

XPS 14 9440

Re-imaging guide for Windows

Notes, cautions, and warnings

 **NOTE:** A NOTE indicates important information that helps you make better use of your product.

 **CAUTION:** A CAUTION indicates either potential damage to hardware or loss of data and tells you how to avoid the problem.

 **WARNING:** A WARNING indicates a potential for property damage, personal injury, or death.

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Installation overview

CAUTION: This re-imaging guide is designed for system administrators. Do not attempt to reimage your computer if you are not an administrator or if you are unsure of the procedures. Failure to follow instructions may result in permanent data loss.

NOTE: The information that is provided in this guide is only applicable to computers with Windows 11 installed.

NOTE: Dell Technologies recommends that you download and install the device drivers from the Dell [Drivers & Downloads](#) website. Installing device drivers from a non-Dell website can cause computer performance issues or corrupt operating system files. It can also cause blue screen errors, unexpected shutdowns, or infect your computer with malicious software.

Device drivers must be updated when you reinstall the operating system using a CD, DVD, or USB drive. Device drivers must also be updated when you are facing networking, graphics, sound, or other hardware-related problems. Dell Technologies recommends that you install or update device drivers if you have performed a factory reset of your Dell computer. Use the [Dell Backup and Recovery](#) application or other factory-reset methods. The driver installation ensures that you have the latest device drivers installed on your computer and that the devices function optimally.


Installing or updating device drivers may lead to the following improvements:


- Increases in computer performance
- Patched security risks
- Expanded compatibility
- Fixed device issues
- Support for new features

However, if your computer is operating normally and there are no driver issues or Windows prompted updates, driver updates may be unnecessary. Updating drivers unnecessarily may create problems.

Review the importance of each driver update on the Dell [Drivers & Downloads](#) page before assessing the need to continue with an update.

Introduction

 **CAUTION:** This re-imaging guide is designed for system administrators. Do not attempt to re-image your computer if you are not an administrator or are unsure of the procedures. Failure to follow instructions may result in permanent data loss.

 **NOTE:** The information that is provided in this guide is only applicable to computers with Windows 11 installed.

Reimaging is the process of removing all software on the computer and reinstalling the removed software. Reimaging is required when software in the computer is corrupted or damaged. It can also be used as a means of removing harmful and malicious software in your computer. This re-imaging guide provides the steps that are required for reimaging your computer.

This guide assists you in installing Dell-recommended software stack and settings, drivers, and applications, which are tested and validated on the XPS 14 9440. The installation of the listed drivers and applications as described in the guide enhances the optimal performance of your computer.

Dell also provides drivers and applications that are not included with the Windows operating system. These drivers are required to enable the following solid state drives (SSDs):

- 512 GB PCIe SSD
- 4 TB PCIe SSD

It is always recommended to re-image on a newly installed operating system and not from any previous image-build. Ensure that the BIOS settings, including SATA configurations and modes, are set appropriately. Use the latest drivers and applications when re-imaging the computer.

Order of reinstallation

NOTE: Some drivers and application installation steps may not be applicable, depending on the configuration of the computer you have ordered.

To achieve optimal performance, install the drivers and applications in the following sequence:

1. **BIOS:** Enables the operating system to be loaded into the memory and enables the initial setup process on your computer.
2. **Windows operating system:** The operating system controls the computer's hardware to be a base on which other software can operate.
3. **Intel chipset driver:** Allows Windows to communicate and adjust settings on components on the system board which includes:
 - Intel Innovation Platform Framework Driver
 - Intel Chipset Device Software Driver
 - Intel Management Engine Components Installer
 - Intel Serial IO Driver
 - Intel HID Event Filter Driver
 - Intel Thunderbolt Controller Driver (applicable if your computer is running Windows 10 operating system)
 - Intel Dynamic Tuning Driver
 - Intel Integrated Sensor Solution Driver
 - Intel 2D Imaging/MCU/Visual Sensing Controller Driver
4. **Critical Microsoft Knowledge Base (KB) updates:** Microsoft updates that fix and optimize the operating system. For more information, see [Windows release information](#).
5. **Intel Rapid Storage Technology (IRST):** Enables and enhances data storage virtualization for the storage drives installed in the computer.
6. **Graphics driver:**
 - Enhances and optimizes video performance.
 - Enables and provides additional functionality not included in the native Microsoft VGA driver, including:
 - User-customizable power management features
 - Portability and behavioral profiles
 - Multiple-monitor support
7. **Audio driver:** Enables and enhances the audio controller.
8. **Fingerprint Sensor Driver:** Enables and enhances the fingerprint-sensor controller.
9. **Dell applications**, which include:
 - Dell Update application
 - MyDell
10. **Networking and communication drivers**, which include:
 - Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) adapter driver: Enables and enhances the wireless adapter.
 - Bluetooth driver: Enables and enhances the Bluetooth adapter.
11. **Dell docking station drivers, if applicable.**

Updating or resetting the BIOS

Flashing the BIOS

It is recommended to flash the BIOS when an update is available or when you replace the system board. To flash the BIOS:

1. Turn on your computer.
2. Go to www.dell.com/support.
3. In the **Search support** field, enter the Service Tag, Serial Number, Service Request, Model, or Keyword of your computer, and then click **Search**.

NOTE: If you do not have the Service Tag, Serial Number, Service Request, Model, or Keyword, use the SupportAssist feature to automatically identify your computer. You can also click **Browse all products** to manually browse for your computer.

4. Click **Drivers & Downloads**.
5. From the **Category** drop-down list, select **BIOS**.
6. Click **Download** to download the latest version of the BIOS for your computer.
7. After the download is complete, navigate to the folder where you saved the BIOS update file.
8. Double-click the BIOS update file icon and follow the instructions on the screen.

Clearing CMOS settings

If flashing your computer with the latest BIOS update results in your computer being unable to boot, a BIOS reset is necessary. Clearing the CMOS setting resets the BIOS to factory settings. For more information about clearing the CMOS settings, see your computer *Service Manual*.

Trusted Platform Module (TPM) security

TPM must be enabled in the BIOS setup program for it to be deployed on the computer. Follow these steps to enable and configure the TPM:

1. Turn on or restart your computer.
2. Press F2 when the Dell logo is displayed on the screen to enter the BIOS setup program. The BIOS setup program is displayed.
3. On the left pane, select **Security > TPM 2.0 Security**.
4. Select or clear any of the following options to enable or disable it, respectively:
 - **Enabled (Default):** The BIOS enables the TPM during POST and it can be accessed by the operating system.
 - **Disabled:** The BIOS will not enable the TPM during POST and it cannot be accessed by the operating system.
 - **TPM On:** The TPM is enabled and activated.
 - **Clear:** The BIOS clears the information stored in the TPM.
5. Save the settings and exit.

Reinstalling the operating system

The Windows operating system is validated for use on this computer. You can reset or reinstall the operating system under different scenarios. For more information about reinstalling the operating system, see the knowledge base article [000176966](https://www.dell.com/support) at www.dell.com/support.

Before you attempt to reinstall of your operating system, Dell Technologies recommends that you backup all data as described in the [Microsoft knowledge base article](#).

Reinstalling drivers and applications

Drivers and applications are software that enables Windows to communicate with the hardware devices and software in your computer. Devices such as video and sound cards require drivers to function correctly within Windows, and enable users to adjust hardware settings.

Windows includes drivers for most devices, but device-specific drivers may have to be downloaded and installed separately. Dell recommends that you download the device drivers for your Dell computer from [Drivers & Downloads](#).

Applications must be downloaded and installed separately. Dell recommends that you download the required applications for your Dell computer from the [Dell Download Center](#).

Displaying drivers and applications on your computer

1. Turn on your computer.
2. Go to www.dell.com/support.
3. In the **Search support** field, enter the Service Tag, Serial Number, Service Request, Model, or Keyword of your computer, and then click **Search**.
 - NOTE:** If you do not have the Service Tag, Serial Number, Service Request, Model, or Keyword, use the SupportAssist feature to automatically identify your computer. You can also click **Browse all products** to manually browse for your computer.
4. Click **Drivers & Downloads**.
5. From the **Operating system** drop-down list, select the Windows operating system that is installed on your computer to get a list of the drivers and applications available for your computer.

Reinstallation sequence for drivers and applications

Driver installation is critical after reinstalling the Windows operating system on your Dell computer. Install the drivers in the correct sequence for your computer to function correctly. In some scenarios, you may have to reinstall or update the device driver if you are encountering issues with a specific device.

For more information, see the Dell knowledge base article [000132394](http://www.dell.com/support) at www.dell.com/support.

NOTE: The Windows operating system includes touchpad drivers; no other touchpad-driver installation is required.

NOTE: The Windows operating system includes the webcam driver; no additional webcam-driver installation is required. For video capture or streaming, users can install webcam software available from third-party providers.

Dell Technologies recommends installing drivers or applications in the following sequence.

1. Chipset device software

The Windows operating system may not include the updated chipset device software for Dell computers. The chipset device software is available on the Dell support site www.dell.com/support.

Downloading and installing the chipset driver

1. Turn on the computer.
2. Go to www.dell.com/support.
3. In the **Search support** field, enter the Service Tag, Serial Number, Service Request, Model, or Keyword of your computer, and then click **Search**.

NOTE: If you do not have the Service Tag, Serial Number, Service Request, Model, or Keyword, use the SupportAssist feature to automatically identify your computer. You can also click **Browse all products** to manually browse for your computer.
4. Click **Drivers & Downloads**.
5. From the **Category** drop-down list, select **Chipset**.
6. Click **Download** to download the chipset driver for your computer.
7. After the download is complete, go to the folder where you saved the chipset driver file.
8. Double-click the chipset driver file icon and follow the on-screen instructions.

2. Critical Microsoft Knowledge Base (KB) updates

Dell recommends installing all the latest available KB updates from the latest Windows Service Pack. Service packs are automatically downloaded and installed when Windows Updates are enabled and can also be manually downloaded and installed from the Microsoft support site. For more information, see [Windows release information](#).

3. Intel Rapid Storage Technology (IRST)

The IRST software package enables and enhances high-performance NVMe capabilities for supported operating systems. The IRST software package provides an added protection against data loss if there is a hard-drive failure.

- NOTE:** The following conditions must be met before you can install IRST on your computer.
- Your computer has a RAID I/O Controller Hub (ICH). If your computer does not have a RAID ICH, you cannot install IRST unless a third-party RAID controller card is installed.
 - Your RAID controller is enabled by default.

CAUTION: If a PCIe NVMe hard drive is already installed, enabling the RAID controller might cause your computer to display a blue screen and an error code followed by a computer reboot. To enable RAID, reinstall the operating system.

4. Graphics

The Windows operating system includes the VGA-graphics driver only. For optimal graphics performance, install the Dell graphics driver applicable to your computer from www.dell.com/support.

Downloading and installing the Dell graphics driver

1. Turn on your computer.
2. Go to www.dell.com/support.
3. In the **Search support** field, enter the Service Tag, Serial Number, Service Request, Model, or Keyword of your computer, and then click **Search**.

NOTE: If you do not have the Service Tag, Serial Number, Service Request, Model, or Keyword, use the SupportAssist feature to automatically identify your computer. You can also click **Browse all products** to manually browse for your computer.

4. Click **Drivers & Downloads**.
5. From the **Category** drop-down list, select **Video**.
6. Click **Download** to download the preferred graphics driver for your computer.
7. After the download is complete, go to the folder where you saved the graphics driver file.
8. Double-click the graphics driver file icon and follow the on-screen instructions.

5. Audio

The Windows operating system does not include the audio driver recommended by Dell. Install the HD audio driver available for download from www.dell.com/support.

Downloading and installing the Dell audio driver

1. Turn on your computer.
2. Go to www.dell.com/support.
3. In the **Search support** field, enter the Service Tag, Serial Number, Service Request, Model, or Keyword of your computer, and then click **Search**.

NOTE: If you do not have the Service Tag, Serial Number, Service Request, Model, or Keyword, use the SupportAssist feature to automatically identify your computer. You can also click **Browse all products** to manually browse for your computer.

4. Click **Drivers & Downloads**.

5. From the **Category** drop-down list, select **Audio**.
6. Click **Download** to download the preferred audio driver for your computer.
7. After the download is complete, go to the folder where you saved the audio driver file.
8. Double-click the audio driver file icon and follow the instructions on the screen.

6. Fingerprint Sensor Driver

Downloading and installing the fingerprint-sensor driver

1. Turn on your computer.
2. Go to www.dell.com/support.
3. In the **Search support** field, enter the Service Tag, Serial Number, Service Request, Model, or Keyword of your computer, and then click **Search**.

NOTE: If you do not have the Service Tag, Serial Number, Service Request, Model, or Keyword, use the SupportAssist feature to automatically identify your computer. You can also click **Browse all products** to manually browse for your computer.

4. Click **Drivers & Downloads**.
5. From the **Category** drop-down list, select **Security**.
6. Click **Download** to download the Fingerprint Sensor Driver for your computer.
7. After the download is complete, go to the folder where you saved the Fingerprint Sensor driver file.
8. Double-click the Fingerprint Sensor driver file icon and follow the on-screen instructions.

7. MyDell

This AI-based optimization software delivers intelligent features to automatically fine-tune your computer for the best audio, video, battery, and performance. Each MyDell experience is different for every user as it learns and responds to the behavior of how the computer is used. MyDell takes one week to learn the behavior of the user, and adjusts their profile after each one-week learning period when needed.

The key features are as follows:

- **Applications:** Displays the preinstalled and purchased applications.
- **Audio:** Improves the audio quality for entertainment and work.
- **Power:** Improves the battery performance and extends runtime for uninterrupted entertainment and productivity.
- **Color and Display:** Enables you to choose or customize the color settings, depending on usage.
- **Presence Detection:** Uses motion sensing on supported Dell laptops to enable User Presence Awareness technology.
- **Preferences:** Enables you to opt in for the MyDell customer experience improvement program, and to receive Dell team notifications.


8. Networking and Communication drivers

The Windows operating system does not provide native-device driver support for WLAN and Bluetooth controllers on Dell computers. To obtain wireless network functionality, install the relevant WiFi and Bluetooth drivers from the Dell support site. WLAN applications, which provide additional features including enterprise authentication enhancements, can also be installed from the Dell support site.

Downloading and installing the Wi-Fi controller and Bluetooth drivers

1. Turn on the computer.
2. Go to www.dell.com/support.

3. In the **Search support** field, enter the Service Tag, Serial Number, Service Request, Model, or Keyword of your computer, and then click **Search**.

 **NOTE:** If you do not have the Service Tag, Serial Number, Service Request, Model, or Keyword, use the SupportAssist feature to automatically identify your computer. You can also click **Browse all products** to manually browse for your computer.

4. Click **Drivers & Downloads**.
5. From the **Category** drop-down list, select **Network, Ethernet & Wireless**.
6. Click **Download** to download the preferred Wi-Fi controller and Bluetooth drivers for your computer.
7. After the download is complete, go to the folder where you saved the driver files.
8. Double-click the file icon of each driver file, and follow the instructions on the screen.

.NET Framework



The .NET Framework is a software framework from Microsoft, which is bundled with Windows operating systems. The .NET Framework is intended to be used by applications created for the Windows platform.

Getting help and contacting Dell

Self-help resources


You can get information and help on Dell products and services using these self-help resources:


Table 1. Self-help resources

Self-help resources	Resource location
Information about Dell products and services	www.dell.com
My Dell app	
Tips	
Contact Support	In Windows search, type <code>Contact Support</code> , and press Enter.
Online help for operating system	www.dell.com/support/windows
Access top solutions, diagnostics, drivers and downloads, and learn more about your computer through videos, manuals, and documents.	Your Dell computer is uniquely identified by a Service Tag or Express Service Code. To view relevant support resources for your Dell computer, enter the Service Tag or Express Service Code at www.dell.com/support . For more information about how to find the Service Tag for your computer, see Locate the Service Tag on your computer .
Dell knowledge base articles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to www.dell.com/support. 2. On the menu bar at the top of the Support page, select Support > Knowledge Base. 3. In the Search field on the Knowledge Base page, type the keyword, topic, or model number, and then click or tap the search icon to view the related articles.

Contacting Dell

To contact Dell for sales, technical support, or customer service issues, see www.dell.com/contactdell.

 **NOTE:** Availability varies by country/region and product, and some services may not be available in your country/region.

 **NOTE:** If you do not have an active Internet connection, you can find contact information about your purchase invoice, packing slip, bill, or Dell product catalog.