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April 29, 2019 | Windows 7 Windows Server 2008 R2

Adding USB 3.0 Drivers to Windows 7 Install Media

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The Windows 7 RTM distribution doesn't support USB 3.0 out-of-the-box, and you can encounter some problems with the installation of Windows 7 on a computer/laptop having USB 3.0 ports only (most modern devices released after 2015 have only USB3 ports). For example, USB keyboard and mouse may not work in Windows 7 Setup wizard, or the installer may require to load drivers for your CD/DVD drive:

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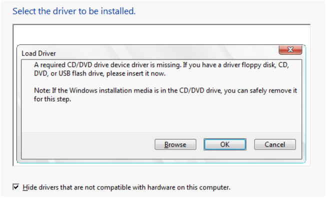
> A required CD/DVD drive device driver is missing. If you have a driver's floppy disk, CD, DVD, or USB flash drive, please insert it now.
>
> Note: If the Windows installation media is in the CD/DVD drive, you can safely remove it for this step.



Select the driver to be installed.

Load Driver

A required CD/DVD drive device driver is missing. If you have a driver floppy disk, CD, DVD, or USB flash drive, please insert it now.

Note: If the Windows installation media is in the CD/DVD drive, you can safely remove it for this step.

☑ Hide drivers that are not compatible with hardware on this computer.

Accordingly, you cannot install Windows 7 (or Windows Server 2008 R2) from a USB drive to a computer on which all peripheral devices are connected via USB 3.0 ports.

> The Enhanced Host Controller Interface is not supported in the Intel chipsets starting from 100 and 200 series (B150, H110, H170, Q150, Q170, Z170, Intel Apollo Lake), similar AMD chipsets and chipsets from other vendors. Therefore USB 3.0 ports are simply not detected by the Windows 7 installer.

To install Windows 7 correctly on some computer models, you can disable USB 3.0 mode in BIOS settings by switching to USB 2.0 compatibility mode (Legacy USB 2.0). In all other cases, you will have to modify Windows 7 install distro and integrate USB 3.0 drivers for your motherboard chipset to the boot and install WIM images.

> Some motherboard vendors released special tools to integrate their USB drivers into your Windows 7 installation image. For example, ASRock (Win 7 USB Patcher), MSI (MSI Smart Tool), Intel (Windows USB Installation Tool for Windows 7), Gigabyte (Windows USB Installation Tool) and etc. But in this article we will show you how to manually integrate USB drivers into the Windows 7 Install image without using third-party utilities.

All the operations of modifying of the Windows 7 ISO image, described below, are performed on a computer running Windows 10.

First of all, find USB 3.0 drivers for your chipset and download them from the vendor website (in our example, it is Intel® USB 3.0 eXtensible Host Controller Driver for Intel® 7 Series/C216 Chipset Family). Create a new directory **c:\tmp**, and create two subfolders inside it: **mount** and **USB3**. Unpack the archive with drivers to the USB3 folder. Inside the USB3 catalog you can create several subfolders with different USB 3.0 drivers for popular chipset models.

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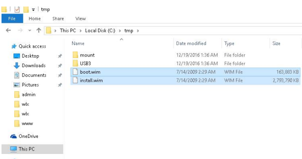
Next, you need to update the Windows 7 install image (it may be an ISO file or a ready image copied to the installation USB stick). You'll need two WIM files to be copied to the c:\tmp directory from the Windows 7 ISO image or the installation disk:

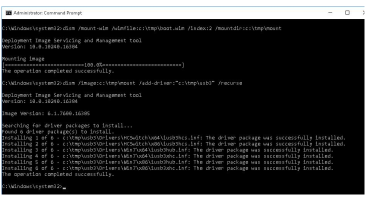
- sources\boot.wim – WinPE boot image used to install Windows on your device;
- sources\install.wim – Windows 7 image that will be installed on your computer.



Name	Date modified	Type	Size
mount	12/19/2016 1:36 AM	File folder	
USB3	12/19/2016 1:36 AM	File folder	
boot.wim	7/14/2009 2:29 AM	WIM File	163,883 KB
install.wim	7/14/2009 2:29 AM	WIM File	2,793,790 KB

Run a command prompt with the administrator privileges, and use the DISM tool to mount WinPE boot image (**boot.wim**) and integrate the USB 3.0 drivers into it:

```
dism /mount-wim /wimfile:c:\tmp\boot.wim /index:2 /mountdir:c:\tmp\mount
dism /image:c:\tmp\mount /add-driver:"c:\tmp\usb3" /recurse
```



Administrator: Command Prompt

```
C:\Windows\system32>dism /mount-wim /wimfile:c:\tmp\boot.wim /index:2 /mountdir:c:\tmp\mount

Deployment Image Servicing and Management tool
Version: 10.0.10240.16384

Mounting image
[==========================100.0%==========================]
The operation completed successfully.

C:\Windows\system32>dism /image:c:\tmp\mount /add-driver:"c:\tmp\usb3" /recurse

Deployment Image Servicing and Management tool
Version: 10.0.10240.16384

Image Version: 6.1.7600.16385

Searching for driver packages to install...
Found 6 driver package(s) to install.
Installing 1 of 6 - c:\tmp\usb3\Drivers\HCSwitch\x64\iusb3hcs.inf: The driver package was successfully installed.
Installing 2 of 6 - c:\tmp\usb3\Drivers\HCSwitch\x86\iusb3hcs.inf: The driver package was successfully installed.
Installing 3 of 6 - c:\tmp\usb3\Drivers\Win7\x64\iusb3hub.inf: The driver package was successfully installed.
Installing 4 of 6 - c:\tmp\usb3\Drivers\Win7\x64\iusb3xhc.inf: The driver package was successfully installed.
Installing 5 of 6 - c:\tmp\usb3\Drivers\Win7\x86\iusb3hub.inf: The driver package was successfully installed.
Installing 6 of 6 - c:\tmp\usb3\Drivers\Win7\x86\iusb3xhc.inf: The driver package was successfully installed.
The operation completed successfully.

C:\Windows\system32>_
```

The following message indicates that the specified USB3 driver was successfully added to the boot.wim image of the Windows 7 installation environment:

> Installing 1 of 6 — c:\tmp\usb3\Drivers\HCSwitch\x64\iusb3hcs.inf: The driver package was successfully installed.

Save the changes in the image and unmount the boot.wim file (to avoid DISM errors, make sure that you closed all File Explorer windows and the file managers, which has the c:\tmp\mount directory open):

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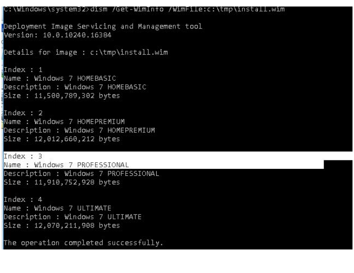
```
dism /unmount-wim /mountdir:c:\tmp\mount /commit
dism /cleanup-wim
```

Similarly, you need to update the operating system installation image in the **install.wim** file. Here the main difference is that the install.wim image can contain several Windows 7 editions with different indexes. So, you will have to add drivers to that Windows edition you are going to install (or to all available Windows 7 editions in turn).

You can list the available Windows 7 editions in the install.wim image as follows:

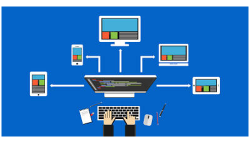
```
dism /Get-WimInfo /WimFile:c:\tmp\install.wim
```



```
C:\Windows\system32>dism /Get-WimInfo /WimFile:c:\tmp\install.wim

Deployment Image Servicing and Management tool
Version: 10.0.10240.16384

Details for image : c:\tmp\install.wim

Index : 1
Name : Windows 7 HOMEBASIC
Description : Windows 7 HOMEBASIC
Size : 11,500,789,302 bytes

Index : 2
Name : Windows 7 HOMEPREMIUM
Description : Windows 7 HOMEPREMIUM
Size : 12,012,660,212 bytes

Index : 3
Name : Windows 7 PROFESSIONAL
Description : Windows 7 PROFESSIONAL
Size : 11,910,752,928 bytes

Index : 4
Name : Windows 7 ULTIMATE
Description : Windows 7 ULTIMATE
Size : 12,070,211,908 bytes

The operation completed successfully.
```

In our example, there are 4 different Windows editions in the install.wim image. We'll add the USB 3.0 driver to Windows 7 PROFESSIONAL with the index **3** (this number will be used to address the edition using DISM).

Then add the USB 3.0 drivers to the Windows image like we did it above:



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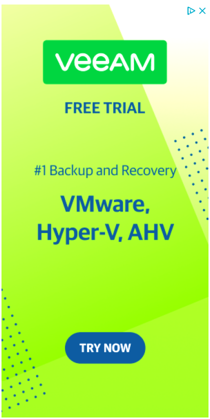
```
dism /mount-wim /wimfile:c:\tmp\install.wim /index:3 /mountdir:c:\tmp\mount
dism /image:c:\tmp\mount /add-driver:"c:\tmp\usb3" /recurse
dism /unmount-wim /mountdir:c:\tmp\mount /commit
dism /cleanup-wim
```

> You can also integrate the latest security updates into your Windows installation image using DISM.

It remains to replace the updated install.wim and boot.wim files on the installation USB flash drive or update the ISO file, and you can use this image to install Windows 7 on computers with a USB 3.0 controller.



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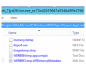

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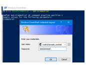

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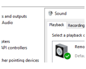

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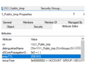

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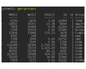

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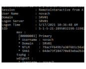

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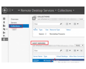

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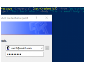

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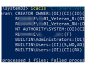

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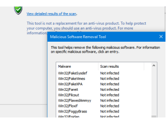

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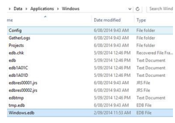

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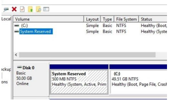

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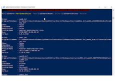

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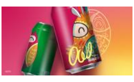

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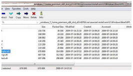

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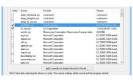

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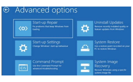

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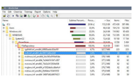

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24 COMMENTS

RICH

June 6, 2017 - 10:57 pm

Great article. Just followed to merge USB3.0 drivers into ISO for a Dell 7480. Worked a treat.
Many thanks.

Reply

JUSTIN

April 11, 2018 - 8:44 am

Brilliant article. Easy to follow. Got the USB mouse and Keyboard working on a HP Elitedesk G3 Mini.
Thank you

Reply

ANDREW

September 20, 2018 - 7:22 am

Hell ya it ended up working for m on my custom PC. decided to install after windows 10 blue screened me. right? wtf i did realize i needed to copy the .wim files from the tmp folders in C to the usb drive and replace the old ones with the new ones after that it worked! wireless mouse and keyboard no problem. 2 days trying to fix all this and now i can get back to gaming 😀 thank you! BTW intell explained i needed to get the usb drive from my motherboards website msi.

Reply

TIM PETTS

October 1, 2018 - 2:36 pm

Awesome guide, well explained, saved me hours !, thanks so much !!!

Reply

JACE

November 18, 2018 - 3:09 am

Thank you!!!!
Been having a hell of a day trying to get W7P installed on an older Thinkpad. It had been downgraded to Windows 10, and this was causing too many headaches. Your write-up above was brilliant; now doing the final bits of Windows updates and other drivers. Thank you again!

Reply

LOVERT

December 3, 2018 - 11:25 am

You saved my life. Thanks very much

Reply

MARIO FLORES

December 12, 2018 - 12:28 am

This worked great for getting Windows 7 installed on a 2013 Macbook Air, but once Windows is installed, the drivers are no longer present and the initial setup of the OS cannot be completed. Any suggestions?

Reply

ADMIN

December 20, 2018 - 9:39 am

You may need to add an additional driver for the USB device. I suppose that the keyboard doesn’t work on your Mac?
Or forget to integrate the USB drivers into your install.wim image.

Reply

MARKYMONKEYMARK

December 18, 2018 - 1:45 am

Tried this tutorial but it doesn’t work to me… if you have a unit same as mine that it worked, please share…
Laptop:
Acer Aspire ES1-432

Reply

ADMIN

December 20, 2018 - 10:00 am

What driver did you try to integrate into your Windows 7 image?

Reply

NASIR ENRIQUE

January 11, 2019 - 6:25 am

Thanksssss A Lott…. BRO YOU saved my dayy…. 😘😘😘😊😊😊😊

Reply

RELLIK1000

February 18, 2019 - 4:30 pm

Downgrading an hp15-233 to win7…bad dvd.
I’ve tried at least 10 different ways,from manually,to the gigabyte utility to merge the intel extensible drivers to the win7 pro iso,to install win7 from usb.
dism reports them correctly,available as 3rd party drivers in boot.wim and install.wim images.
I absolutly know these are the correct drivers for this SOC.
I even went as far as merging the signed MS usb3 drivers from the original win10 os on this machine.
Is win7 setup looking for something else?
I’ve spent a whole Sunday so far with no success.
It’s now become a QUEST and,I WILL NOT BE BEATEN.
Any ideas?

Reply

RELLIK1000

February 18, 2019 - 4:37 pm

BTW make sure ALL windows explorer windows are closed to avoid dism errors when unmounting any wims.

Reply

JUAN CARLOS ESPINOSA

May 14, 2019 - 3:18 pm

After many hours, you saved me! Thanks! HP 705 G3 Mini and Windows 7 Pro INSTALLING!!!

Reply

X

May 18, 2019 - 6:23 am

The driver gets installed into boot.wim but when I try to install them into install.wim, it gives an error. I have checked the location and it’s correct.

Reply

JASON

December 29, 2019 - 3:57 am

If you get Error 5, then you need to take ownership and add Administrators with full control on all child objects to:
C:\tmp\mount\Windows\System32\DriverStore\FileRepository

Reply

MARK MOORE

June 1, 2019 - 7:47 pm

Installation reports success but I still do not have control of my keyboard or mouse. Why does instructions refer to index 2 regarding boot.wim? I understand the reference in Install.wim. Gigabyte X470 Auros Ultra Gaming with Ryzen 2600X. BIOS is at F6. Is there a way to add a PS/2 port to this motherboard?

Reply

СЕРГЕЙ

July 10, 2019 - 7:15 pm

Have the same chipset, all dism operations succeeded. But after reboot and installation attemt still have the error “A required CD/DVD drive device driver is missing…” Appreciate any help. Sorry for bad English.

Reply

SARFARAZ

January 27, 2020 - 6:02 am

The driver gets installed into boot.wim but when I try to install them into install.wim, it gives an error. I have

Reply

checked the location and it's correct.
Error: 11
An attempt was made to load a program with an incorrect format.

ADMIN

Reply

January 28, 2020 - 5:39 am

Check the DISM log for errors: C:\WINDOWS\Logs\DISM\dism.log
Also check the paths and make sure that you unmounted the previous wim file using the "dism /unmount-wim" command

RIPLET

Reply

April 4, 2020 - 11:45 pm

Thank you so much! Never knew DISM was such a breeze to work with!
Cheers!

MICHEL

Reply

May 19, 2020 - 8:27 am

I get an error on the command
"dism /image:c:\tmp\mount /add-driver:"c:\tmp\usb3" /recurse"
I can't find out why.

ADMIN

Reply

May 21, 2020 - 7:26 am

Please provide the full DISM error text and code

PAUL

Reply

February 17, 2021 - 12:02 am

Also works with Windows 7 System Repair Disk. Note, there's no "install.wim", but updating boot.wim only did the trick for me with an HP Elitedesk 800 G2 Mini. Thanks.

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