

Safe Mode

Safe Mode is a special startup mode in which Windows will boot whenever it encounters a problem that it cannot solve itself. Safe Mode boots the system with the bare bones essentials that are needed to make your computer work, but really does nothing more than troubleshoot. It also won't load third-party drivers, since they may be the problem's source.

Safe Mode also does not load anything from the Registry. This is helpful if a program (or perhaps YOU!) changed something that caused Windows to have problems. (Note, too, that the video mode looks really odd. Why? Because only the most basic driver is loaded that supports a 640X480 and 16-color mode.)

To reach SAFE MODE,

1. Press the power button to start the computer. Begin tapping the F8 key to bring up the Windows Advanced Options Menu.
2. Use the arrow keys to select Safe Mode from the menu.
3. Press the ENTER key.

Windows will continue to start but in Safe Mode.

To get out of Safe Mode, just restart the computer.

Safe Mode and Device Manager

If Windows insists you start in Safe Mode, or if you're having some kind of hardware conflict, you want to make for the Device Manager fast. Rightclick MY COMPUTER and select Properties. Click Hardware and Device Manager. To load it quickly, hold down the **Window key on a 104-key keyboard and press the Pause/Break key**. This brings up the System Properties box; click on the Device Manager tab, and you're there. Look especially for any item that has a yellow exclamation point by it. IF you suspect a conflict of a particular piece hardware, click it's + to reveal the name of the driver then rightclick the driver and select Properties. Click the Driver tab.

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