

## Collecting a kernel or full Windows memory dump using LiveKD

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### Introduction

Investigation and troubleshooting of certain technical issues requires collecting a kernel or a full Windows memory dump.

When the entire Windows operating system crashes, also known as a "blue screen" error, or "BSOD", the article <https://kb.acronis.com/content/17639> should be used.

The present article applies to cases when the operating system neither crashes nor freezes.

The article guides step-by-step how to collect a kernel or full Windows memory dump using LiveKD (<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/downloads/livekd>). The main advantage of using LiveKD over other methods is that it does not require system shut down or reboot.

### Pre-requisites

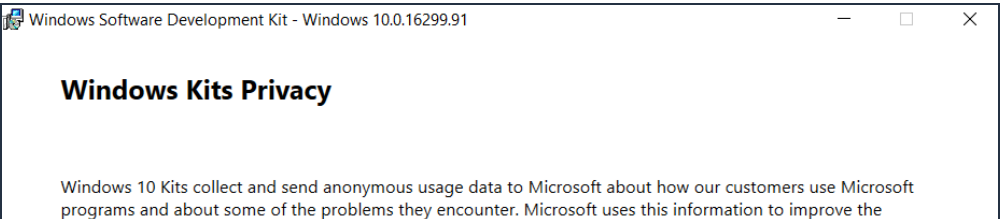
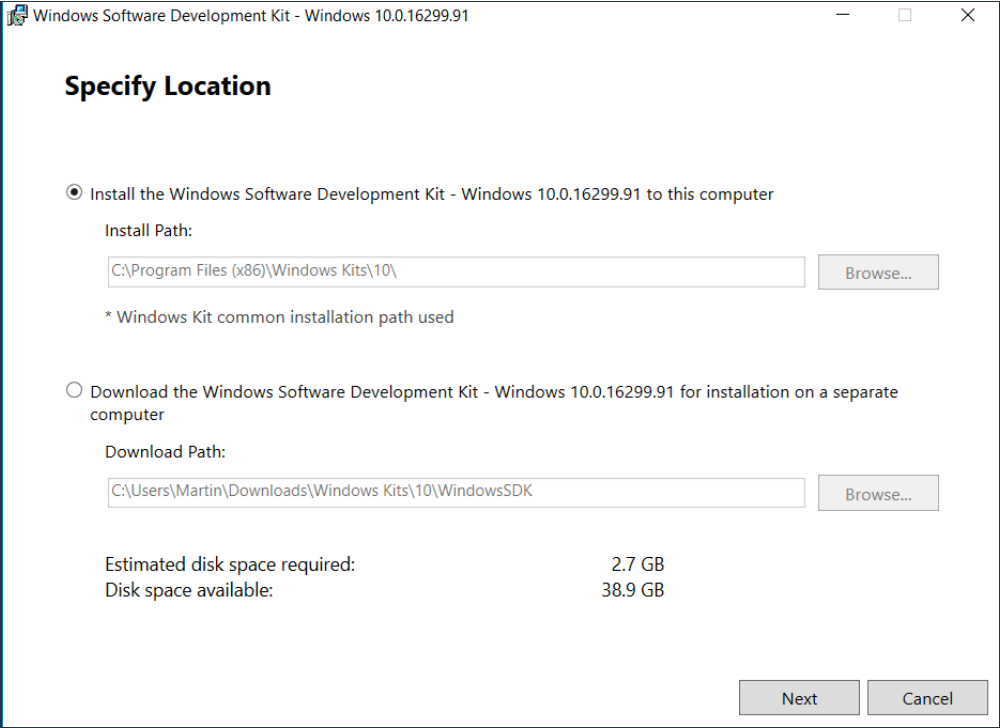
As a final result you will have a file with .dmp file name extension. Before proceeding, make sure you have enough disk space to accomodate the file, either on the system or a non-system disk:

A **kernel** memory dump can take up to several GBs of disk space.

A **full** memory dump requires disk space equal to the amount of the installed physical RAM.

### Description

- Download and run Windows SDK installer from <https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=864422>
- Click "Next" and "Accept" buttons in the installation wizard until reaching features selection screen



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