

Dell™ Inspiron™ 700m  
**Owner's Manual**

**Model PP07S**

[www.dell.com](http://www.dell.com) | [support.dell.com](http://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.

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

For a complete list of abbreviations and acronyms, see the *Dell Inspiron Help* file. To access the help file, see page 10.

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

---

**Information in this document is subject to change without notice.**

© 2004 Dell Inc. All rights reserved.

Reproduction in any manner whatsoever without the written permission of Dell Inc. is strictly forbidden.

Trademarks used in this text: *Dell*, the *DELL* logo, *Inspiron*, *Dell Precision*, *Dell TravelLite*, *Dimension*, *OptiPlex*, *Latitude*, *TrueMobile*, *DellNet*, *PowerApp*, *PowerEdge*, *PowerConnect*, *PowerVault*, and *Axim* are trademarks of Dell Inc.; *Intel*, *Pentium*, and *Celeron* are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation; *Microsoft*, *Windows*, and *Outlook* are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation; *EMC* is a registered trademark of EMC Corporation; *Bluetooth* is a trademark owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. and is used by Dell Inc. under license.

Other trademarks and trade names may be used in this document to refer to either the entities claiming the marks and names or their products. Dell Inc. disclaims any proprietary interest in trademarks and trade names other than its own.

Model PP07S

June 2004

P/N D5813

Rev. A00

# Contents

	<b>Finding Information</b> . . . . .	<b>9</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>A Tour of Your Computer</b>	
	<b>Front View</b> . . . . .	<b>13</b>
	<b>Left Side View</b> . . . . .	<b>16</b>
	<b>Right Side View</b> . . . . .	<b>18</b>
	<b>Bottom View</b> . . . . .	<b>20</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Setting Up Your Computer</b>	
	<b>Connecting to the Internet</b> . . . . .	<b>21</b>
	Setting Up Your Internet Connection . . . . .	21
	<b>Transferring Information to a New Computer</b> . . . . .	<b>22</b>
	<b>Setting Up a Printer</b> . . . . .	<b>23</b>
	Printer Cable . . . . .	23
	Connecting a USB Printer . . . . .	24
	<b>Power Protection Devices</b> . . . . .	<b>24</b>
	Surge Protectors . . . . .	24
	Line Conditioners . . . . .	25
	Uninterruptible Power Supplies . . . . .	25
<b>3</b>	<b>Using a Battery</b>	
	<b>Battery Performance</b> . . . . .	<b>27</b>
	<b>Checking the Battery Charge</b> . . . . .	<b>28</b>
	Microsoft Windows Power Meter . . . . .	28
	Low-Battery Warning . . . . .	28
	<b>Charging the Battery</b> . . . . .	<b>28</b>
	<b>Removing a Battery</b> . . . . .	<b>29</b>

<b>Installing a Battery</b> . . . . .	<b>29</b>
<b>Storing a Battery</b> . . . . .	<b>29</b>
<b>4 Installing Module Bay Devices</b>	
<b>About the Module Bay</b> . . . . .	<b>31</b>
<b>Removing and Installing Devices While the Computer Is Turned Off</b> . . . . .	<b>31</b>
<b>Removing and Installing Devices While the Computer Is Running</b> . . . . .	<b>32</b>
<b>5 Using CDs, DVDs, and Other Multimedia</b>	
<b>Using CDs and DVDs</b> . . . . .	<b>33</b>
<b>Copying CDs and DVDs</b> . . . . .	<b>33</b>
How to Copy a CD or DVD . . . . .	33
Using Blank CD-Rs and CD-RWs . . . . .	34
Helpful Tips . . . . .	34
<b>Connecting Your Computer to a TV or Audio Device</b> . . . . .	<b>35</b>
S-Video Connection . . . . .	35
Enabling the Display Settings for a TV . . . . .	36
<b>6 Using the Keyboard and Touch Pad</b>	
<b>Numeric Keypad</b> . . . . .	<b>39</b>
<b>Key Combinations</b> . . . . .	<b>40</b>
System Functions . . . . .	40
Display Functions . . . . .	40
Radios (Including Wireless Networking) . . . . .	40
Power Management . . . . .	40
Speaker Functions . . . . .	40
Microsoft® Windows® Logo Key Functions . . . . .	41
<b>Touch Pad</b> . . . . .	<b>41</b>
Customizing the Touch Pad . . . . .	42

<b>7</b>	<b>Using PC Cards</b>	
	<b>PC Card Types</b>	<b>43</b>
	<b>PC Card Blanks</b>	<b>43</b>
	<b>Extended PC Cards</b>	<b>43</b>
	<b>Removing a PC Card or Blank</b>	<b>43</b>
	<b>Installing a PC Card</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Setting Up a Home and Office Network</b>	
	<b>Connecting to a Network Adapter</b>	<b>47</b>
	<b>Network Setup Wizard</b>	<b>48</b>
	<b>Connecting to a Wireless Local Area Network</b>	<b>48</b>
	Determining Your Network Type	48
	Connecting to a Wireless Network in Microsoft® Windows® XP	49
	Configuring Security Settings (Optional)	52
<b>9</b>	<b>Solving Problems</b>	
	<b>Dell Diagnostics</b>	<b>57</b>
	When to Use the Dell Diagnostics	57
	<b>Drivers</b>	<b>60</b>
	What Is a Driver?	60
	Identifying Drivers	60
	Reinstalling Drivers and Utilities	61
	<b>Resolving Software and Hardware Incompatibilities</b>	<b>63</b>
	<b>Using Microsoft® Windows® XP System Restore</b>	<b>63</b>
	Creating a Restore Point	63
	Restoring the Computer to an Earlier Operating State	64
	Undoing the Last System Restore	64
	<b>Reinstalling Microsoft® Windows® XP</b>	<b>65</b>
	Before You Begin	65
	Reinstalling Windows XP	65

<b>Drive Problems</b> . . . . .	<b>67</b>
CD and DVD drive problems . . . . .	68
If you cannot eject the CD, CD-RW, DVD, or DVD+RW drive tray . . . . .	69
If you hear an unfamiliar scraping or grinding sound . . . . .	69
Hard drive problems. . . . .	69
<b>E-Mail, Modem, and Internet Problems</b> . . . . .	<b>70</b>
<b>Error Messages</b> . . . . .	<b>71</b>
<b>IEEE 1394 Device Problems</b> . . . . .	<b>72</b>
<b>Keyboard Problems</b> . . . . .	<b>72</b>
External Keyboard Problems. . . . .	73
Unexpected Characters . . . . .	73
<b>Lockups and Software Problems</b> . . . . .	<b>74</b>
The computer does not start up . . . . .	74
The computer stops responding . . . . .	74
A program stops responding. . . . .	74
A program crashes repeatedly. . . . .	74
A program is designed for an earlier Windows operating system. . . . .	75
A solid blue screen appears . . . . .	75
Other software problems . . . . .	75
<b>Memory Problems</b> . . . . .	<b>76</b>
<b>Network Problems</b> . . . . .	<b>76</b>
<b>PC Card Problems</b> . . . . .	<b>77</b>
<b>Power Problems</b> . . . . .	<b>77</b>
Ensuring Sufficient Power for Your Computer . . . . .	78
<b>Printer Problems</b> . . . . .	<b>78</b>
<b>Scanner Problems</b> . . . . .	<b>79</b>
<b>Sound and Speaker Problems</b> . . . . .	<b>80</b>
No sound from integrated speakers . . . . .	80
No sound from external speakers . . . . .	80
No sound from headphones . . . . .	81
<b>Touch Pad or Mouse Problems</b> . . . . .	<b>81</b>

<b>Video and Display Problems</b> . . . . .	<b>82</b>
If the display is blank . . . . .	82
If the display is difficult to read. . . . .	82
If only part of the display is readable . . . . .	83
<b>10 Adding and Replacing Parts</b>	
<b>Before You Begin</b> . . . . .	<b>85</b>
Recommended Tools . . . . .	85
Turning Off Your Computer. . . . .	85
Before Working Inside Your Computer . . . . .	85
<b>Hard Drive</b> . . . . .	<b>87</b>
Returning a Hard Drive to Dell . . . . .	91
<b>Memory</b> . . . . .	<b>92</b>
<b>Modem</b> . . . . .	<b>94</b>
<b>Mini PCI Card</b> . . . . .	<b>96</b>
<b>11 Appendix</b>	
<b>Specifications</b> . . . . .	<b>101</b>
<b>Using the System Setup Program</b> . . . . .	<b>106</b>
Overview . . . . .	106
Viewing the System Setup Screens. . . . .	107
System Setup Screens. . . . .	107
Commonly Used Options. . . . .	107
<b>Dell Technical Support Policy (U.S. Only)</b> . . . . .	<b>108</b>
Definition of "Dell-Installed" Software and Peripherals . . . . .	109
Definition of "Third-Party" Software and Peripherals . . . . .	109
<b>Contacting Dell</b> . . . . .	<b>109</b>
<b>Index</b> . . . . .	<b>127</b>





## Finding Information

What Are You Looking For?	Find It Here
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How to access tutorials and other how to information</li><li>• How to get a copy of my invoice</li><li>• How to extend my warranty</li><li>• How to access Dell Support on my Microsoft® Windows® desktop (U.S. only)</li><li>• Additional documentation, tools, troubleshooting information, and links to online support resources</li></ul>	<p><b>Dell Solution Center</b></p> <p>On your Windows desktop</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A diagnostic program for my computer</li><li>• Drivers for my computer</li></ul>	<p><b>Drivers and Utilities CD (also known as the ResourceCD)</b></p> <p>Drivers are already installed on your computer. You can use the CD to reinstall drivers (see page 61), run the Dell Diagnostics (see page 57), or access your documentation. Keep this CD in a safe place for future use.</p> <p>Readme files may be included on your CD to provide last-minute updates about technical changes to your computer or advanced technical-reference material for technicians or experienced users.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> The latest drivers and documentation updates can be found at <a href="http://support.dell.com">support.dell.com</a>.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How to set up a printer</li><li>• Additional information about setting up my computer</li><li>• How to troubleshoot and solve problems</li><li>• How to remove and install parts</li><li>• Technical specifications</li><li>• How to contact Dell</li></ul>	<p><b>Inspiron Owner's Manual</b></p>

**NOTE:** This document is available as a PDF at [support.dell.com](http://support.dell.com).

<b>What Are You Looking For?</b>	<b>Find It Here</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Warranty information</li><li>• Safety instructions</li><li>• Regulatory information</li><li>• Ergonomics information</li><li>• End User License Agreement</li></ul>	<b>Dell™ Product Information Guide</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How to set up my computer</li></ul>	<b>Setup Diagram</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tips on using Microsoft® Windows®</li><li>• How to play CDs and DVDs</li><li>• How to use standby mode and hibernate mode</li><li>• How to change my display resolution</li><li>• How to clean my computer</li></ul>	<b>Dell Inspiron Help file</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1</b> Click the <b>Start</b> button and click <b>Help and Support</b>.</li><li><b>2</b> Click <b>User and system guides</b> and click <b>User's guides</b>.</li><li><b>3</b> Click <b>Dell Inspiron Help</b>.</li></ol>

What Are You Looking For?	Find It Here
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service Tag and Express Service Code</li> <li>• Microsoft Windows License Label</li> </ul>	<p><b>Service Tag and Microsoft Windows License</b></p> <p>These labels are located on the bottom of your computer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the Service Tag to identify your computer when you use <b>support.dell.com</b> or contact technical support.</li> <li>• Enter the Express Service Code to direct your call when contacting technical support. The Express Service Code is not available in all countries.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latest drivers for my computer</li> <li>• Answers to technical service and support questions</li> <li>• Online discussions with other users and technical support</li> <li>• Documentation for my computer</li> </ul>	<p><b>Dell Support Website — support.dell.com</b></p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Select your region to view the appropriate support site.</p> <p>The Dell Support website provides several online tools, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solutions — Troubleshooting hints and tips, articles from technicians, and online courses</li> <li>• Community — Online discussion with other Dell customers</li> <li>• Upgrades — Upgrade information for components, such as memory, the hard drive, and the operating system</li> <li>• Customer Care — Contact information, order status, warranty, and repair information</li> <li>• Downloads — Drivers, patches, and software updates</li> <li>• Reference — Computer documentation, product specifications, and white papers</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to use Windows XP</li> <li>• Documentation for my computer</li> <li>• Documentation for devices (such as a modem)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Windows Help and Support Center</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Click the <b>Start</b> button and click <b>Help and Support</b>.</li> <li>2 Type a word or phrase that describes your problem and click the arrow icon.</li> <li>3 Click the topic that describes your problem.</li> <li>4 Follow the instructions on the screen.</li> </ol>

---

What Are You Looking For?	Find It Here
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How to reinstall my operating system</li></ul>	<p data-bbox="763 422 1346 464"><b>Operating System CD</b></p> <p data-bbox="763 464 1346 590">The operating system is already installed on your computer. To reinstall your operating system, use the <i>Operating System CD</i>. See "Reinstalling Windows XP" on page 65. Keep this CD in a safe place for future use.</p> <p data-bbox="1071 590 1346 768">After you reinstall your operating system, use the <i>Drivers and Utilities CD</i> to reinstall drivers for the devices that came with your computer.</p> <p data-bbox="1071 768 1346 905">Your operating system product key label is located on your computer.</p> <p data-bbox="763 926 1346 1008"><b>NOTE:</b> The color of your CD varies based on the operating system you ordered.</p>

---

# A Tour of Your Computer

## Front View

**DISPLAY LATCH RELEASE** — Slide this display latch to release and open the display.

**DISPLAY** — For more information about your display, see "Using the Display" in the *Dell Inspiron Help* file. To access help, see page 10.

**SPEAKERS** — To adjust the volume of the integrated speakers press the volume control keyboard shortcuts. For more information, see "Using the Keyboard and Touch Pad" on page 39.

**POWER BUTTON** — Press the power button to turn on the computer or to enter or exit a power management mode.

**NOTICE:** To avoid losing data, shut down your computer instead of pressing the power button.

**AUDIO CONNECTORS.** — Connect headphones and microphone.

Attach headphones or speakers to the      connector.

Attach a microphone to the      connector.

**IEEE 1394 CONNECTOR** — Connects devices supporting IEEE 1394 high-speed transfer rates, such as some digital video cameras.

**TOUCH PAD** — Touch pad and touch pad buttons provide the functionality of a mouse. See "Using the Keyboard and Touch Pad" on page 39 for more information.


**KEYBOARD** — The keyboard includes a numeric keypad as well as the Microsoft® Windows® logo key. For information on supported keyboard shortcuts, see "Using the Keyboard and Touch Pad" on page 39.

## DEVICE AND KEYBOARD STATUS LIGHTS


Turns on when wireless networking is enabled. To enable or disable wireless networking, press <Fn><F2>.

Turns on when you turn on the computer. Turns on steadily or blinks when the computer is in a power management mode.

Indicates battery charge status.


If the computer is connected to an electrical outlet, the  light operates as follows:

- Solid green: The battery is charging.

If the computer is running on a battery, the  light operates as follows:

- Off: The battery is adequately charged (or the computer is turned off).
- Flashing green: The battery charge is low.

Turns on when the computer reads or writes data.

**NOTICE:** To avoid loss of data, never turn off the computer while the  is flashing.

Turns on when the numeric keypad is enabled.

Turns on when the uppercase letter function is enabled.

↓ Turns on when the scroll lock function is enabled.

**NOTE:** Device status lights are also visible when the display is closed.


## Left Side View

**SECURITY CABLE SLOT** — Lets you attach a commercially available antitheft device to the computer. For more information, see the instructions included with the device.

Before you buy an antitheft device, ensure that it will work with the security cable slot.

**EXHAUST VENT** — The computer uses an internal fan to create airflow through the vents, which prevents the computer from overheating.

**NOTE:** The computer turns on the fan when the computer gets hot. Fan noise is normal and does not indicate a problem with the fans or the computer.

 **CAUTION:** Do not block, push objects into, or allow dust to accumulate in the air vents. Do not store your computer in a low-airflow environment, such as a closed briefcase, while it is running. Restricting the airflow can damage the computer or cause a fire.



**VIDEO CONNECTOR**

Connects an external monitor. For more information, see "Using the Display" in the *Dell Inspiron Help* file. To access help, see page 10.

**USB 2.0 CONNECTOR**

Connects USB 2.0 compliant devices, such as a mouse, keyboard, or printer.

**PC CARD SLOT** — Supports one PC Card, such as a modem or network adapter. The computer ships with a plastic blank installed in the slot. For more information, see "Using PC Cards" on page 43.

**SECURE DIGITAL MEMORY CARD SLOT**

The Secure Digital memory card slot supports one Secure Digital memory card. Use Secure Digital memory cards to save or back up data.

## Right Side View

**MODULE BAY** — You can install devices such as an optical drive or Dell TravelLite™ module in the module bay. For more information, see "Installing Module Bay Devices" on page 31.

### **MODEM CONNECTOR (RJ-11)**

Connects the telephone line to the modem connector.

For information on using the modem, see the online modem documentation supplied with your computer.

### **NETWORK CONNECTOR (RJ-45)**

**NOTICE:** The network connector is slightly larger than the modem connector. To avoid damaging the computer, do not plug a telephone line in to the network connector.

Connects the computer to a network. The green and yellow lights next to the connector indicate activity for both wired and wireless network communications.

For information on using the network adapter, see the online network-adapter documentation supplied with your computer.

**AC ADAPTER CONNECTOR** — Connects the AC adapter so that you can run the computer on AC power instead of battery power.

The AC adapter converts AC power to the DC power required by the computer. You can connect the AC adapter with your computer turned either on or off.



**CAUTION:** 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 the power strip or electrical outlet may cause fire or equipment damage.

**NOTICE:** When you disconnect the AC adapter cable from the computer, grasp the connector, not the cable itself, and pull firmly but gently to avoid damaging the cable.

**NOTICE:** Ensure that the AC adapter cable is not in the path of chairs or other objects that could crush it.

#### **S-VIDEO TV-OUT CONNECTOR**

Connects your computer to a TV. For more information, see "Connecting Your Computer to a TV or Audio Device" on page 35.

## Bottom View

**MODULE BAY** — You can install devices such as an optical drive in the module bay. For more information, see "Installing Module Bay Devices" on page 31.


**MODULE BAY LATCH RELEASE** — Releases a device. See "Installing Module Bay Devices" on page 31 for instructions.

**HARD DRIVE** — Stores software and data.

**BATTERY LATCH RELEASE** — Releases a device. See "Using a Battery" on page 27 for instructions.

**BATTERY/BATTERY BAY** — When a battery is installed, you can use the computer without connecting the computer to an electrical outlet. See "Using a Battery" on page 27.

**AIR VENT** — The computer uses an internal fan to create airflow through the vents, which prevents the computer from overheating.

 **CAUTION: Do not block, push objects into, or allow dust to accumulate in the air vents. Do not store your computer in a low-airflow environment, such as a closed briefcase, while it is running. Restricting the airflow can damage the computer or cause a fire.**

**MEMORY MODULE COVER** — Covers the compartment that contains the memory module. See "Memory" on page 87.

**MINI PCI CARD AND MODEM COVER** — Covers the compartment that contains the Mini PCI card and modem. See "Mini PCI Card" on page 91 and "Modem" on page 89.

# Setting Up Your Computer

## 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), such as AOL or MSN. Your ISP will offer one or more of the following Internet connection options:

- Dial-up connections that provide Internet access through a telephone line. Dial-up connections are considerably slower than DSL and cable modem connections.
- DSL connections that provide high-speed Internet access through your existing telephone line. With a DSL connection, you can access the Internet and use your telephone on the same line simultaneously.
- Cable modem connections that provide high-speed Internet access through your local cable TV line.

If you are using a dial-up connection, connect a telephone line to the modem connector on your computer and to the telephone wall jack before you set up your Internet connection. If you are using a DSL or cable modem connection, contact your ISP for setup instructions.

### Setting Up Your Internet Connection

To set up an AOL or MSN connection:

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

If you do not have an **MSN Explorer** or **AOL** icon on your desktop or if you want to set up an Internet connection with a different ISP:

- 1 Save and close any open files, and exit any open programs.
- 2 Click the **Start** button and click **Internet Explorer**.  
The **New Connection Wizard** appears.
- 3 Click **Connect to the Internet**.

- 4 In the next window, click the appropriate option:
  - If you do not have an ISP and want to select one, click **Choose from a list of Internet service providers (ISPs)**.
  - If you have already obtained setup information from your ISP but you did not receive a setup CD, click **Set up my connection manually**.
  - If you have a CD, click **Use the CD I got from an ISP**.
- 5 Click **Next**.  
If you selected **Set up my connection manually**, continue to step 6. Otherwise, follow the instructions on the screen to complete the setup.
 

**NOTE:** If you do not know which type of connection to select, contact your ISP.
- 6 Click the appropriate option under **How do you want to connect to the Internet?**, and then click **Next**.
- 7 Use the setup information provided by your ISP to complete the setup.

If you are having problems connecting to the Internet, see "E-Mail, Modem, and Internet Problems" on page 70. 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.

## Transferring Information to a New Computer

The Microsoft® Windows® XP operating system provides a Files and Settings Transfer wizard to move data from the source computer to the new computer. You can move data such as:

- E-mails
- Toolbar settings
- Window sizes
- Internet bookmarks

You can transfer the data to the new computer over a network or serial connection, or you can store it on a removable medium, such as a writable CD or floppy disk.

To prepare the new computer for the file transfer:

- 1 Click the **Start** button, point to **All Programs**→ **Accessories**→ **System Tools**, and then click **Files and Settings Transfer Wizard**.
- 2 When the **Files and Settings Transfer Wizard** welcome screen appears, click **Next**.
- 3 On the **Which computer is this?** screen, click **New Computer** and click **Next**.
- 4 On the **Do you have a Windows XP CD?** screen, click **I will use the wizard from the Windows XP CD** and click **Next**.

- 5 When the **Now go to your old computer** screen appears, go to your old or source computer. Do not click **Next** at this time.

To copy data from the old computer:

- 1 On the old computer, insert the Windows XP *Operating System* CD.
- 2 On the **Welcome to Microsoft Windows XP** screen, click **Perform additional tasks**.
- 3 Under **What do you want to do?**, click **Transfer files and settings**.
- 4 On the **Files and Settings Transfer Wizard** welcome screen, click **Next**.
- 5 On the **Which computer is this?** screen, click **Old Computer** and click **Next**.
- 6 On the **Select a transfer method** screen, click the transfer method you prefer.
- 7 On the **What do you want to transfer?** screen, select the items you want to transfer and click **Next**.

After the information has been copied, the **Completing the Collection Phase** screen appears.

- 8 Click **Finish**.

To transfer data to the new computer:

- 1 On the **Now go to your old computer** screen on the new computer, click **Next**.
- 2 On the **Where are the files and settings?** screen, select the method you chose for transferring your settings and files and click **Next**.

The wizard reads the collected files and settings and applies them to your new computer.

When all of the settings and files have been applied, the **Finished** screen appears.

- 3 Click **Finished** and restart the new computer.

## Setting Up a Printer

**NOTICE:** Complete the operating system setup before you connect a printer to the computer.

See the documentation that came with the printer for setup information, including how to:

- Obtain and install updated drivers.
- Connect the printer to the computer.
- Load paper and install the toner or ink cartridge.
- Contact the printer manufacturer for technical assistance.

### Printer Cable

Your printer may not come with a printer cable, so if you purchase a cable separately, ensure that it is compatible with your printer. If you purchased a printer cable at the same time you purchased your computer, the cable may arrive in the computer box.

## Connecting a USB Printer

**NOTE:** You can connect USB devices while the computer is turned on.

- 1 Complete the operating system setup if you have not already done so.
- 2 Install the printer driver if necessary. See the documentation that came with your printer.
- 3 Attach the USB printer cable to the USB connectors on the computer and the printer. The USB connectors fit only one way.

## Power Protection Devices

Several devices are available to protect against power fluctuations and failures:

- Surge protectors
- Line conditioners
- Uninterruptible power supplies (UPS)

### Surge Protectors

Surge protectors and power strips equipped with surge protection help to prevent damage to your computer from voltage spikes that can occur during electrical storms or following power interruptions. The level of protection is usually commensurate with the cost of the surge protector. Some surge protector manufacturers include warranty coverage for certain types of damage.



Carefully read the device warranty when choosing a surge protector. A device with a higher joule rating offers more protection. Compare joule ratings to determine the relative effectiveness of different devices.

**NOTICE:** Most surge protectors do not protect against power fluctuations or power interruptions caused by nearby lightning strikes. When lightning occurs in your area, disconnect the telephone line from the telephone wall jack and disconnect your computer from the electrical outlet.

Many surge protectors have a telephone jack for modem protection. See the surge protector documentation for modem connection instructions.

**NOTICE:** Not all surge protectors offer network adapter protection. Disconnect the network cable from the network wall jack during electrical storms.

### **Line Conditioners**

**NOTICE:** Line conditioners do not protect against power interruptions.

Line conditioners are designed to maintain AC voltage at a fairly constant level.

### **Uninterruptible Power Supplies**

**NOTICE:** Loss of power while data is being saved to the hard drive may result in data loss or file damage.

**NOTE:** To ensure maximum battery operating time, connect only your computer to a UPS. Connect other devices, such as a printer, to a separate power strip that provides surge protection.

A UPS protects against power fluctuations and interruptions. UPS devices contain a battery that provides temporary power to connected devices when AC power is interrupted. The battery charges while AC power is available. See the UPS manufacturer documentation for information on battery operating time and to ensure that the device is approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL).



# Using a Battery

## Battery Performance

 **CAUTION:** Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions located in the *Product Information Guide*.

**NOTE:** Batteries for portable computers are covered only during the initial 1-year period of the limited warranty for your computer. For more information about the Dell warranty for your computer, see the *Product Information Guide* or separate paper warranty document that shipped with your computer.


For optimal computer performance and to help preserve BIOS settings, operate your Dell™ portable computer with the main battery installed at all times. Use a battery to run the computer when it is not connected to an electrical outlet. One battery is supplied as standard equipment in the battery bay.

Battery operating time varies depending on operating conditions. Operating time is significantly reduced when you perform operations including, but not limited to, the following:


- Using DVD, DVD-R, and CD-RW drives
- Using wireless communications devices, PC Cards, or USB devices
- Using high-brightness display settings, 3D screen savers, or other power-intensive programs such as 3D games
- Running the computer in maximum performance mode (see "Power Management" in the *Dell Inspiron Help* file.)

**NOTE:** It is recommended that you connect your computer to an electrical outlet when writing to a CD or DVD.


You can set power management options to alert you when the battery charge is low.

 **CAUTION:** Using an incompatible battery may increase the risk of fire or explosion. Replace the battery only with a compatible battery purchased from Dell. The lithium-ion battery is designed to work with your Dell computer. Do not use a battery from other computers with your computer.


 **CAUTION:** Do not dispose of batteries with household waste. When your battery no longer holds a charge, call your local waste disposal or environmental agency for advice on disposing of a lithium-ion battery. See "Battery Disposal" in the *Product Information Guide*.


 **CAUTION:** Misuse of the battery may increase the risk of fire or chemical burn. Do not puncture, incinerate, disassemble, or expose the battery to temperatures above 65°C (149°F). Keep the battery away from children. Handle damaged or leaking batteries with extreme care. Damaged batteries may leak and cause personal injury or equipment damage.

## Checking the Battery Charge

The Microsoft® Windows® **Power Meter** window and  icon and the low-battery warning provide information on the battery charge.

### Microsoft Windows Power Meter

The Windows Power Meter indicates the remaining battery charge. To check the Power Meter, double-click the  icon on the taskbar. For more information about the **Power Meter** tab, see "Power Management" in the *Dell Inspiron Help* file. To access help, see page 10.

If the computer is connected to an electrical outlet, a  icon appears.

### Low-Battery Warning

**NOTICE:** To avoid losing or corrupting data, save your work immediately after a low-battery warning. Then connect the computer to an electrical outlet. If the battery runs completely out of power, hibernate mode begins automatically.

A pop-up window warns you when the battery charge is approximately 90 percent depleted. For more information about low-battery alarms, see "Power Management" in the *Dell Inspiron Help* file. To access help, see page 10.


## Charging the Battery

When you connect the computer to an electrical outlet or install a battery while the computer is connected to an electrical outlet, the computer checks the battery charge and temperature. If necessary, the AC adapter then charges the battery and maintains the battery charge.

If the battery is hot from being used in your computer or being in a hot environment, the battery may not charge when you connect the computer to an electrical outlet.

For more information about resolving problems with a battery, see "Power Problems" on page 77.

## Removing a Battery

 **CAUTION:** Before performing these procedures, disconnect the modem from the telephone wall jack.

- 1 Ensure that the computer is turned off, set to the hibernate power management mode, or connected to an electrical outlet.
- 2 Slide and hold the battery-bay latch release on the bottom of the computer, and then remove the battery from the bay.

shown with optional 8-cell battery

## Installing a Battery

Slide the battery into the bay until the latch release clicks.

## Storing a Battery

Remove the battery when you store your computer for an extended period of time. A battery discharges during prolonged storage. After a long storage period, recharge the battery fully before you use it.



# Installing Module Bay Devices

## About the Module Bay

 **CAUTION:** Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions located in the *Product Information Guide*.

You can install devices such as a DVD drive, CD-RW/DVD drive, or DVD+RW in the module bay.

## Removing and Installing Devices While the Computer Is Turned Off

**NOTICE:** To prevent damage to devices, store them in a safe, dry place when they are not installed in the computer. Avoid pressing down on them or placing heavy objects on top of them.

- 1 Slide and hold the device latch release.
- 2 Pull the device out of the module bay.
- 3 Push the new device into the bay until it clicks.

## Removing and Installing Devices While the Computer Is Running

- 1 Before ejecting the device, double-click the **Safely Remove Hardware** icon on the taskbar, click the device you want to eject, and click **Stop**.

**NOTICE:** To prevent damage to devices, store them in a safe, dry place when they are not installed in the computer. Avoid pressing down on them or placing heavy objects on top of them.

- 2 Slide and hold the device latch release.

- 3 Pull the device out of the module bay.

- 4 Push the new device into the bay until it clicks.

The operating system automatically recognizes the device.



## Using CDs, DVDs, and Other Multimedia

### Using CDs and DVDs

For information about using CDs and DVDs in your computer, see the *Dell™ Inspiron™ Help* file. To access the help file, see page 10.

### Copying CDs and DVDs

**NOTE:** Ensure that you follow all copyright laws when you create CDs or DVDs.

This section applies only to computers that have a CD-R, CD-RW, DVD+RW, DVD+R, or DVD/CD-RW combo drive.

The following instructions show how to make an exact copy of a CD or DVD. You can also use Sonic RecordNow for other purposes, including creating CDs from audio files on your computer and creating MP3 CDs. For instructions, see the Sonic RecordNow documentation that came with your computer. Open Sonic RecordNow, click the question mark icon in the upper-right corner of the window, and then click **RecordNow Help** or **RecordNow Tutorial**.

#### How to Copy a CD or DVD

**NOTE:** If you have a DVD/CD-RW combo drive and you experience recording problems, check for available software patches at the Sonic support website at [support.sonic.com](http://support.sonic.com).

Currently, five DVD-writable disc formats are available: DVD+R, DVD+RW, DVD-R, DVD-RW, and DVD-RAM. The DVD-writable drives installed in Dell™ computers can write to DVD+R and DVD+RW media, and can read DVD-R and DVD-RW media. However, DVD-writable drives do not write to and might not read DVD-RAM media. In addition, commercially available DVD players for home theater systems might not read all five formats.

**NOTE:** Most commercial DVDs have copyright protection and cannot be copied using Sonic RecordNow.

- 1 Click the **Start** button, point to **All Programs**→ **Sonic**→ **RecordNow!**, and then click **RecordNow!**
- 2 Click either the audio tab or the data tab, depending on the kind of CD or DVD you want to copy.
- 3 Click **Exact Copy**.

**4** To copy the CD or DVD:

- *If you have one CD or DVD drive*, ensure that the settings are correct and click **Copy**. The computer reads your source CD or DVD and copies it to a temporary folder on your computer hard drive.

When prompted, insert a blank CD or DVD into the CD or DVD drive and click **OK**.

- *If you have two CD or DVD drives*, select the drive into which you have inserted your source CD or DVD and click **Copy**. The computer copies the data on the CD or DVD to the blank CD or DVD.

Once you have finished copying the source CD or DVD, the CD or DVD that you have created automatically ejects.

### Using Blank CD-Rs and CD-RWs

Your CD-RW drive can write to two different types of recording media—CD-Rs and CD-RWs (including high-speed CD-RWs). Use blank CD-Rs to record music or permanently store data files. After creating a CD-R, you cannot write to that CD-R again without changing your method of recording (see the Sonic documentation for more information). Use blank CD-RWs to write to CDs or to erase, rewrite, or update data on CDs.

Your DVD-writable drive can write to four different types of recording media—CD-Rs, CD-RWs (including high-speed CD-RWs), DVD+Rs, and DVD+RWs. Blank DVD+Rs can be used to permanently store large amounts of information. After you create a DVD+R disc, you may not be able to write to that disc again if the disc is "finalized" or "closed" during the final stage of the disc creation process. Use blank DVD+RWs if you plan to erase, rewrite, or update information on that disc later.

### Helpful Tips

- Use Microsoft® Windows® Explorer to drag and drop files to a CD-R or CD-RW only after you start Sonic RecordNow and open a RecordNow project.
- You must use CD-Rs to burn music CDs that you want to play in regular stereos. CD-RWs do not play in most home or car stereos.
- You cannot create audio DVDs with Sonic RecordNow.
- Music MP3 files can be played only on MP3 players or on computers that have MP3 software installed.
- Do not burn a blank CD-R or CD-RW to its maximum capacity; for example, do not copy a 650-MB file to a 650-MB blank CD. The CD-RW drive needs 1 or 2 MB of the blank CD to finalize the recording.

- Use a blank CD-RW to practice CD recording until you are familiar with CD recording techniques. If you make a mistake, you can erase the data on the CD-RW and try again. You can also use blank CD-RWs to test music file projects before you record the project permanently to a blank CD-R.
- See the Sonic support website at [support.sonic.com](http://support.sonic.com) for additional information.

## Connecting Your Computer to a TV or Audio Device

**NOTE:** Video and audio cables for connecting your computer to a TV or other audio device are not included with your computer. Cables may be purchased at most consumer electronics stores.

You can use a commercially available S-video cable to connect your computer to the S-video input on your TV. The audio connector on the front of the computer enables you to connect the computer to your TV or audio device, using a commercially available audio cable.

**NOTE:** See the diagrams at the beginning of each subsection to help you determine which method of connection you should use.

When you finish connecting the video and audio cables between your computer and your TV, you must enable your computer to work with the TV. See "Enabling the Display Settings for a TV" on page 36 to ensure that the computer recognizes and works properly with the TV.

### S-Video Connection

- 1 Turn off the computer and the TV and/or audio device that you want to connect.
- 2 Plug one end of the S-video cable in to the S-video TV-out connector on the computer.

- 3 Plug the other end of the S-video cable in to the S-video input connector on your TV.
- 4 Plug the single-connector end of the audio cable in to the headphone connector on your computer.
  
- 5 Plug the two RCA connectors on the other end of the audio cable in to the audio input connectors on your TV or other audio device.
- 6 Turn on the TV, turn on any audio device that you connected (if applicable), and then turn on the computer.
- 7 See "Enabling the Display Settings for a TV" on page 36 to ensure that the computer recognizes and works properly with the TV.

## Enabling the Display Settings for a TV

### Integrated Video Controller

**NOTE:** Ensure that you properly connect the TV before you enable the display settings.

- 1 Click the **Start** button and click **Control Panel**.
- 2 Click **Appearances and Themes**.
- 3 Under or pick a **Control Panel** icon, click **Display**.
- 4 Click the **Settings** tab and click **Advanced**.
- 5 Click the **Intel (R) Extreme Graphics** tab.
- 6 Click **Graphic Properties**.
- 7 If you want to use only a TV without using the computer display or any other display options:
  - a In the new window, click **TV** so that a red check mark appears directly on top of the TV icon.
  - b Ensure that the settings are correct.
- 8 If you want to use a TV and the computer display at the same time:
  - a In the new window, click **Intel (R) Dual Display Clone** and ensure that one of the devices listed is a TV.
  - b Click **Device Settings**.
  - c In the new window, ensure that the display resolution settings are correct.

- 9** Click **Apply** to view the new settings.
- 10** Click **OK** to confirm the settings change.
- 11** Click **Yes** to keep the new settings.
- 12** Click **OK**.



# 6

## Using the Keyboard and Touch Pad

### Numeric Keypad

The numeric keypad functions like the numeric keypad on an external keyboard. Each key on the keypad has multiple functions. The keypad numbers and symbols are marked in blue on the right of the keypad keys. To type a number or symbol, hold down <Fn> and press the desired key.

- To enable the keypad, press <Num Lk>. The light indicates that the keypad is active.
- To disable the keypad, press <Num Lk> again.

## Key Combinations

### System Functions

<Ctrl><Shift><Esc>	Opens the <b>Task Manager</b> window.
<Fn><F3>	Enables and disables the numeric keypad.
<Fn><F4>	Enables and disables the scroll lock.

### Display Functions

<Fn><F8>	Switches the video image to the next display option. The options include the integrated display, an external monitor, and both displays simultaneously.
<Fn> and up-arrow key	Increases brightness on the integrated display only (not on an external monitor).
<Fn> and down-arrow key	Decreases brightness on the integrated display only (not on an external monitor).

### Radios (Including Wireless Networking)

<Fn><F2>	Enables and disables radios including wireless networking.
----------	--

### Power Management

<Fn><Esc>	Activates a power management mode. You can reprogram this keyboard shortcut to activate a different power management mode using the <b>Advanced</b> tab in the <b>Power Options Properties</b> window. See "Power Management" in the <i>Dell Inspiron Help</i> file. To access help, see page 10.
-----------	---

### Speaker Functions

<Fn><F5>	Enables and disables the integrated speakers and external speakers (mute function), if attached.
<Fn><F6>	Decreases the volume of the integrated speakers and external speakers, if attached.
<Fn><F7>	Increases the volume of the integrated speakers and external speakers, if attached.



## Microsoft® Windows® Logo Key Functions

Windows logo key and <m>	Minimizes all open windows.
Windows logo key and <Shift><m>	Maximizes all windows.
Windows logo key and <e>	Runs Windows Explorer.
Windows logo key and <r>	Opens the <b>Run</b> dialog box.
Windows logo key and <f>	Opens the <b>Search Results</b> dialog box.
Windows logo key and <Ctrl><f>	Opens the <b>Search Results-Computer</b> dialog box (if the computer is connected to a network).
Windows logo key and <Pause>	Opens the <b>System Properties</b> dialog box.

To adjust keyboard operation, such as the character repeat rate, open the Control Panel, click **Printers and Other Hardware**, and click **Keyboard**.

## Touch Pad

The touch pad detects the pressure and movement of your finger to allow you to move the cursor on the display. Use the touch pad and touch pad buttons as you would use a mouse.

- To move the cursor, lightly slide your finger over the touch pad.
- To select an object, lightly tap once on the surface of the touch pad or use your thumb to press the left touch-pad button.

- To select and move (or drag) an object, position the cursor on the object and tap down-up-down on the touch pad. On the second down motion, leave your finger on the touch pad and move the selected object by sliding your finger over the surface.
- To double-click an object, position the cursor on the object and tap twice on the touch pad or use your thumb to press the left touch-pad button twice.

### **Customizing the Touch Pad**

You can use the **Mouse Properties** window to disable the touch pad or adjust its settings.

- 1** Open the Control Panel, click **Printers and Other Hardware**, and then click **Mouse**.
- 2** In the **Mouse Properties** window:
  - Click the **Device Select** tab to disable the touch pad.
  - Click the **Pointer** tab to adjust touch pad settings.
- 3** Click **OK** to save the settings and close the window.

## Using PC Cards

### PC Card Types

See "Specifications" on page 101 for information on supported PC Cards.

**NOTE:** A PC Card is not a bootable device.

The PC Card slot has one connector that supports a single Type I or Type II card.

The PC Card slot supports CardBus technology and extended PC Cards. "Type" of card refers to its thickness, not its functionality.

### PC Card Blanks

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


To remove the blank, see "Removing a PC Card or Blank" on page 43.

### Extended PC Cards

An extended PC Card (for example, a wireless network adapter) is longer than a standard PC Card and extends outside the computer. Follow these precautions when using extended PC Cards:

- Protect the exposed end of an installed card. Striking the end of the card can damage the system board.
- Always remove an extended PC Card before you pack the computer in its carrying case.

### Removing a PC Card or Blank

**NOTICE:** Use the PC Card configuration utility (click the  icon in the taskbar) to select a card and stop it from functioning before you remove it from the computer. If you do not stop the card in the configuration utility, you could lose data. Do not attempt to eject a card by pulling its cable, if one is attached.

 **CAUTION:** Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions located in the *Product Information Guide*.

- 1 Press in on the latch.

For some latches, you must press the latch twice: once to pop the latch out, and then a second time to pop the card out.

- 2 Remove the card or blank.

- 3 Save a blank to use when no PC Card is installed in a slot. Blanks protect unused slots from dust and other particles.

## Installing a PC Card

You can install a PC Card in the computer while the computer is running. The computer automatically detects the card.

PC Cards are generally marked with a symbol (such as a triangle or an arrow) to indicate which end to insert into the slot. The cards are keyed to prevent incorrect insertion. If card orientation is not clear, see the documentation that came with the card.



**CAUTION:** Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions located in the *Product Information Guide*.

To install a PC Card:

- 1 Hold the card with its orientation symbol pointing into the slot and the top side of the card facing up. The latch may need to be in the "in" position before you insert the card.
- 2 Slide the card into the slot until the card is completely seated in its connector.  
If you encounter too much resistance, do not force the card. Check the card orientation and try again.

The computer recognizes most PC Cards and automatically loads the appropriate device driver. If the configuration program tells you to load the manufacturer's drivers, use the floppy disk or CD that came with the PC Card.



# Setting Up a Home and Office Network

## Connecting to a Network Adapter

Before you connect your computer to a network, the computer must have a network adapter installed and a network cable connected to it.

To connect a network cable:

- 1 Connect the network cable to the network adapter connector on the back of your computer.



**NOTE:** Insert the cable until it clicks into place, and then gently pull it to ensure that it is secure.

- 2 Connect the other end of the network cable to a network connection device, such as a network wall jack.



**NOTE:** Do not use a network cable with a telephone wall jack.

## Network Setup Wizard

The Microsoft® Windows® XP operating system provides a Network Setup Wizard to guide you through the process of sharing files, printers, or an Internet connection between computers in a home or small office.

- 1 Click the **Start** button, point to **All Programs**→**Accessories**→**Communications**, and then click **Network Setup Wizard**.
- 2 On the welcome screen, click **Next**.
- 3 Click **Checklist for creating a network**.

**NOTE:** Selecting the connection method labeled "This computer connects directly to the Internet" enables the integrated firewall provided with Windows XP.

- 4 Complete the checklist and required preparations.
- 5 Return to the Network Setup Wizard and follow the instructions on the screen.

## Connecting to a Wireless Local Area Network

**NOTE:** These networking instructions do not apply to cards with Bluetooth® wireless technology or cellular products.

### Determining Your Network Type

**NOTE:** Most wireless networks are of the infrastructure type.

Wireless networks fall into three categories—infrastructure networks, ad-hoc networks, and home networks. An infrastructure network uses routers or access points to connect several computers. An ad-hoc network does not use routers or access points and consists of computers that broadcast to one another. A home network typically employs high-speed Internet access such as DSL or cable, and an access point or router. For more information on the type of network you have, go to [support.dell.com](http://support.dell.com) and search for Knowledge Base articles on wireless networking.



### **Connecting to a Wireless Network in Microsoft® Windows® XP**

Your wireless network card requires specific software and drivers in order to connect to a network. The software is already installed. If the software is removed or corrupted, follow the instructions included in the user's guide for your wireless network card. The user's guide is located on your *Drivers and Utilities* CD (that came with your computer) in the "User's Guides-Network User's Guides" category. The user's guide is also available on the Dell Support website at [support.dell.com](http://support.dell.com).

- 1** Click the **Start** button, click **Control Panel**, and then click **Switch to Classic View**.
- 2** Double-click **Network Connections**.
- 3** Click **Wireless Network Connection**.

The **Wireless Network Connection** icon is highlighted.

- 4** Under **Network Tasks** in the left-hand pane, click **Change settings of this connection**.

The **Wireless Network Connection Properties** window appears.

- 5 Click the **Wireless Networks** tab.

**NOTE:** The names of wireless networks that your computer can detect are listed under **Available Networks**.

- 6 Click **Add**.

The **Wireless network properties** window appears.

**NOTE:** If you are using a WPA-protected network, and the **Association** tab does not give you the option to select WPA, download the WPA wireless security update from the Microsoft support site.

- 7 Enter the name of your network in the **Network name (SSID)** field.

- 8 *If you do not need to configure security settings, go to step 9.*

*If you choose to configure security settings (optional), go to "Configuring Security Settings (Optional)" on page 52.*

- 9 Click **OK**.

Your new network name appears in the **Preferred networks** field, and your network setup is complete.

### **Configuring Security Settings (Optional)**

Choose one of the following connection options based on the security settings for your network:

- Connecting to a Network with Wired Equivalent Protocol (WEP) Security Requirements
- Connecting to a Network with Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA) Security Requirements

**NOTE:** Network security settings are unique to your network. Dell cannot provide this information.

#### **Connecting to a Network With Wired Equivalent Protocol (WEP) Security Requirements**

- 1** In the **Preferred networks** field, click the name of your wireless network.
- 2** Click **Properties**.
- 3** From the **Network Authentication** drop-down menu, select **Open**.


Earlier versions of Dell wireless network software may not contain the drop-down menu. If you are using an earlier version, click to check the **Data encryption (WEP enabled)** check box and go to step 5.

- 4 From the **Data encryption** drop-down menu, select **WEP**.
- 5 If the wireless network does not require a network key, such as a password, go to step 9.
- 6 Click to uncheck the **The key is provided for me automatically** check box.
- 7 Enter the WEP network key in the **Network key** field.
- 8 Enter the WEP network key again in the **Confirm network key** field.  
**NOTE:** Your computer can take up to 1 minute to connect to the network.
- 9 Click **OK**.

Your network setup is complete.

#### **Connecting to a Network With Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA) Security Requirements**

The following instructions are basic steps for connecting to a WPA network. If your network requires a user name, password, or domain settings, consult the setup instructions in the user's guide for your wireless network card.

 **NOTE:** WPA protocols require that you know the network authentication and data encryption settings for your wireless network. In addition, your WPA-protected network may require special settings such as a network key, user name, password, and domain name.

- 1 In the **Preferred networks** field, click the name of your wireless network.
- 2 Click **Properties**.
- 3 From the **Network Authentication** drop-down menu, select your network authentication type.

If you are using a WPA-protected network, and the **Association** tab does not give you the option to select WPA, download the WPA wireless security update from the Microsoft support site.

- 4 From the **Data encryption** drop-down menu, select your data encryption type.
- 5 If your wireless network requires a key, enter it in the **Network key** field.  
**NOTE:** Your computer can take up to 1 minute to connect to the network.
- 6 Click **OK**.

Your network setup is complete.





# Solving Problems

## Dell Diagnostics



**CAUTION:** Before you begin any of the procedures in this section, follow the safety instructions located in the *Product Information Guide*.

### When to Use the Dell Diagnostics

If you experience a problem with your computer, perform the checks in this section and run the Dell Diagnostics before you contact Dell for technical assistance.

**NOTICE:** The Dell Diagnostics works only on Dell™ computers.

Start the Dell Diagnostics from either your hard drive or from the *Drivers and Utilities* CD (also known as the ResourceCD).

### Starting the 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 page 109).

- 1 Shut down the computer (see page 85).
- 2 Connect the computer to an electrical outlet.
- 3 Turn on the computer. When the DELL™ logo appears, press <F12> immediately.

**NOTE:** If you cannot see anything on your display, hold down the <Fn> key and press the computer's power button to begin the Dell Diagnostics. The computer automatically runs the Pre-boot System Assessment.

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

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 (see page 85) and try again.

- 4 When the boot device list appears, highlight **Diagnostics** and press <Enter>. The computer runs the Pre-boot System Assessment, a series of initial tests of your system board, keyboard, hard drive, and display.
  - During the assessment, answer any questions that appear.
  - If a failure is detected, the computer stops and beeps. To stop the assessment and restart the computer, press <n>; to continue to the next test, press <y>; to retest the component that failed, press <r>.
  - If failures are detected during the Pre-boot System Assessment, write down the error code(s) and contact Dell (see page 109) before continuing on to the Dell Diagnostics.

If the Pre-boot System Assessment completes successfully, you receive the message *Booting Dell Diagnostic Utility Partition*. Press any key to continue.
- 5 Press any key to start the Dell Diagnostics from the diagnostics utility partition on your hard drive.

#### Starting the Dell Diagnostics From the Drivers and Utilities CD

- 1 Insert the *Drivers and Utilities* CD.
- 2 Shut down (see page 85) and restart the computer. When the DELL logo appears, press <F12> immediately. If you wait too long and the Windows logo appears, continue to wait until you see the Windows desktop. Then shut down your computer (see page 85) 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 system setup.
- 3 When the boot device list appears, highlight **CD/DVD/CD-RW Drive** and press <Enter>.
- 4 Select the **CD/DVD/CD-RW Drive** option from the CD boot menu.
- 5 Select the **Boot from CD-ROM** option from the menu that appears.
- 6 Type 1 to start the ResourceCD menu.
- 7 Type 2 to start the Dell Diagnostics.
- 8 Select **Run the 32 Bit Dell Diagnostics** from the numbered list. If multiple versions are listed, select the version appropriate for your computer.
- 9 When the Dell Diagnostics **Main Menu** appears, select the test you want to run (see page 59).

## Dell Diagnostics Main Menu

- 1 After the Dell Diagnostics loads and the **Main Menu** screen appears, click the button for the option you want.

Option	Function
Express Test	Performs a quick test of devices. This test typically takes 10 to 20 minutes and requires no interaction on your part. Run <b>Express Test</b> first to increase the possibility of tracing the problem quickly.
Extended Test	Performs a thorough check of devices. This test typically takes an hour or more and requires you to answer questions periodically.
Custom Test	Tests a specific device. You can customize the tests you want to run.
Symptom Tree	Lists the most common symptoms encountered and allows you to select a test based on the symptom of the problem you are having.

- 2 If a problem is encountered during a test, a message appears with an error code and a description of the problem. Write down the error code and problem description and follow the instructions on the screen.

If you cannot resolve the error condition, contact Dell (see page 109).

**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**.

- 3 If you run a test from the **Custom Test** or **Symptom Tree** option, click the applicable tab described in the following table for more information.

Tab	Function
Results	Displays the results of the test and any error conditions encountered.
Errors	Displays error conditions encountered, error codes, and the problem description.
Help	Describes the test and may indicate requirements for running the test.

Tab	Function
Configuration	<p>Displays your hardware configuration for the selected device.</p> <p>The Dell Diagnostics obtains configuration information for all devices from system setup, memory, and various internal tests, and it displays the information in the device list in the left pane of the screen. The device list may not display the names of all the components installed on your computer or all devices attached to your computer.</p>
Parameters	Allows you to customize the test by changing the test settings.

- 4 When the tests are completed, if you are running the Dell Diagnostics from the *Drivers and Utilities* CD, remove the CD.
- 5 When the tests are complete, close the test screen to return to the **Main Menu** screen. To exit the Dell Diagnostics and restart the computer, close the **Main Menu** screen.

## Drivers

### What Is a Driver?

A driver is a program that controls a device such as a printer, mouse, or keyboard. All devices require a driver program.

A driver acts like a translator between the device and any other programs that use the device. Each device has its own set of specialized commands that only its driver recognizes.

Dell ships your computer to you with required drivers already installed—no further installation or configuration is needed.

**NOTICE:** The *Drivers and Utilities* CD may contain drivers for operating systems that are not on your computer. Ensure that you are installing software appropriate for your operating system.

Many drivers, such as the keyboard driver, come with your Microsoft® Windows® operating system. You may need to install drivers if you:

- Upgrade your operating system.
- Reinstall your operating system.
- Connect or install a new device.

### 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.

## Windows XP

- 1 Click the **Start** button and click **Control Panel**.
- 2 Under **Pick a Category**, click **Performance and Maintenance**.
- 3 Click **System**.
- 4 In the **System Properties** window, click the **Hardware** tab.
- 5 Click **Device Manager**.
- 6 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 as described in the following section.

## Reinstalling Drivers and Utilities

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

## Using Windows XP Device Driver Rollback

If a problem occurs on your computer after you install or update a driver, use Windows XP Device Driver Rollback to replace the driver with the previously installed version.

- 1 Click the **Start** button and click **Control Panel**.
- 2 Under **Pick a Category**, click **Performance and Maintenance**.
- 3 Click **System**.
- 4 In the **System Properties** window, click the **Hardware** tab.
- 5 Click **Device Manager**.
- 6 Right-click the device for which the new driver was installed and click **Properties**.
- 7 Click the **Drivers** tab.
- 8 Click **Roll Back Driver**.

If Device Driver Rollback does not resolve the problem, then use System Restore to return your computer to the operating state that existed before you installed the new driver.

### Using the Drivers and Utilities CD

If using Device Driver Rollback or System Restore does not resolve the problem, then reinstall the driver from the *Drivers and Utilities* CD.

- 1 Save and close any open files, and exit any open programs.
- 2 Insert the *Drivers and Utilities* CD.  
In most cases, the CD starts running automatically. If it does not, start Windows Explorer, click your CD drive directory to display the CD contents, and then double-click the **autorcd.exe** file. The first time that you run the CD, it might prompt you to install setup files. Click **OK**, and follow the instructions on the screen to continue.
- 3 From the **Language** drop-down menu in the toolbar, select your preferred language for the driver or utility (if available). A welcome screen appears.
- 4 Click **Next**.  
The CD automatically scans your hardware to detect drivers and utilities used by your computer.
- 5 After the CD completes the hardware scan, you can also detect other drivers and utilities. Under **Search Criteria**, select the appropriate categories from the **System Model**, **Operating System**, and **Topic** drop-down menus.  
A link or links appear(s) for the specific drivers and utilities used by your computer.
- 6 Click the link of a specific driver or utility to display information about the driver or utility that you want to install.
- 7 Click the **Install** button (if present) to begin installing the driver or utility. At the welcome screen, follow the screen prompts to complete the installation.  
If no **Install** button is present, automatic installation is not an option. For installation instructions, either see the appropriate instructions in the following subsections, or click **Extract**, follow the extracting instructions, and then read the readme file.  
If instructed to navigate to the driver files, click the CD directory on the driver information window to display the files associated with that driver.

### Manually Reinstalling Drivers

- 1 After extracting the driver files to your hard drive as described in the previous section, click the **Start** button and right-click **My Computer**.
- 2 Click **Properties**.
- 3 Click the **Hardware** tab and click **Device Manager**.
- 4 Double-click the type of device for which you are installing the driver (for example, **Modems** or **Infrared devices**).
- 5 Double-click the name of the device for which you are installing the driver.

- 6 Click the **Driver** tab and click **Update Driver**.
- 7 Click **Install from a list or specific location (Advanced)** and click **Next**.
- 8 Click **Browse** and browse to the location to which you previously extracted the driver files.
- 9 When the name of the appropriate driver appears, click **Next**.
- 10 Click **Finish** and restart your computer.

## Resolving Software and Hardware Incompatibilities

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 resolve incompatibilities using the Hardware Troubleshooter:

- 1 Click the **Start** button and click **Help and Support**.
- 2 Type `hardware troubleshooter` in the **Search** field and click the arrow to start the search.
- 3 Click **Hardware Troubleshooter** in the **Search Results** list.
- 4 In the **Hardware Troubleshooter** list, click **I need to resolve a hardware conflict on my computer**, and click **Next**.

## Using Microsoft® Windows® XP System Restore

The Microsoft® Windows® XP operating system provides System Restore to allow 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. See the Windows Help and Support Center for information on using System Restore. To access help, see page 10.

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

### Creating a Restore Point

- 1 Click the **Start** button and click **Help and Support**.
- 2 Click **System Restore**.
- 3 Follow the instructions on the screen.

## Restoring the Computer to an Earlier Operating State

If problems occur after you install a device driver, use Device Driver Rollback (see page 61) to resolve the problem. If that is unsuccessful, then use System Restore.

**NOTICE:** Before you restore the computer to an earlier operating state, save and close any 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 the **Start** button, point to **All Programs**→**Accessories**→**System Tools**, and then click **System Restore**.
- 2 Ensure that **Restore my computer to an earlier time** is selected and click **Next**.
- 3 Click a calendar date to which you want to restore your computer.

The **Select a Restore Point** screen provides a calendar that allows you to see and select restore points. All calendar dates with available restore points appear in boldface type.

- 4 Select a restore point and click **Next**.  
If a calendar date has only one restore point, then that restore point is automatically selected. If two or more restore points are available, click the restore point that you prefer.
- 5 Click **Next**.

The **Restoration Complete** screen appears after System Restore finishes collecting data and then the computer restarts.

- 6 After the computer restarts, click **OK**.

To change the restore point, you can either repeat the steps using a different restore point, or you can undo the restoration.

## 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.

- 1 Click the **Start** button, point to **All Programs**→**Accessories**→**System Tools**, and then click **System Restore**.
- 2 Click **Undo my last restoration** and click **Next**.
- 3 Click **Next**.

The **System Restore** screen appears and the computer restarts.

- 4 After the computer restarts, click **OK**.