

Dell™ Vostro™ A100/A180

Setup and

Quick Reference Guide

This guide provides a features overview, specifications, and quick setup, software, and troubleshooting information for your computer. For more information about your operating system, devices, and technologies, see the *Dell Technology Guide* at support.dell.com.



Notes, Notices, and Cautions



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



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



CAUTION: A CAUTION 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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Model DCMTLF

July 2008

P/N U792G

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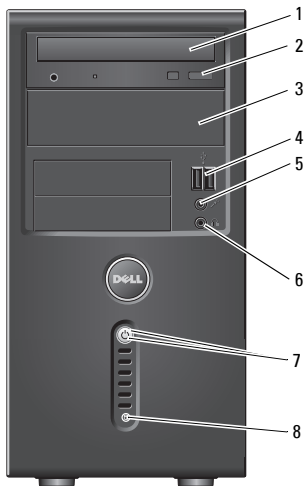
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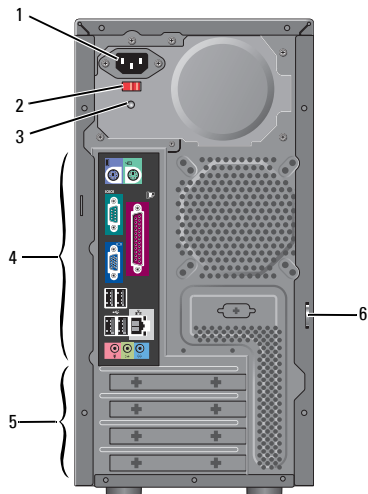
About Your Computer

Front View



- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | optical drive | 2 | optical-drive eject button |
| 3 | optional optical drive bay | 4 | USB 2.0 connectors (2) |
| 5 | microphone connector | 6 | headphone connector |
| 7 | power button, power light | 8 | drive-activity light |

Back View

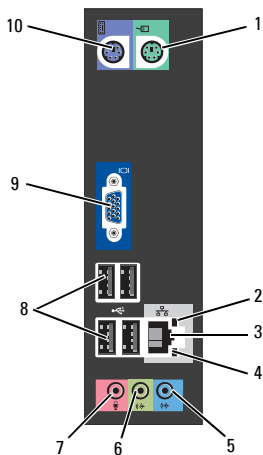


- | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | power connector | 2 | voltage selector switch (optional) |
| 3 | power supply light | 4 | back-panel connectors |
| 5 | expansion card slots | 6 | padlock ring |

NOTE: The serial and parallel connectors are available only in Vostro™ A180.

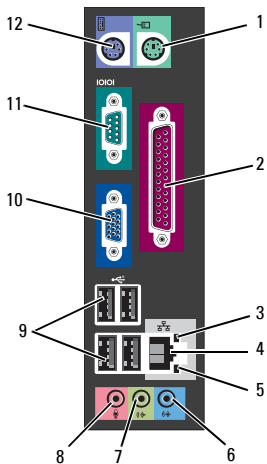
Back Panel Connectors

Vostro A100



- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | mouse connector | 2 | link-integrity light |
| 3 | network adapter connector | 4 | network-activity light |
| 5 | line-in connector | 6 | front line-out connector |
| 7 | microphone connector | 8 | USB 2.0 connectors (4) |
| 9 | VGA video connector | 10 | keyboard connector |

Vostro A180



- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1 | mouse connector | 2 | parallel connector |
| 3 | network activity light | 4 | network adapter connector |
| 5 | link-integrity light | 6 | line-in connector |
| 7 | front line-out connector | 8 | microphone connector |
| 9 | USB 2.0 connectors (4) | 10 | VGA video connector |
| 11 | serial connector | 12 | keyboard connector |

Setting Up Your Computer

Quick Setup

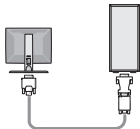
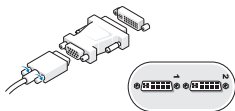
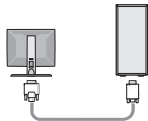
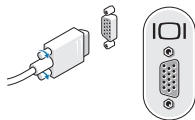
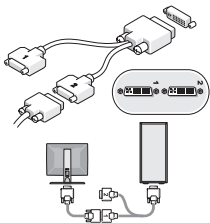


CAUTION: Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions that shipped with your computer.



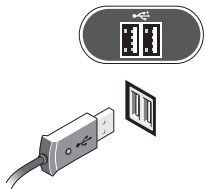
NOTE: Some devices may not be included if you did not order them.

- 1 Connect the monitor using only one of the following cables: the dual monitor Y-adaptor cable, the white DVI cable, or the blue VGA cable.

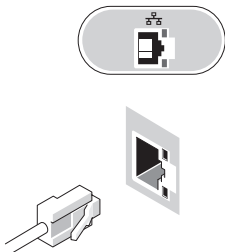


Setting Up Your Computer

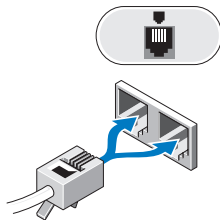
- 2** Connect a USB device, such as a keyboard or mouse.



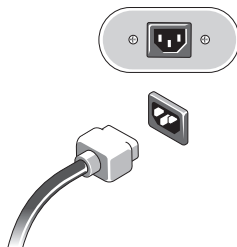
- 3** Connect the network cable.



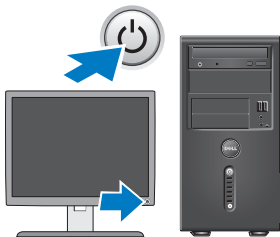
- 4** Connect the modem.



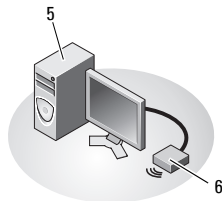
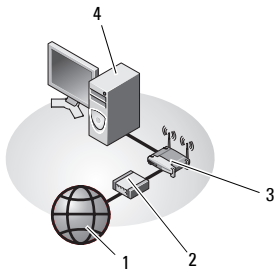
- 5** Connect the power cable(s).



- 6** Press the power buttons on the monitor and the computer.



- 7** Connect to your network.



- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Internet service | 2 | cable or DSL modem |
| 3 | wireless router | 4 | desktop computer with network adapter |
| 5 | desktop computer with USB wireless adapter | 6 | USB wireless adapter |

Installing Your Computer in an Enclosure

Installing your computer in an enclosure can restrict the airflow and impact your computer's performance, possibly causing it to overheat. Follow the guidelines below when installing your computer in an enclosure.



CAUTION: Before installing your computer in an enclosure, read the safety instructions that shipped with your computer.



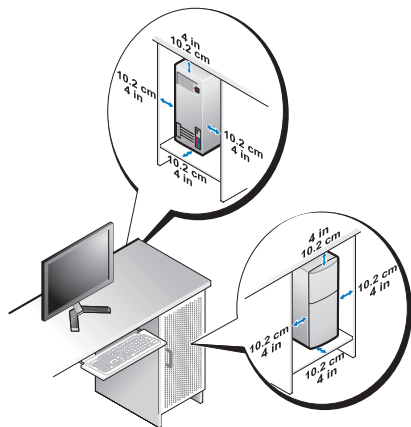
NOTICE: The operating temperature specifications indicated in this document reflects the maximum ambient operating temperature. The room ambient temperature needs to be a consideration when you install your computer in an enclosure. For example, if the ambient room temperature is at 25°C (77°F), depending on your computer's specifications, you only have 5° to 10°C (9° to 18°F) temperature margin before you reach

your computer's maximum operating temperature. For details about your computer's specifications, see "Specifications" on page 19.

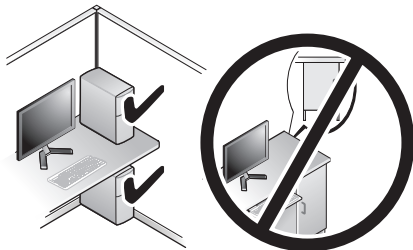
- Leave a 10.2-cm (4-inch) minimum clearance on all sides of the computer that have air vents to permit the airflow required for proper ventilation.
- If your enclosure has doors, the doors need to be of a type that allows at least a 30-percent airflow through the enclosure at the front and at the back.



NOTICE: Do not install your computer in an enclosure that does not allow airflow. Restricting the airflow impacts your computer's performance, possibly causing it to overheat.



- If your computer is installed in a corner on a desk or under a desk, leave at least 5.1-cm (2-inch) clearance from the back of the computer to the wall to permit the airflow required for proper ventilation.



Connecting to the Internet



NOTE: ISPs and ISP offerings vary by country.

To connect to the Internet, you need a modem or network connection and an Internet service provider (ISP). *If you are using a dial-up connection*, connect a telephone line to the modem connector on your computer and to the telephone wall connector before you set up your Internet

Setting Up Your Computer

connection. *If you are using a DSL or cable/satellite modem connection*, contact your ISP or cellular phone service for setup instructions.

Setting Up Your Internet Connection

To set up an Internet connection with a desktop shortcut provided by your ISP:

- 1 Save and close any open files, and exit any open programs.
- 2 Double-click the ISP icon on the Microsoft® Windows® desktop.
- 3 Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the setup.

If you do not have an ISP icon on your desktop or if you want to set up an Internet connection with a different ISP, perform the steps in the appropriate section below.




NOTE: If you cannot connect to the Internet, see the *Dell Technology Guide* available on your hard drive or on the Dell Support website at support.dell.com. If you 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.



NOTE: Have your ISP information ready. If you do not have an ISP, consult the **Connect to the Internet** wizard.

Microsoft® Windows Vista® Operating System

- 1 Save and close any open files, and exit any open programs.
- 2 Click the Windows Vista Start button  → **Control Panel**.
- 3 Under **Network and Internet**, click **Connect to the Internet**.

- 4 In the **Connect to the Internet** window, click either **Broadband (PPPoE)** or **Dial-up**, depending on how you want to connect:
 - Choose **Broadband** if you will use a DSL, satellite modem, cable TV modem, or Bluetooth[®] wireless technology connection.
 - Choose **Dial-up** if you will use a dial-up modem or ISDN.




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

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

Transferring Information to a New Computer

Microsoft[®] Windows Vista[®] Operating System

- 1 Click the Windows Vista Start button , and then click **Transfer files and settings** → **Start Windows Easy Transfer**.
- 2 In the **User Account Control** dialog box, click **Continue**.
- 3 Click **Start a new transfer** or **Continue a transfer in progress**.
- 4 Follow the instructions provided on the screen by the **Windows Easy Transfer** wizard.

Specifications



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

Processor type	Intel® Atom™ processor Intel Pentium® Dual-Core processor Intel Celeron® Dual-Core processor Intel Celeron processor
Level 2 (L2) cache	512 KB for Intel Atom, Intel Celeron Dual-Core, and Intel Celeron processors 1 MB for Intel Pentium Dual-Core processor

System Information

	Vostro A100	Vostro A180
Chipset	Intel 945GC and ICH7	Intel G31 and ICH7
DMA channels	seven	seven

Specifications

System Information (Continued)

	Vostro A100	Vostro A180
Interrupt levels	24	24
BIOS chip (NVRAM)	4 Mb	8 Mb
NIC	integrated network interface capable of 10/100 communication	integrated network interface capable of 10/100 communication

Memory

	Vostro A100	Vostro A180
Type	533 MHz	667/800 MHz
Memory connectors	one	two
Memory capacities	512 MB, 1 GB or 2 GB	512 MB, 1 GB or 2 GB
Minimum memory	512 MB	512 MB
Maximum memory	2 GB	4 GB

Video	Vostro A100	Vostro A180
Type:		
Integrated	Intel integrated video GMA 950 up to 256-MB video memory (shared) at total system memory of greater than 512 MB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 3100
Discrete	N/A	optional PCI Express x16 graphics card (up to 25 W)

Audio	
Type	Intel High Definition Audio

Specifications

Expansion Bus		
	Vostro A100	Vostro A180
Bus type	PCI 2.3 SATA 1.0 and 2.0 USB 2.0	PCI 2.3 PCI Express 1.0A SATA 1.0 and 2.0 USB 2.0
Bus speed	133 MB/s (PCI) 1.5 Gbps and 3.0 Gbps (SATA) 480-Mbps high speed, 12-Mbps full speed, 1.2-Mbps low speed (USB)	133 MB/s (PCI) x1-slot bidirectional speed — 500 MB/s (PCI Express) x16-slot bidirectional speed — 8 GB/s (PCI Express) 1.5 Gbps and 3.0 Gbps (SATA) 480-Mbps high speed, 12-Mbps full speed, 1.2-Mbps low speed (USB)
PCI	one	two
connector size	124 pins	124 pins
connector data width (maximum)	32 bits	32 bits

Expansion Bus (Continued)

	Vostro A100	Vostro A180
PCI Express x1	N/A	one
connector size	N/A	36 pins
connector data width (maximum)	N/A	1 PCI Express lane
PCI Express x16	N/A	one
connector size	N/A	164 pins
connector data width (maximum)	N/A	16 PCI Express lanes

Drives

	Vostro A100	Vostro A180
Externally accessible:	two 3.5-inch drive bays	two 3.5-inch drive bays
Internally accessible	four 3.5-inch SATA drive bays	four 3.5-inch SATA drive bays

Specifications

Drives (Continued)

	Vostro A100	Vostro A180
Available devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• up to two 3.5-inch SATA hard drives• two 5.25-inch optical disc drive bays	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• up to four 3.5-inch SATA hard drives• two 5.25-inch optical disc drive bays

Connectors

	Vostro A100	Vostro A180
External connectors:		
Video	15-hole connector	15-hole connector
Network adapter	RJ45 connector	RJ45 connector
Serial	N/A	9-pin connector
Parallel	N/A	25-pin connector
USB	two front-panel, and four back-panel USB 2.0-compliant connectors	two front-panel, and four back-panel USB 2.0-compliant connectors
Audio	three connectors for 2.0 support	three connectors for 5.1 support

Connectors (Continued)

	Vostro A100	Vostro A180
System board connectors:		
Serial ATA	two 7-pin connectors	four 7-pin connectors
Floppy drive	N/A	one 34-pin connector
Processor fan	N/A	one 4-pin connector
Chassis fan	one 4-pin connector	one 4-pin connector
PCI 2.3	one 124-pin connector	two 124-pin connectors
PCI Express x1	N/A	one 36-pin connector
PCI Express x16	N/A	one 164-pin connector
Front panel control	one 10-pin connector	one 10-pin connector
Front panel USB	one 10-pin connector	one 10-pin connector
Front panel audio HDA header	one 10-pin connector	one 10-pin connector
Processor	solder down for Intel Atom processor	one 775-pin connector
Memory	one 240-pin connector	two 240-pin connectors

Specifications

Connectors (Continued)

	Vostro A100	Vostro A180
Power 12V	one 4-pin connector	one 4-pin connector
Power	one 24-pin connector	one 24-pin connector

Controls and Lights

	Vostro A100	Vostro A180
Front of computer:		
Power button	push button	push button
Power light	blue light — Power on state blinking blue light— Standby state off (no light) — Power off state	blue light— Power on state off (no light) — Power off and standby states
Drive activity light	blue light — A blinking blue light indicates the computer is reading data from or writing data to the SATA hard drive or CD/DVD.	blue light — A blinking blue light indicates the computer is reading data from or writing data to the SATA hard drive or CD/DVD.

Controls and Lights (Continued)

	Vostro A100	Vostro A180
Rear of computer:		
Link integrity light (on the integrated network adapter)	green light — A good connection exists between the network and the computer. off (no light) — The computer is not detecting a physical connection to the network.	green light — A good connection exists between the network and the computer. off (no light) — The computer is not detecting a physical connection to the network.
Network activity light (on integrated network adapter)	yellow blinking light.	yellow blinking light.
Power supply LED	green light — Power on state off (no light) — Indicates power supply, motherboard, or peripheral device failure	green light — Power on state off (no light) — Indicates power supply, motherboard, or peripheral device failure

Specifications

Power

DC power supply:

Wattage 180 W

Maximum heat dissipation (MHD) 614 BTU/hr

Heat dissipation is calculated by using the power supply wattage rating.

Voltage (see the safety information that shipped with your computer for important voltage setting information) 200-240 VAC, 50/60 Hz, 3.5 A
115/230 VAC, 50/60 Hz, 7 A/3.5 A

Coin-cell battery 3-V CR2032 lithium coin cell

NOTE: Vostro A180 can support discrete graphic cards up to 25W or additional peripherals up to 25W. If greater power capabilities are required, the power supply unit must be upgraded.

Physical

Height 35.9 cm (14.1 inches)

Width 18.0 cm (7.1 inches)

Physical (Continued)

Depth 45.0 cm (17.7 inches)

Weight 12.7 kg (28.0 lb)

Environmental

Temperature:

Operating 10° to 35°C (50° to 95°F)

Storage -40° to 65°C (-40° to 149°F)

Relative humidity 20% to 80% (noncondensing)

Maximum vibration:

Storage 5~500 Hz, 2.2 Grms, 15 mins per side

Maximum shock:

Operating 40 G +/- 5%, 2 ms +/- 10%, half sine wave

Storage 105 G +/-5%, 2 ms +/- 10%, half sine wave

Specifications

Environmental (Continued)

Altitude:

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

Troubleshooting



CAUTION: To guard against the likelihood of electric shock, laceration by moving fan blades, or other expected injuries, always unplug your computer from the electrical outlet before opening the cover.



CAUTION: Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions that shipped with your computer.

Tools

Power Lights

The power-button light located on the front of the computer turns on and blinks or remains solid to indicate different states:

- If the power light is off, the computer is either turned off or is not receiving power.

- If the power light is steady blue and the computer is not responding, ensure that the display is connected and powered on.
- If the power light is blinking blue (*Vostro™ A100 only*), the computer is in standby mode. Press a key on the keyboard, move the mouse, or press the power button to resume normal operation.

Beep Codes

Your computer might emit a series of beeps during start-up if the monitor cannot display errors or problems. This series of beeps, called a beep code, identifies a problem. One possible beep code consists of repetitive three short beeps. This beep code tells you that the computer encountered a possible system board failure.

Troubleshooting

If your computer beeps during start-up:

- 1 Write down the beep code.
- 2 Run the Dell Diagnostics to identify a more serious cause (see "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42).

Code (repetitive short beeps)	Description	Suggested Remedy
1	BIOS checksum failure. Possible system board failure	Contact Dell.
2	No memory modules are detected	If you have two or more memory modules installed, remove the modules, reinstall one module (see your <i>Service Manual</i> at support.dell.com), and then 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 error. If available, install good memory of the same type into your computer see your <i>Service Manual</i> at support.dell.com). If the problem persists, contact Dell.
3	Possible system board failure	Contact Dell.

Code (repetitive short beeps)	Description	Suggested Remedy
4	RAM Read/Write failure	Ensure that no special memory module/memory connector placement requirements exist (see your <i>Service Manual</i> at support.dell.com). Verify that the memory modules that you are installing are compatible with your computer (see your <i>Service Manual</i> at support.dell.com). If the problem persists, contact Dell.
5	Real-time clock failure; Possible battery failure or system board failure	Replace the battery (see your <i>Service Manual</i> at support.dell.com). If the problem persists, contact Dell.
6	Video BIOS Test Failure	Contact Dell.
7	CPU-cache test failure	Contact Dell.

Error Messages



CAUTION: Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions that shipped with your computer.

If the message is not listed, see the documentation for the operating system or the program that was running when the message appeared.

AUXILIARY DEVICE FAILURE — The touch pad or external mouse may be faulty. For an external mouse, check the cable connection. Enable the **Pointing Device** option in the system setup program. See your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com for more information. If the problem persists, contact Dell (see "Contacting Dell" on page 69).

BAD COMMAND OR FILE NAME — Ensure that you have spelled the command correctly, put spaces in the proper place, and used the correct pathname.

CACHE DISABLED DUE TO FAILURE — The primary cache internal to the microprocessor has failed. Contact Dell (see "Contacting Dell" on page 69).

CD DRIVE CONTROLLER FAILURE — The CD drive does not respond to commands from the computer.

DATA ERROR — The hard drive cannot read the data.

DECREASING AVAILABLE MEMORY — One or more memory modules may be faulty or improperly seated. Reinstall the memory modules and, if necessary, replace them. See your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com for more information.

DISK C: FAILED INITIALIZATION — The hard drive failed initialization. Run the hard drive tests in the Dell Diagnostics (see "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42).

DRIVE NOT READY — The operation requires a hard drive in the bay before it can continue. Install a hard drive in the hard drive bay. See your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com for more information.

ERROR READING PCMCIA CARD — The computer cannot identify the ExpressCard. Reinsert the card or try another card. See your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com for more information.

EXTENDED MEMORY SIZE HAS

CHANGED — The amount of memory recorded in non-volatile memory (NVRAM) does not match the memory installed in the computer. Restart the computer. If the error appears again, contact Dell (see "Contacting Dell" on page 69).

THE FILE BEING COPIED IS TOO LARGE FOR THE DESTINATION DRIVE — The file that you are trying to copy is too large to fit on the disk, or the disk is full. Try copying the file to a different disk or use a larger capacity disk.

A FILENAME CANNOT CONTAIN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERS: \ / : * ? " < > | — Do not use these characters in filenames.

GATE A20 FAILURE — A memory module may be loose. Reinstall the memory modules and, if necessary, replace them. See your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com for more information.

GENERAL FAILURE — The operating system is unable to carry out the command. The message is usually followed by specific information—for example, `Printer out of paper`. Take the appropriate action.

HARD-DISK DRIVE CONFIGURATION

ERROR — The computer cannot identify the drive type. Shut down the computer, remove the hard drive (see your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com), and boot the computer from a CD. Then, shut down the computer, reinstall the hard drive, and restart the computer. Run the Hard Disk Drive tests in the Dell Diagnostics (see "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42).

HARD-DISK DRIVE CONTROLLER FAILURE

O — The hard drive does not respond to commands from the computer. Shut down the computer, remove the hard drive (see your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com), and boot the computer from a CD. Then, shut down the computer, reinstall the hard drive, and restart the computer. If the problem persists, try another drive. Run the Hard Disk Drive tests in the Dell Diagnostics (see "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42).

HARD-DISK DRIVE FAILURE — The hard drive does not respond to commands from the computer. Shut down the computer, remove the hard drive (see your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com), and boot the computer from a CD. Then, shut down the computer, reinstall the hard drive, and restart the computer. If the problem persists, try another drive. Run the Hard Disk Drive tests in the Dell Diagnostics (see "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42).

HARD-DISK DRIVE READ FAILURE — The hard drive may be defective. Shut down the computer, remove the hard drive (see your *Service*

Manual at support.dell.com), and boot the computer from a CD. Then, shut down the computer, reinstall the hard drive, and restart the computer. If the problem persists, try another drive. Run the Hard Disk Drive tests in the Dell Diagnostics (see "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42).

INSERT BOOTABLE MEDIA — The operating system is trying to boot to nonbootable media, such as a floppy disk or CD. Insert bootable media.

INVALID CONFIGURATION INFORMATION- PLEASE RUN SYSTEM SETUP PROGRAM —

The system configuration information does not match the hardware configuration. The message is most likely to occur after a memory module is installed. Correct the appropriate options in the system setup program. See your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com for more information.

KEYBOARD CLOCK LINE FAILURE — For external keyboards, check the cable connection. Run the Keyboard Controller test in the Dell Diagnostics (see "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42).

KEYBOARD CONTROLLER FAILURE — For external keyboards, check the cable connection. Restart the computer, and avoid touching the keyboard or the mouse during the boot routine. Run the Keyboard Controller test in the Dell Diagnostics (see "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42).

KEYBOARD DATA LINE FAILURE — For external keyboards, check the cable connection. Run the Keyboard Controller test in the Dell Diagnostics (see "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42).

KEYBOARD STUCK KEY FAILURE — For external keyboards or keypads, check the cable connection. Restart the computer, and avoid touching the keyboard or keys during the boot routine. Run the Stuck Key test in the Dell Diagnostics (see "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42).

LICENSED CONTENT IS NOT ACCESSIBLE IN MEDIADIRECT — Dell™ MediaDirect™ cannot verify the Digital Rights Management (DRM) restrictions on the file, so the file cannot be played (see "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42).

MEMORY ADDRESS LINE FAILURE AT ADDRESS, READ VALUE EXPECTING VALUE — A memory module may be faulty or improperly seated. Reinstall the memory modules and, if necessary, replace them. See your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com for more information.

MEMORY ALLOCATION ERROR — The software you are attempting to run is conflicting with the operating system, another program, or a utility. Shut down the computer, wait 30 seconds, and then restart it. Try to run the program again. If the error message still appears, see the software documentation.

MEMORY DATA LINE FAILURE AT ADDRESS, READ VALUE EXPECTING VALUE — A memory module may be faulty or improperly seated. Reinstall the memory modules and, if necessary, replace them. See your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com for more information.

MEMORY DOUBLE WORD LOGIC FAILURE AT ADDRESS, READ VALUE EXPECTING

VALUE — A memory module may be faulty or improperly seated. Reinstall the memory modules and, if necessary, replace them. See your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com for more information.

MEMORY ODD/EVEN LOGIC FAILURE AT ADDRESS, READ VALUE EXPECTING

VALUE — A memory module may be faulty or improperly seated. Reinstall the memory modules and, if necessary, replace them. See your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com for more information.

MEMORY WRITE/READ FAILURE AT ADDRESS, READ VALUE EXPECTING

VALUE — A memory module may be faulty or improperly seated. Reinstall the memory modules and, if necessary, replace them. See your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com for more information.

NO BOOT DEVICE AVAILABLE — The computer cannot find the hard drive. If the hard drive is your boot device, ensure that the drive is installed, properly seated, and partitioned as a boot device.

NO BOOT SECTOR ON HARD DRIVE — The operating system may be corrupted. Contact Dell (see "Contacting Dell" on page 69).

NO TIMER TICK INTERRUPT — A chip on the system board may be malfunctioning. Run the System Set tests in the Dell Diagnostics (see "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42).

NOT ENOUGH MEMORY OR RESOURCES. EXIT SOME PROGRAMS AND TRY

AGAIN — You have too many programs open. Close all windows and open the program that you want to use.


OPERATING SYSTEM NOT FOUND —

Reinstall the hard drive (see your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com). If the problem persists, contact Dell (see "Contacting Dell" on page 69).

OPTIONAL ROM BAD CHECKSUM — The optional ROM has failed. Contact Dell (see "Contacting Dell" on page 69).

A REQUIRED .DLL FILE WAS NOT FOUND — The program that you are trying to open is missing an essential file. Remove and then reinstall the program.

Microsoft® Windows Vista®:

- 1 Click the Windows Vista start button  → **Control Panel** → **Programs** → **Programs and Features**.
- 2 Select the program you want to remove.
- 3 Click **Uninstall**.
- 4 See the program documentation for installation instructions.

SECTOR NOT FOUND — The operating system cannot locate a sector on the hard drive. You may have a defective sector or corrupted FAT on the hard drive. Run the Windows error-checking utility to check the file structure on the hard drive. See Windows Help and Support for instructions (click

Start → **Help and Support**). If a large number of sectors are defective, back up the data (if possible), and then reformat the hard drive.

SEEK ERROR — The operating system cannot find a specific track on the hard drive.

SHUTDOWN FAILURE — A chip on the system board may be malfunctioning. Run the System Set tests in the Dell Diagnostics (see "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42).

TIME-OF-DAY CLOCK LOST POWER —

System configuration settings are corrupted. Connect your computer to an electrical outlet to charge the battery. If the problem persists, try to restore the data by entering the system setup program, then immediately exit the program (see your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com). If the message reappears, contact Dell (see "Contacting Dell" on page 69).

TIME-OF-DAY CLOCK STOPPED — The reserve battery that supports the system configuration settings may require recharging.

Connect your computer to an electrical outlet to charge the battery. If the problem persists, contact Dell (see "Contacting Dell" on page 69).

TIME-OF-DAY NOT SET-PLEASE RUN THE SYSTEM SETUP PROGRAM — The time or date stored in the system setup program does not match the system clock. Correct the settings for the **Date** and **Time** options. See your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com for more information.

TIMER CHIP COUNTER 2 FAILED — A chip on the system board may be malfunctioning. Run the System Set tests in the Dell Diagnostics (see "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42).

UNEXPECTED INTERRUPT IN PROTECTED MODE — The keyboard controller may be malfunctioning, or a memory module may be loose. Run the System Memory tests and the Keyboard Controller test in the Dell Diagnostics (see "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42).

X:\ IS NOT ACCESSIBLE. THE DEVICE IS NOT READY — Insert a disk into the drive and try again.

WARNING: BATTERY IS CRITICALLY LOW — The battery is running out of charge. Replace the battery, or connect the computer to an electrical outlet; otherwise, activate hibernate mode or shut down the computer.

System Messages



NOTE: If the message you received is not listed in the table, see the documentation for either the operating system or the program that was running when the message appeared.

ALERT! PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS AT BOOTING THIS SYSTEM HAVE FAILED AT CHECKPOINT [NNNN]. FOR HELP IN RESOLVING THIS PROBLEM, PLEASE NOTE THIS CHECKPOINT AND CONTACT DELL TECHNICAL SUPPORT — The computer failed to complete the start routine three consecutive times for the same error (see "Contacting Dell" on page 69 for assistance).

CMOS CHECKSUM ERROR — Possible system board failure or RTC battery low. Replace the battery. See your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com or see "Contacting Dell" on page 69 for assistance.

CPU FAN FAILURE — Processor fan failure. Replace processor fan. See your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com.

HARD-DISK DRIVE FAILURE — Possible hard drive failure during hard drive POST. Check cables, swap hard disks, or see "Contacting Dell" on page 69 for assistance.

HARD-DISK DRIVE READ FAILURE —

Possible hard drive failure during hard-drive start test (see "Contacting Dell" on page 69 for assistance).

KEYBOARD FAILURE — Keyboard failure or keyboard cable loose.

NO BOOT DEVICE AVAILABLE — No bootable partition on hard drive, or the hard 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 your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com).

NO TIMER TICK INTERRUPT — A chip on the system board might be malfunctioning or system board failure (see "Contacting Dell" on page 69 for assistance).

USB OVER CURRENT ERROR — Disconnect the USB device. Use external power source for the USB device.

NOTICE - HARD DRIVE SELF MONITORING SYSTEM HAS REPORTED THAT A PARAMETER HAS EXCEEDED ITS NORMAL OPERATING RANGE. DELL RECOMMENDS THAT YOU BACK UP YOUR DATA REGULARLY. A PARAMETER OUT OF RANGE MAY OR MAY NOT INDICATE A POTENTIAL HARD DRIVE PROBLEM —


S.M.A.R.T error, possible hard drive failure. This feature can be enabled or disabled in BIOS setup.

Troubleshooting Software and Hardware Problems

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:

Windows Vista:

- 1 Click the Windows Vista Start button , and click **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



CAUTION: Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions that shipped with your computer.

When to Use the Dell Diagnostics

If you experience a problem with your computer, perform the checks in Lockups and Software Problems (see "Lockups and Software Problems" on page 47) and run the Dell Diagnostics before you contact Dell for technical assistance.

It is recommended that you print these procedures before you begin.



NOTICE: The Dell Diagnostics works only on Dell computers.



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

See your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com to review your computer's configuration information, and ensure that the device that you want to test displays in the system setup program and is active.

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

Starting the Dell Diagnostics From Your Hard Drive



NOTE: If your computer cannot display a screen image, see "Contacting Dell" on page 69.

- 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 start menu and press <Enter>.



NOTE: If you wait too long and the operating system logo appears, continue to wait until you see the Microsoft® Windows® desktop, and 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* media.

- 4 Press any key to start the Dell Diagnostics from the diagnostics utility partition on your hard drive, and follow the instructions on the screen.

Starting the Dell Diagnostics From the Dell *Drivers and Utilities* Media

- 1 Insert the *Drivers and Utilities* media.
- 2 Shut down and restart the computer.
- 3 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 starts according to the devices specified in the system setup program.

- 4 When the boot device list appears, highlight **CD/DVD/CD-RW** and press <Enter>.
- 5 Select the **Boot from CD-ROM** option from the menu that appears and press <Enter>.
- 6 Type 1 to start the CD menu and press <Enter> to proceed.
- 7 Select **Run the 32 Bit Dell Diagnostics** from the numbered list. If multiple versions are listed, select the version that is appropriate for your computer.
- 8 When the Dell Diagnostics **Main Menu** appears, select the test that you want to run, and follow the instructions on the screen.

Troubleshooting Tips

Follow these tips when troubleshooting your computer:

- If you added or removed a part before the problem started, review the installation procedures and ensure that the part is correctly installed (see your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com).
- If a device does not work, ensure that the device is properly connected.
- If an error message appears on the screen, write down the exact message. This message may help support personnel to diagnose and fix the problem(s).
- If an error message occurs in a program, see the program documentation.



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.

Power Problems



CAUTION: Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety information that shipped with your computer.

IF THE POWER LIGHT IS OFF — The computer is either turned off or is not receiving power.

- Reseat the power cable in the power connector on the back of the computer and the electrical outlet.
- Bypass power strips, power extension cables, and other power protection devices to verify that the computer turns on properly.
- Ensure that any power strips being used are plugged into an electrical outlet and are turned on.
- Ensure that the electrical outlet is working by testing it with another device, such as a lamp.

Troubleshooting

- Ensure that the main power cable and front panel cable are securely connected to the system board (see your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com).

IF THE POWER LIGHT IS BLUE AND THE COMPUTER IS NOT RESPONDING —

- Ensure that the display is connected and powered on.
- If the display is connected and powered on, see "Beep Codes" on page 31.

IF THE POWER LIGHT IS BLINKING BLUE (VOSTRO A100 ONLY) — The computer is in standby mode. Press a key on the keyboard, move the mouse, or press the power button to resume normal operation.

ELIMINATE INTERFERENCE — Some possible causes of interference are:

- Power, keyboard, and mouse extension cables
- Too many devices connected to the same power strip

- Multiple power strips connected to the same electrical outlet

Memory Problems



CAUTION: Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety information that shipped with your computer.

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 your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com).
- Reseat the memory modules (see your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com) to ensure that your computer is successfully communicating with the memory.

- Run the Dell Diagnostics (see "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42).

IF YOU EXPERIENCE OTHER MEMORY PROBLEMS —

- Reseat the memory modules (see your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com) to ensure that your computer is successfully communicating with the memory.
- Ensure that you are following the memory installation guidelines (see your *Service Manual* at support.dell.com).
- Ensure that the memory you are using is supported by your computer. For more information about the type of memory supported by your computer, see "Memory" on page 20.
- Run the Dell Diagnostics (see "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42).

Lockups and Software Problems



CAUTION: Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety information that shipped with your computer.

The computer does not start up

ENSURE THAT THE POWER CABLE IS FIRMLY CONNECTED TO THE COMPUTER AND TO THE ELECTRICAL OUTLET.

The computer stops responding



NOTICE: You may lose data if you are unable to perform an operating system shutdown.

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

A program stops responding

END THE PROGRAM —

- 1 Press <Ctrl><Shift><Esc> simultaneously to access the Task Manager, and click the **Applications** tab.
- 2 Click to select the program that is no longer responding, and click **End Task**.

A program crashes repeatedly



NOTE: Most software includes installation instructions in its documentation or on a floppy disk, CD, or DVD.

CHECK THE SOFTWARE


DOCUMENTATION — If necessary, uninstall and then reinstall the program.

A program is designed for an earlier Microsoft® Windows® operating system

RUN THE PROGRAM COMPATIBILITY WIZARD —

Windows Vista:

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.

A solid blue screen appears

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

Other software problems

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.

BACK UP YOUR FILES IMMEDIATELY

- Use a virus-scanning program to check the hard drive, floppy disks, CDs, or DVDs.
- Save and close any open files or programs and shut down your computer through the Start menu.

Dell Technical Update Service

The Dell Technical Update service provides proactive e-mail notification of software and hardware updates for your computer. The service is free and can be customized for content, format, and how frequently you receive notifications.

To enroll for the Dell Technical Update service, go to support.dell.com/technicalupdate.

Reinstalling Software

Drivers

Identifying Drivers

If you experience a problem with any device, identify whether the driver is the source of your problem and, if necessary, update the driver.

Microsoft® Windows Vista®:

- 1 Click the Windows Vista Start button™ , and right-click **Computer**.
- 2 Click **Properties**→ **Device Manager**.



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

Scroll down the list to see if any device has an exclamation point (a yellow circle with a **!**) on the device icon.

If an exclamation point is next to the device name, you may need to reinstall the driver or install a new driver (see "Reinstalling Drivers and Utilities" on page 51).

Reinstalling Drivers and Utilities



NOTICE: The Dell Support website at support.dell.com and your *Drivers and Utilities* media provide approved drivers for Dell™ computers. If you install drivers obtained from other sources, your computer might not work correctly.

Returning to a Previous Device Driver Version

Windows Vista:

- 1 Click the Windows Vista Start button , and right-click **Computer**.

- 2 Click **Properties**→ **Device Manager**.



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

- 3 Right-click the device for which the new driver was installed and click **Properties**.
- 4 Click the **Drivers** tab→ **Roll Back Driver**.

If Device Driver Rollback does not resolve the problem, then use System Restore (see "Restoring Your Operating System" on page 54) to return your computer to the operating state that existed before you installed the new driver.

Using the Drivers and Utilities Media

If using Device Driver Rollback or System Restore (see "Restoring Your Operating System" on page 54) does not resolve the problem, reinstall the driver from your *Drivers and Utilities* media.

- 1 With the Windows desktop displayed, insert your *Drivers and Utilities* media.
- 2 If this is your first time to use the *Drivers and Utilities* media, go to step 3. If not, go to step 6.
- 3 When the *Drivers and Utilities* media installation program starts, follow the prompts on the screen.



NOTE: In most cases, the *Drivers and Utilities* program starts running automatically. If it does not, start Windows Explorer, click your media drive directory to display the media contents, and then double-click the **autorcd.exe** file.

- 4 When the **InstallShield Wizard Complete** window appears, remove the *Drivers and Utilities* media and click **Finish** to restart the computer.
- 5 When you see the Windows desktop, reinsert the *Drivers and Utilities* media.

- 6 At the **Welcome Dell System Owner** screen, click **Next**.



NOTE: The *Drivers and Utilities* program displays drivers only for hardware that came installed in your computer. If you installed additional hardware, the drivers for the new hardware might not be displayed. If those drivers are not displayed, exit the *Drivers and Utilities* program. For drivers information, see the documentation that came with the device.

A message appears, stating that the *Drivers and Utilities* media is detecting hardware in your computer.

The drivers that are used by your computer are automatically displayed in the **My Drivers—The ResourceCD has identified these components in your system** window.

- 7 Click the driver that you want to reinstall and follow the instructions on the screen.

If a particular driver is not listed, then that driver is not required by your operating system.

Manually Reinstalling Drivers

After extracting the driver files to your hard drive as described in the previous section:

- 1 Click the Windows Vista Start button , and right-click **Computer**.
- 2 Click **Properties**→ **Device Manager**.



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

- 3 Double-click the type of device for which you are installing the driver (for example, **Audio** or **Video**).
- 4 Double-click the name of the device for which you are installing the driver.

- 5 Click the **Driver** tab→ **Update Driver**→ **Browse my computer for driver software**.
- 6 Click **Browse** and browse to the location to which you previously copied the driver files.
- 7 When the name of the appropriate driver appears, click the name of the driver→ **OK**→ **Next**.
- 8 Click **Finish** and restart your computer.

Restoring Your Operating System

You can restore your operating system in the following ways:

- Microsoft Windows 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 (available in Windows Vista) returns your hard drive to the operating state it was in when you purchased the computer. The program

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 the *Operating System* media with your computer, you can use it to restore your operating system. However, using the *Operating System* media also deletes all data on the hard drive. Use the media *only* if System Restore did not resolve your operating system problem.

Using Microsoft® Windows® System Restore

The Windows operating systems provide a System Restore option that 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.



NOTICE: 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.



NOTE: Set your Dell™ computer to the Windows Classic view.

Starting System Restore

Windows Vista:

- 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 remaining prompts on the screen.


In the event that System Restore did not resolve the issue, you may undo the last system restore (see "Undoing the Last System Restore" on page 55).

Undoing the Last System Restore



NOTICE: 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.

Windows Vista:

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

Using Dell™ Factory Image Restore



NOTICE: 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 these options. 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 (Windows Vista) only as the last method to restore your operating system. These options restore 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 Factory Image Restore.

Dell Factory Image Restore (Windows Vista Only)

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



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

- 7 On the Dell Factory Image Restore welcome screen, click **Next**.

The Confirm Data Deletion screen appears.



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

- 8 Click 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 5 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 restart the computer.

Using the Operating System Media

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. See "Returning to a Previous Device Driver Version" on page 51. If Device Driver Rollback does not resolve the problem, use Microsoft Windows System Restore to return your operating system to the operating state it was in before you installed the new device driver. See "Using Microsoft® Windows® System Restore" on page 54.



NOTICE: 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 Dell™ *Operating System* media and the Dell *Drivers and Utilities* media.



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

Reinstalling Windows

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* media.
- 3 If the `Install Windows` message appears, click **Exit**.

- 4 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.

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

Finding Information



NOTE: Some features or media may be optional and may not ship with your computer. Some features or media may not be available in certain countries.



NOTE: Additional information may ship with your computer.

Document/Media/Label

Contents

Service Tag/Express Service Code

The Service Tag/Express Service Code is located on your computer.

- Use the Service Tag to identify your computer when you use **support.dell.com** or contact support.
- Enter the Express Service Code to direct your call when contacting support.

NOTE: Your Service Tag/Express Service Code is located on your computer.

Operating System Media

The *Operating System* media is a CD or DVD that may have shipped with your computer.

Reinstall your operating system

Document/Media/Label (Continued)	Contents
<p>Drivers and Utilities Media</p> <p>The <i>Drivers and Utilities</i> media is a CD or DVD that may have shipped with your computer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A diagnostic program for your computer• Drivers for your computer <p>NOTE: Drivers and documentation updates can be found at support.dell.com.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Desktop System Software (DSS)• Readme files <p>NOTE: Readme files may be included on your media to provide last-minute updates about technical changes to your computer or advanced technical-reference material for technicians or experienced users.</p>
<p>Safety, Regulatory, Warranty, and Support Documentation</p> <p>This type of information may have shipped with your computer. For additional regulatory information, see the Regulatory Compliance Homepage on www.dell.com at the following location: www.dell.com/regulatory_compliance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Warranty information• Terms and Conditions (U.S. only)• Safety instructions• Regulatory information• Ergonomics information• End User License Agreement

Document/Media/Label (Continued)	Contents
Service Manual The <i>Service Manual</i> for your computer can be found at support.dell.com .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to remove and replace parts• How to configure system settings• How to troubleshoot and solve problems
Dell Technology Guide The <i>Dell Technology Guide</i> is available on your hard drive and on the Dell Support website at support.dell.com .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• About your operating system• Using and maintaining devices• Understanding technologies such as RAID, Internet, Bluetooth[®] wireless technology, e-mail, networking, and more.
Microsoft[®] Windows[®] License Label Your Microsoft Windows License is located on your computer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides your operating system product key.

Getting Help

Obtaining Assistance



CAUTION: If you need to remove the computer cover, first disconnect the computer power and modem cables from all electrical outlets. Follow the safety instructions that shipped with your computer.

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

- 1 See "Troubleshooting Tips" on page 45 for information and procedures that pertain to the problem your computer is experiencing.
- 2 See "Dell Diagnostics" on page 42 for procedures on how to run Dell Diagnostics.
- 3 Fill out the "Diagnostics Checklist" on page 68.
- 4 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 64 for a more extensive list of Dell Support online.
- 5 If the preceding steps have not resolved the problem, see "Contacting Dell" on page 69.



NOTE: Call Dell Support from a telephone at or near the affected 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

Getting Help

you do not have an Express Service Code, open the **Dell Accessories** folder, double-click the **Express Service Code** icon, and follow the directions.

For instructions on using the Dell Support, see "Technical Support and Customer Service" on page 64.



NOTE: Some of the following 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 uses computer-based diagnostics to provide fast, accurate answers.

To contact Dell's support service, see "Before You Call" on page 67, and then see the contact information for your region or go to **support.dell.com**.

Online Services

You can learn about Dell products and services at 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

AutoTech Service

Dell's automated support service—AutoTech—provides recorded answers to the questions most frequently asked by Dell customers about their laptop and desktop computers.

When you call AutoTech, use your touch-tone telephone to select the subjects that correspond to your questions. For the telephone number to call for your region, see "Contacting Dell" on page 69.

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 for your region, see "Contacting Dell" on page 69.

Problems With Your Order

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 available when you call. For the telephone number to call for your region, see "Contacting Dell" on page 69.

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 for your region or to speak to a sales specialist, see "Contacting Dell" on page 69.

Returning Items for Warranty Repair or Credit

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.
- 2 For the telephone number to call for your region, see "Contacting Dell" on page 69. Include a copy of the invoice and a letter describing the reason for the return.
- 3 Include a copy of the Diagnostics Checklist (see "Diagnostics Checklist" on page 68), indicating the tests that you have run and any error messages reported by the Dell Diagnostics (see "Contacting Dell" on page 69).
- 4 Include any accessories that belong with the item(s) being returned (power cables, software floppy disks, guides, and so on) if the return is for credit.

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

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.

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 Diagnostics Checklist (see "Diagnostics Checklist" on page 68). 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.



CAUTION: Before working inside your computer, follow the safety instructions in the documentation that shipped with your computer.

Diagnostics 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 system'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 **support.dell.com**, and verify your country or region in the **Choose A Country/Region** drop-down menu at the bottom of the page.
- 2 Click **Contact Us** on the left side of the page, and select the appropriate service or support link based on your need.
- 3 Choose the method of contacting Dell that is convenient for you.

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