

Boot Surface from a USB device

Applies to

Surface RT, Surface 2, Surface Pro, Surface Pro 2, Surface Pro 3, Windows 8.1, Windows RT 8.1.

You can start Surface from a bootable USB device. This can be useful if you want to change firmware settings or Windows startup settings.

Note

Booting from a USB device doesn't refresh or reset your Surface. Instead, it allows you to start or boot your Surface using Windows on a USB device. For info about recommended recovery methods, see [Refresh or reset your Surface RT or Surface 2](#) or [Restore, refresh, or reset your Surface Pro](#).

Start from a bootable USB device when Surface is off

- Step 1:** Attach a bootable USB device to the USB port.

- Step 2:** Press and hold the volume-down button.

- Step 3:** Press and release the power button.

- Step 4:** When the Surface logo appears, release the volume-down button. Surface will start the software on your USB device.

Start from a bootable USB device when Surface on

- Step 1:** Attach a bootable USB device to the USB port.

- Step 2:** Swipe in from the right and then tap **Settings**. (If you're using a mouse, point to the upper-right corner of the screen, move the mouse pointer down, and then click **Settings**.)

- Step 3:** Tap or click **Change PC Settings**.

- Step 4:** Tap or click **Update and recovery**, and then tap or click **Recovery**.

- Step 5:** Under **Advanced Startup**, tap or click **Restart now**.

- Step 6:** On the **Choose an option** screen, tap or click **Use a device**.

- Step 7:** On the **Troubleshoot screen**, tap or click **Advanced options**.

Step 8: On the **Advanced options** screen, tap or click the name of the USB device. Surface will restart and boot from the USB device.
