Recovery Discs

Hopefully you will never experience a time when you push the start button on your computer and you find a "frozen" computer which will not boot up to the operating system. The question is, of course, what do I do now?

The first thing is to try and determine just what caused the computer not to boot up. Do I have a hard drive failure? Do I have a corrupted operating system? Have I contracted a virus or malware? Is the registry corrupted? It is not always an easy answer as to exactly what has happened, and you may never determine the cause.

Computer manufacturers include various means and procedures to resolve a "no boot up problem" in order to get your computer back up and running. Unfortunately there is not one common procedure that manufacturers use to solve the problem. As examples, some computer manufacturers will provide you with a copy of the original operating system which you can use to reinstall the system. Some will include a "recovery disc". Another may have the recovery system installed on a partition on your hard drive. Some require you to make your own recovery CD's/DVD's to use to resolve the problem.

Your operating manual, if you are fortunate enough to have one, should have detailed instructions as to how to handle a problem of this nature. If you do not have an operating manual try a Google search for answers.

Depending on which procedure you are able to use to get your computer back up and running you may find it a time consuming and frustrating process. This will be the case if you have to do a clean install of the operating system. You will, of course, lose all data and programs that were originally installed and they will all have to be re-installed. In addition, for Win XP, Vista and Win 7 you will have to re-install all of the service packs and all of the previously issued security updates, etc. Trust me, it can be a very, very time consuming process.

There is good news for Windows 8 users. Win 8 includes two built-in recovery options, Refresh & Reset. "Refresh" re-installs the operating system while saving most of your data and settings. "Reset" performs a full restore putting your computer back to its original configuration. However, using this option will delete all of your personal data and any programs you have installed on your computer.

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