

INSPIRON™

SETUP GUIDE



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INSPIRON™

SETUP GUIDE

Model P04E

Regulatory type P04E001

Notes, Cautions, and Warnings



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



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.

If you purchased a Dell™ n Series computer, any references in this document to Microsoft® Windows® operating systems are not applicable.

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Setting Up Your Inspiron™ Laptop


This section provides information about setting up your Inspiron laptop.

Before Setting Up Your Computer

When positioning your computer, ensure that you allow easy access to a power source, adequate ventilation, and a level surface to place your computer.

Restricting airflow around your Inspiron laptop may cause it to overheat. To prevent overheating ensure that you leave at least 10.2 cm (4 inches) at the back of the computer and a minimum of 5.1 cm (2 inches) on all other sides. You should never place your computer in an enclosed space, such as a cabinet or drawer when it is powered on.

 **WARNING:** Do not block, push objects into, or allow dust to accumulate in the air vents. Do not store your Dell™ computer in a low-airflow environment, such as a closed briefcase, while it is powered on. Restricting the airflow can damage the computer or cause a fire. The computer turns on the fan when the computer gets hot. Fan noise is normal and does not indicate a problem with the fan or the computer.

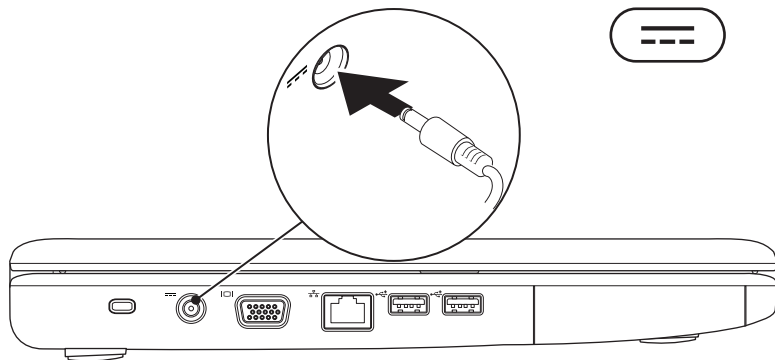
 **CAUTION:** Placing or stacking heavy or sharp objects on the computer may result in permanent damage to the computer.

Connect the AC Adapter

Connect the AC adapter to the computer and then plug it into an electrical outlet or surge protector.

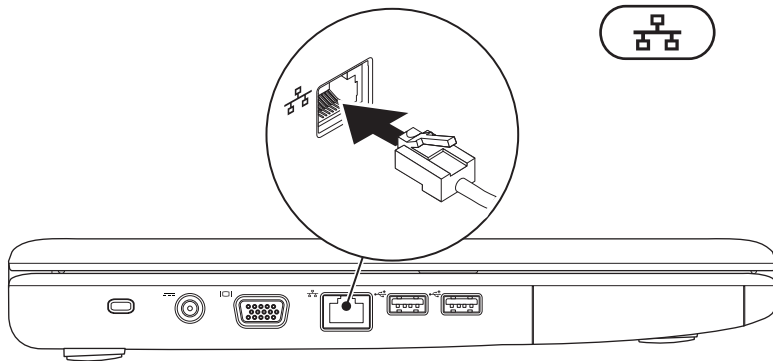


WARNING: The AC adapter works with electrical outlets worldwide. However, power connectors and power strips vary among countries. Using an incompatible cable or improperly connecting the cable to a power strip or electrical outlet may cause fire or permanent damage to your computer.

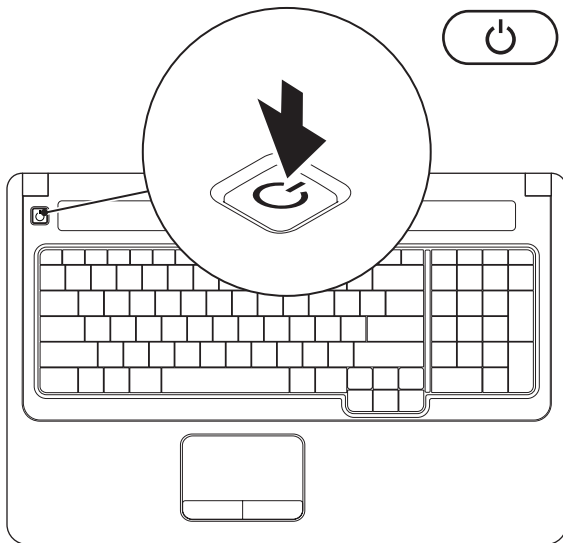


Connect the Network Cable (Optional)

To use a wired network connection, connect the network cable.




Press the Power Button

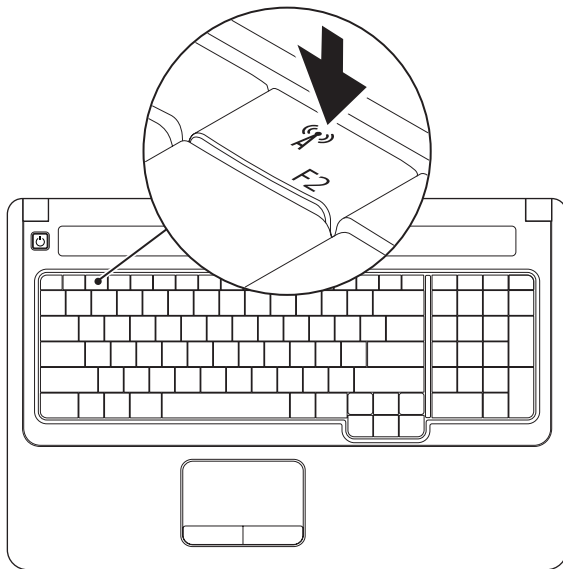


Set Up Windows Vista


Your Dell computer is preconfigured with Windows Vista®. To set up Windows Vista for the first time, follow the instructions on the screen. These steps are mandatory and may take up to 15 minutes to complete. The Windows Vista set up screens will take you through several procedures including accepting license agreements, setting preferences, and setting up an Internet connection.

 **CAUTION: Do not interrupt the operating system's setup process. Doing so may render your computer unusable and you will need to reinstall the operating system.**

Enable or Disable Wireless (Optional)



To enable wireless:


1. Ensure that your computer is turned on.
2. Press the wireless key  on the keyboard.
A confirmation of your selection appears on the screen.


Wireless enabled



Wireless disabled

**To disable wireless:**

Press the wireless key  on the keyboard again to turn off all radios.

 **NOTE:** The wireless key allows you to quickly turn all of your wireless radios (Bluetooth and WiFi) off, such as when you are asked to disable all wireless radios on an airplane flight.

Connect to the Internet (Optional)

To connect to the Internet, you need an external modem or network connection and an Internet service provider (ISP).


If an external USB modem or WLAN adapter is not a part of your original order, you can purchase one from the Dell website at www.dell.com.

Setting Up a Wired Connection

- If you are using a dial-up connection, connect the telephone line to the external USB modem (optional) and to the telephone wall connector before you set up your Internet connection.
- If you are using a DSL or cable/satellite modem connection, contact your ISP or cellular telephone service for setup instructions.

Setting Up a Wireless Connection

Before you can use your wireless Internet connection, you need to connect to your wireless router.

1. Ensure that wireless is enabled on your computer (see “Enable or Disable Wireless” on page 10).
2. Save and close any open files, and exit any open programs.
3. Click **Start**  → **Connect To**.
4. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the setup.

Setting Up Your Internet Connection

ISPs (Internet Service Providers) and ISP offerings vary by country. Contact your ISP for offerings available in your country.


If you cannot connect to the Internet but have successfully connected in the past, the ISP might have a service outage. Contact your ISP to check the service status, or try connecting again later.

Have your ISP information ready. If you do not have an ISP, the **Connect to the Internet** wizard can help you get one.

1. Save and close any open files, and exit any open programs.



NOTE: The following instructions are applicable for the Windows default view, and may not apply if you set your computer to the Windows Classic view.

2. Click **Start**  → **Control Panel**.
3. Click **Network and Internet** → **Network and Sharing Center** → **Set up a connection or network** → **Connect to the Internet**.

The **Connect to the Internet** window appears.



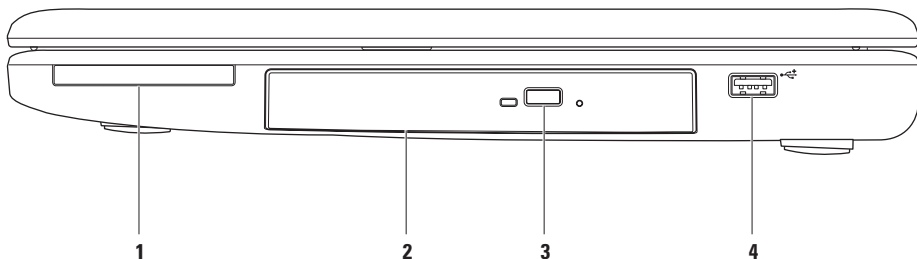
NOTE: If you do not know which type of connection to select, click **Help me choose** or contact your ISP.

4. Follow the instructions on the screen and use the setup information provided by your ISP to complete the setup.

Using Your Inspiron Laptop

This section provides information about the features available on your Inspiron laptop.

Right Side Features



-
- 1 ExpressCard slot** – Supports 34/54 mm wide ExpressCard. The computer ships with a plastic blank installed in the slot.

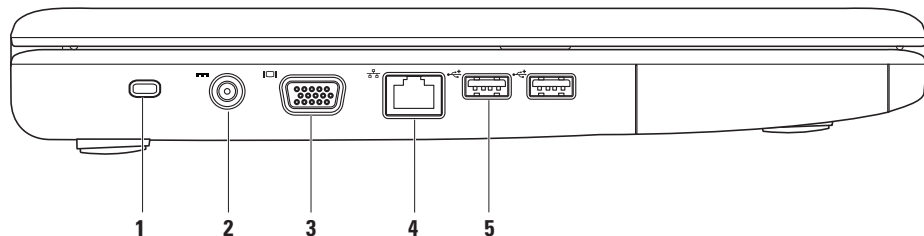
NOTE: Blanks protect unused slots from dust and other particles. Save the blank for use when no ExpressCard is installed in the slot; blanks from other computers may not fit your computer.

-
- 2 Optical drive** – Plays or records CDs and DVDs. Ensure that the side with print or writing is facing upward when placing discs on the optical drive tray.

-
- 3 Eject button** – Opens or closes the optical drive tray when pressed.


-
- 4  USB 2.0 connector** – Connects to USB devices, such as a mouse, keyboard, printer, external drive, or MP3 player.
-

Left Side Features





-
- 1 Security cable slot** – Attaches a commercially available security cable to the computer.

NOTE: Before you buy a security cable, ensure that it works with the security cable slot on your computer.

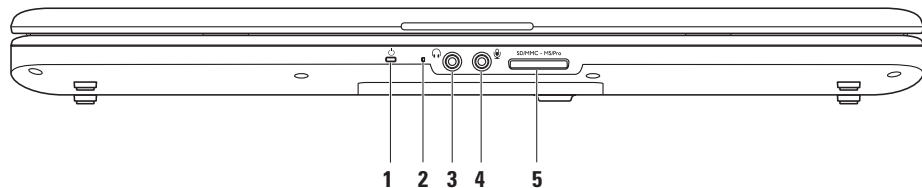
- 2  AC adapter connector** – Connects to an AC adapter to power the computer and charge the battery.
-


- 3  VGA connector** – Connects to a monitor or projector.
-

- 4  Network connector** – Connects your computer to a network or a broadband device if you are using a wired network.
-

- 5  USB 2.0 connectors (2)** – Connects to USB devices, such as a mouse, keyboard, printer, external drive, or MP3 player.
-

Front Side Features



- 1  **Power/Battery indicator light** – The light indicates the following states when powered using an AC adapter or a battery.

	Indicator light status	Computer state(s)	Battery charge level
AC Adapter	Solid white	on off/hibernate	n/a <90%
	Breathing white	standby	charging
	off	off/hibernate	>90%
Battery	Solid white	on	>10%
	Breathing white	standby	>10%
	Solid amber	on/standby	<10%
	off	off/hibernate	n/a

NOTE: The battery is charging when the computer is powered using an AC adapter.

- 2 **Analog microphone** – If you do not have the optional built-in camera with dual microphones, this single microphone is used for conferencing and chat.

- 3  **Audio out/Headphone connector** – Connects one pair of headphones, or sends audio to a powered speaker or sound system.
-

- 4  **Audio in/Microphone connector** – Connects to a microphone or input signal for use with audio programs.
-

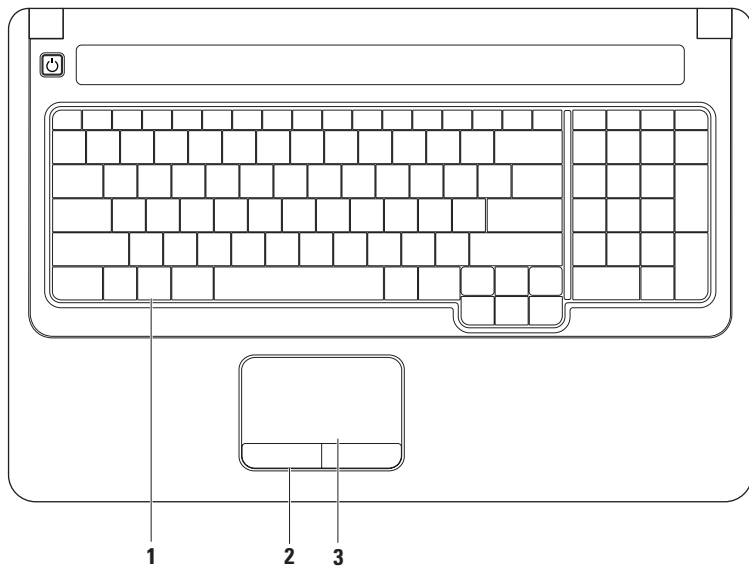
- 5 **SD/MMC - MS/Pro**

7-in-1 Media Card Reader – Provides a fast and convenient way to view and share digital photos, music, videos, and documents stored on the following digital memory cards:

- Secure Digital (SD) memory card
- Secure Digital High Capacity (SDHC) card
- Multi Media Card (MMC/MMC+)
- Memory Stick
- Memory Stick PRO
- xD-Picture Card (type - M and type - H)

NOTE: Your computer ships with a plastic blank installed in the media card slot. Blanks protect unused slots from dust and other particles. Save the blank for use when no media card is installed in the slot; blanks from other computers may not fit your computer.

Computer Base Features



-
- 1 Keyboard** – The media controls are located on the keyboard. These keys control media playback.

For more information on keyboard, see the *Dell Technology Guide* on your hard drive or on the Dell Support website at **support.dell.com/manuals**.

-
- 2 Touch pad buttons** – Provide left- and right-click functions like those on a mouse.

-
- 3 Touch pad** – Provides the functionality of a mouse to move the cursor, drag or move selected items, and left-click by tapping the surface. It supports the **Scroll** and **Zoom** features. For more information, see “Touch Pad Gestures” on page 24.
-

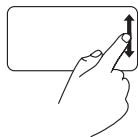
Touch Pad Gestures

Scroll

Allows you to scroll through content. The scroll feature includes:

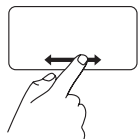
Traditional Scroll – Allows you to scroll up and down, or right and left.

To scroll up and down:



Move a finger up or down in the vertical scroll zone (extreme right of the touch pad) to scroll up or down on the active window.

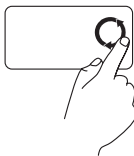
To scroll right and left:



Move a finger right or left in the horizontal scroll zone (extreme bottom of the touch pad) to scroll right or left on the active window.

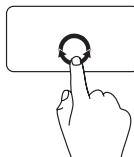
Circular Scroll – Allows you to scroll up and down, or right and left.

To scroll up and down:



Move a finger in the vertical scroll zone (extreme right of the touch pad), in a clockwise circular motion to scroll up or counterclockwise circular motion to scroll down.

To scroll right and left:



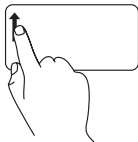
Move a finger in the horizontal scroll zone (extreme bottom of the touch pad), in a clockwise circular motion to scroll right or counterclockwise circular motion to scroll left.

Zoom

Allows you to increase or decrease the magnification of the screen content. The zoom feature includes:

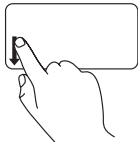
One finger zoom – Allows you to zoom in or out.

To zoom in:



Move a finger up in the zoom zone (extreme left of the touch pad) to zoom in.

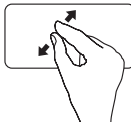
To zoom out:



Move a finger down in the zoom zone (extreme left of the touch pad) to zoom out.

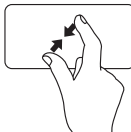
Pinch – Allows you to zoom in or zoom out by moving two fingers apart or bringing them closer together on the touch pad.

To zoom in:



Move two fingers apart to enlarge the view of the active window.

To zoom out:



Move two fingers close together to reduce the view of the active window.

Media Controls

The media control keys are located on the keyboard.

To use the media controls, press the required key. You can use the **Function Key Behavior** setting in the **System Setup** (BIOS) **Utility** or the **Windows Mobility Center** to configure the media control keys.

System Setup (BIOS) Utility –


1. Press <F2> directly during POST (Power On Self Test) to access the System Setup (BIOS) utility.
2. Enter the System Setup (BIOS) utility, and in the **Function Key Behavior**, select **Function Key First** or **Multimedia Key First**.

Windows Mobility Center –

1. Press the <Windows> <X> keys to launch the Windows Mobility Center.
2. In the **Function Key Row**, select **Function Key** or **Multimedia Key**.

Multimedia Key First/ Multimedia Key – This is the default option. Press any multimedia key to perform the associated action. For function key, press <Fn> + the required function key.


Function Key First/Function Key – Press any function key to perform the associated action. For multimedia key, press <Fn> + the required multimedia key.


 **NOTE: Function Key First/Function Key** is the default option in MS-DOS™ and POST.

 **NOTE: Multimedia Key First/Multimedia Key** option is active only in the operating system.



 Mute the sound

 Decrease the volume level

 Increase the volume level

 Play the previous track or chapter

 Play or pause

 Play the next track or chapter

 Eject the disc from the optical drive

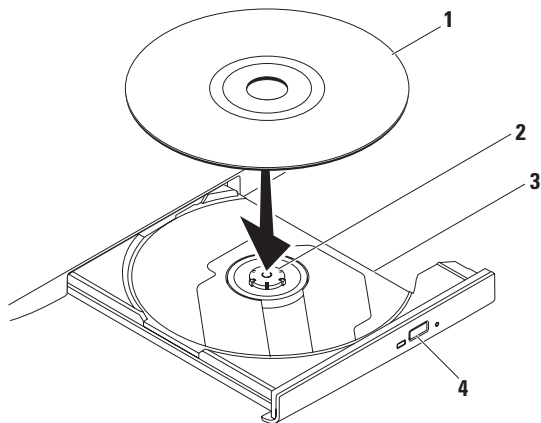
Using the Optical Drive

 **CAUTION:** Do not press down on the disc tray when you open or close it. Keep the tray closed when you are not using the drive.

 **CAUTION:** Do not move the computer while playing the disc.

This optical drive plays or records CDs and DVDs. Ensure that the side with print or writing is facing upward when placing discs on the optical drive tray.

1. Press the eject button on the optical drive.
2. Pull out the optical drive tray.
3. Place the disc, label side up, in the center of the tray and snap the disc onto the spindle.
4. Push the tray back into the drive.



1 disc

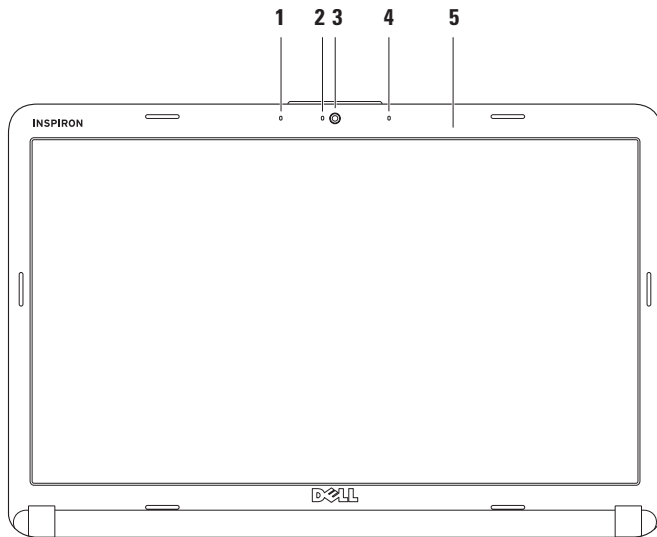
2 spindle

3 optical drive tray

4 eject button




Display Features

The display panel holds an optional camera and accompanying dual digital microphones.



-
- 1 Left digital array microphone (optional)** – Combines with the right digital array microphone to provide high quality sound for video conferencing and voice recording.
-
- 2 Camera activity indicator (optional)** – Indicates if the camera is on or off. Based on selections you made when purchasing your computer, your computer may or may not include a camera.
-
- 3 Camera (optional)** – Built-in camera for video capture, conferencing, and chat. Based on the selections you made when purchasing your computer, your computer may or may not include a camera.
-
- 4 Right digital array microphone (optional)** – Combines with the left digital array microphone to provide high quality sound for video conferencing and voice recording.
-
- 5 Display** – Your display can vary based on selections you made when purchasing your computer. For more information about displays, see the *Dell Technology Guide*.
-

Removing and Replacing the Battery

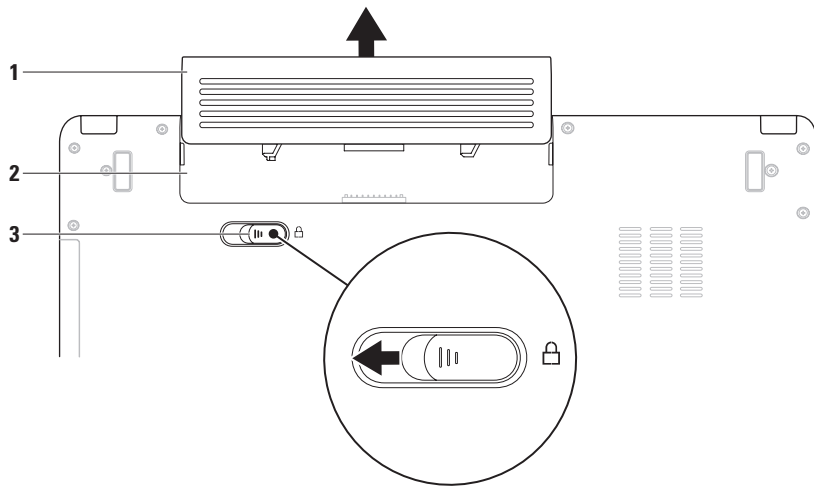
-  **WARNING:** Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions that shipped with your computer.
-  **WARNING:** Using an incompatible battery may increase the risk of fire or explosion. This computer should only use a battery purchased from Dell. Do not use batteries from other computers.
-  **WARNING:** Before removing the battery, shut down the computer, and remove external cables (including the AC adapter).

To remove the battery:

1. Turn off the computer and turn it over.
2. Slide the battery release latch to the unlock position until it clicks into place.
3. Slide the battery out.

To replace the battery:

Slide the battery into the battery bay until it clicks into place.



1 battery

2 battery bay

3 battery release latch

Software Features



NOTE: For more information about the features described in this section, see the *Dell Technology Guide* on your hard drive or on the Dell Support website at support.dell.com/manuals.

Productivity and Communication

You can use your computer to create presentations, brochures, greeting cards, fliers, and spreadsheets. You can also edit and view digital photographs and images. Check your purchase order for software installed on your computer.

After connecting to the Internet, you can access websites, setup an e-mail account, upload and download files, and so on.

Entertainment and Multimedia

You can use your computer to watch videos, play games, create your own CDs/DVDs, listen to music and Internet radio stations.

You can download or copy pictures and video files from portable devices, such as digital cameras and cell phones. Optional software applications enable you to organize and create music and video files that can be recorded to disc, saved on portable products such as MP3 players and handheld entertainment devices, or played and viewed directly on connected TVs, projectors, and home theater equipment.

Customizing the Desktop

You can customize your desktop to change the appearance, resolution, wallpaper, screensaver, and so on by accessing the **Personalize appearance and sounds** window.

To access the **Display Properties** window:


1. Right-click an open area of the desktop.
2. Click **Personalize**, to open the **Personalize appearance and sounds** window and learn more about your customization options.

Customizing Your Energy Settings

You can use the power options in your operating system to configure the power settings on your computer. Microsoft® Windows Vista® provides three default options:

- **Balanced** — Offers full performance when you need it and saves power during periods of inactivity.
- **Power saver** — Saves power on your computer by reducing system performance to maximize the life of the computer and by reducing the amount of energy consumed by your computer over its lifetime.
- **High performance** — Provides the highest level of system performance on your computer by adapting processor speed to your activity and by maximizing system performance.

Transferring Information to a New Computer


1. Click **Start**  → **Control Panel** → **System and Maintenance** → **Welcome Center** → **Transfer files and settings**.

If the **User Account Control** window appears, click **Continue**.

2. Follow the instructions in the **Windows Easy Transfer** wizard.

Backing Up Your Data

It is recommended that you periodically back up files and folders on your computer. To back up files:

1. Click **Start**  → **Control Panel** → **System and Maintenance** → **Backup and Restore Center** → **Backup files**.

If the **User Account Control** window appears, click **Continue**.



NOTE: Certain editions of Windows Vista provide an option to back up your computer.

2. Follow the instructions in the **Back up Files** wizard.

Solving Problems

This section provides troubleshooting information for your computer. If you cannot solve your problem using the following guidelines, see “Using Support Tools” on page 45 or “Contacting Dell” on page 63.



WARNING: Only trained service personnel should remove the computer cover. See the *Service Manual* on the Dell Support website at support.dell.com/manuals for advanced service instructions.

Beep Codes

Your computer might emit a series of beeps during start-up if the monitor cannot display errors or problems. The following repetitive beep codes help you troubleshoot problems with your computer.

 **NOTE:** To replace parts, see the *Service Manual* on the Dell Support website at support.dell.com/manuals.

Two beeps — *No memory/RAM detected*

- Remove the memory modules, reinstall one module and restart the computer. If the computer starts normally, reinstall an additional module. Continue until you have identified a faulty module or reinstalled all modules without an error.
- If available, install memory modules of the same type in your computer.
- If the problem persists, contact Dell (see “Contacting Dell” on page 63).

Three beeps — *Possible motherboard failure - Chipset error*

Contact Dell (see “Contacting Dell” on page 63).

Four beeps — *Memory/RAM failure*

- Ensure that no special memory module/memory connector placement requirements exist (see the *Service Manual* on the Dell Support website at support.dell.com/manuals).
- Verify that the memory modules that you are installing are compatible with your computer.
- For more information about the type of memory supported by your computer, see “Specifications” on page 66.
- If the problem persists, contact Dell (see “Contacting Dell” on page 63).

Six beeps — *Video BIOS failure*

Replace the video card.

Seven beeps — *Central Processor Unit failure*

Replace the central processor unit (CPU).

Eight beeps — *Display failure*

Replace the display.

Network Problems


Wireless Connections

If the wireless network connection is lost —

The wireless router is offline or wireless has been disabled on the computer.

- Check your wireless router to ensure it is powered on and connected to your data source (cable modem or network hub).
- Interference may be blocking or interrupting your wireless connection. Try moving the computer closer to your wireless router.

- Re-establish your connection to the wireless router:

- a. Ensure that wireless is turned on your computer (see “Enable or Disable Wireless” on page 10).
- b. Save and close any open files, and exit any open programs.
- c. Click **Start**  → **Connect To**.
- d. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the setup.

Wired Connections

If the network connection is lost — The cable is loose or damaged. Check the cable to ensure it is plugged in and not damaged.

Power Problems

If the power light is off — The computer is either turned off, in hibernate mode, or is not receiving power.

- Press the power button. The computer resumes normal operation if it is off or in hibernate mode.
- Reseat the AC adapter into both the power connector on the computer and the electrical outlet.
- If the AC adapter is plugged into a power strip, ensure that the power strip is plugged into an electrical outlet and that the power strip is turned on. Also temporarily bypass power protection devices, power strips, and power extension cables to verify that the computer turns on properly.

- Ensure that the electrical outlet is working by testing it with another device, such as a lamp.
- Check the AC adapter cable connections. If the AC adapter has a light, ensure that the light on the AC adapter is on.

If the power light is solid white and the computer is not responding — The computer is either turned off, in hibernate state or the display may not be responding.

- Press the power button. The computer resumes normal operation if it is off or in hibernate mode.
- If the display is not be responding, press the power button until the computer turns off and then turn it back on. If the problem persists, contact Dell (see “Contacting Dell” on page 63).

If the power light is breathing white and the computer is not responding — The computer is in standby mode or the display may not be responding.

- Press a key on the keyboard, move the connected mouse or a finger on the touch pad, or press the power button to resume normal operation.
- If the display is not be responding, press the power button until the computer turns off and then turn it back on. If the problem persists, contact Dell (see “Contacting Dell” on page 63).

If the power light is solid amber and the computer is not responding — The computer is on, in standby mode with low battery, or the display may not be responding.

- Connect the AC adapter to power the computer and charge the battery.

- Move the connected mouse or a finger on the touch pad to resume normal operation.
- If the display is not be responding, press the power button until the computer turns off and then turn it back on. If the problem persists, contact Dell (see “Contacting Dell” on page 63).

If you encounter interference that hinders reception on your computer — An unwanted signal is creating interference by interrupting or blocking other signals. Some possible causes of interference are:

- Power, keyboard, and mouse extension cables.
- Too many devices connected to a power strip.
- Multiple power strips connected to the same electrical outlet.

Memory Problems

If you receive an insufficient memory message —

- Save and close any open files and exit any open programs you are not using to see if that resolves the problem.
- See the software documentation for minimum memory requirements. If necessary, install additional memory (see the *Service Manual* on the Dell Support website at **support.dell.com/manuals**).
- Reseat the memory modules (see the *Service Manual* on the Dell Support website at **support.dell.com/manuals**) to ensure that your computer is successfully communicating with the memory.

If you experience other memory problems —

- Ensure that you are following the memory installation guidelines (see the *Service Manual* on the Dell Support website at **support.dell.com/manuals**).
- Check if the memory module is compatible with your computer. Your computer supports DDR2 memory. For more information about the type of memory supported by your computer, see “Specifications” on page 66.
- Run the Dell Diagnostics (see “Dell Diagnostics” on page 47).
- Reseat the memory modules (see the *Service Manual* on the Dell Support website at **support.dell.com/manuals**) to ensure that your computer is successfully communicating with the memory.

Lockups and Software Problems

If the computer does not start up — Ensure that the AC adapter cable is firmly connected to the computer and to the electrical outlet.

If a program stops responding —

End the program:

1. Press <Ctrl><Shift><Esc> simultaneously.
2. Click **Applications**.
3. Select the program that is no longer responding.
4. Click **End Task**.

If a program crashes repeatedly — Check the software documentation. If necessary, uninstall and then reinstall the program.



NOTE: Software usually includes installation instructions in its documentation or on the CD.

If the computer stops responding or a solid blue screen appears —




WARNING: You might lose data if you are unable to perform an operating system shutdown.

If you are unable to get a response by pressing a key on your keyboard or moving your mouse, press the power button for at least 8 to 10 seconds until the computer turns off and then restart your computer.


Solving Problems

If a program is designed for an earlier Microsoft® Windows® operating system —

Run the **Program Compatibility Wizard**. The **Program Compatibility Wizard** configures a program so that it runs in an environment similar to non-Windows Vista operating system environments.

1. Click **Start**  → **Control Panel** → **Programs** → **Use an older program with this version of Windows**.
2. In the welcome screen, click **Next**.
3. Follow the instructions on the screen.

If you have other software problems —

- Back up your files immediately.
- Use a virus-scanning program to check the hard drive or CDs.
- Save and close any open files or programs and shut down your computer through the **Start**  menu.


- Check the software documentation or contact the software manufacturer for troubleshooting information:

- Ensure that the program is compatible with the operating system installed on your computer.
- Ensure that your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements needed to run the software. See the software documentation for information.
- Ensure that the program is installed and configured properly.
- Verify that the device drivers do not conflict with the program.
- If necessary, uninstall and then reinstall the program.

Using Support Tools

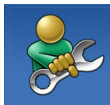
Dell Support Center

The **Dell Support Center** is an easy-to-use application that provides information about your computer, personalized service and support resources.

To launch the application, click the  icon in the taskbar.

The **Dell Support Center** home page displays your computer's model number, service tag, express service code, and service contact information.

The home page also provides links to access:



Self Help (Troubleshooting, Security, System Performance, Network/Internet, Backup/Recovery, and Windows operating system)



Alerts (technical support alerts relevant to your computer)



Assistance from Dell (Technical Support with DellConnect™, Customer Service, Training and Tutorials, How-To Help with Dell on Call, and Online Scan with PC CheckUp)




About Your System (System Documentation, Warranty Information, System Information, Upgrades & Accessories)

For more information about **Dell Support Center** and available support tools, click the **Services** tab at support.dell.com.

System Messages

If your computer has an issue or an error, it may display a System Message that will help you identify the cause and action needed to resolve the issue.

 **NOTE:** If the message you received is not listed in the following examples, see the documentation for either the operating system or the program that was running when the message appeared. Alternatively you could see the *Dell Technology Guide* on your hard drive or on the Dell Support website at support.dell.com/manuals or see “Contacting Dell” on page 63 for assistance.

No boot device available — No bootable partition on hard disk drive, the hard disk drive cable is loose, or no bootable device exists.


- If the hard drive is your boot device, ensure that the cables are connected and that the drive is installed properly and partitioned as a boot device.
- Enter system setup and ensure that the boot sequence information is correct (see the *Dell Technology Guide* on your hard drive or on the Dell Support website at support.dell.com/manuals).

No timer tick interrupt — A chip on the system board might be malfunctioning or motherboard failure (see “Contacting Dell” on page 63 for assistance).

Hardware Troubleshooter


If a device is either not detected during the operating system setup or is detected but incorrectly configured, you can use the **Hardware Troubleshooter** to resolve the incompatibility.


To start the Hardware Troubleshooter:

1. Click **Start**  → **Help and Support**.
2. Type `hardware troubleshooter` in the search field and press <Enter> to start the search.
3. In the search results, select the option that best describes the problem and follow the remaining troubleshooting steps.

Dell Diagnostics

If you experience a problem with your computer, perform the checks in “Lockups and Software Problems” on page 43 and run the Dell Diagnostics before you contact Dell for technical assistance.

 **NOTE:** Dell Diagnostics works only on Dell computers.


 **NOTE:** The *Drivers and Utilities* disc is optional and may not ship with your computer.

Ensure that the device that you want to test displays in the System Setup utility and is active. Press <F2> during POST (Power On Self Test) to enter the System Setup (BIOS) utility.


Start the Dell Diagnostics from your hard drive or from the *Drivers and Utilities* disc.


Starting Dell Diagnostics From Your Hard Drive

The Dell Diagnostics is located on a hidden diagnostic utility partition on your hard drive.

 **NOTE:** If your computer cannot display a screen image, contact Dell (see “Contacting Dell” on page 63).

1. Ensure that the computer is connected to an electrical outlet that is known to be working properly.
2. Turn on (or restart) your computer.
3. When the DELL™ logo appears, press <F12> immediately. Select **Diagnostics** from the boot menu and press <Enter>. This will invoke the Pre-Boot System Assessment (PSA) in some computers.

 **NOTE:** If you wait too long and the operating system logo appears, continue to wait until you see the Microsoft® Windows® desktop; then, shut down your computer and try again.

 **NOTE:** If you see a message stating that no diagnostics utility partition has been found, run the Dell Diagnostics from the *Drivers and Utilities* disc.

If PSA is invoked:

- a. The PSA will start running the tests.
- b. If the PSA completes successfully, you will receive the following message:
“No problems have been found with this system so far. Do you want to run the remaining memory tests? This will take about 30 minutes or more. Do you want to continue? (Recommended).”
- c. Press <y> to continue if you are experiencing memory issues, else press <n>.


d. You will receive the message “Booting Dell Diagnostic Utility Partition. Press any key to continue.”

e. Press any key to continue. The **Choose An Option** window appears.

If PSA is not invoked:

Press any key to start the Dell Diagnostics from the diagnostics utility partition on your hard drive and to go to the **Choose An Option** window.


4. Select the test you want to run.
5. If you encounter a problem during a test, a message with the error code and a description of the problem will appear on your screen. Write down the error code and problem description and contact Dell (see “Contacting Dell” on page 63).


 **NOTE:** The Service Tag for your computer is located at the top of each test screen. If you contact Dell, technical support will ask for your Service Tag.

6. When the tests complete, close the test screen to return to the **Choose An Option** window. To exit the Dell Diagnostics and to restart the computer, click **Exit**.

Starting Dell Diagnostics From the Drivers and Utilities Disc

1. Insert the *Drivers and Utilities* disc.
2. Shut down and restart the computer. When the DELL logo appears, press <F12> immediately.

 **NOTE:** If you wait too long and the operating system logo appears, continue to wait until you see the Microsoft® Windows® desktop; then, shut down your computer and try again.

 **NOTE:** The next steps change the boot sequence for one time only. On the next start-up, the computer boots according to the devices specified in the system setup program.

Using Support Tools

3. When the boot device list appears, highlight **CD/DVD/CD-RW** and press <Enter>.
4. Select the **Boot from CD-ROM** option from the menu that appears and press <Enter>.
5. Type **1** to start the CD menu and press <Enter> to proceed.
6. Select **Run the 32 Bit Dell Diagnostics** from the numbered list. If multiple versions are listed, select the version appropriate for your computer.
7. Select the test you want to run.
8. If you encounter a problem during a test, a message with the error code and a description of the problem will appear on your screen. Write down the error code and problem description and see “Contacting Dell” on page 63.



NOTE: The Service Tag for your computer is located at the top of each test screen. If you contact Dell, technical support will ask for your Service Tag.

9. When the tests complete, close the test screen to return to the **Choose An Option** window. To exit the Dell Diagnostics and to restart the computer, click **Exit**.
10. Remove the *Drivers and Utilities* disc.

Restoring Your Operating System


You can restore your operating system in the following ways:

- System Restore returns your computer to an earlier operating state without affecting data files. Use System Restore as the first solution for restoring your operating system and preserving data files.
- Dell Factory Image Restore returns your hard drive to the operating state it was in when you purchased the computer. This procedure permanently deletes all data on the hard drive and removes any programs installed after you received the computer. Use Dell Factory Image Restore only if System Restore did not resolve your operating system problem.
- If you received an Operating System disc with your computer, you can use it to restore your operating system. However, using the Operating System disc also deletes all data on the hard drive. Use the disc only if System Restore did not resolve your operating system problem.


System Restore


The Windows operating systems provide a System Restore option which allows you to return your computer to an earlier operating state (without affecting data files) if changes to the hardware, software, or other system settings have left the computer in an undesirable operating state. Any changes that System Restore makes to your computer are completely reversible.

 **CAUTION:** Make regular backups of your data files. System Restore does not monitor your data files or recover them.

 **NOTE:** The procedures in this document were written for the Windows default view, so they may not apply if you set your Dell™ computer to the Windows Classic view.

Starting System Restore


1. Click **Start** .
2. In the **Start Search** box, type `System Restore` and press <Enter>.


 **NOTE:** The **User Account Control** window may appear. If you are an administrator on the computer, click **Continue**; otherwise, contact your administrator to continue the desired action.

3. Click **Next** and follow the instructions on the screen.


In the event that System Restore did not resolve the issue, you may undo the last system restore.


Undoing the Last System Restore

 **NOTE:** Before you undo the last system restore, save and close all open files and exit any open programs. Do not alter, open, or delete any files or programs until the system restoration is complete.

1. Click **Start** .
2. In the **Start Search** box, type `System Restore` and press <Enter>.
3. Click **Undo my last restoration** and click **Next**.

Dell Factory Image Restore


 **CAUTION:** Using Dell Factory Image Restore permanently deletes all data on the hard drive and removes any programs or drivers installed after you received your computer. If possible, back up the data before using this option. Use Dell Factory Image Restore only if System Restore did not resolve your operating system problem.

 **NOTE:** Dell Factory Image Restore may not be available in certain countries or on certain computers.

Use Dell Factory Image Restore only as the last method to restore your operating system. This option restores your hard drive to the operating state it was in when you purchased the computer. Any programs or files added since you received your computer—including data files—are permanently deleted from the hard drive. Data files include documents, spreadsheets, e-mail messages, digital photos,

music files, and so on. If possible, back up all data before using Dell Factory Image Restore.


1. Turn on the computer. When the Dell logo appears, press <F8> several times to access the **Vista Advanced Boot Options** window.

 **NOTE:** If you wait too long and the operating system logo appears, continue to wait until you see the Microsoft® Windows® desktop; then, shut down your computer and try again.

2. Select **Repair Your Computer**.
3. The **System Recovery Options** window appears.
4. Select a keyboard layout and click **Next**.
5. To access the recovery options, log on as a local user. To access the command prompt, type `administrator` in the **User name** field, then click **OK**.
6. Click **Dell Factory Image Restore**. The **Dell Factory Image Restore** welcome screen appears.

 **NOTE:** Depending upon your configuration, you may need to select **Dell Factory Tools**, then **Dell Factory Image Restore**.

7. Click **Next**. The **Confirm Data Deletion** screen appears.

 **NOTE:** If you do not want to proceed with Factory Image Restore, click **Cancel**.

8. Select the checkbox to confirm that you want to continue reformatting the hard drive and restoring the system software to the factory condition, then click **Next**.


The restore process begins and may take five or more minutes to complete. A message appears when the operating system and factory-installed applications have been restored to factory condition.

9. Click **Finish** to reboot the system.

Operating System Reinstallation


Before You Begin

If you are considering reinstalling the Windows operating system to correct a problem with a newly installed driver, first try using Windows Device Driver Rollback. If Device Driver Rollback does not resolve the problem, then use System Restore to return your operating system to the operating state it was in before you installed the new device driver. See “System Restore” on page 52.

 **CAUTION:** Before performing the installation, back up all data files on your primary hard drive. For conventional hard drive configurations, the primary hard drive is the first drive detected by the computer.

To reinstall Windows, you need the following:

- Dell *Operating System* disc
- Dell *Drivers and Utilities* disc


 **NOTE:** The *Drivers and Utilities* disc contains drivers that were installed during the assembly of the computer. Use the Dell *Drivers and Utilities* disc to load any required drivers. Depending on the region from which you ordered your computer, or whether you requested the disc, the Dell *Drivers and Utilities* disc and *Operating System* disc may not ship with your computer.


Reinstalling Windows Vista

The reinstallation process can take 1 to 2 hours to complete. After you reinstall the operating system, you must also reinstall the device drivers, virus protection program, and other software.

1. Save and close any open files and exit any open programs.

2. Insert the *Operating System* disc.
3. Click **Exit** if the **Install Windows** message appears.
4. Restart the computer.
5. When the DELL logo appears, press <F12> immediately.

 **NOTE:** If you wait too long and the operating system logo appears, continue to wait until you see the Microsoft® Windows® desktop; then, shut down your computer and try again.

 **NOTE:** The next steps change the boot sequence for one time only. On the next start-up, the computer boots according to the devices specified in the system setup program.

6. When the boot device list appears, highlight **CD/DVD/CD-RW Drive** and press <Enter>.
7. Press any key to **Boot from CD-ROM**. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the installation.

Getting Help

If you experience a problem with your computer, you can complete the following steps to diagnose and troubleshoot the problem:

1. See “Solving Problems” on page 37 for information and procedures that pertain to the problem your computer is experiencing.
2. See the *Dell Technology Guide* on your hard drive or on the Dell Support website at **support.dell.com/manuals** for more troubleshooting information.
3. See “Dell Diagnostics” on page 47 for procedures on how to run Dell Diagnostics.
4. Fill out the “Diagnostic Checklist” on page 62.
5. Use Dell’s extensive suite of online services available at Dell Support (**support.dell.com**) for help with installation and troubleshooting procedures. See “Online Services” on page 58 for a more extensive list of Dell Support online.
6. If the preceding steps have not resolved the problem, see “Before You Call” on page 61.



NOTE: Call Dell Support from a telephone near or at the computer so that the support staff can assist you with any necessary procedures.



NOTE: Dell’s Express Service Code system may not be available in all countries.

When prompted by Dell's automated telephone system, enter your Express Service Code to route the call directly to the proper support personnel. If you do not have an Express Service Code, open the **Dell Accessories** folder, double-click the **Express Service Code** icon, and follow the directions.



NOTE: Some of the services are not always available in all locations outside the continental U.S. Call your local Dell representative for information on availability.

Technical Support and Customer Service

Dell's support service is available to answer your questions about Dell hardware. Our support staff use computer-based diagnostics to provide fast, accurate answers.

To contact Dell's support service, see "Before You Call" on page 61 and then see the contact information for your region or go to **support.dell.com**.

DellConnect™

DellConnect is a simple online access tool that allows a Dell service and support associate to access your computer through a broadband connection, diagnose your problem and repair it all under your supervision. For more information, go to **www.dell.com/DellConnect**.

Online Services

You can learn about Dell products and services on the following websites:

- **www.dell.com**
- **www.dell.com/ap** (Asian/Pacific countries only)
- **www.dell.com/jp** (Japan only)
- **www.euro.dell.com** (Europe only)
- **www.dell.com/la** (Latin American and Caribbean countries)
- **www.dell.ca** (Canada only)

You can access Dell Support through the following websites and e-mail addresses:

Dell Support websites

- **support.dell.com**
- **support.jp.dell.com** (Japan only)
- **support.euro.dell.com** (Europe only)

Dell Support e-mail addresses

- **mobile_support@us.dell.com**
- **support@us.dell.com**
- **la-techsupport@dell.com** (Latin America and Caribbean countries only)
- **apsupport@dell.com** (Asian/Pacific countries only)

Dell Marketing and Sales e-mail addresses

- **apmarketing@dell.com** (Asian/Pacific countries only)
- **sales_canada@dell.com** (Canada only)

Anonymous file transfer protocol (FTP)

- **ftp.dell.com**

Log in as user: `anonymous`, and use your e-mail address as your password.

Automated Order-Status Service


To check on the status of any Dell products that you have ordered, you can go to **support.dell.com**, or you can call the automated order-status service. A recording prompts you for the information needed to locate and report on your order. For the telephone number to call your region, see “Contacting Dell” on page 63.

If you have a problem with your order, such as missing parts, wrong parts, or incorrect billing, contact Dell for customer assistance. Have your invoice or packing slip handy when you call. For the telephone number to call your region, see “Contacting Dell” on page 63.


Product Information

If you need information about additional products available from Dell, or if you would like to place an order, visit the Dell website at **www.dell.com**. For the telephone number to call your region or to speak to a sales specialist, see “Contacting Dell” on page 63.


Returning Items for Repair Under Warranty or for Credit


 **NOTE:** Before you return the product to Dell, make sure to back up any data on the hard drive(s) and on any other storage device in the product. Remove any and all confidential, proprietary and personal information, as well as removable media, such as CDs and PC Cards. Dell is not responsible for any of your confidential, proprietary or personal information; lost or corrupted data; or damaged or lost removable media that may be included with your return.

Prepare all items being returned, whether for repair or credit, as follows:


1. Call Dell to obtain a Return Material Authorization Number, and write it clearly and prominently on the outside of the box.
 **NOTE:** For the telephone number to call your region, see “Contacting Dell” on page 63.
2. Include a copy of the invoice and a letter describing the reason for the return.
3. Include a copy of the Diagnostics Checklist (see “Diagnostic Checklist” on page 62), indicating the tests that you have run and any error messages reported by the Dell Diagnostics (see “Dell Diagnostics” on page 47).
4. Include any accessories that belong with the item(s) being returned (power cables, software, guides, and so on) if the return is for credit.

5. Pack the equipment to be returned in the original (or equivalent) packing materials.

 **NOTE:** You are responsible for paying shipping expenses. You are also responsible for insuring any product returned, and you assume the risk of loss during shipment to Dell. Collect On Delivery (C.O.D.) packages are not accepted.

 **NOTE:** Returns that are missing any of the preceding requirements will be refused at Dell's receiving dock and returned to you.

Before You Call

 **NOTE:** Have your Express Service Code ready when you call. The code helps Dell's automated-support telephone system direct your call more efficiently. You may also be asked for your Service Tag (located on the back or bottom of your computer).

Remember to fill out the following Diagnostic Checklist. If possible, turn on your computer before you call Dell for assistance and call from a telephone at or near the computer. You may be asked to type some commands at the keyboard, relay detailed information during operations, or try other troubleshooting steps possible only at the computer itself. Ensure that the computer documentation is available.

Diagnostic Checklist

- Name:
- Date:
- Address:
- Phone number:
- Service Tag (bar code on the back or bottom of the computer):
- Express Service Code:
- Return Material Authorization Number (if provided by Dell support technician):
- Operating system and version:
- Devices:
- Expansion cards:
- Are you connected to a network? Yes/No
- Network, version, and network adapter:
- Programs and versions:

See your operating system documentation to determine the contents of the computer's start-up files. If the computer is connected to a printer, print each file. Otherwise, record the contents of each file before calling Dell.

- Error message, beep code, or diagnostic code:
- Description of problem and troubleshooting procedures you performed:

Contacting Dell

For customers in the United States, call 800-WWW-DELL (800-999-3355).



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

Dell provides several online and telephone-based support and service options. Availability varies by country and product, and some services may not be available in your area.

To contact Dell for sales, technical support, or customer service issues:

1. Visit **www.dell.com/contactdell**.
2. Select your country or region.
3. Select the appropriate service or support link based on your need.
4. Choose the method of contacting Dell that is convenient for you.

Finding More Information and Resources

If you need to:

reinstall your operating system.

run a diagnostic program for your computer, reinstall notebook system software, or update drivers for your computer, and readme files.

learn more about your operating system, maintaining peripherals, Internet, Bluetooth®, networking, and e-mail.

upgrade your computer with new or additional memory, or a new hard drive.

reinstall or replace a worn or defective part.

See:

the *Operating System* disc

the *Drivers and Utilities* disc



NOTE: Drivers and documentation updates can be found on the Dell™ Support website at support.dell.com/manuals.

the *Dell Technology Guide* installed on your hard drive or on the Dell Support website at support.dell.com/manuals

the *Service Manual* on the Dell Support website at support.dell.com/manuals



NOTE: In some countries, opening and replacing parts of your computer may void your warranty. Check your warranty and return policies before working inside your computer.

If you need to:

find safety best practices information for your computer review Warranty information, Terms and Conditions (U.S. only), Safety instructions, Regulatory information, Ergonomics information, and End User License Agreement.

find your Service tag/Express Service Code—You must use the service tag to identify your computer on **support.dell.com** or to contact technical support.

find drivers and downloads.

access technical support and product help.

check on your order status for new purchases.

find solutions and answers to common questions.

locate information for last-minute updates about technical changes to your computer or advanced technical-reference material for technicians or experienced users.

See:

the safety and regulatory documents that shipped with your computer and also see the Regulatory Compliance Homepage at **www.dell.com/regulatory_compliance**

the back or bottom of your computer

the Dell Support website at **support.dell.com**

Specifications

Computer Model

Inspiron 17

This section provides information that you may need when setting up, updating drivers for, and upgrading your computer.



NOTE: Offerings may vary by region.

For more information regarding the configuration of your computer, click **Start**→ **Help and Support** and select the option to view information about your computer.

Processor

Types	Intel® Celeron® Intel Celeron Dual-Core Intel Core™2 Duo Intel Pentium® Dual-Core
L2 cache	1 MB, 2 MB, 3 MB, or 6 MB per core depending on model
External bus frequency	667/800/1066 MHz

ExpressCard

ExpressCard controller	Intel ICH9M
ExpressCard connector	one ExpressCard slot (54 mm)
Cards supported	ExpressCard/34 (34 mm) ExpressCard/54 (54 mm) 1.5 V and 3.3 V
ExpressCard connector size	26 pins

Memory

Connectors	two internally-accessible SO-DIMM sockets
Capacities	1 GB, 2 GB, and 4 GB
Memory type	800 MHz DDR2 SO-DIMM
Possible memory configurations	1 GB, 2 GB, 3 GB, 4 GB, 5 GB, 6 GB, and 8 GB



NOTE: For instructions on upgrading memory, see the *Service Manual* on the Dell Support website at support.dell.com/manuals.



NOTE: To take advantage of the dual channel bandwidth capability, you must populate both memory slots with cards of the same size.

Specifications

Computer Information

System chipset	Mobile Intel Express Cantiga GM45 (UMA), GM45/PM45 (Discrete)
Data bus width	64 bits
DRAM bus width	dual channel (2) 64-bit buses
Processor address bus width	36 bits
Flash EPROM	2 MB

Communications

Network adapter	10/100 Ethernet LAN on system board
Wireless	internal WLAN Mini-Card Bluetooth® wireless technology

Video

Video type	integrated on system board
LCD interface	Low Voltage Differential Signaling (LVDS)

Discrete:

Video controller	ATI Mobility Radeon HD 4330
Video memory	GDDR3 256 MB DDR2 512 MB

UMA:

Video controller	integrated GMA 4500MHD
Video memory	dynamic based on system memory capacity

Camera (Optional)

Pixel	1.3 megapixel
Video resolution	640 x 480 at 30 fps (maximum)
Diagonal viewing angle	66°

Audio

Audio type	2 channel High Definition Audio
Audio controller	IDT 92HD71
Internal interface	Intel High Definition Audio
External interface	microphone-in connector, stereo headphones/speakers connector

Audio

Speaker	two 4-ohm speakers
Internal speaker amplifier	2 Watt per channel into 4 ohms
Volume controls	program menus, media control buttons

Connectors

Network adapter	RJ45 connector
USB	three 4-pin USB 2.0-compliant connectors
VGA	15-hole connector

Specifications

Media

Drive	CD/DVD Writer (Dual Layer DVD+/-RW Drive) Blu-ray Disc™ (BD) (optional)
Interface	Roxio Creator DE or Roxio Creator Premier Blu-ray (for Blu-ray Disc) PowerDVD

Display

Type (active-matrix TFT)	17.3-inch HD+ WLED with TrueLife 17.3-inch FHD WLED with TrueLife
--------------------------	--

Dimensions:

Height	214.81 mm (8.46 inches)
Width	381.88 mm (15.03 inches)
Diagonal	439.42 mm (17.3 inches)

Display

Maximum resolution	1600 x 900 at 262 K colors (HD+ WLED with TrueLife) 1920 x 1080 at 262 K colors (FHD WLED with TrueLife)
Refresh rate	60 Hz
Operating angle	0° (closed) to 155°
Luminance	200 min. 220 typ. cd/m² (HD+ WLED with TrueLife) 230 min. 300 typ. cd/m² (FHD WLED 5 point avg)

Viewing Angles:

Horizontal	±40° (HD+ WLED with TrueLife) ±60° (FHD WLED with TrueLife)
------------	--

Display

Vertical	+15°/–30° (HD+ WLED with TrueLife) ±50° (FHD WLED with TrueLife)
Pixel pitch	0.2388 x 0.2388 mm (HD+ WLED with TrueLife) 0.1989 x 0.1989 (FHD WLED with TrueLife)
Controls	brightness can be controlled through keyboard shortcuts (for more information, see the <i>Dell Technology Guide</i> on your hard drive or on the Dell Support website at support.dell.com/manuals)

Keyboard

Number of keys	87 (U.S. and Canada); 88 (Europe); 91 (Japan)
Layout	QWERTY/AZERTY/Kanji

Touch Pad

X/Y position resolution (graphics table mode)	240 cpi
<i>Size:</i>	
Width	90 mm (3.54 inches) sensor-active area
Height	45.2 mm (1.78 inches) rectangle

Specifications

Battery

Type	4-cell “smart” lithium ion 6-cell “smart” lithium ion 9-cell “smart” lithium ion
Depth	57.7 mm (2.27 inches) (4/6/9-cell)
Height	20.2 mm (0.79 inches) (4/6-cell) 40.0 mm (1.57 inches) (9-cell)
Width	205.1 mm (8.07 inches) (4/6-cell) 276.9 mm (10.9 inches) (9-cell)
Weight	0.25 kg (0.55 lbs) (4-cell) 0.35 kg (0.77 lbs) (6-cell) 0.51 kg (1.12 lbs) (9-cell)
Voltage	14.8 VDC (4-cell) 11.1 VDC/10.8 VDC (6-cell) 11.1 VDC (9-cell)

Battery

*Charge time at room temperature
(approximate):*

Computer off 4 hours

Operating time Battery operating time varies depending on operating conditions and can be significantly reduced under certain power-intensive conditions.

For more information, see the *Dell Technology Guide* on your hard drive or on the Dell Support website at **support.dell.com/manuals**.

Life span 300 discharge/charge
(approximate) cycles

Battery*Temperature range:*

Operating	0° to 35°C (32° to 95°F)
Storage	−40° to 65°C (−40° to 149°F)
Coin-cell battery	CR-2032

AC Adapter

Types	65 W, 90 W
Input voltage	100–240 VAC

Input current (maximum):

65 W	1.6 A
90 W	1.5 A
Input frequency	50–60 Hz
Output power	65 W or 90 W

AC Adapter*Output current:*

65 W	3.34 A (continuous)
90 W	4.62 A (continuous)
Rated output voltage	19.5 ± 1 VDC

Dimensions:

65 W:	
Height	29 mm (1.14 inches)
Width	46.5 mm (1.83 inches)
Length	107 mm (4.21 inches)
Weight (with cables)	0.25 kg (0.55 lbs)
90 W:	
Height	16 mm (0.6 inches)

Specifications

AC Adapter

Width	70 mm (2.8 inches)
Length	147 mm (5.8 inches)
Weight (with cables)	0.345 kg (0.76 lbs)

Temperature range

Operating	0° to 35°C (32° to 95°F)
Storage	–30° to 65°C (–22° to 149°F)

Physical

Height	29.8 mm to 39.5 mm (1.17 inches to 1.55 inches)
Width	416 mm (16.38 inches)
Depth	276 mm (10.86 inches)

Weight (with 6-cell battery):

Configurable to less than	3.1 kg (7.0 lbs)
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Computer Environment

Temperature range:

Operating	0° to 35°C (32° to 95°F)
Storage	–40° to 65°C (–40° to 149°F)

Relative humidity (maximum):

Operating	10% to 90% (noncondensing)
Storage	5% to 90% (noncondensing)

Maximum vibration (using a random-vibration spectrum that simulates user environment):

Operating	0.66 GRMS
Non-Operating	1.3 GRMS

Computer Environment

Maximum shock (for operating: measured with Dell Diagnostics running on the hard drive and a 2-ms half-sine pulse; for non-operating: measured with hard drive in head-parked position and a 2-ms half-sine pulse):

Operating	110 GRMS
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Non-Operating	160 GRMS
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Altitude (maximum):

Operating	–15.2 to 3048 m (–50 to 10,000 ft)
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Storage	–15.2 to 10,668 m (–50 to 35,000 ft)
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Airborne contaminant level	G2 or lower as defined by ISA-S71.04-1985
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Appendix

Macrovision Product Notice

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