

OPERATING SYSTEM NOT FOUND

Message displayed when you boot up. What to do.

IF the computer clock is losing time, then it may be the CMOS battery. IF the clock is not losing time, it most likely is not the CMOS battery.

From Webmaster: [Click here: Operating System Not Found](#)

Boot from the Windows install CD. It has three options: Recovery Console, Repair Installation, and Normal Installation.

Try the Recovery Console. It should scan your hard drive and detect Windows installations, and ask you which one you want to examine. It may ask for your administrator password. Then it should give you a C: prompt. Get a directory (dir) and if it looks okay (no garbled text) and reports the free space, things are probably okay.

If you get to this point with no trouble:

At the C prompt, say FIXMBR <enter>. I'm **not** sure what kind of output it gives, but it should rewrite your master boot record. Then at the next C prompt, say FIXBOOT then enter. That'll rewrite your partition boot record. The two boot records are the first steps to booting the **operating system**.

Now, try booting without the CD. If it boots, then the FIXMBR and FIXBOOT worked. But I suspect you'll have the same error.

So, boot from the CD again, and this time, press 'Enter to Setup Windows now' or some such. Then, you want to perform a Repair Installation. I think it'll only give you that option if it thinks it can do it (it sees your existing Windows). Failing that, it will probably want to format the drive or obliterate Windows.

After you tell it Repair Installation, it'll give you that yellow bar that usually means it's formatting the drive, but it'll just be examining it. And if it goes well, it will reinstall Windows while maintaining your applications, data, and registry settings.

Choose your options carefully, as it'll give you little clues in the beginning of the install process as to whether it really understands that you want to repair, rather than wiping out Windows.

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