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Command Prompt (CMD) offers a range of powerful tools for fixing Windows errors and boot problems. In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore essential CMD commands and techniques to troubleshoot and repair common Windows issues. Whether you're dealing with boot problems, Windows startup errors, or issues with the boot manager, CMD provides the necessary tools to diagnose and fix these issues. Follow along to learn how to use CMD effectively to repair Windows errors and keep your system running smoothly. How to Access CMD in Windows Boot Problem?When you face the Windows Boot Problem, the Windows OS will restrict you from going inside the system. So, if you can't move inside the system, Accessing Command Prompt will become trickier. So, there are two methods by which you can use Command Prompt without Entering into the System. Method 1: Access CMD in Windows Boot Problem using Safe ModeThe first & very simple method is the Open Safe Mode on Windows. If you launch the Windows Safe Mode, all of the inbuilt services of Windows will be executed without any kind of problem. In the Safe Mode, no third-party applications are present to execute. And any kind of Boot Issues on Windows, can't restrict the entering into the Safe Mode of the system. Method 2: Access CMD in Windows Boot Problem using Recovery EnvironmentStep 1: On the Recovery Environment of Windows Boot Problem, click on the Troubleshoot Option. Step 2: Now, click on the Advanced Options. Step 3: Now, you will find the Command Prompt option. Click on that to Access CMD without launching OS. How to Repair Boot Problems With CMD?To Fix Boot Problems on Windows using Command Prompt, the following methods can be used. Let us start with the Windows Command made only to address Windows Boot Issues. Method 1: Repair Windows Boot Problems with CMD using BOOTREC CommandThe BOOTREC is the only command that is dedicated to all kinds of issues with Booting. If there is any Windows Boot Issue, you have to first execute the Windows BOOTREC Command. Open Command Prompt & use the command like the following. Command 1: BOOTREC /FIXMBRCommand 2: BOOTREC /FIXBOOTMethod 2: Repair Windows Boot Problems with CMD using SFC CommandThe System File Checker or SFC Command is not completely dedicated to Windows Booting Problems. It helps to address the Corrupt System File Concept. However, it can be used in the Command Prompt to fix Boot Problems caused by Corrupted System Files. Command: sfc /scannowMethod 3: Repair Windows Boot Problems with CMD using DISM CommandThe Deployment Image Servicing and Management or DISM can be another good Windows Command executed to get rid of Boot Problems. Open the Windows Command Prompt & execute the following command. It will fix any Windows Image Problem quickly. Command: DISM /Online /Cleanup-Image /RestoreHealthMethod 4: Repair Windows Boot Problems with CMD using System Cleanup CommandStep 1: Another important command that will Refresh Windows along with repairing the problem is the Cleanup Command. Use the Command on the CMD using the below manner. Command: systemreset -cleanupStep 2: Now, click on the Next Button to start the complete process. Method 5: Repair Windows Boot Problems with CMD using System Reset CommandStep 1: If any of the above commands is not working, then you have to go for the Windows System Reset. And that could also be done from the Windows Command Prompt. To do so, use the following command. Command: systemreset.exeStep 2: Now, click on the Keep My Files option to start the process. In conclusion, using Command Prompt (CMD) to repair Windows errors and boot problems can be a powerful and efficient solution. By mastering the relevant CMD commands and troubleshooting techniques, you can resolve common issues, repair the Windows boot manager, and fix boot sector problems. This guide has equipped you with the knowledge to diagnose and fix Windows errors using CMD, empowering you to keep your system running smoothly. If you have Windows 7 boot problems, the boot sector or master boot record on your system partition may be damaged, corrupted, or missing files. And you will receive an error message like the following before Windows actually begins to load. Error loading operating system Missing operating system Reboot and select the proper boot device Invalid partition table Bootmgr is missing FATAL: No bootable medium found! System halted. If you backup MBR in advance, you can easily restore your computer and make it work as normal. If not, you need to use command prompt for Windows 7 boot repair. ✎... What are the boot sector and master boot record exactly? The boot sector is a small section at the beginning of a hard drive, created when you format the hard drive, which contains some code and data that helps BIOS hand off the startup process to Windows. It also hosts the Master Boot Record (MBR), which contains the disk signature, partition table for the disk, and a small bit of code called the master boot code. ✎... How do the boot sector and MBR boot a computer? When a PC starts, the BIOS will load the master boot code into the PC's RAM. Then it will scan the partition table, determine the active partition, load a copy of the boot sector into the PC's RAM, and hand off the startup process. How to Run Startup Repair from installation disc If your boot sector or MBR runs into problems, you cannot start Windows normally. That's to say, you need the Windows installation disc to boot your computer. If you don't have one, you can create system repair disc or recovery disk on a working computer. Step 1. Plug the installation disc or recovery disk into your computer. Step 2. Start your computer and press the BISO key repeatedly to access it. Then, go to the Boot tab and set your USB drive as first boot option. Save changes and exit. Step 3. Press a key in the keyboard when you see a black screen, saying "Press any key to boot from CD or DVD...". Step 6. After that, it will start to load files, wait patiently. In the Install Windows screen, click Repair your computer. Step 7. Select the operating system Windows 7 in the System Recovery Options window and click Next. Sometimes, you will not see any operating system in this window, please click Load Drivers to install drivers for your disks. Step 8. Select Startup Repair in the System Recovery Options and it will automatically start to repair boot sector or MBR in Windows 7. Just wait patiently until the process is completed and click Finish. How to Boot Repair Windows 7 from Command Prompt You can only boot to command prompt in Windows 7 and then have a chance to boot repair Windows 7. So in this part, we will introduce you to how to access command prompt in different ways and fix it with different commands. Part 1: Boot to Command Prompt in Windows 7 #1: From Startup Repair Sometimes, you may encounter the Startup Repair not working issue and ask you to restore your computer with System Restore. Click Restore if you have a working restore point. If not, click Cancel and View advanced options for system recovery and support > Command Prompt to boot repair Windows 7. #2: From Key combination Except for System Recovery options window, you still can press "Shift + F10" to access command prompt. The first Install Windows window is the best choice. #3: From Advanced Boot options If you don't have any recovery disk, Microsoft still allows you to access command prompt in the Advanced Boot options window. Turn on your computer, press and hold the F8 key repeatedly until you see the this screen, then select Safe Mode with Command Prompt. Part 2: Use Command Prompt for Windows 7 Boot Repair After accessing command prompt, try the following commands to boot repair Windows 7. Way 1: Windows 7 Startup Repair Command Prompt Chkdsk In the command prompt window, type chkdsk C: /f /r and press Enter. It will start to scan the integrity of your file system and hard drive and fix the corrupted files. If your Windows 7 boot problem is caused by physical issue, you can try this. Click here to learn more about Windows 7 startup repair command prompt chkdsk. Way 2: Windows 7 Boot Repair Bootrec You can also use Bootrec command prompt if your boot sector or MBR is damaged. It also helps fix bootmgr is missing in Windows 7 command prompt, build bcd and boot sector for Windows. Type the following commands and press Enter in order. bootrec /fixmbr bootrec /fixboot bootrec /scannos bootrec /rebuildbcd bootsect.exe /nt60 all /force Notes: ❤ The /nt60 parameter applies the master boot code that is compatible with BOOTMGR. ❤ The /all argument updates the master boot code on all partitions. ❤ The /force parameter forcibly dismounts the volume(s) during the boot code update so that the Bootsect.exe tool does not gain exclusive volume access. Way 3: Windows 7 Repair Boot Sector Command Prompt DiskPart If the bootrec /fixmbr and bootrec /fixboot don't work, you can try to restore the boot sector code of your Windows 7 with Diskpart. Type diskpart and press Enter to access this Windows utility. Then, type the following commands and press Enter in order. diskpart select disk 0 list volume d: cd boot dir bootsect /nt60 SYS /mbr Notes: ❤ The command line from diskpart to list volume is to find the drive letter of your installation disc. Please check the "Type" column which contains the word "CD-ROM", here take D: as an example. ❤ The command line bootsect /nt60 SYS /mbr is to restore boot sector code using installation disc. Way 4: Rename and rebuild BCD via NotePad If the above command prompt does not work for you, you still can try to backup and rename BCD first and then rebuild it via CMD. bcdedit /export C:\BCD_Backup notepad You will see a pop-up Notepad window, click File > Open > Computer, find the BCD file and rename it as BCD.old. After that, save the change and exit this window. Now, you will go back to the command prompt window. Type bootrec /rebuildbcd and hit Enter. Type Yes to confirm if you asked. Finally, type bcdedit /enum all and hit Enter. Way 5: Rename and Rebuild BCD Ren command Except for Notepad, you can also use the ren command to rename bcd and then rebuilt it. In the command prompt window, type the command line below and hit Enter after each one. bcdedit /export C:\BCD_Backup c: cd boot attrib bcd -s -h -r ren c:\boot\bcd bcd.old bootrec /RebuildBcd Note: c: refers to the location of your Windows. Create a System Image After Boot Repair to Prevent Boot Failure You never know when your computer will crash or become unbootable, thus it's suggested to backup your system with free backup software like AOMEI Backupper Standard. It will include the operating system, installed program, personal data, etc on the system partition. By default, this software will create full backup and then incremental backup to backup only changed files if you enable a schedule backup. This software supports schedule backup system daily, weekly, monthly. You can also enable "Wake the computer to run scheduled task" to wake yours computer automatically. Download AOMEI Backupper Standard, install and run it. (PS: The free version only supports Windows 7, 8, 10, 11, XP and Vista. For server users, try AOMEI Backupper Server.) Step 1. In the main interface, click "System Backup" under the "Backup" tab. Step 2. AOMEI Backupper will select system partition and other system-related partitions automatically. Here you just need to choose the destination path to save your backup. It can be a local path, network or NAS devices, or cloud drive. Step 3. In the Operation Summary window, set backup settings if necessary and click "Start Backup" to backup your Windows 7 system. Tips: ❤ Options: You can set compression level, image splitting, backup encryption, etc. ❤ Schedule Backup: You can select Daily, Weekly, Monthly, Event triggers, or USB plug in. The last two options are available on the professional version or higher. ❤ Backup Scheme: You are able to change the default incremental backup to differential backup and set a cleanup method to delete old backup automatically. You have 4 options, such as By quantity, By time, By daily/weekly/monthly, and By Space. For IT Technician, you could use AOMEI Backupper Technician or TechPlus. It allows you to create portable version of this software and use it to backup multiple computers without installing it again. And you can easily restore system to new hard drive, even to a new computer with dissimilar hardware, when something unexpected happens and boot from it. The biggest advantage of it is to restore system to multiple computers simultaneously over network. Its AOMEI Image Deploy tool allows you to boot multiple computers over network and restore system image from a server computer. Summary You can use the command prompt for Windows 7 boot repair if your computer has boot problems, and make it back to normal status. You can choose to run Startup Repair manually first and then try chkdsk, bootrec, diskpart, notepad, and ren commands. If you don't want to encounter Windows 7 boot problems, the best way is to create a system image including the operating system, system files, drivers, etc. And you can restore system image quickly in the event of a disaster. Please download AOMEI Backupper to protect your Windows 7. For details, check the edition comparison page. Open Command Prompt or PowerShell as administrator, then run "sfc /scannow" to fix corrupted Windows System Files. If SFC fails to run properly or cannot repair the files, run "DISM /Online /Cleanup-Image /RestoreHealth" to fix any remaining issues. The System File Checker tool built into Windows can scan your Windows system files for corruption or any other changes. If a file has been modified, it will automatically replace that file with the correct version. Here's how to use it. When You Should Run SFC or DISM? If Windows is experiencing blue-screen or other crashes, applications are failing, or some Windows features just aren't working properly, there are two system tools that might be able to help. The System File Checker (SFC) tool built into Windows will scan your Windows system files for corruption or any other changes. If a file has been modified, it will automatically replace that file with the correct version. If the SFC command doesn't work, you can also try the Deployment Image Servicing and Management (DISM) command on Windows 8, 10, or 11 to repair the underlying Windows system image. On Windows 7 and earlier, Microsoft offered a downloadable "System Update Readiness Tool" instead. Let's take a look at how to use them. Run the SFC command when troubleshooting a buggy Windows system. SFC works by scanning for and replacing system files that are corrupt, missing, or changed. Even if the SFC command doesn't repair any files, running it will at least confirm that no system files are corrupted and then you can continue to troubleshoot your system with other methods. You can use the SFC command as long as the computer itself will start. If Windows will start normally, you can run it from an administrative command prompt. If Windows won't start normally, you can try starting it in Safe Mode or in the recovery environment by booting from your installation media or recovery disc. However you get to the Command Prompt — normally, Safe Mode, or recovery environment — you'll use the command the same way. Just remember that if you start Windows normally, you will need to open the Command Prompt or PowerShell with administrative privileges. To do this, right-click the Start button and select "Command Prompt (Admin)". On Windows 11, you might need to select "Windows Terminal (Admin)" instead of "Command Prompt (Admin)" or "PowerShell (Admin)". At the Command Prompt, type the following command and press Enter to run a full system scan and have SFC attempt repairs: sfc /scannow Leave the Command Prompt window open until the command completes, which may take some time. If everything is fine, you'll see the message "Windows Resource Protection did not find any integrity violations." If you see a "Windows Resource Protection found corrupt files but was unable to fix some of them" message, try restarting your PC in Safe Mode and running the command again. And if that fails, you can also try booting with your installation media or recovery disc and trying the command from there. The Deployment Image Servicing and Management (DISM) tool is used to repair Windows images. You shouldn't normally have to run the DISM command. However, if the SFC command fails to run properly or can't replace a corrupted file with the correct one, the DISM command — or System Update Readiness Tool in Windows 7 — can sometimes fix the underlying Windows system and make SFC run correctly. The DISM command we're going to use goes online (to the same source as Windows Update), fetches fresh copies of files, and then uses those to repair corrupted Windows files and repair any other problems it finds. You'll need an active internet connection for it to work. To run the DISM command in Windows 10 or Windows 11, open Command Prompt, PowerShell, or Windows Terminal with administrative privileges, then enter: DISM /Online /Cleanup-Image /RestoreHealth Allow the command to finish running before closing the Command Prompt window. This may take five to ten minutes. It's normal for the progress bar to stay at 20 percent for a while, so don't worry about that. If the results of the DISM command state that anything was changed, restart your PC and you should then be able to run the SFC command successfully. If you're still experiencing system problems and the SFC and DISM commands don't help, you can try more drastic actions. Running the System Restore tool will restore your Windows operating system files, settings, and applications to an earlier state. This may fix system corruption problems if the operating system wasn't also damaged at the earlier point when the restore point was created. An if all else fails, you could always resort to performing a system reset or reinstalling Windows. On Windows 8, 10, and 11 you can perform a "Reset this PC" operation to reset Windows to its default state. You'll have the option to keep your personal files in place — though you'll have to reinstall programs — or to remove everything and do a complete reinstall. Whichever you choose, make sure you've backed up your PC first! On Windows 7 and earlier, this will require using your computer's manufacturer-provided recovery partition or reinstalling Windows from scratch. If you encounter other errors while running any of the commands we've covered, try searching the web for the specific errors you encounter. The commands will often point you to log files with more information if they fail — check the logs for more details about specific problems. Ultimately, it may not be worth troubleshooting serious Windows corruption problems when you can just reset Windows to its default state or reinstall it. That decision will be up to you. When you have problems with your computer, Windows system files may become corrupted or go missing. This might be caused by sudden power drops, hardware malfunctions, a hard disk or solid-state drive approaching its end of life, and so on. If Windows reports that it can't start because some of its files are corrupted or missing, you should use the System File Checker (SFC) tool in the Command Prompt. You should do the same when Windows starts to blue screen on you with weird corruption related errors. SFC scans all the Windows system files on your computer, identifies those that are corrupt or missing, and tries to fix the problems it finds. Here's how to use it: NOTE: This tutorial applies to both Windows 10 and Windows 11, and it also works for older Microsoft operating systems such as Windows 7. If Windows doesn't load because of missing or corrupt system files, you'll have to launch Command Prompt before the boot process. So, first, do that by following any of the methods in this tutorial: How to open Command Prompt when Windows doesn't boot (3 ways). Then, once the Command Prompt is up and running, use the SFC command with the following three additional parameters: /scannow - checks the integrity of all protected system files and attempts to repair them when possible. /offbootdir - specifies the drive or partition that contains the system files required for booting Windows; in most cases, this would be the C: drive. /offwindir - designates the location of the Windows directory, which, in most situations, is the C:\Windows folder. So, if your computer or device uses a standard Windows installation, you will need to run this command: sfc /scannow /offbootdir=C:\ /offwindir=C:\Windows\ … and then press Enter on your keyboard. Running the SFC command before Windows boot What you're basically telling Windows to do when you run the SFC command with the parameters we've shown you is: scan the Windows folder located on the boot partition C: and fix any missing or corrupt system files encountered. Unless you're using a fast SSD as your boot drive, now would be a good time for you to arm yourself with some patience. That's because running the SFC command will take quite a bit of time. Scanning and repairing missing or corrupt system files When the process finishes, you are notified whether issues have been found and resolved or not. For example, if everything is fine with your system files, you will receive a message saying that "Windows Resource Protection did not find any integrity violations." Or, if problems were found and repaired, System File Checker will tell you that "Windows Resource Protection found corrupt files and successfully repaired them." The system file check finished and no broken files were found If there are problematic files that can't be fixed, they are always mentioned in a log file named CBS.log. This file is found in the Windows folder at this exact location: C:\Windows\Logs\CBS\CBS.log Skip to the last chapter in this guide to see how to identify the corrupt or missing files that couldn't be repaired. You may also find yourself in a scenario where Windows loads successfully, but it crashes randomly with a Blue Screen of Death (BSOD) mentioning corruption errors. If this is the situation you're in, start the Command Prompt as an administrator. Then, in the CMD window, type this command: sfc /scannow … and press Enter. The /scannow parameter forces the SFC tool to check the integrity of all system files and attempt to repair any broken or missing files, if possible. Running SFC in Command Prompt Again, unless you have a fast SSD in your computer, arm yourself with some patience. The SFC tool can take a long time to run (at least a couple of minutes). When it's done, you'll see a Verification 100% complete message in the Command Prompt window. If any problems were found during the scan, you are also informed. In our case, SFC found a couple of corrupt files but was able to fix them all. System File Checker found corrupt system files System File Checker logs any broken files that can't be fixed in a file called CBS.log. You'll find it at this path on your Windows PC: C:\Windows\Logs\CBS\CBS.log Read the next section of this guide to see how to identify the system files that couldn't be repaired. Open File Explorer and use it to navigate to the C:\Windows\Logs\CBS folder. Then, double-click or double-tap on the CBS.log file to open it in your default text editor app. By default, that should be Notepad. Results of the SFC CMD command are stored in the CBS log file Then, either scroll down to the end of the file or use the search function in your text editor to look for any entries that begin with the text: Cannot repair member file Those lines of text will tell you which are the missing or corrupted system files that SFC couldn't repair. Then, one of the best things you can do is use your favorite web browser and search engine to look for information online about the files mentioned in the CBS.log file. Hopefully, you'll get some ideas on how to fix them. TIP: You may also want to know how to repair the EFI Bootloader or the MBR (Master Boot Record) for Windows. We hope you'll never have to use the SFC command to repair Windows systems files. More often than not, that's not a nice place to be. However, if your computer has issues, don't hesitate to consider using the System File Checker tool. It might come quite in handy if you have to deal with corrupted or missing system files. If you already encountered such a situation, did SFC manage to help you? Let us know in the comments section below. Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. With the development of information technology, Electronic communication equipment is an indispensable tool for data transfer, especially the computer. Microsoft Windows operating system occupies most of the market land. The most common Windows operating system includes Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, and Windows 10. However, we are going to talk about Windows 7 today. Sometimes, you may want to fix Windows 7 boot with Command Prompt when the Windows 7 PC refuses to boot. Possible reasons for Windows 7 fails to boot Generally, you get these errors due to these elements: 1. Incorrect boot order sequence in BIOS. Thus, check your BIOS boot order to make sure the system hard drive is the first boot device. 2. Damaged system hard drive. Run anti-virus software to see if there is malware, or you might have to replace the system hard drive with a new one. 3. Corrupted system files, including the MBR (Master Boot Record), boot sector, BCD (Boot Configuration Data), etc. The first two factors are easy to resolve. We are going to describe the last factor that caused Windows 7 boot problems. About MBR & Boot Sector& BCD The MBR is the first sector of the system hard drive that tells the computer how to load the operating system and how to partition the hard drive, including the master boot code (called a small amount of executable code), the disk signature, and the partition table for the disk. The Boot sector is a region of hard disk that contains machine code to be loaded into RAM by the computer system's snap-in firmware. It allows the boot process of a computer to load the operating system stored on the same disk. The BCD involves the configuration data required to boot Microsoft Windows Vista, Windows 7, and later. Therefore, if any of the three system files is damaged or corrupted, you cannot boot Windows 7 properly. Command Prompt for Windows 7 boot repair with Bootrec.exe tool The Bootrec.exe tool will troubleshoot and repair these items: ■ A Master Boot Record (MBR). ■ A Boot Sector. ■ A Boot Configuration Data (BCD). ■ Now, you could repair Windows 7 boot using Command Prompt-Bootrec.exe tool with these steps: Now, you could repair Windows 7 boot using Command Prompt-Bootrec.exe tool with these steps: 1. Put the Windows 7 media on computer, and start the computer. 2. Press F8 to display Advanced Boot Options while the computer booting. 3. Select a language, a time, a currency, a keyboard, or an input method, and click Next. 4. Click Repair your computer. 5. Choose the Windows 7 operating system to fix, click Next. 6. In the System Recovery Options dialog box, click Command Prompt to boot repair in Windows 7. 7. Type Bootrec.exe, and then press Enter. Then input these commands and execute one by one: ■ bootrec /FixMbr ■ bootrec /FixBoot ■ bootrec /ScanOs ■ bootrec /RebuildBcd Now, repairing Windows 7 boot problem with Command Prompt should be successful. Alternative to Command Prompt for Windows 7 boot repair Obviously, you could try another reliable way to fix MBR with AOMEI Partition Assistant Standard for Windows 7 boot repair while Command Prompt not working. AOMEI Partition Assistant Standard is a comprehensive partition manager, which allows you to manage your partitions, like resize, move, merge partitions, disk copy, rebuild MBR, etc. You could download it now. Besides, the advanced version of this software you may interested, you could use allocate free space, command line partitioning and even migrate OS to SSD. You will enjoy this software with those magic functions. First of all, please make Windows 7 bootable media with AOMEI Partition Assistant in a normal computer, then fix MBR to repair Windows 7 boot issue, refer to the following words: 1. Put the bootable media into the Windows 7 computer. 2. Then boot your Windows 7 PC from the bootable media. 3. AOMEI Partition Assistant software will execute automatically. On the main console, pitch on the system hard drive and choose Rebuild MBR at the combobox. 4. Set the type of MBR for current Windows 7 OS, tick OK. 5. Confirm the operation at the Pending Operations in the lower left corner. 6. Press Apply to fix command prompt Windows 7 boot issue. Now, you should have fixed the Windows 7 boot issue. Further reading: Repair Windows 7 boot issue automatically Sometimes, the PC could automatically repair the Windows 7 boot problems with the Startup Repair, refer to these steps: 1. Press F8 while booting to enter Advanced Boot Options in Windows 7 Recovery Environment (Windows RE). 2. Click Startup Repair. 3. Then choose the operating system you want to repair. Then wait for the result. The problem should be solved. If Windows 7 still cannot boot, you could try the command prompt-Bootrec.exe tool in the Windows RE to do Windows 7 boot repair. The Windows System File Checker (SFC) is a nifty tool for repairing corrupted files. Here's a quick guide on how you can restore your files and get your PC running normally again. First, you will need to open an elevated Command Prompt (CMD). Basically, you will need to run Command Prompt as an administrator. Run Search and type Command Prompt. Find Command Prompt from the results, right-click it, then select Run as Administrator. Windows 8, Windows 8.1, and Windows 10 users, you will need to run the Deployment Image Servicing and Management (DISM) tool before launching SFC. Note: Windows 7 users can skip ahead to the next step. In the Command Prompt, type the following command then press enter: DISM.EXE /ONLINE /CLEANUP-IMAGE /RESTOREHEALTH DISM will use Windows Update to find files that will replace or repair the corrupted versions. This process could take several minutes. Now we can scan the system for corrupted files. On the Command Prompt, type the command: SFC /SCANNOW With this command, Windows will go through your files and replace the corrupted files. Scanning will take some time. It's important that you do not close the Command Prompt until the scan is 100% complete. Once the scan is finished, you will receive one of the following messages: Windows Resource Protection did not find any integrity violations – Windows was unable to find corrupt files in your hard diskWindows Resource Protection could not perform the requested operation – This means you have to run System File Checker using Safe ModeWindows Resource Protection found corrupt files and successfully repaired them – Windows found the broken files and fixed themWindows Resource Protection found corrupt files but was unable to fix some of them — Windows found corrupt files but was unable to do anything about it You can open the sfcdetails.txt file to view or copy the information gathered from the scan. Use the instructions below to locate the aforementioned text file. Open an elevated Command Prompt and type the following command: FINDSTR /C:"[SR]" %WINDIR%\LOGS\CBS\CBS.LOG >"%USERPROFILE%\DESKTOP\SFCDETAILS.TXT" This will create a copy of the file on your desktop. Open the file and scan through the results. Do note that the file will show all the data, including ones that were gathered from previous SFC runs. You will need to check the time and the date to find specific entries. If SFC fails to replace the broken Windows file, you can try doing so manually. This is possible as long as you know where the corrupt file is located. You will also need a good copy of that file so it can be replaced. Open an elevated Command Prompt and type the following command: TAKEOWN /F Remember to replace with the path of the corrupt file. This command will allow you to take ownership of the infected file. CMD will inform you if the takeover is a success. Once finished, give administrators access to the corrupt file. Do so by typing the following command: ICACLS /GRANT ADMINISTRATORS:F Again, remember to replace with the corrupt file path. Now you can replace the bad file with the good version. You will need to copy the good file and paste it where the old one is. Type the following command: COPY Replace with the file location of the good copy and replace with the path of the corrupt version. "After some recent critical Windows updates were installed on this Windows 7 laptop, the system started going into the Startup Repair loop. The loop continues after each restart and never finds a solution to the problem. is there any feasible way to fix Windows 7 startup repair loop issue? I don't want to reinstall Windows 7, which is troublesome. " Startup Repair is one of the recovery tools to help you fix issue when your operating system won't boot or you cannot use safe mode. It can scan your computer and fix missing or corrupted system files that cause Windows boot failure to make your computer boot normally. Sometimes you may encounter Windows 7 not booting problems, Windows 7 Startup Repair loop, for example, and this may be caused vby different factors, such as damaged system partition, corrupted system files, problematic update, viruses, etc. Disable Startup Repair to Prevent Endless Restart The first step to preventing the Startup Repair loop and endless restarts is to disable it. 1. Restart your computer and press F8 repeatedly when you see the Windows log, and release it after you see the Advanced boot options window. 2. Choose "Disable automatic restart on system failure" and press "Enter". How to Fix Windows 7 Startup Repair Loop via Command Prompt After disabling Startup Repair in the Advanced boot options, you can continue to fix Windows Startup Repair using Command Prompt CHKDSK or Bootrec. The CHKDSK helps scan the integrity of the file system errors or bad sectors and fix it finds. The Bootrec helps to fix master boot records, boot sectors, and rebuild BCD. You could first try the CHKDSK repair command and then Bootrec. Please follow the steps in each method. 1. Run CHKDSK in Windows 7 before Boot 1. Start your computer, press and hold F8 until you see the Advanced boot options window. Select Repair your computer and hit Enter. 2. Here you will see the System Recovery Options window, click "Command Prompt". 3. In the Command Prompt window, type "chkdsk /f/r" and Press the "Enter" key. After the process finishes, you can exit from Command Prompt and check whether you can boot Windows 7 computer normally. If not, you can continue to use Bootrec. 2. Fix Windows 7 Startup Repair Loop via Bootrec 1. Select Command Prompt again in the Advanced boot options window. 2. In the Command Prompt window, type the following commands and hit "Enter" to repair boot sectors or MBR. bootrec /fixmbr bootrec /fixboot bootrec /scannos bootrec /rebuildbcd PS: You can click here to learn more about the Bootrec commands. Create a System Image to Prevent Windows 7 not Booting Again You definitely don't want to see the Windows 7 Startup Repair loop error when your computer behaves abnormally, you just want to make it run as usual. However, sometimes, things may become really troublesome, then you need to fix Windows 7 startup repair loop first. If you don't want to experience this again, creating a system image with free backup software like AOMEI Backupper Standard will be a great choice. With it, you can easily restore your computer to an earlier date and let it work properly, even system crash or hard disk corruption. It allows you to schedule backup system on a regular basis, such as daily, weekly, or monthly. And more precisely, you can set backup date, times, and intervals for your task. Once you enable a scheduled backup, by default, it will back up only changed files (with Incremental Backup) to greatly save backup time and disk space. You can backup system to USB flash drive, external hard drive, network drive, NAS, etc. Not only Windows 7, it still supports Windows 8, 8.1, 10,11, XP, and Vista, both 32 bit and 64 bit. Free download AOMEI Backupper Standard. Install and run it. 1. In the main interface, click "System Backup" under the "Backup" tab. You are also allowed to backup disk, partition, or files if you want. 2. AOMEI Backupper will select system partition and other system-related partitions automatically. Here you just need to choose the destination path to save your backup. It can be a local path, network or NAS devices, or cloud drive. 3. In the Operation Summary window, set backup settings if necessary and click "Start Backup" to backup your Windows 7 system. Tips: Click "Backup options" to set compression level, image splitting, backup encryption, etc. Click "Schedule Backup" and select Daily, Weekly, or Monthly, depending on how often you want it to happen. Or you could use Event triggers and USB plug-in on the professional version or higher. Click"Backup Scheme" to set backup methods (Full/Incremental/Differential Backup) and cleanup methods(By quantity/By time/By daily/weekly/monthly/By Space). The cleanup methods vary on the selected backup method. After this operation, you can create a bootable media using AOMEI Backupper, thus you can boot your computer even if it fails to start. It requires you to prepare a USB drive or CD/DVD. If you have neither of them, try Recovery Environment or AOMEI PXE Boot. Besides, you can also clone system or disk for OS migration. It allows you to replace HDD with SSD and directly from it without restoring backup image. Summary You can easily fix Windows 7 Startup Repair loop using CHKDSK or Bootrec Command Prompt. This may not be user-friendly to all users, especially novices, if you don't want to encounter this problem or a similar one, for example, DISM error 87, you can choose to create a system image and save it to a safe place with free backup software like AOMEI Backupper Standard. You need to schedule backup Windows 7 to keep your files always on track. Otherwise, it only includes files current on the system partition. That's to say, you will lose all the changes made after this backup. At the same time, you have to manage backup disk space with options, backup methods, and clean methods to free up more space.