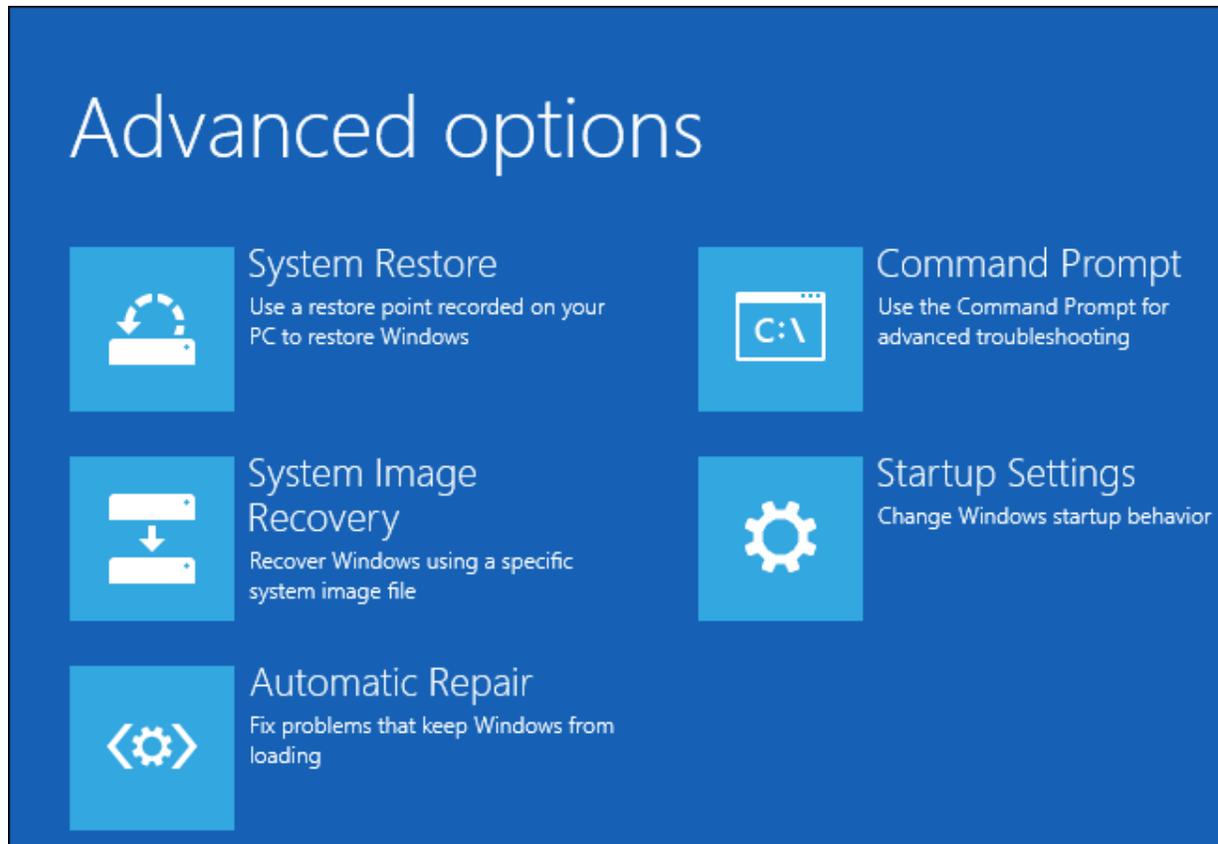


WHEN IN TROUBLE, TRY THE ADVANCED STARTUP OPTIONS

To access the advanced Startup options, open **Settings**, select Update & security, select Recovery, and click Reset this PC: get started.

From here, you can restore Windows from a system image you created earlier, use system restore to correct problems, and perform other maintenance tasks. This menu should also appear if your computer attempts to boot properly and can't.



A CLEAN REINSTALL OF WINDOWS

Reinstalling Windows is an important strategy for anyone who wants to start over with a clean copy of the operating system. By doing so, you can remove bloatware, wipe out malware, and fix other system problems.

A full, clean reinstall is different from the *Reset This PC* option, or a manufacturer's *recovery partition*. Those built-in options will set your PC back to its factory-default state—which could include some vendor-installed junk you never wanted anyway. A **clean install** uses the generic Windows installation media

that you can download from Microsoft (<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windows10/>), and it'll have just the OS, no other frills.

You shouldn't need to regularly reinstall Windows to keep it performing well. But, if a computer is bogged down by startup programs, context menu items, and years of junk, reinstalling Windows may be the quickest way to speed it up again.

Reinstalling Windows can also save a computer infected with malware and other system problems caused by software issues.

Before you begin, back up all of your personal data. (Your File History backup system that is explained in the next chapter should accomplish this task.) While you should back up your data regularly, it is especially important to do so just before reinstalling an operating system.