

Troubleshooting Windows 98 Tools

Microsoft Configuration Utility

You can start the System Configuration Utility by selecting START | RUN and typing MSCONFIG in the Open box.

Msconfig permits you to modify the system configuration through a process of elimination with check boxes. The System Configuration Utility also allows you to create a backup copy of your system files before you begin a troubleshooting session. This is to ensure that the modifications made during your troubleshooting session can be reversed.

System File Checker

You can start the System File Checker by clicking START | RUN... and typing SFC in the open box.

You can use the System File Checker to verify the integrity of your Windows files, and to restore them if they become corrupted. The System File Checker also gives you a convenient way to extract compressed files (such as drivers) from your installation disks.

You can have System File Checker back up the existing files before restoring the original files. You can also customize search criteria based on folder and file extension, choose a different backup location, choose a different verification data file, or if you experience severe problems, you can Restore the default system information (System File Checker will prompt you about any system files that have changed since you installed Windows).

I recommend enabling “Check for changed files” and “Check for deleted files”, as well as selecting “Always back up before restoring”.

Also recommended is to manually change the default settings to include the missing sub-folders of C:\Windows and C:\Program Files. These folders are certainly important enough to deserve the modification in SFC.

To do this, select the SEARCH CRITERIA tab, and select the C:\Windows and C:\Program Files in turn, pressing the INCLUDE SUBFOLDER button on each of them.

To keep your files in good shape, run the SFC after installing new software.