[Last Update: 5/23/2022]

***Britechguy’s Standard Advice Regarding Windows Issues and Their Repair***

All of what follows presumes any issue that is occurring is not secondary to a malicious infection. If you suspect it is, then your first order of business should be attempting to exorcise your system of said infection. That’s a topic of its own and won’t be covered here.

Also, certain issues suggest that device drivers are the most likely culprits. If that’s the case make sure you have gotten the latest device drivers from either your computer’s OEM support pages or the OEM support pages for the component (e.g., video card, WiFi card, printer, etc.) and installed those and tested afterward. As the preceding indicates, these issues are usually with internal devices or peripherals behaving badly so it’s relatively clear which device needs attention.

The above having been said and considered, if you are experiencing unexpected issues immediately or very shortly after any Windows update has been applied, then the first thing you should do is use the Windows 10 built-in capability to uninstall the latest update that’s suspected of causing the issue:

1. Open **Settings**, **Update & Security**. This should take you to the **Windows Update** Pane by default.
2. In the **Windows Update** Pane, locate the *View update history* control, and activate it.
3. In the **View Update History** dialog, locate the *Uninstall updates* link and activate it.
4. In the **Installed Updates** dialog, the updates will be listed in groupings, with the groups alphabetically ordered, and the items within each group ordered by date – most recently installed first (if no one has changed the defaults). In most cases, you’ll be looking to uninstall a Microsoft Windows update, and those are generally the final group. The number of updates available for uninstalling is shown in parentheses after the Microsoft Windows group name.
5. Almost all Windows Updates will have a KB number associated with them, and if you know that use this as what you search on for the actual update. Select it.
6. Activate the *Uninstall* button located above the list of updates, and the selected update will be uninstalled.

If it’s not an update that’s suspected of causing an issue, there are other steps you can take. Before going any further, it must be noted that a repair install (or feature update, when those are being done) allows one to keep all of one's files and apps (desktop/installed and store varieties). This is in complete contrast to a Reset (which allows either keeping just one’s files or wiping everything), or a Refresh/Fresh Start or Completely Clean Reinstall, both of which wipe everything.

My standard advice, in virtually all cases, (and presuming any potential infection has already been addressed, first) is trying the following, in the order specified. It is also presumed that you will have made a complete system image backup, and a separate user data backup, prior to using options two or three (and, if you don’t already have a backup drive and a cyclic backup protocol going, this is your chance to start one, which is vital). If the issue is fixed by option one then there's no need to go further. Stop whenever your issue is fixed:

1. [***Using Deployment Imaging Servicing and Management (DISM) & System File Checker (SFC) to Repair Windows 8, 10, & 11***](https://drive.google.com/uc?export=download&id=0B98uELZbPFnOc2l4M0Y1V3pkcGM)

2. [***Doing a Windows 10 or 11 Repair Install or Feature Update Using the Windows ISO file***](https://drive.google.com/uc?export=download&id=1RZiHlLVtXewYBgoSvJNm9_08hj1tALPK)

3. Doing a completely clean reinstall (options **a** & **b** are downloadable PDF files):

 a) [***Completely Clean Windows 10 or 11 (Re)install Using MCT to Download the Windows ISO File***](https://drive.google.com/uc?export=download&id=1hHoEnSz2YWHyztOO3ZjXtV2y4gQASoMR)

 b) [***Completely Clean Windows 10 or 11 (Re)install Using MCT to Create a Bootable USB Drive***](https://drive.google.com/uc?export=download&id=1cvsT64KAwz5ZJmiPfBQlUDBOoskb9dDO)

 c) [***How to do a CLEAN Installation of Windows 10***](https://forums.tomshardware.com/faq/how-to-do-a-clean-installation-of-windows-10.3170366/) (*Tom’s Hardware Forums*, with screen shots)

I ***never*** choose the “*thermonuclear option*,” the completely clean reinstall, until it's clear that this is the only viable option. I hate having to go through all the work of reconfiguring a machine from scratch if that can reasonably and safely be avoided.