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***Fixing “Weird Issues” under Windows 10 or 11 Using Deployment Imaging Servicing and Management (DISM) and System File Checker (SFC)***

Note: Based on recent changes in Microsoft documentation, [Use the System File Checker tool to repair missing or corrupted system files](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/topic/use-the-system-file-checker-tool-to-repair-missing-or-corrupted-system-files-79aa86cb-ca52-166a-92a3-966e85d4094e), I have changed the order in which I recommend these two utilities be run. Both SFC and DISM ***must*** be run in an elevated Command Prompt or PowerShell session with administrator privileges in order to do their work. Whichever you use it must be invoked with the “Run as Administrator” option.

1. To open a PowerShell session using the “Run as Administrator” option (note: PowerShell is a bit slower about opening up and being ready to go than Command Prompt is, but it’s easier to invoke):
   1. Hit the Windows Key + X, followed by A
   2. You will then get a prompt from User Account Control asking whether you wish to allow this program to make changes to your computer, and you will answer with, “Yes.”
   3. The PowerShell window with administrator privilege will open with the window frame label, **Administrator: Windows PowerShell**
2. To open a Command Prompt window using the "Run as Administrator" option:
   1. Hit the Windows Key then immediately start typing “Command Prompt.” Usually just the “Command” part is enough. You will then almost certainly have the Command Prompt desktop app returned as the first item in the search results.
   2. Gain focus on it and bring up the context menu either via right click or hitting the menu/applications key (if your machine has one) or SHIFT + F10 if it does not.
   3. Select “Run as administrator” from the context menu that appears. You will then get a prompt from User Account Control asking whether you wish to allow this program to make changes to your computer, and you will answer with, “Yes.”
   4. The Command Prompt window with administrator privilege will open with the window frame label, **Administrator: Command Prompt**

**NOTE**: Microsoft now recommends running DISM first, prior to using SFC. **I generally run both** even if what I run first comes back clean simply because nothing can be harmed by doing so, and I have found that each utility has, on occasion, found and fixed something the other did not.

If you are having "weird problems" with any Windows system, the first thing you should do is to run Deployment Imaging Servicing and Management (DISM). In the elevated Command Prompt or PowerShell window, enter this command:

**DISM /Online /Cleanup-Image /RestoreHealth**

When it's finished look at its output to see if it found any corrupt files and whether it was able to fix them.

If DISM reports that it was unable to fix something, it's also worth running the System File Checker (SFC):

**SFC /scannow**

I have had occasions where SFC has applied fixes when DISM did not, and occasions where DISM applied fixes SFC did not when I used to run SFC first, before Microsoft advised using DISM first.

SFC may be able to fix errors that DISM may not be able to fix. You can run it even if DISM comes back clean if you wish, as that will not hurt anything and it might find something DISM does not. If you want to be *really* thorough, after running SFC, and presuming it reports that all has been fixed, restart your machine and run DISM one final time. The DISM result after the restart should be clean. Typically, you will be done at this point.

If having done the above does not correct your issue, I then recommend following the instructions for [Doing a Windows 10 or 11 Repair Install or Feature Update Using the Windows ISO file](https://drive.google.com/uc?export=download&id=1RZiHlLVtXewYBgoSvJNm9_08hj1tALPK).