

BSOD Quick Diagnosis Handbook

Practical computer help written for everyday users

Safety: Back up important data when possible. Power off and unplug equipment before opening a computer. Stop if you see liquid damage, smoke, burning smell, or a failing drive.

Start here

- Photograph the stop code and note what you were doing.
- Disconnect nonessential USB devices.
- Back up important files if Windows still starts.
- Change one variable at a time and test after each change.

First checks

- Install pending Windows updates.
- Check Device Manager for warning icons.
- Run Windows Memory Diagnostic.
- Check drive health with the drive manufacturer tool.
- Restore BIOS defaults if overclocking, XMP, or EXPO is enabled.

Safe Windows commands

- Open Terminal as administrator.
- Run: `sfc /scannow`
- Run: `DISM /Online /Cleanup-Image /RestoreHealth`
- Run: `chkdsk /scan`

When to stop

- Stop if the drive clicks, disappears, or reports critical health.

- Stop if there is burning smell, liquid damage, or repeated power loss.
- Seek professional help when data is irreplaceable.

This guide is educational and cannot identify every hardware or data-loss risk remotely. Use the exact manual for your device or motherboard when firmware settings differ.