Microsoft System Restore

Larry Wittig
Lexington Computer and Technology Group

What is System Restore?

System Restore helps you restore your computer's system files to an earlier point in time. **It's a way to undo system changes to your computer without affecting your personal files, such as e-mail, documents, or photos.**

Sometimes, the installation of a program or a driver can cause an unexpected change to your computer or cause Windows to behave unpredictably. Usually, uninstalling the program or driver corrects the problem. If uninstalling does not fix the problem, you can try restoring your computer's system to an earlier date when everything worked correctly.

Why do a system restore

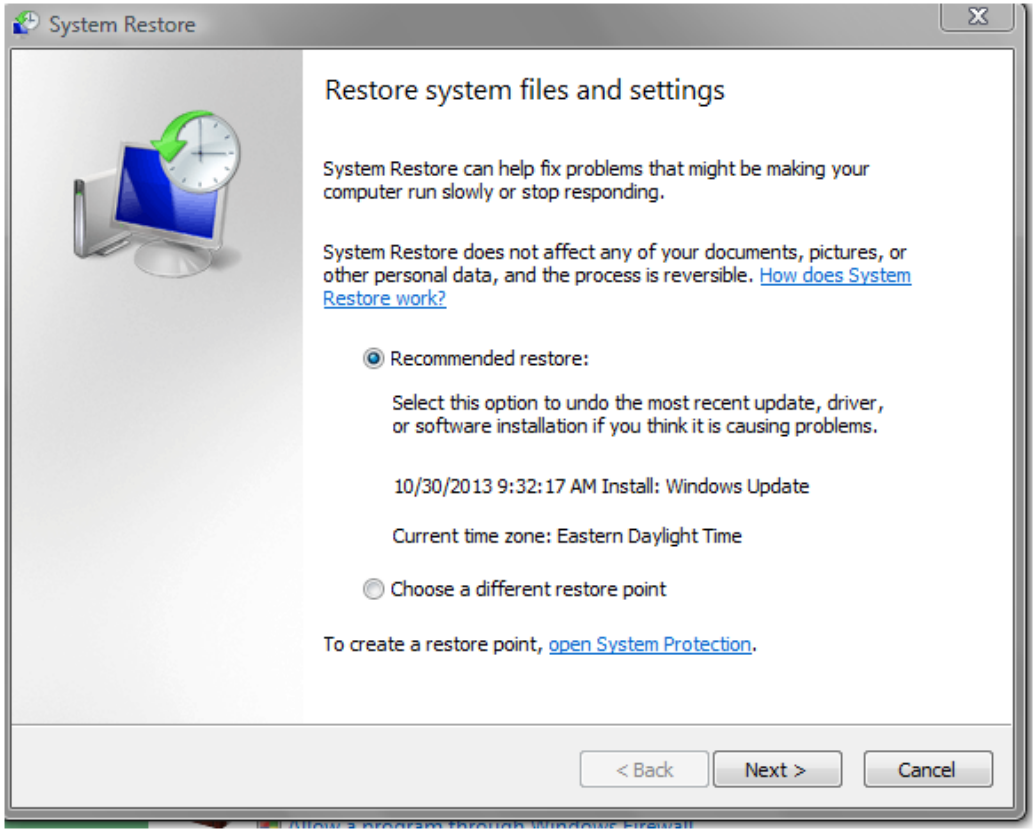
- Your computer stopped working well, but it was working OK a short while ago
- In my case I had malware that redirected Chrome and IE searches to bogus web pages
- I couldn't get rid of with virus scan software – I ran Malware Bytes and did a full scan with Microsoft Security Essentials (and one other product).
- The problem may also have been caused by installing new programs – in this case after you do the restore you may have to reinstall these programs
- So since my machine was working OK a few days ago I decided to do a system restore

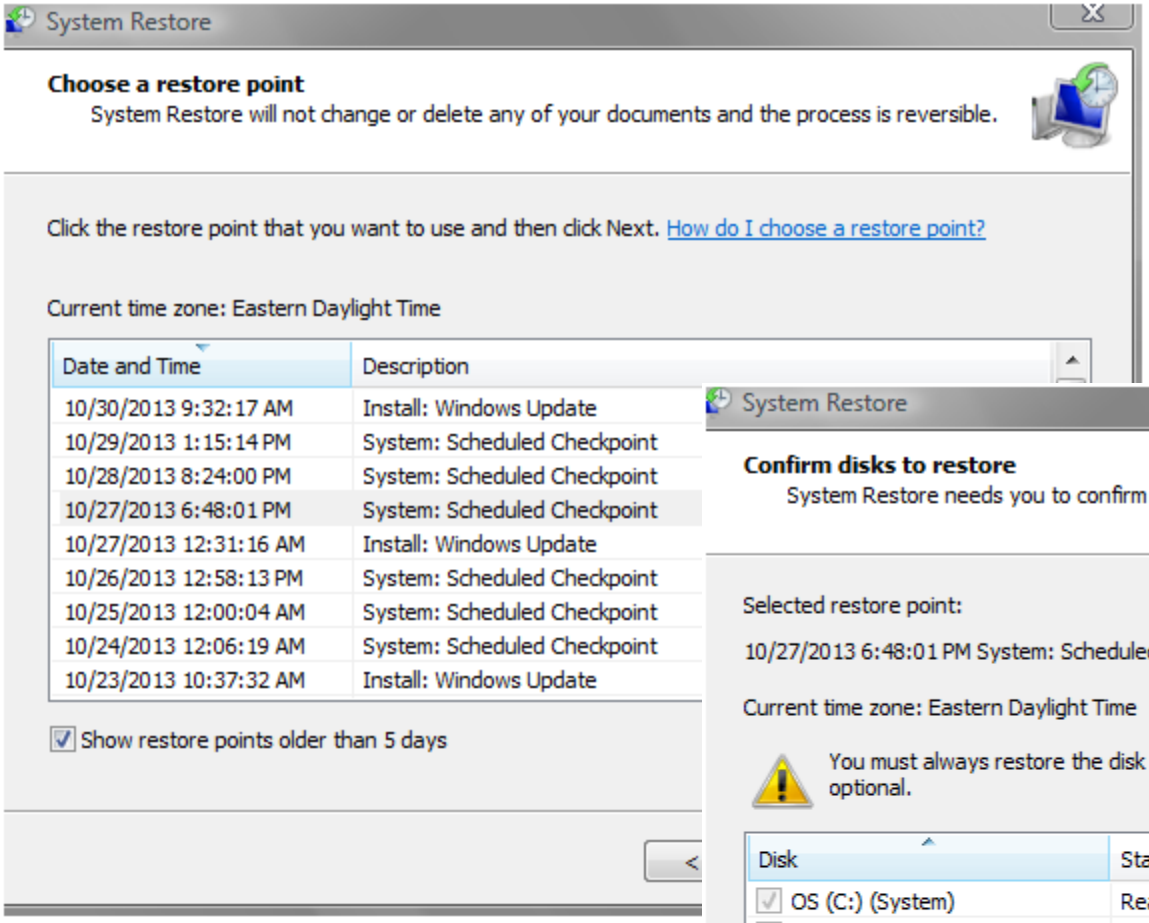
Windows Registry

- Windows stores its configuration information in a database called the registry (The registry editor that ships with Windows is regedit.exe.) The registry contains profiles for each user of the computer and information about system hardware, installed programs, and property settings.
- Registry editors are available that enable you to inspect and modify the registry. However, you should not need to do so. Instead, allow Windows programs to modify the system registry as needed.
- **It is strongly recommended that you do not edit registry settings yourself.**

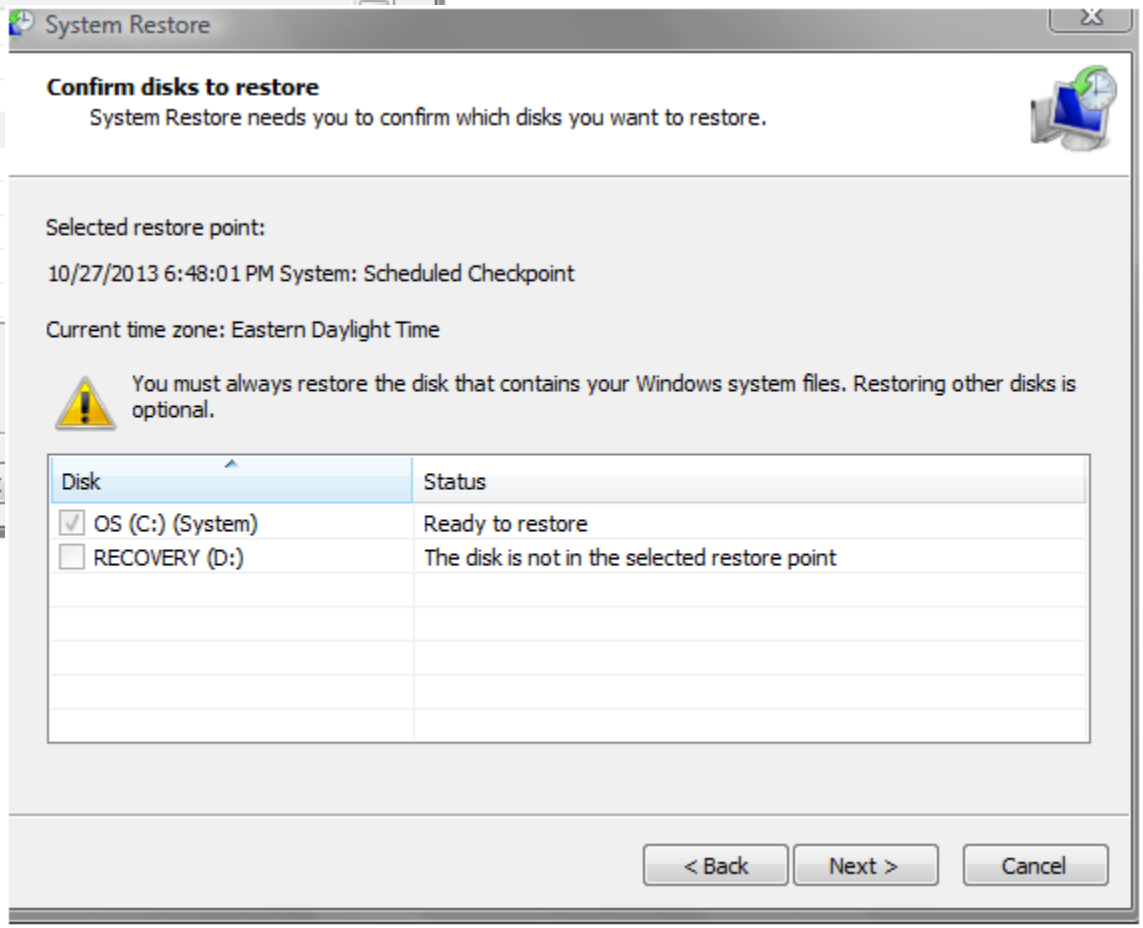
How to do a system restore

- It is recommended that you first backup your recent files
- Go to control panel
- Search for “restore” (or find it some other way)
- Under System click “Restore system files and settings” from a restore point
- Pick what time/date you want to go back to



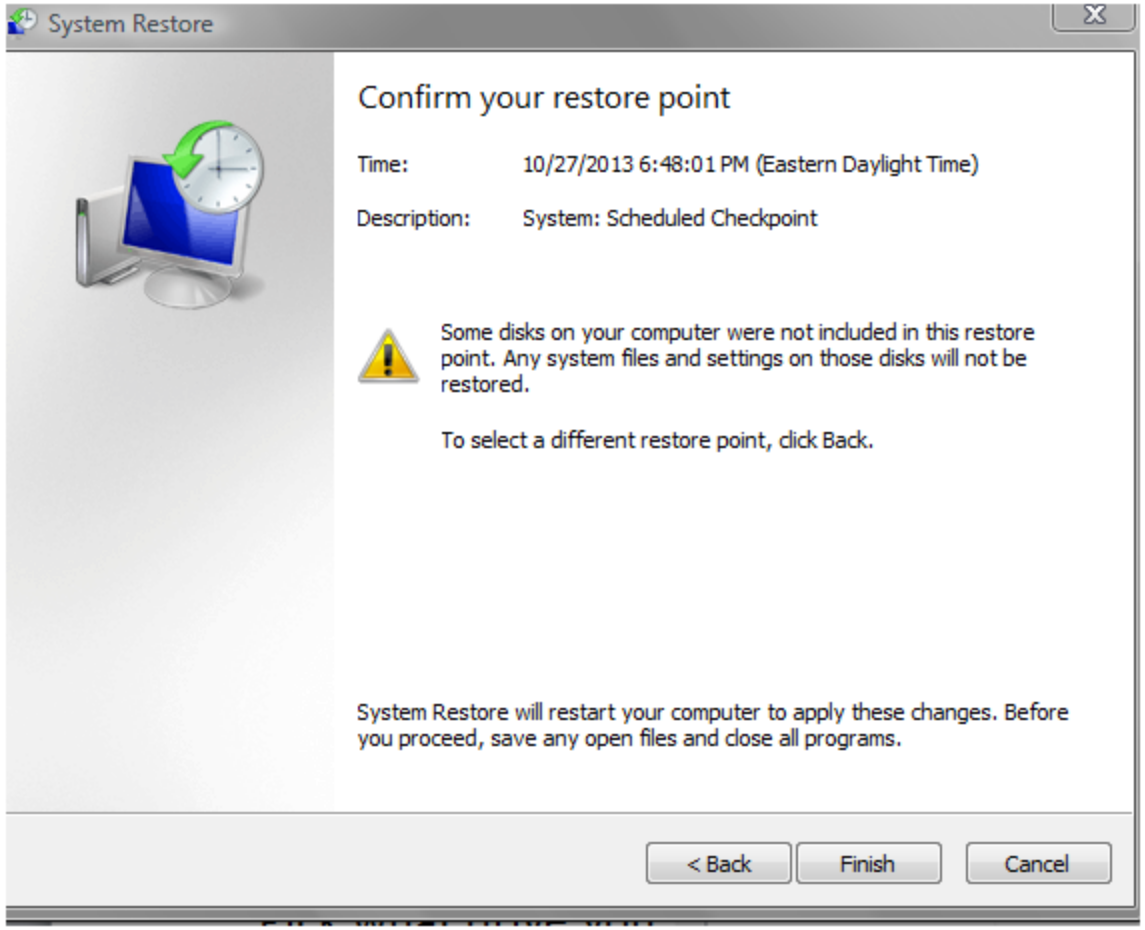


Pick what time you want to go back to



Pick what drive you want to restore

Click finish and wait – It may take a few hours



When done restart your computer and check to see if problem is solved