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Sysprep Command-Line Syntax

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Applies To: Windows 7

This topic describes the command line syntax for the Windows® 7 version of the System Preparation (Sysprep) tool.

◆Important

If you intend to transfer a Windows image to a different computer, you must run the **sysprep** command with the **/generalize** option, even if the computer has the same hardware configuration. The **sysprep/generalize** command removes unique information from your Windows installation, which enables you to reuse that image on different computers.

The next time you boot the Windows image, the **specialize** configuration pass runs. During this configuration pass, many components have actions that must be processed when you boot a Windows image on a new computer.

Any method of moving a Windows image to a new computer, either through imaging, hard disk duplication, or other method, must be prepared with the **sysprep /generalize** command. Moving or copying a Windows image to a different computer without running the **sysprep /generalize** command is not supported.

Sysprep Command-Line Options

The following command-line options are available for Sysprep:

sysprep.exe [**/oobe** | **/audit**] [**/generalize**] [**/reboot** | **/shutdown** | **/quit**] [**/quiet**] [**/unattend:***answerfile*]

Option	Description
/audit	Restarts the computer into audit mode. Audit mode enables you to add additional drivers or applications to Windows. You can also test an installation of Windows before it is sent to an end user. If an unattended Windows setup file is specified, the audit mode of Windows Setup runs the **auditSystem** and **auditUser** configuration passes.
/generalize	Prepares the Windows installation to be imaged. If this option is specified, all unique system information is removed from the Windows installation. The security ID (SID) resets, any system restore points are cleared, and event logs are deleted. The next time the computer starts, the **specialize** configuration pass runs. A new security ID (SID) is created, and the clock for Windows activation resets, if the clock has not already been reset three times.
/oobe	Restarts the computer into Windows Welcome mode. Windows Welcome enables end users to customize their Windows operating system, create user accounts, name the computer, and other tasks. Any settings in the **oobeSystem** configuration pass in an answer file are processed immediately before Windows Welcome starts.
/reboot	Restarts the computer. Use this option to audit the computer and to verify that the first-run experience operates correctly.
/shutdown	Shuts down the computer after the **sysprep** command finishes running.
/quiet	Runs the Sysprep tool without displaying on-screen confirmation messages. Use this option if you automate the Sysprep tool.
/quit	Closes the Sysprep tool after running the specified commands.

/unattend: *answerfile*	Applies settings in an answer file to Windows during unattended installation.
	answerfile
	Specifies the path and file name of the answer file to use.

See Also

Concepts
What Is Sysprep? [http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd799240(WS.10).aspx]
How Sysprep Works [http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd744512(WS.10).aspx]

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