

How to Restore Windows XP to a Previous State

System Restore takes a “snapshot” of critical system files and some program files and stores this information as restore points. You can use these restore points to return Windows XP to a previous state.

Using System Restore to Restore Windows XP

If Windows XP does not start

1. Start the computer and then press the F8 key when Windows begins to start. The **Windows Advanced Options** menu appears.
2. Use the ARROW keys to select **Last Known Good Configuration (your most recent settings that worked)**, and then press ENTER.
3. If a boot menu appears, use the ARROW keys to select **Microsoft Windows XP**, and then press ENTER. Windows XP restores the computer to the most recent restore point.

If Windows XP does start

1. Log on to Windows as Administrator.
2. Click **Start**, point to **All Programs**, point to **Accessories**, point to **System Tools**, and then click **System Restore**. System Restore starts.

3. On the **Welcome to System Restore** page, click **Restore my computer to an earlier time** (if it is not already selected), and then click **Next**.

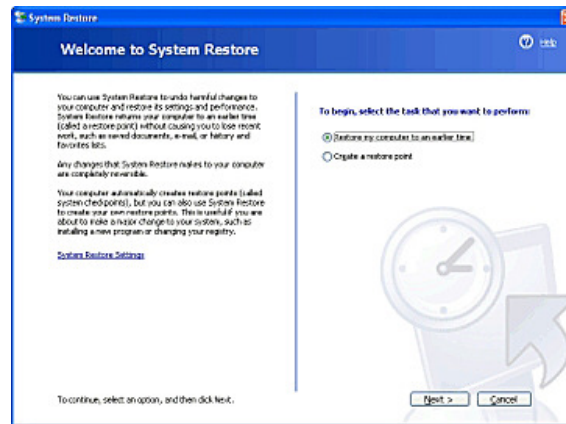


Figure 1. Welcome to System Restore

4. On the **Select a Restore Point** page, click the most recent system checkpoint in the **On this list, click a restore point** list, and then click **Next**. A System Restore message may appear that lists configuration changes that System Restore will make. Click **OK**.

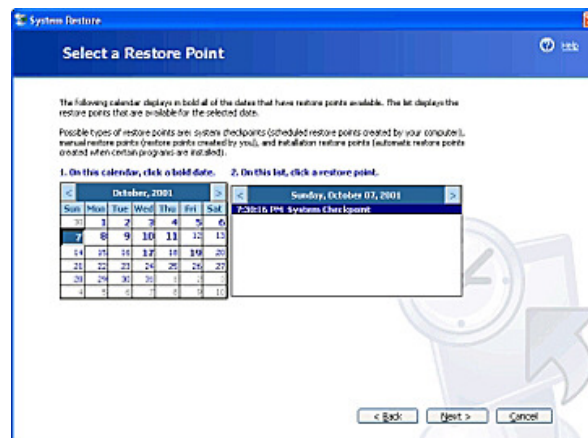


Figure 2. Select a Restore Point

5. On the **Confirm Restore Point Selection** page, click **Next**. System Restore restores the previous Windows XP configuration, and then restarts the computer.

6. Log on to the computer as Administrator. The System Restore **Restoration Complete** page appears.
7. Click **OK**.

Troubleshooting

You may inadvertently restore Windows XP to a previous configuration that you do not want.

To undo the restoration

1. Log on to Windows as Administrator.
2. Click **Start**, point to **All Programs**, point to **Accessories**, point to **System Tools**, and then click **System Restore**. System Restore starts.
3. On the **Welcome to System Restore** page, click **Undo my last restoration**, and then click **Next**. A System Restore message may appear that lists configuration changes that System Restore will make. Click **OK**.
4. On the **Confirm Restoration Undo** page, click **Next**. System Restore restores the original Windows XP configuration, and then restarts the computer.
5. Log on to the computer as Administrator. The System Restore **Undo Complete** page appears.
6. Click **OK**.