

# Rebuild or Reload or Restore your Computer to Factory Image for a Dell Inspiron 580 Windows 7 - 64 bit

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## Important Notes before you begin

- If you are using (1) A cloned drive that is larger than 1 Tera Byte or larger than the original that came with your system, or (2) A drive that you have modified in some way such as adding another operating system to, or (3) Have successfully booted after making it through all these reload instructions, then be sure to check for a major possible problem as follows:
  - The first boot, or soon after, make certain that you can do a Windows Updates as follows:
    - Start > Computer > System Properties (top) > Windows Update (bottom) > Check for Updates (even if says none available)
    - If you cannot do an update, see below 'keep these other thoughts in mind'
- There is a Dell Inspiron 580 PDF setup manual available [here](#) that will explain how to do this restore, however, after you study it, you may want to come back here for a step by step walk through, especially since there are some potential problems, and hard learned lessons here.
- When you first got your Computer, you should have burned to a (1) DVD or (2) BlueRay or (3) USB drive - using Dell DataSafe (a copy of your factory image, which I never did, therefore, I don't know for sure if it can be done or, if so, how to do it. You would want this image in case you're hard drive ever completely crashed - meaning the factory image partition would be unavailable from the hard drive. Again, if I understand correctly, having the Dell DataSafe backup would mean you could restore to a completely new hard drive if yours crashed. In this reload, I will be using the factory image that is safely kept on my C: hard drive in a partition where no virus could ever write to it. I think it was HP that first used this practice many years ago, perhaps 12 years ago.
- If you use a USB drive with the system image on it, you will probably need to go into your PC setup (figure this out before your restore) to make your system see that.
- You will need to know the system user name and password to perform the reload - When you rebuild the system, use the same user name so that restoring the User files will be easier - also do not use a system password until you get all updated, mainly because you will be rebooting many times.
- Don't depend on having a packaged anti-virus program with your reload because even though one could have originally been, the license could have expired

- The hardest part of this task is getting Windows to do updates on the operating system. My factory image was 5 years old and so it took a significant amount of time in the neighborhood of 10 hours of hand to hand combat. There were times when I had to halt the updates because they were hung up. I had to search the web and rename folders and download single updates to finally get through it. The difficulty will depend on how old your machine is and how good you are working with windows. I have tried to give you knowledge here to help you, however, every time I do a reload things work a bit differently, so it's hard for me to supply you with all the information you will need. There is one point in doing my updates where I have to download one single Windows update file named KB3135445 and get it installed by running it from my download folder. Note that when the time comes to needed it (about half way through all my updates) you will be able to go to youtube.com and watch a video on how to use this file when updates fail to find, download, or install.
- When doing Windows updates, always force the system to check for new updates even though it may say there are none available. Sometimes this process can take awhile (depending on how old the image is - it took me at least 8 hours or more just for updates - don't start reloading anything until all your updates are done). Remove anti-virus programs while you are doing updates. At one point, I had to wait 2-3 hours for 228 updates to download, install, and then configure after rebooting.
- One of my reloads required that I clear out all the files inside c:\windows\softwaredistribution. There is information on the web about this.
- My system took hours to do updates. The update console has a 'list updates' option that you can use to show them so that you know when you are finally receiving the 'Windows 7 Sp1' which in my case came fairly early.
- I would strongly suggest getting all the Updates loaded before moving on to setting up your computer with additional software and user configuration. Don't install your anti-virus software or run it until the updates are done.
- You can still work while the updates are downloading and even when installing but obviously not when you start going through the reboot process where it says things like 'please don't turn off your computer now'.
- Before you start doing updates, see your machine power settings so your machine does not go to sleep while doing them (not sure if it would). Also turn off any screen savers.

## Before you begin

- Please note that the detailed information below may be incorrect and that I cannot be responsible for any losses that you may have
- Beware that there may be errors in these instructions and that you are responsible to doing the correct thing, not me.
- You WILL lose all non operating system files such as your personal pictures and data files. Chrome saved me favorites someone, I assume they keep a database of them - weird because I didn't restore them.
- The Step-by-Step instructions given below are to be used to restore your system back to the FACTORY IMAGE and again this means YOU WILL LOOSE ALL PERSONAL DATA and installed non-system software!
- If you have read the setup manual for this machine (see link above), then you know that this same machine comes with various configuration which means this process is not going to be the same for all Dell Inspiron 580s
- My wireless interface did was built into my Dell Inspiron so it configured without my action. If you have added your own wireless card or USB insert, you will need to have the driver for it so you can configure it after your first boot so that you can start getting updates from the web.

## **Step-by-Step Process to reload your Dell Inspiron 580 from the Factory Image**

- Backup your personal data such as pictures, music, accounting, and etc.
  - Burn CDs
  - Use an External Hard Drive that connects via a USB Port
  - Use Dropbox
  - Use a website that lets you do backups to
  - Use a USB Driver
  - Email things to yourself - whatever it takes
- Take a picture with your smart phone or write down your machine make, model, O/S, memory, speed, etc. See 'my computer' - > properties. Also record all user names that have been set up on your computer. There may be some information in the 'C:\User\[user name]\Appdata\ folder that you want to save but don't try to save all your user information unless you have some time and a large storage device. I saves the folders inside of Appdata that some of my third party software used.
- Keep these other thoughts in mind:
  - Backup your C:\users\[all users you will want to restore]\ (this can be huge so be prepared) - and use the same admin user name
  - Unless you copy your user folder, (see above) you will lose all your browser favorites - this changed now with Chrome which someone remembered mine - so nice.

- Sites the you visit that require passwords that you have chosen to have them remember may not have them available
- If you have configured your client or web based email to log you on automatically without entering a password, find that password and remember it, or change it and remember it!
- Be prepared when you do any banking transactions that your institution might tell you that they do not recognize your machine and therefore want to drill you with some questions.
- Excel Macro files. Copy these to text and save them and back them up because it's complicated where and how they get saved.
- Documents and Settings - save to thumb drives, email them to you etc. I installed a second hard drive in my machine while doing the backups so I could backup to it - you could also use an external drive.
- Any files you may have saved on your desktop (will be in your users folder)
- Any folders that may contain drivers you have added to your machine for third party software.
- Do not backup and restore a folder named "drives" because it comes with the system as does the program files etc. You should know which folders are system folders and therefore should not be copied back to your system.
- Knowledge about what to do if after you load the system the Windows update will not work. There is plenty of material on the web about what to do when updates fail to install and I have had to see a lot of them. As mentioned above, downloading the
- Passwords used by FTP Clients to access clouds or Web sites
- Old programs that you purchased years ago may be hard to find now - try to contact the vendor now to find old version download sites. Record the version of these old programs and contact the vendor so you can ask them where they offer a download of the old version if they still do.
- Find your printer install CD's or check to insure you can still download the drivers by installing a new printer of same type
- Warning - there will usually be something you forgot
- Go through your 'add remove programs' to see a list of Software that you may want to re-install after the reload
- Any PCI boards you have added may have their own drivers which you will want to gather beforehand especially if any are your network wireless cards
- Do not download any third party programs unless you are getting them from the software manufactures own website. Also look carefully to insure that no PUP's are being installed with the software. Always install these very carefully and slowly.
- **HERE WE GO NOW FOR THE RESTORE - you can back out up to a certain point**
- Cross your fingers
- Turn off your Computer
- Turn on your Computer

- Press F8 while your system is booting until you see a black and white non-graphical interface
- Select 'Repair Your Computer when the options appear'. Click Ok/Next
- Wait for a form asking you to enter the keyboard input method or language. I selected from the drop down 'US'. Click Ok/Next
- Wait for next form to display and select from the drop down the user with Administrative privilege. Then also enter that user password. Click OK/Next
- Select 'Dell DataSafe Restore and Emergency Backup'. Click Ok/Next
- You are now presented with the two options below. I have never used option (1) and this step-by-step guide is here to show you how to restore your system back to the Factory Image WITHOUT SAVING YOUR DATA!. If you use option 1 below, then please stop reading now, and proceed on your own.
  - (1) Restore Computer and preserve my new or changed files
  - (2) Select other System Backup and more options
- Again, you are now prompted to select between the next two options. I have never used option (1) and again, this step-by-step guide is here to show you how to restore your system back to the Factory Image WITHOUT SAVING YOUR DATA!. If you use option 1 below, then please stop reading now, and proceed on your own.
  - (1) Backup files and folders
  - (2) Restore my Computer
- Next a form will appear and hopefully inside that form you will see a line listing your Factory Image that will let you highlight to select. If this is the Factory Image you want to restore from, highlight it. If a Factory Image is not displayed, I am sorry but it may mean your hard drive no longer contains it and you will have to contact Dell for the Image or use an image that you have saved on other media.
- If you see the Factory Image, stop and think about whether you want to proceed because you are very close to wiping out all of the data on your Computer!
- AT THIS POINT YOU CAN CLICK CANCEL AND BACKOUT OF THE RELOAD - Do not continue unless you really want to do the restore now. You are now at the point of no return!
- If you are ready to do the Factory Reload, Highlight the Factory Image and click Ok/Next
- You may see an option with two selections in radio buttons. One says “Preserve new or changed files...” And the other says “Restore without preserving...”. Use the option that says “Restore without preserving...”.
- Follow the prompts from here on out and you should see your first boot within a half hour

## **After the first Boot**

- As mentioned above, make sure your system can do a Windows Update. If you cannot, it is serious, please see the discussion about it above.
- See the computer power settings so that your machine does not go to sleep during your updates. Also turn off any screen savers.
- My printer driver software was automatically loaded after the Reload
- See above about doing Windows updates and plan on doing them for 2 to 11 hours at least. Get the anti-virus software going after doing updates but don't go on the web without it.
- If your machine hangs up on reboot doing an update, restart your machine using the power button rather than the power chord because your power button goes through the mother board to insure the hard drive is not writing data.

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