Refresh, Reset or Restore your Windows 8.1 computer

(And, Safe Mode)

Microsoft offers the lay person three options to try and resolve any problems that you may be having with your computer, by using the **"Windows Startup Settings"**.

"REFRESHING" your PC reinstalls Windows and keeps your personal files and settings. It also keeps the apps that came with your PC and the apps you installed from the Windows Store.

"RESET" reinstalls Windows but deletes your files, settings, and apps—except for the apps that came with your PC.

"RESTORE" is a way to undo recent system changes you've made that are now causing you problems.   If recent hardware or software that you installed is causing the problem, "Restore" will put your computer back to an earlier point in time when your computer was working properly. Any recently added documents, photos, etc., will be saved even though you restore to an earlier point in time

How do I get to the Windows Startup Settings, including Safe Mode?

1. Swipe in from the right edge of the screen, tap **Settings**, and then tap **Change PC settings**. (If you're using a mouse, point to the lower-right corner of the screen, move the mouse pointer up, click **Settings**, and then click **Change PC settings**.)

2. Under **PC settings**, tap or click **Update and recovery**, and then tap or click **Recovery.**

3. Under **Advanced startup**, tap or click **Restart now**.

4. Once your PC restarts, on the **Choose an option** screen, tap or click **Troubleshoot**.

    If you don't see the **Startup Settings** option, tap or click **Advanced options**.

5. Tap or click **Startup Settings**.

6. Tap or click **Restart**.

7. On the **Startup Settings** screen, choose the startup setting you want.

What will I need to make changes to my computer?
Depending on the type of change you try to make you may need your original Windows installation disc or the flash drive that came with your computer. If you downloaded Windows 8.1 over the internet you will need to contact Microsoft.

Windows 8.1 Automatic Repair
If your computer encounters a problem on startup, Windows 8.1 will automatically commence a repair of the problem. I do not have enough information at this time to comment or write about this feature.