How do I recover my system using ThinkVantage Rescue and Recovery?
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Time to complete
1-2 Hours (depending on size of the preload)

About this document
This document will walk you through the process of creating Recovery Media and the entire ThinkVantage product recovery process to restore your Lenovo Laptop to its Factory preload. These instructions will only work on Lenovo systems and are not intended to be used on other manufacturer's equipment. Your laptop does not come with any Windows Installation disc or recovery media discs. You must create recovery media discs in the event that you have to reload windows.

This document has instructions for both Windows Vista and Windows 7

WARNING!!!!!!!
The Factory Recovery process will COMPLETELY wipe out any data that you have on your Lenovo Computer.

Do not follow these instructions unless you have backed up your software

DO *NOT* Reboot or Shut down the system until directed to by the ThinkVantage Rescue & Recovery Tool. If you reboot the system or power it off before the restore is completed you will have to start over.

Make sure your laptop is connected to a power source. Do not use your battery for this process as it may take more than a full charge.

Creating Recovery Discs (Make sure you have at least 3 blank DVD+/-Rs)

Windows Vista Recovery Discs

1. Click Start, select All Programs, select ThinkVantage, and then click Create Product Recovery Media.
2. If you are prompted by User Access Control then click Allow
3. Left click to place a check mark in the box next to “The Product Recovery discs you are going to create are for use on this computer only. Do you want to proceed?” and Left click OK
4. Click OK to select your recordable drive
5. Rescue and Recovery will now extract the files necessary to create the disks
6. Insert a blank DVD-R and click OK
7. Follow the instructions to create and properly label your recovery discs. You may need up to 3 blank DVDs to complete this process. Use a permanent marker to label your discs.
8. Left click OK when you receive the message that the creation process is complete.
Windows 7 Recovery Discs

1. Click **Start**, type the following text into the search field “**factory recovery**” and hit **Enter** or left click the **Lenovo – Factory Recovery Disks** program on the menu.

2. If you are prompted by User Account Control then click **Yes**

3. Left click to place a check mark in the box next to “**The recovery media you are going to create can only be used on this system. Do you want to continue?**” and Left click **OK**

4. Select the media you want to create. You will need to select both **Boot Media** and **Data Media**. Left click to place checkmarks in both boxes and left click **OK**

5. Select the device you want to create your recovery media from (This is your DVD Burner) and left click **OK**

6. Rescue and Recovery will now extract the files necessary to create the disks

7. Left click OK to the warning message

8. Insert a blank DVD-R and click **OK**

9. Follow the instructions to create and properly label your media. Unless otherwise noted your first disc should be labelled “**Start Recovery Disc**” followed by “**Product Recovery Disc 1**” and then “**Product Recovery Disc 2**”. You may need up to 3 blank DVDs to complete this process. Use a permanent marker to label your discs.

10. Left click OK when you receive the message that the creation process is complete.

Recovering your system using Rescue & Recovery

Depending on the condition of your system you can recover to the Factory Image in one of two ways. Lenovo has installed a hidden recovery partition on your hard drive that can be used to restore your computer to its Factory image without needing your recovery DVDs. However, if your laptop has been infected by a virus and you can no longer access the hidden partition via the F11 key (see below for information on how to do this) or your hard drive had to be replaced then you must use the recovery media created earlier in this document.
Using the Recovery Media

1. To begin, locate your recovery media and take the CD labelled Rescue & Recovery Startup/Boot Disc and insert it into the laptops DVD drive.

2. Turn your laptop off and then power it back on using the power button.

3. When writing appears on your screen hit the F12 button and you should see an image similar to the one below.

4. Using the arrow keys on your keyboard locate the **ATAPI CD** option and hit **Enter**.

5. After a few seconds you should now see the screen below. If not then repeat steps 1-4 above.

6. Jump down to the heading “Using Rescue and Recovery” below the heading “Using the ThinkVantage Button”
Using the ThinkVantage Button

1. Make sure your laptop is powered off and power it on using the power button

2. When writing appears on your screen hit the ThinkVantage button and you should see an image similar to the one below. If not you may have held the key down too long or hit it too late and the Start Interrupt Menu appears. If you see the Start Interrupt Menu hit the F11 key and you should then see the image below.

3. If you are unable to see the image above please repeats steps 1-2 at least 3 more times. If you are still unable to see the the screen above then you will have to use the recovery media to complete the factory restore. Go back to the heading “Using the Recovery Media” on the page above.
Using Rescue and Recovery

1. You should now see the following screen

![Screen shot of Rescue and Recovery software](image)

- Quick Restore
- Rescue files
- Launch advanced Rescue and Recovery
- License Agreement
- Restart your system
- System profile: ThinkPad T430U
  - Model and type number: 84701.15
  - Serial Number: 13A7755

2. Click the **Continue** button to accept the license agreement and continue the recovery

3. Click the **Full Restore** button

![Screen shot of Full Restore option](image)

- This option restores your operating system, applications and files from a previous backup. Files that are new or that have changed since the selected backup was created will be lost.

4. You will now see a warning message. Click **Continue** to proceed.
5. Make sure that Factory Restore is selected and click on the Restore button

6. A warning message about data loss will now appear. Please remember that this process will overwrite all your personal files. If you have not backed up your files and you proceed with the factory restore all your personal files on the computer will be lost. Left click Continue

7. Windows Vista and Windows 7 differ slightly in how the begin the recovery process

   **Windows Vista**
   a) Left click OK to the message “Do not power off during this process”
   b) Left click NEXT
   c) Left click to add a checkmark and accept the conditions
   d) Left click NEXT to begin the Factory Recovery Process. If you are using recovery media you will be prompted for each DVD during this process.
   e) When the process is complete you will be prompted to click Yes to restart your computer

   **Windows 7**
   a) Left click OK to the message “System will restart to Windows Recovery Environment.” Your computer will reboot and automatically enter the Recovery Environment.
   b) When it reboots left click Next to proceed with the recovery
   c) Left click to add a checkmark and agree to the conditions
   d) Left click NEXT
   e) Left click YES to the warning message about data loss
   f) Your computer will now begin the Factory Recovery Process. If you are using recovery media you will be prompted for each DVD during this process.
   g) When the process is complete click Yes to restart your computer
8. After you have rebooted from the recovery process the system will boot up on its own. At this point you will see a lot of different screens and your system may reboot multiple times. This is completely normal. Leave the system alone and do not touch it for a while so that it can restore all of the original factory windows settings and files.

9. Your recovery is now complete. You will know when your system recovery is complete when you see the **Windows Vista or Windows 7 Setup** screen just like it was when you first turned on your system.