

WINDOW FIXES DLL Files

First, find out what .cab file the damaged .dll file is stored in on the Windows CD-ROM. A .cab file is like a .zip file--it holds one or more compressed files. I'll show you how to restore the file in both Windows and DOS.

To find the file in Windows, insert your Windows CD or Restoration disc; then double-click *My Computer*, right-click the CD-ROM drive, and select *Find* (or *Search* in Windows Me, 2000 and XP). Your CD-ROM drive will be highlighted in the 'Look in' field. Type *.cab in the top text field, and enter the name of the missing or damaged file in the 'Containing text' field. Click *Find Now* (or *Search Now*, as in [Figure 1](#)).

When the search is done, one .cab file should be listed. The file you want is inside that .cab file. To extract it, double-click the .cab file to open the archive as if it were a folder. Find the desired .dll file, and double-click it. In the resulting dialog box, select the appropriate restoration location, such as C:\Windows\System (C:\Windows\System32 for XP). If double-clicking the .cab file doesn't bring up anything, consider using CabView, one of the Windows 95 Power Toys.

It's available at PCWorld.com's [Downloads](#) or directly from [Microsoft](#).

If a damaged file prevents you from running Windows, or if the OS won't let you overwrite the file, restore the old file via DOS. Use your start-up disk to access the CD-ROM drive from DOS. What? You don't have a start-up disk? Create one now! (not for XP) Select *Start, Settings, Control Panel*, and double-click the *Add/Remove Programs* icon. Click first the *Startup Disk* tab and then the *Create Disk* button, and follow the instructions.

Put your Win start-up disk in your floppy drive, click *Start, Shut Down*, and choose the *Restart* option. As your computer reboots, you'll see a menu. Select *Start computer with CD-ROM support*, and you'll eventually see an A> prompt. Above the prompt will be a message with your CD-ROM's drive letter (probably one letter after its usual one).

At the prompt, type x:, where x is the CD-ROM's new drive letter, and press *Enter*. Type *cd \win98* (for Windows 98) or *cd \win9x* (for Windows Me), and press *Enter*. The prompt should now read something like 'E:\win98>'. Type *dir *.cab /p* and press *Enter*.

When you're prompted to press any key, press *Ctrl-C*. The next command is a bit more complicated. Type *extract /a /l c:\windows\system topname.cab dllname*, where *topname* is the file name immediately under '..' near the top of your screen, and *dllname* is the name of the file you need to restore.

The command should look something like 'extract /a /l c:\windows\system base4.cab winmm.dll'. When you're sure you've typed it correctly, press *Enter*. When the prompt returns, remove the floppy and reboot your computer. Your damaged file should be restored.

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