

Recover a Corrupted Windows XP System with NTLDR or NTDETECT Missing and Other Boot Issues

When the system displays a msg on booting of "missing" NTLDR or NTDETECT, you can copy these files via Recovery Console from the CD-ROM to the system and replace them, assuming they are damaged/missing.

Boot from the Win XP CD into the Recovery Console

You will be automatically place in the WinNT folder

Backup to the root dir with

```
cd ..
```

```
dir
```

Now that you know where your Windows install is located, navigate to the CDROM, usually D:

```
d:
```

```
dir
```

```
copy d:\i386\NTLDR
```

```
overwrite file y/n {y}
```

```
copy d:\i386\ntdetect.com
```

```
overwrite file y/n {y}
```

That's it!

Notes For Other Boot Issues

From the Recovery Console an administrator can:

- 1 - create and remove directories, and copy, erase, display, and rename files
- 2 - enable and disable services in the registry, to take effect when the system is next rebooted
- 3 - repair the boot file, using the bootcfg command
- 4 - write a new master boot record to a disk, using the fixmbr command
- 5 - write a new volume boot record to a volume, using the fixboot command
- 6 - format volumes
- 7 - expand files from the compressed format in which they are stored on the installation CD-ROM
- 8 - perform a full CHKDSK scan to repair corrupted disks and files, especially if the computer cannot be started properly

bootcfg

Bootcfg is a command on Windows NT operating systems which acts as a wrapper for editing boot.ini.

A similar command exists in the Recovery Console for repairing or rebuilding boot configuration files.

Though NTLDR and boot.ini are no longer used to boot Windows Vista and later versions of Windows NT, they ship with the bootcfg utility regardless. This is to handle boot.ini in the case that a multi-boot configuration with previous versions of Windows exists and needs troubleshooting from within the later operating system.

Windows Vista and later operating systems will warn users who run bootcfg that BCDEdit is the correct command to modify its booting options.

For non-functioning systems you can enter the following command in the Recovery Console:

```
bootcfg /rebuild
```

scans your computer for Windows NT, Windows 2000, Windows XP, or Windows Server 2003 installations, and then displays the results. From this screen, you can add the detected Windows installations to the Startup menu.

Once in Windows XP you can Edit the boot.ini

1. In Control Panel, double-click System.
2. On the Advanced tab, click Startup and Recovery, and then click Settings.
3. Under System Startup, click Edit.
4. You must save your changes, and then click OK to leave the Startup and Recovery window before the changes to the Boot.ini file are seen.
5. Click Start, click Run, and then type: msconfig to start the System Configuration utility.
6. Click the Boot.ini tab.

MBR

What is the MBR? MBR stands for Master Boot Record and it's the first sector of your hard drive that basically tells the BIOS where to look for the operating system on your computer.

If, for any reason, the MBR becomes damaged or corrupt, then the operating system will be unable to load. You will normally see error

messages like:

Error loading operating system

Missing operating system

Invalid partition table

Using fixmbr

All of your data, applications, settings, etc are still intact on the drive and once the MBR is fixed, the computer will load normally. To repair it load up the Recovery Console and run a simple command.

Now at the prompt, type in `fixmbr`. Your damaged MBR will now be replaced with a new master boot record and your computer should now be able to boot properly. Note that you may also want to run the `fixboot` command to repair the boot sector with a new one.

`fixmbr` device name

Use this command to repair the MBR of the boot partition. In the command syntax, device name is an optional device name that specifies the device that requires a new MBR. Use this command if a virus has damaged the MBR and Windows cannot start.

Using fixboot

`fixboot` drive name:

Use this command to write the new Windows boot sector code on the system partition. In the command syntax, drive name is the drive letter where the boot sector will be written. This command fixes damage in the Windows boot sector. This command overrides the default setting, which writes to the system boot partition. The `fixboot` command is supported only on x86-based computers.