

# Reset a Windows 10 or 11 Computer to OEM or Out-of-the-box State

## Reset a Windows 10 or 11 Computer to OEM or Out-of-the-box State

If you would like to reset your Windows 10 PC back to a clean state, you can do so using the built-in Windows 10 or 11 reset function. This is often desirable if you've purchased a MIT owned computer that was previously configured with Windows 10 Enterprise. The Enterprise version of Windows 10 requires access to the activation server (KMS) in order to be properly activated. This means being connected to the MIT network (on premise or through VPN) at least once every 180 days.

### Activate Windows 10 with the Embedded Key

If your computer shipped with Windows 10 or 11 (Pro or Home) you can activate your copy of Windows 10 with the key embedded in the hardware. MIT has created a small application that you can download to activate your copy Windows 10 or 11 with your key. Please note that this application does NOT contain an activation key. It will simply activate your computer with the embedded key, either Pro or Home Edition. If your computer shipped with Windows 7, this application will not work to activate your copy of Windows 10 or 11.

Download and run the linked executable file. A command prompt window will open for a few seconds and then disappear. Once that has completed, your copy of Windows will be activated.

#### [Activate Windows with Embedded Key](#)

The contents of the script contained in the linked application is shown below. You do not need to manually run these command shown below. This is strictly for informational purposes.

```
@ECHO OFF
for /f "tokens=2 delims='='" %%K IN ('wmic path softwarelicensing-service get OA3xOriginalProductkey /value') do set PRODUCTKEY=%%K

REM We will take the product key and install it using "Software License Manager" aka (SLMGR)
cscript //B "%SYSTEMROOT%\system32\slmgr.vbs" -ipk %PRODUCTKEY%

@ECHO:
REM We will now take the newly installed product key and activate Windows
cscript //B "%SYSTEMROOT%\system32\slmgr.vbs" -ato
```

You can verify that your computer properly activated using your embedded key by checking the system information. If you see OEM at the end of the Product ID, then you've properly activate your copy of Windows 10 or 11.

System

Control Panel > System and Security > System

Control Panel Home

Device Manager  
Remote settings  
System protection  
Advanced system settings

View basic information about your computer

Windows edition

Windows 10 Pro  
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System

Processor: Intel(R) Core(TM) i7-8665U CPU @ 1.90GHz 2.11 GHz  
Installed memory (RAM): 16.0 GB (15.8 GB usable)  
System type: 64-bit Operating System, x64-based processor  
Pen and Touch: No Pen or Touch Input is available for this Display

Computer name, domain, and workgroup settings

Computer name: WIN-OEM-Activate [Change settings](#)  
Full computer name: WIN-OEM-Activate.mit.edu  
Computer description:  
Workgroup: MIT

Windows activation

Windows is activated [Read the Microsoft Software License Terms](#)  
Product ID: 00330-52868-9353-**66-AAOEM** [Change product key](#)

Settings

mitadm Local Account

Find a setting

System

Bluetooth & devices  
Network & internet  
Personalization  
Apps  
Accounts  
Time & language  
Gaming  
Accessibility  
Privacy & security

System > About

DESKTOP-1CBTDCO  
Latitude 7400 [Rename this PC](#)

Device specifications [Copy](#)

Device name: DESKTOP-1CBTDCO  
Processor: Intel(R) Core(TM) i7-8665U CPU @ 1.90GHz 2.11 GHz  
Installed RAM: 16.0 GB (15.8 GB usable)  
Device ID: E5FEF5EA-C79B-4906-9BDE-5594CA845E43  
Product ID: 00330-52868-9353-**66-AAOEM**  
System type: 64-bit operating system, x64-based processor  
Pen and touch: No pen or touch input is available for this display

Related links [Domain or workgroup](#) [System protection](#) [Advanced system settings](#)

Windows specifications [Copy](#)


Edition: Windows 11 Pro

## Reset Windows 10 or 11 to a Clean State


Once you've activated Windows 10 or 11 with your embedded key, you can then choose to reset the PC back to a clean state. This will essentially install a clean copy of Windows 10 or 11 on your PC. To do this type "Reset this PC" in to the search bar and select then select "Reset this PC" from the menu.


AllAppsDocumentsWebMore


Best match


Reset this PC  
System settings


Settings


Reset default apps>

Network reset>


Change the date and time>


Set up PIN sign-in>

Change the time zone>


Set up fingerprint sign-in>

Search the web

reset - See web results>



Reset this PC  
System settings


Open

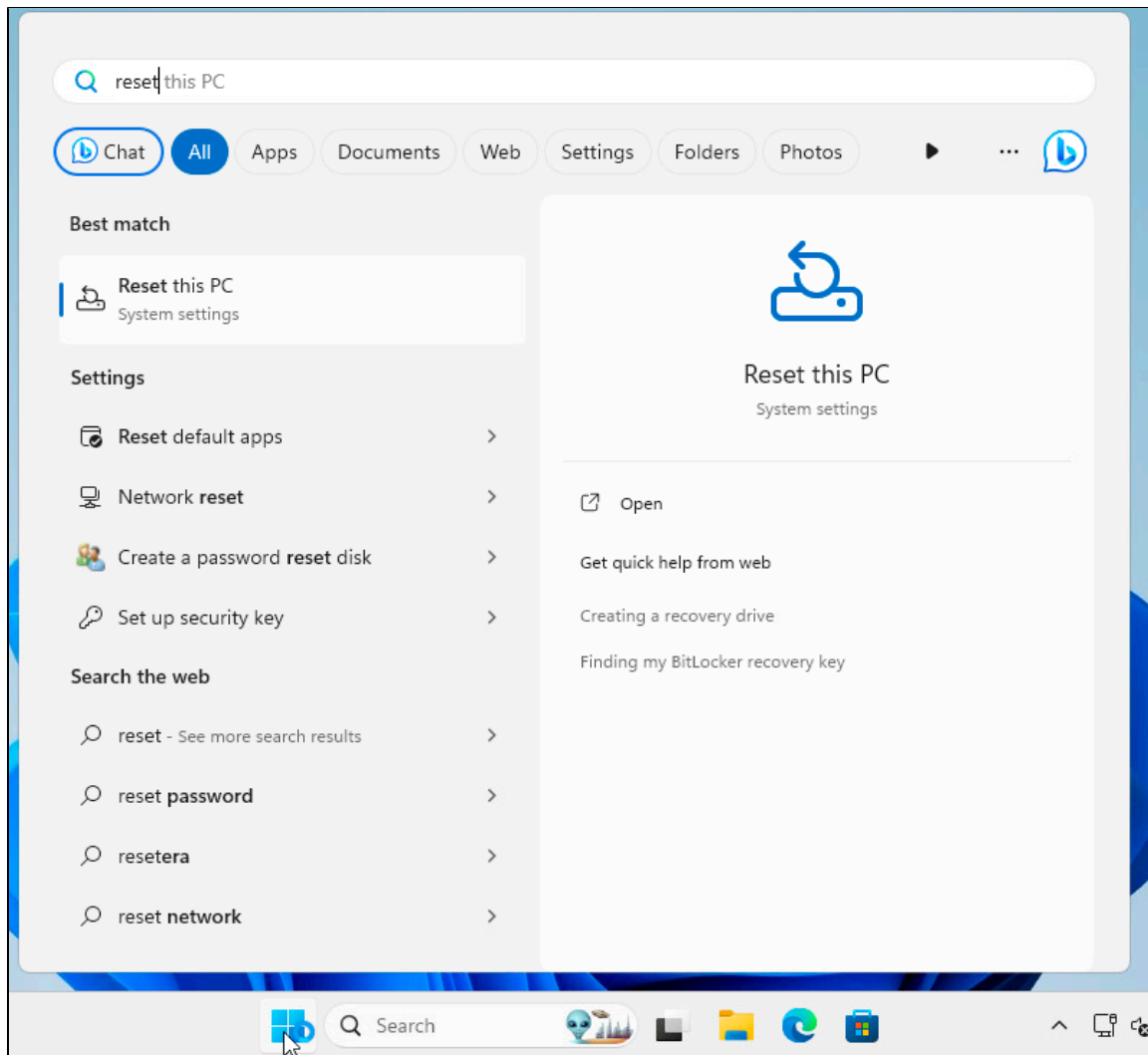
Get quick help from web

Creating a recovery drive

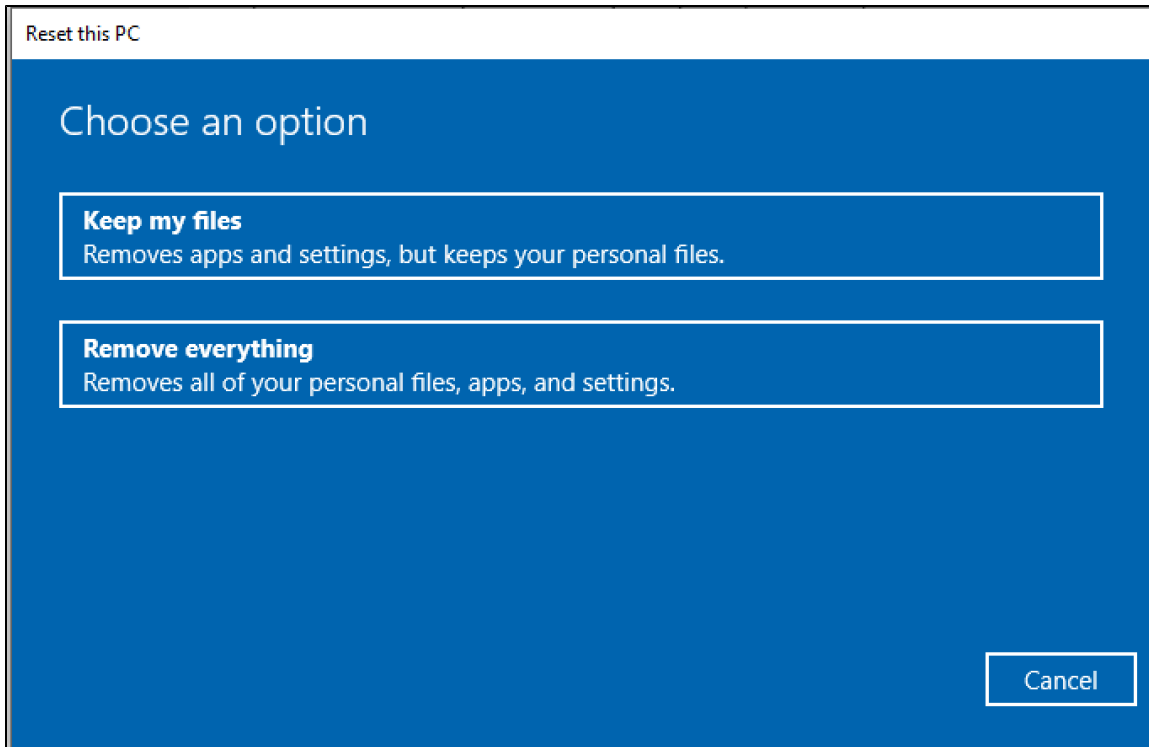
Finding my BitLocker recovery key

reset this PC





You'll be given the option of choosing to keep your personal files or completely wiping out everything. In either option, the installed software and settings will be removed. This will effectively be a clean installation of Windows 10. The reset process may take about 30 minutes depending on the speed of your computer.



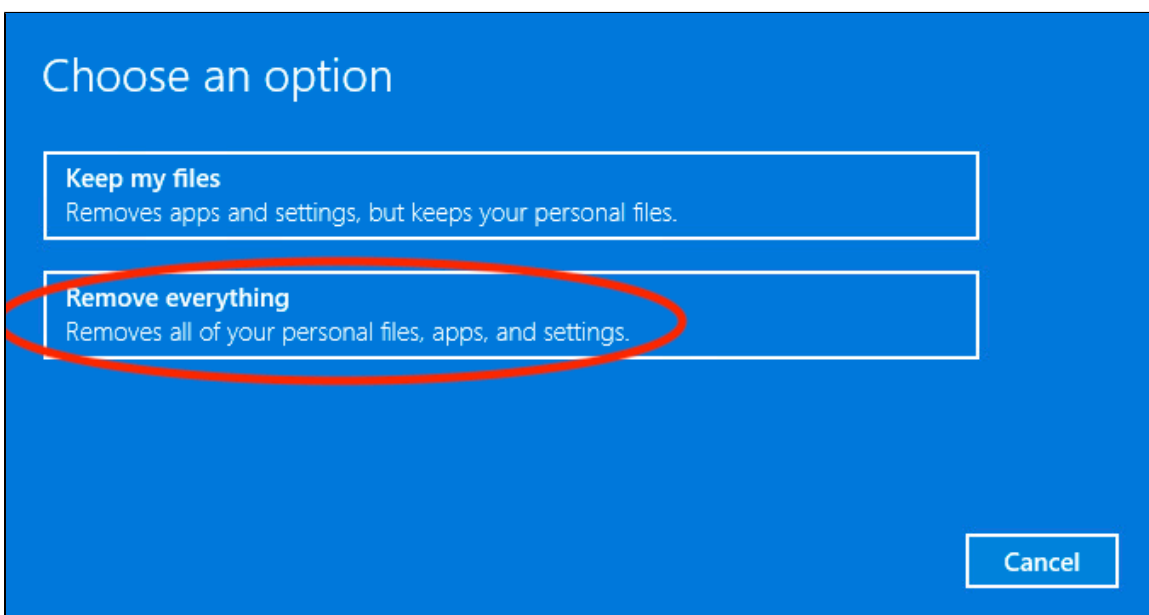
Once complete, you'll be presented with the Out-of-Box-Experience for Windows 10. Congratulations on resetting your Windows 10 PC.

## Domain Joined Computers

If this computer is joined to the domain, the IT technician should delete the computer object from AD using the Active Directory User and Computers snap-in.

## OEM Reset During EUC Lite Touch

If you're using [EUC Lite Touch](#) to image a computer and you'd like to reset it to OEM state during imaging. Please select the application labeled "OEM Reset to Factory State". This will activate Windows using the OEM embedded key and then start the Windows Factory Reset process. Follow the screenshots below to reset your device"



1.

## ← Do you want to clean the drives, too?

### Just remove my files

This is quicker, but less secure. Use this if you're keeping the PC.

### Remove files and clean the drive

This might take a few hours, but will make it harder for someone to recover your removed files. Use this if you're recycling the PC.

Cancel

2.

## Ready to reset this PC

```
resstr(IDS_CONFIRMPAGE_RESET_LINE0,library(bootux.dll))
```

- `resstr(IDS_CONFIRMPAGE_RESET_LINE1,library(bootux.dll))`
- Remove all apps and programs
- `resstr(IDS_CONFIRMPAGE_RESET_LINE3,library(bootux.dll))`

This will take a while and your PC will restart.

Reset

Cancel

3.