

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [factory reset my hp laptop with a fresh windows 10](#)

Lifer999 - April 13, 2025, 6:26 pm

i did a factory reset on my hp laptop and now it seems to run even slower then before. i did a fresh reset erasing all programs and files, wanting to start fresh. now after reset the laptop runs even slower then before. why is that?

Rsynced - April 13, 2025, 6:28 pm

Maybe you should just wipe the drive completely and manually install windows instead of factory reset?

Factory reset is putting back any 3rd party bloatware that system originally came with.

Charlie Sheen - April 13, 2025, 6:31 pm

Has everything been updated post refresh?

Was any bloatware reinstalled after the refresh?

How long ago did you do the reset? Usually after a reformat the computer will run some background tasks for a while where it's indexing files, optimizing drives, and downloading updates.

Rsynced - April 13, 2025, 6:35 pm

I forgot to mention you can get your windows key using <https://www.magicaljellybean.com/keyfinder/>

Just reinstall fresh windows using that key. You can dl your drivers beforehand to a usb.

(Apr 13, 2025 06:31 PM)Charlie Sheen Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Has everything been updated post refresh?
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Oh ya, it could be running windows update, that's a good point.

Pr0m3th3us - April 13, 2025, 6:41 pm

Why did you do the reset in the first place? Did you suspect malware? A reset doesnt get rid of malware....

check out this thread if you think you have malware.

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=6292276>

Rsynced - April 13, 2025, 6:54 pm

(Apr 13, 2025 06:41 PM)Rustoleum Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Why did you do the reset in the first place? Did you suspect malware? A reset doesnt get rid of malware....

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<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=6292275>

So true, the malware can infect your recovery partition, so it will just put itself back on, if not even worsen the infection.

Just wipe all partitions using a bootable USB drive using GParted: <https://gparted.org/livecd.php>

Lifer999 - April 13, 2025, 7:11 pm

(Apr 13, 2025 06:41 PM)Rustoleum Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Why did you do the reset in the first place? Did you suspect malware? A reset doesnt get rid of malware....

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the main reason i decided to do the reset was because i was given this laptop from my mom who didnt use it anymore and i wanted to use this computer strictly for my cyber security courses i just started taking and only want to use this computer for homeowork and research. it wasnt running slow at all before the reset. it was acually pretty quick, but i thought if i did the reset and got rid of ay apps on here werent from the original factory windows 10 i wanted gone. i guess i didnt correctly resett it? thanks again for the reply

Pr0m3th3us - April 13, 2025, 7:14 pm

(Apr 13, 2025 07:11 PM)Lifer999 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) the main reason i decided to do the reset was because i was given this laptop from my mom who didnt use it anymore and i wanted to use this computer strictly for my cyber security courses i just started taking and only want to use this computer for homeowork and research. it wasnt running slow at all before the reset. it was acually pretty quick, but i thought if i did the reset and got rid of ay apps on here werent from the original factory windows 10 i wanted gone. i guess i didnt correctly resett it? thanks again for the reply

Well in that case is there anything you or your mom needs on it? If not, wipe that thing and reinstall windows.

Tyr - April 13, 2025, 7:28 pm

One thing I must add to this, as it seems you are already receiving some decent help here.

From what I have read (correct me if I missed a part of the thread; currently multitasking) your next move should be a full, clean installation of Windows using Microsoft's Media Creation Tool on a known-good USB stick. During setup, you should delete all partitions—especially the recovery and system reserved ones—to ensure total wipe of potentially compromised sectors. After that, flash the BIOS using HP's official firmware to eliminate any lingering firmware-level threats and re-secure the system with updated UEFI, TPM, and Secure Boot settings.

Malware with deep persistence mechanisms can corrupt the Master File Table (MFT), obfuscate itself from standard detection tools, and in worst-case scenarios, escalate to the UEFI/BIOS level to maintain control even after a reinstall. That's why performance degradation post-reset isn't just about bloatware—it could also point to unresolved corruption or stealth-level infections.

If you need additional help with some more detailed steps behind carrying this out, please don't feel afraid to ask. A lot of what I said correlates mostly to rootkit and/or bootkit behavior but I tend to like to make other people aware of pieces of code that can remain dormant in sectors of your drive.

Keep us updated. I will add more to this when I am off the phone if I remember before the next reply.

Bastille - April 13, 2025, 11:18 pm

Hello,

Boot or rootkit are the only ones that can persist after a reset, but they are very rare. Did you reinstall the same OS ? Windows 11 can be greedy regarding resources. What's the configuration ? What OS did you install ?

If you think there is a virus feel free to ask for a check of your computer, take a look here :

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=6292275>

Tyr - April 13, 2025, 11:40 pm

(Apr 13, 2025 11:18 PM)Bastille Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Hello,

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Extremely rare and hopefully the worst case-scenario for him, yeah. I highly doubt it is anything of that nature but I always plan for the worst sometimes.

Anyway, keep us updated @OP.

DramaKing - April 14, 2025, 2:18 am

(Apr 13, 2025 06:35 PM)Rsynced Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I forgot to mention you can get your windows key using <https://www.magicaljellybean.com/keyfinder/>

Just reinstall fresh windows using that key. You can dl your drivers beforehand to a usb.

Oh ya, it could be running windows update, that's a good point.

User does not need a Windows key unless he's using a local account only.

Lifer999 - April 14, 2025, 2:24 am

(Apr 13, 2025 11:40 PM)Tyr Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Extremely rare and hopefully the worst case-scenario for him, yeah. I highly doubt it is anything of that nature but I always plan for the worst sometimes.

Anyway, keep us updated @OP.

for some reason that link wont open. i get a page with a list of about 6 reasons why it wont open and all reasons have nothing to do with me or my account

Rsynced - April 14, 2025, 10:41 am

(Apr 14, 2025 02:18 AM)DramaKing Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) User does not need a Windows key unless he's using a local account only.

If you completely wipe the drives partitions and reinstall windows via media creator it will prompt for your windows key.

DramaKing - April 14, 2025, 12:02 pm

(Apr 14, 2025 10:41 AM)Rsynced Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If you completely wipe the drives partitions and reinstall windows via media creator it will prompt for your windows key.

False. Only if using a local account or Windows 8.1 or earlier. I've installed Windows 1/11 a number of times and had it automatically activate.

Pr0m3th3us - April 14, 2025, 12:11 pm

(Apr 14, 2025 02:24 AM)Lifer999 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) for some reason that link wont open. i get a page with a list of about 6 reasons why it wont open and all reasons have nothing to do with me or my account

What link? You mean the "preparation guide"?

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=6292276>

Rsynced - April 14, 2025, 12:35 pm

(Apr 14, 2025 12:02 PM)DramaKing Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) False. Only if using a local account or Windows 8.1 or earlier. I've installed Windows 1/11 a number of times and had it automatically activate. I agree it's hit or miss depending on if the license is embedded in the firmware. Not all models have this feature. I know most modern dell laptops do...

DramaKing - April 14, 2025, 12:36 pm

(Apr 14, 2025 12:35 PM)Rsynced Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I agree it's hit or miss depending on if the license is embedded in the firmware. Not all models have this feature. I know most modern dell laptops do... Not the firmware. Digital licenses are stored on Microsoft's activation servers as long as a Microsoft account is logged in.

Rsynced - April 14, 2025, 1:03 pm

(Apr 14, 2025 12:36 PM)DramaKing Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Not the firmware. Digital licenses are stored on Microsoft's activation servers as long as a Microsoft account is logged in.

I am always prompted for a key when I reinstall windows. So if I just skip the key and update they will activate via HWID or something? Btw, I do not link a live account ever.

DramaKing - April 14, 2025, 1:26 pm

(Apr 14, 2025 01:03 PM)Rsynced Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I am always prompted for a key when I reinstall windows. So if I just skip the key and update they will activate via HWID or something? Btw, I do not link a live account ever.

The license should still be linked to the HWID. If Windows doesn't activate automatically and you have the key, you can always manually activate.

BTW, any plans to use Windows 11? You can kind of still work around the Internet and account login requirements for now, but....

Rsynced - April 14, 2025, 1:31 pm

(Apr 14, 2025 01:26 PM)DramaKing Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The license should still be linked to the HWID. If Windows doesn't activate automatically and you have the key, you can always manually activate.

BTW, any plans to use Windows 11? You can kind of still work around the Internet and account login requirements for now, but....

I'm an XP for life guy, turned win7 for life, now turned win10 for life, so not anytime soon. I have it on my alienware laptop cause its better for games, but that's about it.

Lifer999 - April 15, 2025, 7:30 pm

whats your guys opinion on Macafee Anti Virus software? i have the macafee live safe internet security program on this laptop and it scanned the computer and the conclusion was that no viruses were found. the main issue im having with this laptop is how long it takes for a program to open up. or the laptop will be in sleep mode and it takes a solid minute or two for the screen to come on and allow me to enter in the pin code. im in the middle of doing a reset with a fresh iso file on a usb. ill let you know how it goes. thanks everyone for the help. i appreciate it.

Lefty - April 15, 2025, 8:39 pm

I would erase the HDD and then do a clean install. Try and find a version that doesn't have all the bloatware also

Lifer999 - April 17, 2025, 2:50 pm

TO ALL WHO HELPED IN THE COMMENTS!!!

UPDATE!

i did a reset in the settings under the recovery section, i selected to delete everything and reinstall windows with a fresh Windows image through the cloud. it took a few hours to compete and now that its finished every issue i had from taking forever to be able to enter the pin to log in to all the applications taking forever to open up are all fixed. the laptop is basically running as if it was fresh out the box.

before i do anything on this laptop can i please get some input on whats the next best step in keeping my identity anything else i do on this computer 100% anonymous. i have a Tunnel Bear login that ive used for a few years and it always seemed to work fine for me. should i use a different VPN? i only really use Tunnelbear because i dont pay for it. i downloaded firefox and tunnelbear and thats it.

how long is too long to keep a laptop on? in the past i have kept the charging cord plugged into the laptop and inever really shut off the laptop. there have been times when i have unplugged the charging cord and the battery life is still seams pretty healthy. it goes into sleep mode after 20 min. is that fine what im doing with the cord always plugged in?

thanks again everyone.

Depicide - April 27, 2025, 10:53 am

These are my steps for when a fresh install isn't working the way it should.

1) use thumb drive with ShredOS and do a 3 layer pass
- what this does is fill your SSD with random characters in an attempt to push anything attempting to stay on the drive out of it.

You can find it here - https://github.com/PartialVolume/shredos.x86_64

2) After fresh install, use a bash script to removal bloat ware.
- this is the one I use for windows 10

You can find it here - <https://github.com/Syncnex/Windows10Debloater>

3) Look for persistent files

- Using malware and virus scanners to see if there are any persistent files around the computer after debloating and conducting the shred.

4) Restart computer and scan again

- Some bootkits and rootkits can trigger scripts after a reset or shutdown and turn back on. Scanning for these new files will let you know if the ShredOS worked or if you are still shit outta luck and need a different approach.

(Apr 17, 2025 02:50 PM)Lifer999 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) TO ALL WHO HELPED IN THE COMMENTS!!!

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thanks again everyone.

There are a lot of great ways to hide your identity but it all starts with having a solid sock puppet.

1) don't use anything that comes back to you

- This includes emails, phone numbers, names, cards

2) Use a sms service for voip numbers and emails

- I've used simple login for years and have a voip app service I use for registering online places.

This way if a data leak occurs it's my burner number and not my actual number. The email created with forward the emails to my personal box but at face value, it will be a dead end

3) Use a VPN, proxy chains, tor

- I use hide.me VPN because it works well with routers, and it's 10 devices for a a decent amount.

Using something to block your original IP is always recommended

4) Encryption

- I use veracrypt for my windows computer and encrypt the SSD holding the OS and any others as a segregation or resources and files.

5) Have a good malware and virus scanner

- Malwarebytes, Virus Total, these are good starts. Using recovery tools can also be used to look for patched malware files.

Like this one - <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/download/farbar-recovery-scan-tool/>

Lastly just be aware that windows 10 will be coming up on its end of life in October of this year. As there will be no more security updates and patches.

If you ever have questions about creating a sock puppet, feel free to PM me with any questions

jambi117711 - May 7, 2025, 10:48 pm

Did you run windows and general hardware updates on it after re-installing windows? Im sure i has quite a few updates.