

Windows 7

Tips and Tricks

By














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This article includes helpful Windows 7 tips and tricks. The topics discussed are:

1. Windows keyboard shortcuts
2. how to create a System Repair disk
3. how to create a image of your hard drive
4. how to check your PC for memory errors
5. what XP Mode is.

Keyboard Shortcuts

Below are very useful favorite Windows shortcuts

Keys to Press	What They Do
Windows logo key 	Open or close the Start menu.
Windows logo key  +Pause	Display the System Properties dialog box.
Windows logo key  +D	Display the desktop.
Windows logo key  +M	Minimize all windows.
Windows logo key  +Shift+M	Restore minimized windows to the desktop.
Windows logo key  +E	Open Computer.
Windows logo key  +F	Search for computers (if you're on a network).
Windows logo key  +L	Locks your computer
Windows logo key  +R	Opens the Run dialog box
Windows logo key  +T	Cycle through programs on the taskbar.
Windows logo key  +number	Start the program pinned to the taskbar in the position indicated by the number. If the program is already running, switch to that program
Ctrl+Windows logo key  +number	Switch to the last active window of the program pinned to the taskbar in the position indicated by the number.
Alt+Windows logo key  +number	Opens the Jump List for the program that is pinned to taskbar indicated by the number selected.

Windows logo key  +Tab	Cycle through programs on the taskbar by using Aero Flip 3-D.
Ctrl+Windows logo key  +Tab	Use the arrow keys to cycle through programs on the taskbar by using Aero Flip 3-D.
Ctrl+Windows logo key  +B	Switch to the program that displayed a message in the notification area.
Windows logo key  +Spacebar	Preview the desktop.
Windows logo key  +Up Arrow	Maximize the window.
Windows logo key  +Left Arrow	Maximize the window to the left side of the screen.
Windows logo key  +Down Arrow	Minimize the window.
Windows logo key  +Home	Minimize all but the active window.
Windows logo key  +Shift+Up Arrow	Stretch the window to the top and bottom of the screen.
Windows logo key  +Shift+Left Arrow or Right Arrow	Move a window from one monitor to another.
Windows logo key  +P	Choose a presentation display mode.
Windows logo key  +G	Cycle through gadgets.
Windows logo key  +U	Open Ease of Access Center.
Windows logo key  +X	Open Windows Mobility Center.

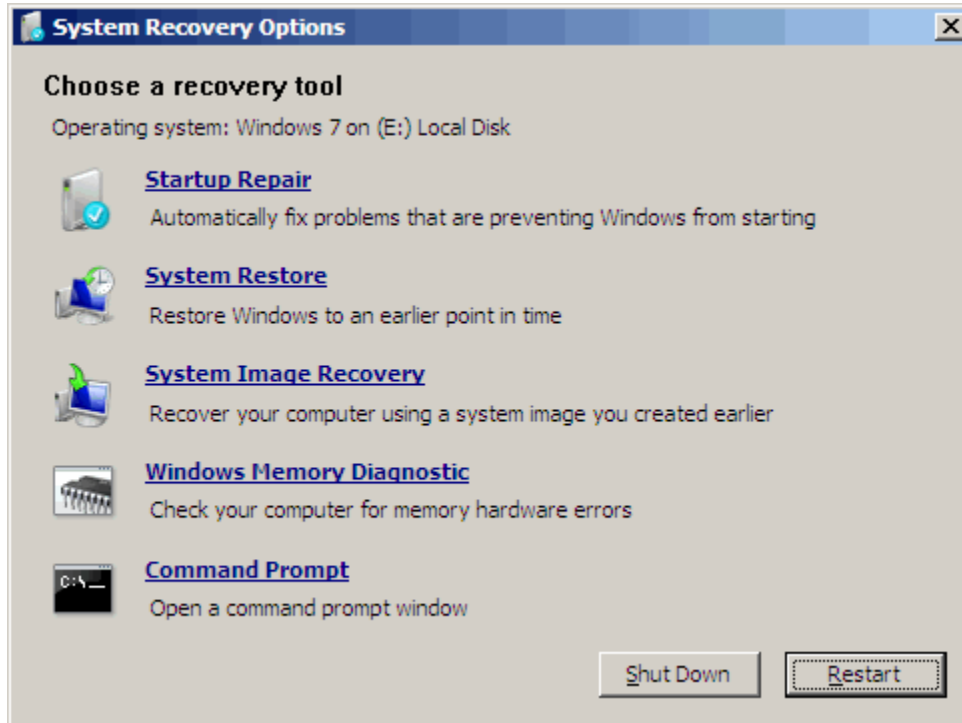
Head over to <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows7/Keyboard-shortcuts> for more shortcuts.

System Repair Disc


Windows 7 comes with a way to make a disc that will allow you to do some repairs to your PC. This disc allows you to boot from the disk so you can do the following:

1. Startup Repair
2. System Restore
3. System Image Recovery
4. Windows Memory Diagnostic
5. Command Prompt

The startup screen looks like the one below.



You create a System Repair disc by

1. Typing system repair in the "Search Programs and Files" box that shows up after you press  key.
2. Select "Create a **System Repair Disc**"
3. Follow the wizard to create the disk
4. Store the disk in a safe place. I recommend you make two copies of the disk.

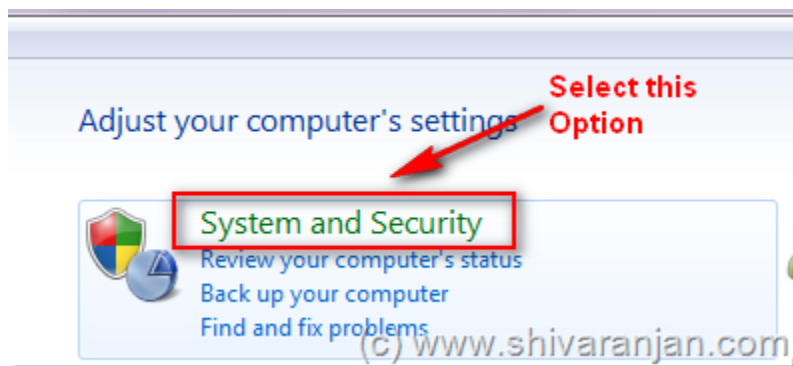
You can also create a disk clicking on **Start Menu >> Control Panel >> System & Security >> Backup and Restore >> Create System Repair Disc**. Control Panel > Backup and Restore,

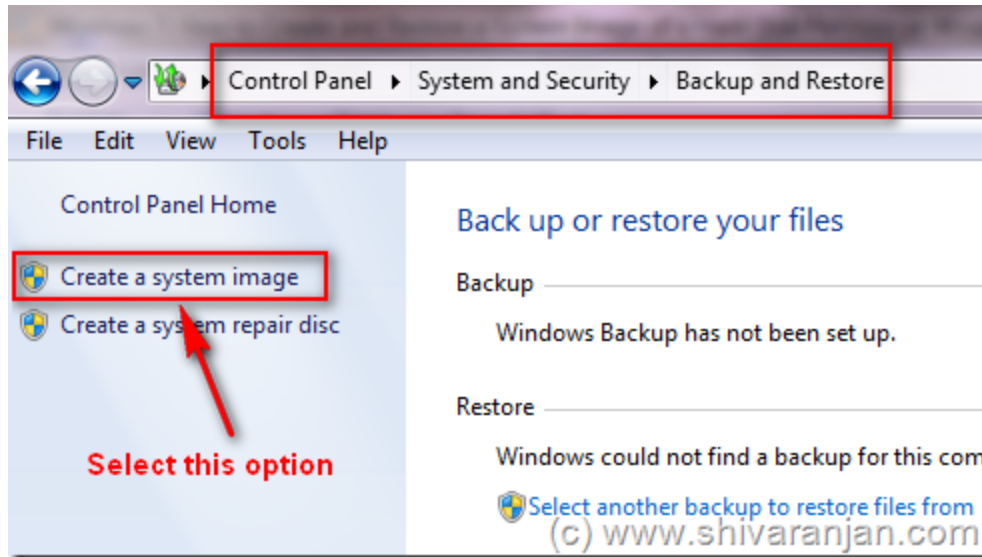
System Image

Windows 7 comes with a way to create a image of your PC, which can be used to restore your PC back to point where it was working. The image is a copy of your OS, programs, and other files that are on your hard disk. This feature is very similar to tools like Norton Ghost, or Acronis True Image. The System Image feature allows you to store the image on DVDs or another hard drive like an external drive. The hard drive used to create the image to must be formatted NTFS.

To create a **System Image** follow the steps below:

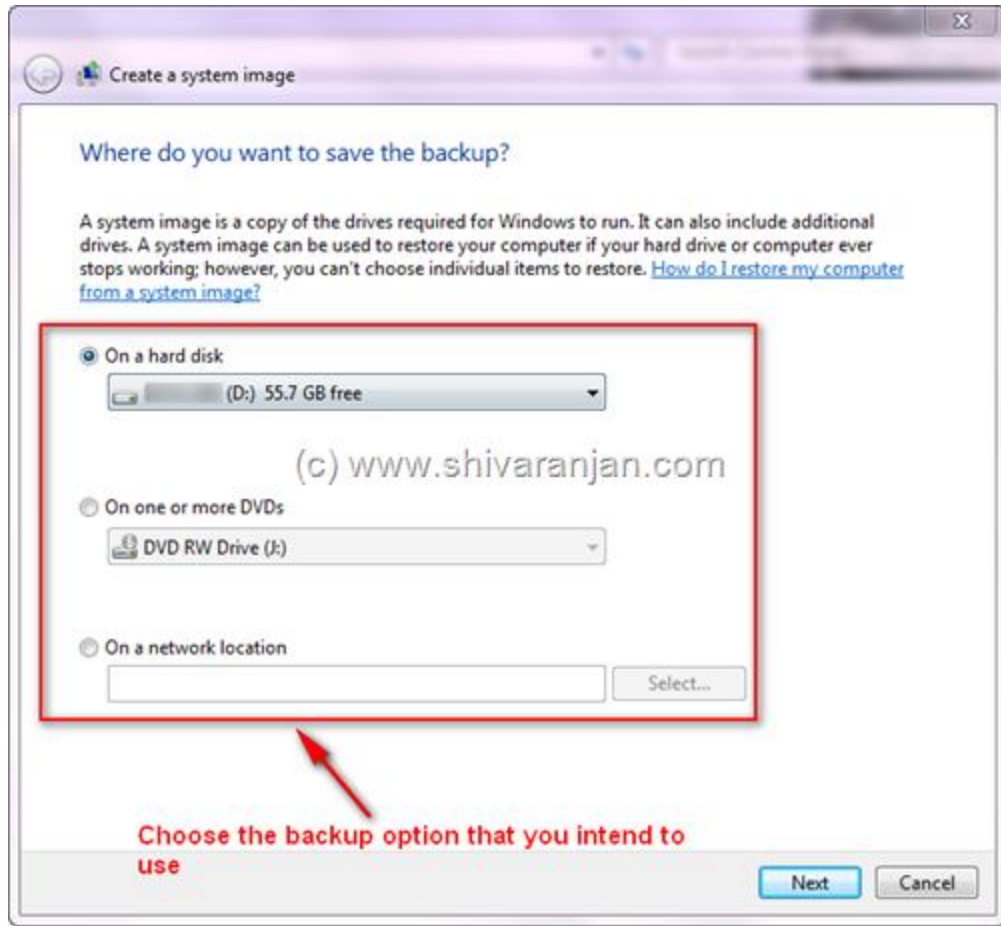
1. Go to **Start Menu >> Control Panel >> System & Security >> Backup and Restore >> Create System Image**, refer to the below screenshots.



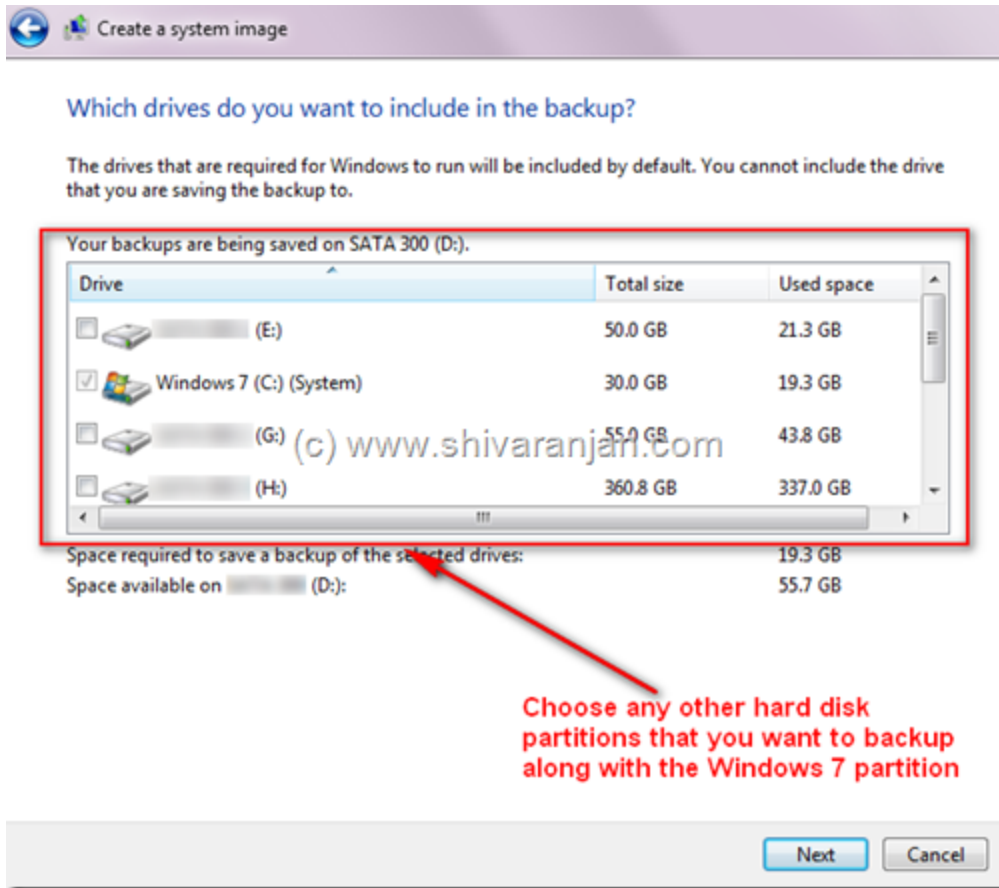


2. Now the system will ask you to choose the backup location for saving the system image, there are three options available:

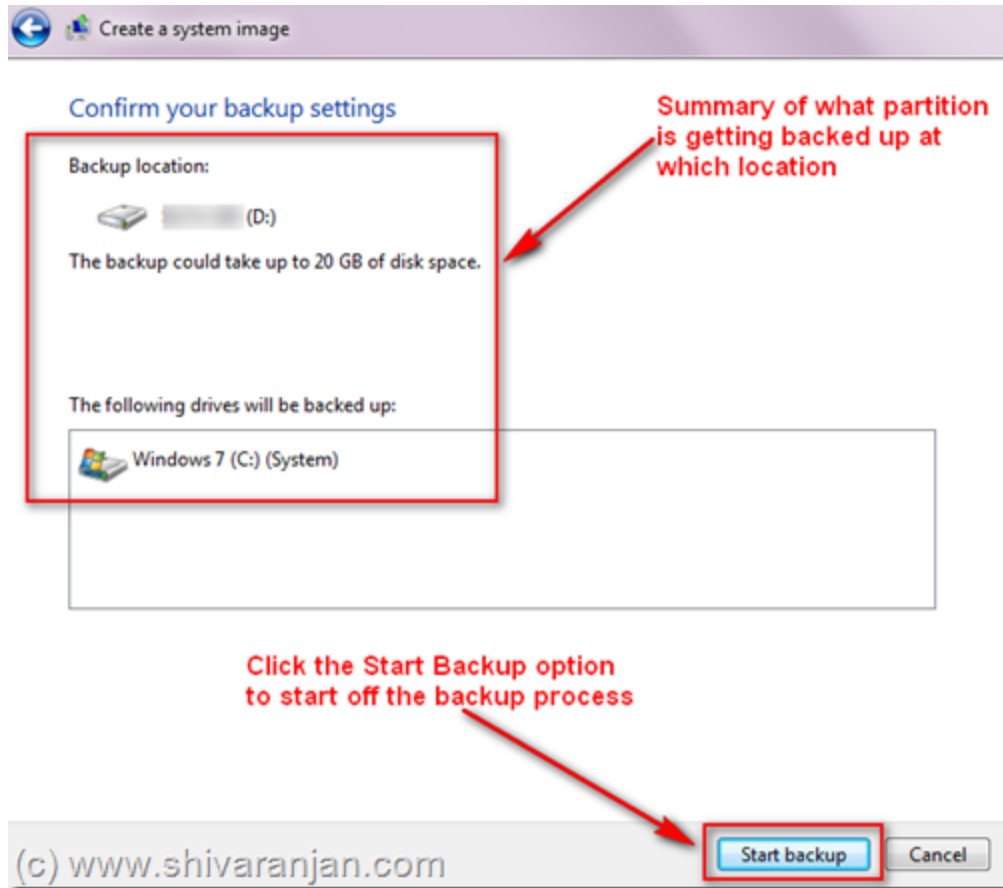
- System image can be saved on different hard disk partition.
- You can save the system image on DVDs. The no of DVDs required will be equal to the size of the partition that you are backing up.
- The system image can also be stored in a network location or drive.



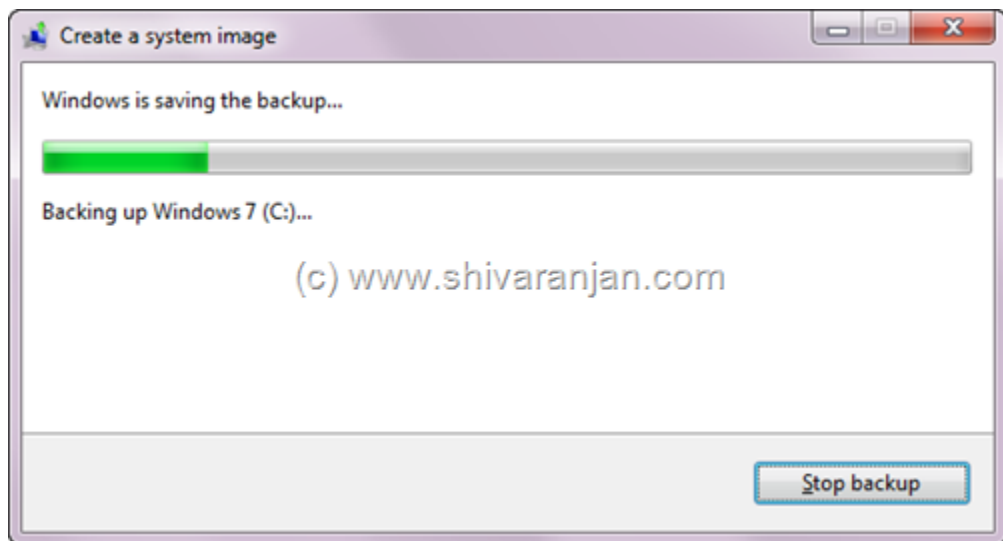
3. In addition to the Windows 7 partition you can also backup any other partition along with that, choose the partitions in addition to the Windows 7 based on your requirement.

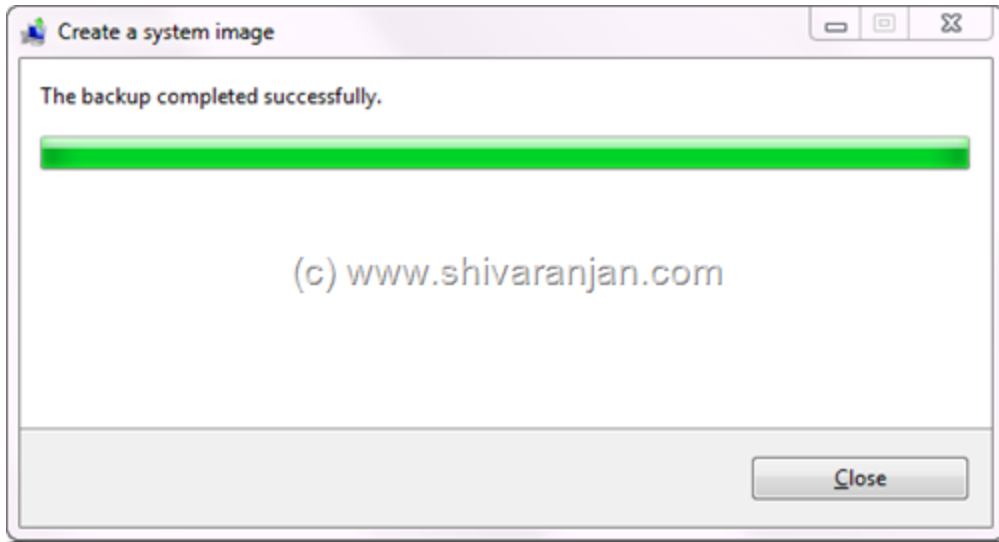


4. A summary of partition that is getting backed up and the target location of the backup is displayed. To start the backup or start the imaging process hit the 'Start backup' button.



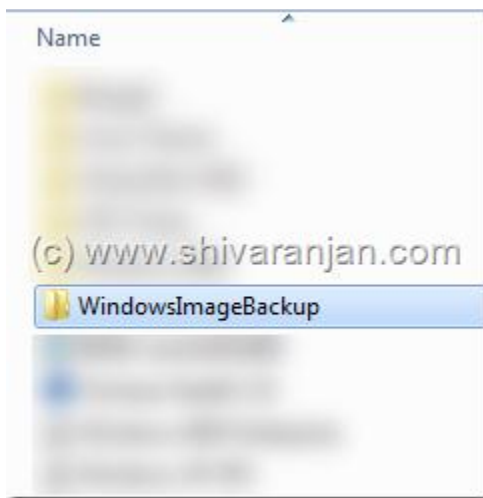
5. Now wait for the backup process to complete.





After the backup is complete the system will prompt you to create system repair disc, if you have not created it then you can create it. For instructions on creating a system repair disc refer to this post.

6. You can see that there is a folder created in target drive called WindowsImageBackup, this folder contains all the data that was backed up and don't delete this folder.



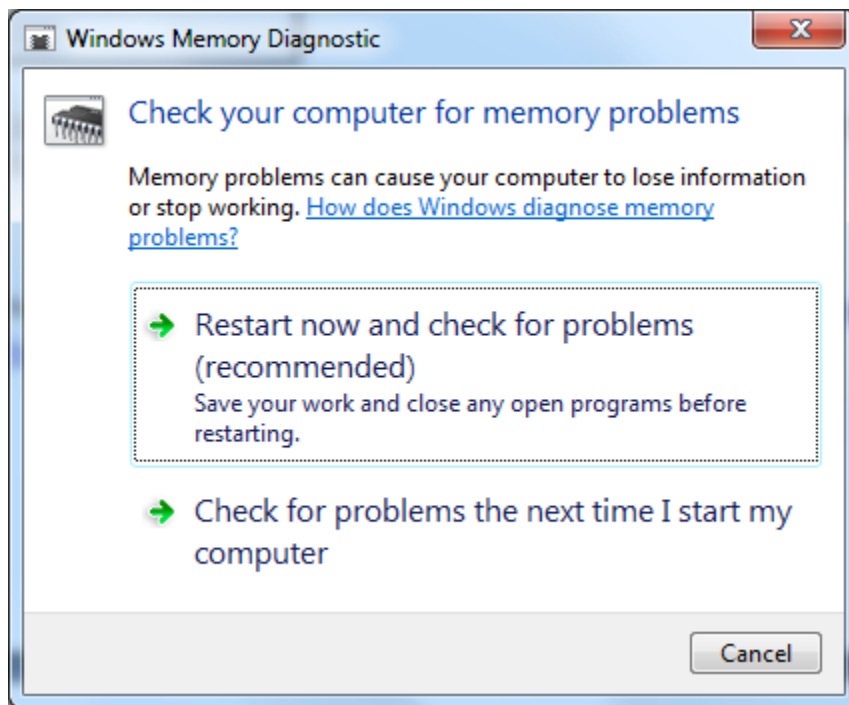
That's it now a image of your computer has been taken and you can use it later when you want to restore your Windows 7 from the image.

These steps are from <http://www.shivaranjan.com/2009/05/20/windows-7-how-to-create-a-system-image-of-a-hard-disk-partition-or-windows-7-partition/>

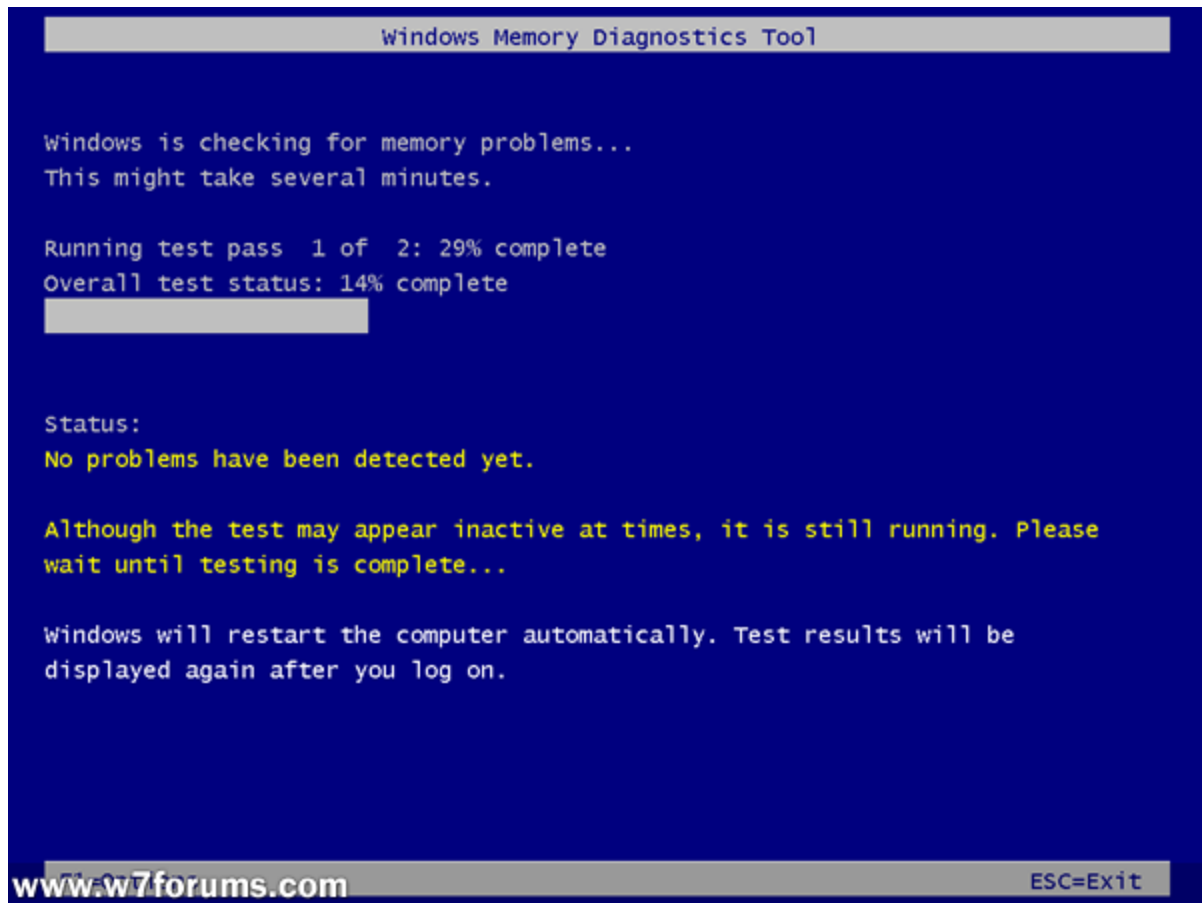
Once you create the image you can either restore it from the “Backup and Restore option or the bootable repair disk that Windows 7 allows you to create. I recommend that create one image of a clean install, and one with all of the software you will use regularly.

Windows Memory Diagnostics

Windows 7 comes with a handy utility that allows you to test your PC’s memory for errors. You can run the Windows Memory Diagnostics from the run dialog box by typing msshed. Or you can run it from the “**System Repair Disc**”. When you run it from within Windows you will see the box below.



When you restart your PC you will see the screen below



Once the test is done the results will be displayed after you log in. I think this should be done once in a while to see if your PC's memory is good.

XP Mode

Windows 7 Professional and Ultimate are able to use XP Mode a free download from Microsoft. XP Mode allows you to run Windows XP business programs in a Virtual Machine. In order to run Windows XP Mode your PC needs the ability to use Hardware Virtualization. This has to be turned on in the BIOS. You can learn more and download the software at <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/virtual-pc/download.aspx>