# Backup and Recovery User Guide

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#### **Product notice**

This user guide describes features that are common to most models. Some features may not be available on your computer.

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### 1 Overview

Recovery after a system failure is as complete as your most current backup. HP recommends that you create recovery discs immediately after software setup. As you add new software and data files, you should continue to back up your system on a regular basis to maintain a reasonably current backup.

Tools provided by the operating system and HP Recovery Manager software are designed to help you with the following tasks for safeguarding your information and restoring it in case of a system failure:

- Creating a set of recovery discs (Recovery Manager software feature). Recovery discs are used
  to start up (boot) your computer and restore the operating system and software programs to factory
  settings in case of system failure or instability.
- Backing up your information regularly to protect your important system files.
- Creating system restore points (operating system feature). System restore points allow you to reverse undesirable changes to your computer by restoring the computer to an earlier state.
- Recovering a program or driver (Recovery Manager software feature). This feature helps you
  reinstall a program or driver without performing a full system recovery.
- Performing a full system recovery (Recovery Manager software feature). With Recovery Manager, you can recover your full factory image if you experience system failure or instability. Recovery Manager works from a dedicated recovery partition (select models only) on the hard drive or from recovery discs you create.
- NOTE: Computers with a solid-state drive (SSD) may not have a recovery partition. Recovery discs have been included for computers that do not have a partition. Use these discs to recover your operating system and software. To check for the presence of a recovery partition, select Start, right-click Computer, click Manage, and then click Disk Management. If the partition is present, an HP Recovery drive is listed in the window.

### 2 Creating recovery discs

HP recommends that you create recovery discs to be sure that you can restore your system to its original factory state if you experience serious system failure or instability. Create these discs after setting up the computer for the first time.

Handle these discs carefully and keep them in a safe place. The software allows the creation of only one set of recovery discs.

NOTE: If your computer does not include an internal optical drive, you can use an optional external optical drive (purchased separately) to create recovery discs, or you can purchase recovery discs for your computer from the HP Web site.

Note the following guidelines before creating recovery discs:

- You will need high-quality DVD-R, DVD+R, BD-R (writable Blu-ray), or CD-R discs. All these discs
  are purchased separately. DVDs and BDs have a much higher capacity than CDs. If you use CDs,
  up to 20 discs may be required, whereas only a few DVDs or BDs are required.
- NOTE: Read-write discs, such as CD-RW, DVD±RW, double-layer DVD±RW, and BD-RE (rewritable Blu-ray) discs, are not compatible with the Recovery Manager software.
- The computer must be connected to AC power during this process.
- Only one set of recovery discs can be created per computer.
- Number each disc before inserting it into the optical drive.
- If necessary, you can exit the program before you have finished creating the recovery discs. The next time you open Recovery Manager, you will be prompted to continue the disc creation process.

To create a set of recovery discs:

- 1. Select Start > All Programs > Recovery Manager > Recovery Disc Creation.
- 2. Follow the on-screen instructions.

### 3 Backing up your information

As you add new software and data files, you should back up your system on a regular basis to maintain a reasonably current backup. Back up your system at the following times:

- At regularly scheduled times
- NOTE: Set reminders to back up your information periodically.
- Before the computer is repaired or restored
- Before you add or modify hardware or software

Note the following when backing up:

- Create system restore points using the Windows® System Restore feature, and periodically copy them to disc.
- Store personal files in the Documents library and back up this folder periodically.
- Back up templates stored in their associated programs.
- Save customized settings in a window, toolbar, or menu bar by taking a screen shot of your settings. The screen shot can be a time-saver if you have to reset your preferences.

To copy the screen and paste it into a word-processing document, follow these steps:

- **1.** Display the screen.
- 2. Copy the screen:

To copy only the active window, press alt+fn+prt sc.

To copy the entire screen, press fn+prt sc.

- 3. Open a word-processing document, and then select Edit > Paste.
- **4.** Save the document.
- You can back up your information to an optional external hard drive, a network drive, or discs.
- When backing up to discs, use any of the following types of discs (purchased separately): CD-R, CD-RW, DVD+R, DVD-R, or DVD±RW. The discs you use will depend on the type of optical drive installed in your computer.
  - NOTE: DVDs store more information than CDs, so using them for backup reduces the number of recovery discs required.
- When backing up to discs, number each disc before inserting it into the optical drive of the computer.

#### **Using Windows Backup and Restore**

To create a backup using Windows Backup and Restore, follow these steps:

NOTE: Be sure that the computer is connected to AC power before you start the backup process.

**NOTE:** The backup process may take over an hour, depending on file size and the speed of the computer.

- 1. Select Start > All Programs > Maintenance > Backup and Restore.
- Follow the on-screen instructions to set up and create a backup.
- NOTE: Windows® includes the User Account Control feature to improve the security of your computer. You may be prompted for your permission or password for tasks such as installing software, running utilities, or changing Windows settings. Refer to Help and Support for more information.

#### **Using system restore points**

When you back up your system, you are creating a system restore point. A system restore point allows you to save and name a snapshot of your hard drive at a specific point in time. You can then recover back to that point if you want to reverse subsequent changes made to your system.

NOTE: Recovering to an earlier restore point does not affect data files saved or e-mails created since the last restore point.

You also can create additional restore points to provide increased protection for your system files and settings.

#### When to create restore points

- Before you add or extensively modify software or hardware
- Periodically, whenever the system is performing optimally
- NOTE: If you revert to a restore point and then change your mind, you can reverse the restoration.

#### Create a system restore point

- 1. Select Start > Control Panel > System and Security > System.
- 2. In the left pane, click System Protection.
- 3. Click the **System Protection** tab.
- 4. Under **Protection Settings**, select the disk for which you want to create a restore point.
- Click Create.
- **6.** Follow the on-screen instructions.

#### Restore to a previous date and time

To revert to a restore point (created at a previous date and time), when the computer was functioning optimally, follow these steps:

- 1. Select Start > Control Panel > System and Security > System.
- 2. In the left pane, click System protection.
- Click the System Protection tab.
- 4. Click System Restore.
- Follow the on-screen instructions.

### 4 Performing a recovery

NOTE: You can recover only files that you have previously backed up. HP recommends that you use HP Recovery Manager to create a set of recovery discs (entire drive backup) as soon as you set up your computer.

Recovery Manager software allows you to repair or restore the system if you experience system failure or instability. Recovery Manager works from recovery discs or from a dedicated recovery partition (select models only) on the hard drive. However, if your computer includes a solid-state drive (SSD), you may not have a recovery partition. If that is the case, recovery discs have been included with your computer. Use these discs to recover your operating system and software.

NOTE: Windows has its own built-in repair features, such as System Restore. If you have not already tried these features, try them before using Recovery Manager.

**NOTE:** Recovery Manager recovers only software that was preinstalled at the factory. Software not provided with this computer must be downloaded from the manufacturer's Web site or reinstalled from the disc provided by the manufacturer.

#### Recovering from the recovery discs

To restore the system from the recovery discs:

- Back up all personal files.
- Insert the first recovery disc into the optical drive and restart the computer.
- Follow the on-screen instructions.

## Recovering from the dedicated recovery partition (select models only)

NOTE: Computers with an SSD may not have a recovery partition. If the computer does not have a recovery partition, you will not be able to recover using this procedure. Recovery discs have been included for computers that do not have a partition. Use these discs to recover your operating system and software.

On some models, you can perform a recovery from the partition on the hard drive, accessed by pressing either the Start button or f11. This restores the computer to its factory condition.

To restore the system from the partition, follow these steps:

- 1. Access Recovery Manager in either of the following ways:
  - Select Start > All Programs > Recovery Manager > Recovery Manager.

- or -

- Turn on or restart the computer, and then press esc while the "Press the ESC key for Startup Menu" message is displayed at the bottom of the screen. Then, press f11 while the "Press <F11> for recovery" message is displayed on the screen.
- Click System Recovery in the Recovery Manager window.
- 3. Follow the on-screen instructions.

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