SYSTEM RESTORE

What is it?   System Restore is a Windows feature that, if you find your computer is "acting up" and not functioning normally, gives you the opportunity to take your computer "back in time" to a point where it was working just fine. Any files, documents, photos, etc., created after your revert point should remain on your computer.

Why would you use it?   Let's take an example: You installed new hardware, downloaded a new driver, or installed a new program. The installation requires you to reboot your computer and when Windows comes back up it just doesn't look right, or your computer may not work as well as, or as fast as it did before the download. You have run into a major boo-boo.

So, you go into System Restore and pick a date, for example yesterday, and you tell Windows to "roll back" to that point in time when your computer was functioning just fine. The system files that have been altered return to their earlier state and, Voilà, your computer is steady and working normally again.

The date you picked is called a Restore Point. It might have been made automatically or when you previously made a change to your computer. Keep in mind, however, that System Restore only works on Windows system files. It does not affect your personal files, or program files. If a personal file becomes corrupted hopefully you have it backed up at another location and you can replace it. When it comes to program files that become corrupted you will probably have to reinstall the program to get it to function normally.

Where do you find it and how do you use it?

> **Windows 7 and Windows 8.1 –** Go to **Control Panel** ˃ **Recovery** ˃ **Open System Restore** and then click **Next**. Select a date to restore to. If only one Restore Point is showing click "Show more Restore Points" if you want to revert further back in time. The restoration may take several minutes, and you will be told if the restoration was successful.

I don't have Restore Points – If you don't have restore points, System Restore may be turned off. Also, some anti-virus programs may disable System Restore.

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