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System file check (SFC) Scan and Repair System Files & DISM to fix things SFC cannot

Technical Level : Basic

Summary

System file check is a utility built into the Operating System that will check for system file corruption. The `sfc /scannow` command (System File Check) scans the integrity of all protected operating system files and replaces incorrect, corrupted, changed, or damaged versions with the correct versions where possible. When it cannot repair the damage, DISM should be run to fix as many errors as possible.

System file check works on Vista and UP

Dism works on win 7 and UP

If you are running an insider build (ie 14915) and SFC fails ~20% it is a known problem with this build

If you are running sfc &/or DISM to fix an underlying problem please tell us what that problem is!!!!

Details

If you have modified your system files (including Windows DLL files) running `sfc /scannow` will revert the system files back to the default state.

It is always a good idea to back up your data beforehand!

To run a system file check (SFC)

Forum Article Info

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December 3, 2020

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Applies to:

 [Windows 10](#) /

[Windows update, recovery, & backup](#)

Did this solve your problem?

Yes

No

If you want to **verify** and **repair** the OS type `sfc /scannow` (note the space between `sfc` and `/`)

If you just want to check (verify only) the OS type `sfc /verifyonly` (no changes will be made using verify only)

You may have to run this up to 3 times to fix all the problems

When you have finished it will say one of three things

Windows did not find any integrity violations (a good thing)

Windows Resource Protection found corrupt files and repaired them (a good thing)

Windows Resource Protection found corrupt files but was unable to fix some (or all) of them (not a good thing) **If you get this message run DISM as described below**

```
Administrator: Command Prompt - DISM /Online /Cleanup-Image /RestoreHealth
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.14316]
(c) 2016 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\WINDOWS\system32>sfc /scannow

Beginning system scan. This process will take some time.

Beginning verification phase of system scan.
Verification 100% complete.

Windows Resource Protection did not find any integrity violations.
```

If SFC was not able to repair some or all of the files there are a few options including a **repair install** from the OS dvd, and **DISM** (win 8 & UP)

If SFC did not find any violations it is still a good idea to run **DISM Restorehealth**

DISM

If you are on win 8 (and up) you should also run DISM whether SFC found errors or not!!

From an **elevated command prompt**

You can run Check, then Scan, but you should **always run RESTORE HEALTH**

To **check the health** (You would use `/CheckHealth` to only check whether the image has been flagged as corrupted)
run `Dism /Online /Cleanup-Image /CheckHealth`

Did this solve your problem?

Yes

No

run Dism /Online /Cleanup-Image /ScanHealth

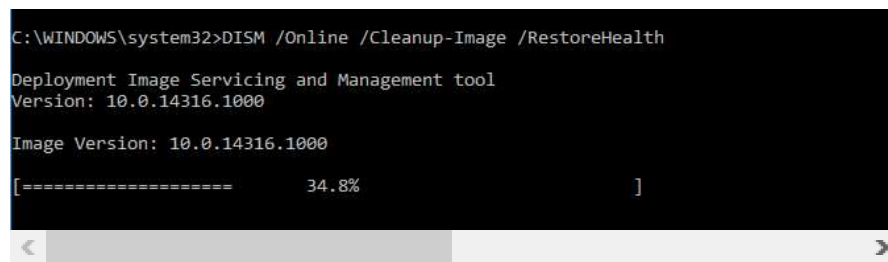
To RESTORE health (recommended)

Use DISM /Online /Cleanup-Image /RestoreHealth to scan the image for component store corruption, perform repair operations automatically, and records that corruption to the log file. This generally takes 15-30 minutes depending on the corruption and size of the partition

You can run scanhealth & restore health at the same time like this

DISM.exe /Online /Cleanup-image /Scanhealth && DISM.exe /Online /Cleanup-image /Restorehealth

Type **DISM /Online /Cleanup-Image /RestoreHealth .** (p1)
If the repair is successful you may want to re-run SFC



After running DISM it is a good idea to re-run SFC /scannow to make sure all the issues were fixed.

If you get the error message "cannot find source files" you need to have an ISO file mounted and need to specify where it is located with the below command

The ISO must be exactly the same version as the running OS. An ISO of 10586.0 will not repair a running system of 10586.35 because it has additional updates and files.

DISM /Online /Cleanup-Image /RestoreHealth
/source:WIM:X:\Sources\Install.wim:1 /LimitAccess Where "X" is the drive letter where the ISO is located. Simply change the "X" to the correct drive letter

If you do not have an ISO you can make one. The instructions are [here](#)

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/929833>

<http://pcsupport.about.com/od/toolsofthetrade/ht/sfc-scannow.htm>

Did this solve your problem?


Yes

No

Other Wiki's you may be interested in


[System file check \(SFC\) Scan & repair System files](#)
[Basic troubleshooting Windows/hardware](#)
[You can read more about BSODS](#)
[You can learn how to test your memory](#)
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[HD Checking how to test yours](#)
[Driver View A very handy utility for examining drivers](#)
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Co-Authored [JMH3143/ ZigZag3143](#)

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Metin BILGIN

Replied on November 22, 2014

Did this solve your problem?

[Yes](#)

[No](#)

linkine tıklatınız.

[Up vote \(140\)](#)

GM

Gerald Mathieu

[Replied on February 6, 2015](#)

↳ [In reply to Metin BİLGİN's post on November 22, 2014](#)

Tested on two Windows 10 9926 (Enterprise - upgrade from 9879 then clean install) on my Dell M4700

SCF /SCANNOW always stop after 2 or 3%

DISM /Online /Cleanup-Image /RestoreHealth always report that the sources can't be found

Tried to use /source:x:\sources\sxs /limitaccess but this folder is mostly empty on the Win10 DVD

Tried to use /source:wim:x:\sources\install.wim:1 /limitaccess --> Same problem sources can't be found

[Up vote \(441\)](#)



ZigZag3143 (MS -MVP)

MVP

[Replied on February 6, 2015](#)

↳ [In reply to Gerald Mathieu's post on February 6, 2015](#)

GM

Both SFC & DISM can be made to work if you follow the above modified instructions for win 10 (10041 included)

Cat herder

Windows Insider MVP

Did this solve your problem?

Yes

No

[Up vote \(137\)](#)

RG

RusuOvidiu Georgian[Replied on April 13, 2015](#)

omg thank you so much for the info, i start to freak out.. in windows 10 found me almost all are corrupted, with finnaly repairing some WindowsDefender dll's. But i was like ****, what im doing now, my whole windows is corrupted until i read that are a lot of falses

[Up vote \(326\)](#)

PE

PeryFM[Replied on April 23, 2015](#)

Verify and Repair Transaction completed. All files and registry keys listed in this transaction have been successfully repaired
THANKS A LOT ZIGZAG TEAM!

No todo lo que brilla es oro.

[Up vote \(70\)](#)**JMH3143****MVP** | [Volunteer Moderator](#) | [Article Author](#)[Replied on April 23, 2015](#)

↳ [In reply to PeryFM's post on April 23, 2015](#)

It was our pleasure.
Thanks for letting us know that all is well.
Safe web surfing!

Microsoft MVP.
Windows Consumer Apps,
Windows Experience,
Windows Insider.

Did this solve your problem?

[Yes](#)[No](#)

BB

bbrao

Replied on April 25, 2015

↳ In reply to PeryFM's post on April 23, 2015

good...as it appears.

Up vote (24)

WI

williamsig

Replied on May 16, 2015

Good info, works as described, at least on 8.1. Very helpful IF you read and follow all steps.

Up vote (45)

GO

GoudNosrettap

Replied on May 19, 2015

I have been unable to update to Win10 10074, sfc returned an error but was unable to repair, the mounting of the 10061 iso(my current build) fixed the issue.

Thank you!

Up vote (47)

BO

bodlivko

Replied on May 22, 2015

Привет ZigZag3143!

Безкрайно съм Ви благодарен за безценната информация която сте предоставили на посетителите!

Съжалявам, че в момента съм тук по случаен повод,

Did this solve your problem?

Yes

No

компютърът след около 5 минути се изключва и
мероприятието пропада.
Уверен съм, че за в бъдеще ще имам нужда от
познанията Ви в тая област, и ще Ви безпокоя често
за да се запозная подробно с наличната
информация!
Извинете, в случай, че неволно съм споделил
неприсъщо за личността Ви слово!

Up vote (82)

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- 3
- 4
- 5
- ...
- 9
- >

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HoloLens 2	Financing				Security

 English (United States)

Did this solve your problem?

Yes

No