition  100 MB  Healthy   Hidden
 Volume 2      F               NTFS  Partition  754 MB  Healthy   Hidden
 Volume 3      D               FAT32  Removable  32 GB   Healthy

DISKPART>

```

As you can see the install media drive will be by default labeled ESD-USB(Electronic Software Delivery - USB). In a one drive system it will default to the letter D but in a PC with multiple drives it will default to something else. Please take note of this as it will be important to execute the following commands.

The first command to attempt to run will likely not work as the Windows install is likely too broken, which is why it's not booting, but if you're in the recovery environment of the drive it can't hurt to try - at worst it will just fail to get the job done. First make sure you're in the C drive with **c:** command, then run **md scratch**.

**YOU MAY SKIP THIS FIRST DISM COMMAND** We made the USB for a reason and this is just here as a side note.

```
dism /image:c:\ /cleanup-image /restorehealth /source:c:\windows /scratchdir:c:\scratch

Deployment Image Servicing and Management tool
Version: 10.0.19041.1949

Image Version: 10.0.19045.3803

Error: 87

The cleanupimage option is unknown.
For more information, refer to the help by running DISM.exe /?.

The DISM log file can be found at X:\windows\Logs\DISM\dism.log

X:\Sources>c:

C:\>md scratch

C:\>dism /image:c:\ /cleanup-image /restorehealth /source:c:\windows /scratchdir:c:\scratch

Deployment Image Servicing and Management tool
Version: 10.0.19041.844

Image Version: 10.0.19045.3803

[===== 36.8% ]
```

Please note that C in that drive is supposed to be the target Windows drive, substitute C with the appropriate drive letter if it's not default.

To attempt to repair the windows install using the ESD-USB run the following command. Please note that D will have to be replaced with the drive letter of the ESD-USB and that it may be install.wim - you can check it by navigating to the sources dir in the USB or just try the alternative version in the line.

```
dism /image:c:\ /cleanup-image /restorehealth /source:d:\sources\install.esd
      /scratchdir:c:\scratch
```

If you mess up the command line you will get an error 87. You can bring up what you previously entered by pressing the up arrow on the keyboard and make corrections, navigate the line with the arrow keys to the spots you want to change.