

# Recovery Console – dir and cd commands say "The path or file specified is not valid". Why?

**Source:**

[http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security\\_admin/2005-03/1194.html](http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2005-03/1194.html)

---

**From:** Phil Addison (*phil\_a\_at\_blueyonder.co.uk*)

**Date:** 03/14/05

Date: Mon, 14 Mar 2005 18:22:26 GMT

[I asked already in microsoft.public.windowsxp.help\_and\_support, without a solution, so am cross-posting. Hope someone here knows the answer – thanks.]

I have a Dell Latitude CPt C333GT loaded with XP Pro which will not complete booting from the HDD.

>From power up I get the usual boot menu with "Safe", "Safe + network", "Safe + Command prompt", "Last known good configuration", And "Start windows normally".

Choosing "Start windows normally" produces:

XP splash screen for a few seconds then a blank screen for about 5 minutes during which the HDD is making repetitive sounds. That finishes with a blue screen saying:

"STOP: c0000218 Unknown Hard Error

Dumping physical memory to disk: nn" (where nn counts up).

After some 10s of seconds the machine re-boots and the cycle starts again.

Booting into "Safe Mode" I get:

XP splash screen for a few seconds then a list of drivers being loaded.

The last few in the list are:

multi(0)disk(0)partition(1)\WINDOWS\System32\Drivers\ACPI.sys, WMILIB, pci, isapnp, compbatt, BATTC, intelide, PCIIDEX, pcmcia, MountMgr, ftdisk, PartMgr, VolSnap, atapi, disk, CLASSPNP, sr, KsecDD Ntfs, NDIS, Mup, agp440.sys.

These all have ".sys" extensions, and the list ends with "agp440.sys".

At this point the disk is repetitively cycling, and the above list remains on the screen. After about 3 minutes I get a blue screen saying

rosoft.public.windowsxp.security\_admin: Recovery Console – dir and cd commands say "The path or file specified is not va

```
"STOP: c0000218 {Registry File Failure}
The registry cannot load the hive (file):
\SystemRoot\System32\Config\SECURITY or its log or alternate. It is
corrupt, absent, or not writable.
Dumping physical memory to disk: nn"
```

After some 1/2 minute or so the machine re-boots, and the same happens again.

I found a KB article that indicates the problem is corrupted registry hives: "How to troubleshoot a Stop 0xC0000218 error"  
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/314874>. This article refers to "How to recover from a corrupted registry"  
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/307545>, which explains how to use the Recovery Console to restore the hives.