

Purpose

This technical bulletin describes how to upgrade eligible General Dynamics Itronix computers from Windows XP or Vista to the Windows 7 operating system.

Determine Your Upgrade Method

Depending on your computer's Certificate of Authenticity (COA), there are two methods to upgrade to Windows 7:

- Windows 7 COA: Use the General Dynamics Itronix supplied Recovery Media CD/DVD set.
- Windows XP or Windows Vista COA: Purchase a retail copy of Windows 7 or acquire a license via an Enterprise license agreement.

To determine your upgrade method, look at the Microsoft COA label on the bottom of your computer and see which operating system is supported. A valid Windows 7 COA is required to upgrade to Windows 7 using the General Dynamics Itronix supplied Recovery Media CD/DVD set.

If you have a Windows Vista or Windows XP COA you will need to purchase a retail copy of Windows 7 or acquire a license via an Enterprise license agreement.

NOTE The COA includes a 24-character product key to help you verify that your computer is running a genuine Microsoft product. This product key is also required to install the operating system. You cannot purchase a COA by itself, only with the software it authenticates.

Prepare Your Computer for Upgrade

Steps For All Configurations (Strongly Recommended)

Before installing any operating system, these steps are strongly recommended for ALL computer configurations.

- Ensure your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements for the version of the operating system you want to install.
- Ensure your computer meets the minimum BIOS version: GD6000 BIOS 200; GD8000 BIOS 109
- Check your platform device and application compatibility with Windows 7. For more information see [Windows Upgrade Advisor](#).
- Backup your entire system by copying all important data and files to an external storage drive. For more information see Windows Easy Transfer at [Windows Easy Transfer](#).

Additional Steps For Computers Configured with a Recovery Partition (Recommended)

Create a User Backup Recovery Media CD/DVD set of your existing XP or Vista system prior to upgrade. This ensures that you can safely fallback to your existing system configuration if desired.

1. Select **Start, All Programs, Mobile Computer Tools, HDD Backup and Recovery Wizard** to create a User Backup of drive C.
2. Select the option to create a User Backup of the entire contents of drive C.
3. Once the User Backup image has been created, select **Start, All Programs, Mobile Computer Tools, Recovery Media Creation Wizard** to create the User Backup Recovery Media CD/DVD set.
4. On the **Image Selection** window, select **User Backup Image**. Then, follow the on screen instructions to complete the Recovery Media CD/DVD set creation process.

NOTE Restoring from a Recovery Media CD/DVD set will overwrite all data on the target drive.

Upgrading to Windows 7

Using the Windows 7 Recovery Media Set

Computers with a Windows 7 COA include a Recovery CD/DVD set containing the device drivers and software designed for Windows 7.

1. While your computer is booting, press the specified key to access the boot menu.
2. Insert the Windows 7 Recovery Media disc #1 into the CD/DVD drive.
3. From the boot menu, select the option to boot to the CD/DVD drive.
4. When prompted, press any key to boot the computer with the inserted media.
5. Follow the on screen instructions to finish loading from the discs.
6. Once the installation is complete, remove the disc. You have now successfully installed Windows 7 on your system.

Using a retail DVD or Enterprise License

Steps For All Configurations

1. It is recommended that you perform a clean install of Windows 7 following the information provided with your installation DVD/CD set.
2. After the upgrade process is complete, obtain Windows 7 drivers for your system. Go to the driver downloads section on the General Dynamics Itronix [website](#) to obtain device drivers for eligible computers.

Additional Steps For Computers Configured with a Recovery Partition

CAUTIONS

- Do not use your current recovery partition after upgrading using a retail copy of Windows. Your current recovery partition only contains images of the operating system (OS) prior to upgrade. Restoring to the factory installed image on the recovery partition after upgrading the OS would result in the loss of the new OS.
- Your recovery partition may be incompatible with the upgraded OS. Prior to upgrading using a retail DVD it is recommended that you remove the existing recovery partition.

For More Information

The following Microsoft links have been provided to guide you through the upgrade process.

- [Installing Windows 7](#)
- [Upgrading from Windows XP to Windows 7](#)
- [Upgrading from Windows Vista to Windows 7](#)

Enabling the Smart Card Option for GD6000 Notebooks

If your GD6000 computer is configured with a Smart Card, follow these steps to verify it is enabled after upgrading to Windows 7:

Enable the Smart Card in the BIOS Setup Utility

1. Reboot your computer by selecting **Start, Restart**.
2. When you see the on screen prompt, press the F2 key to access the BIOS Setup Utility.
3. Use the left/right arrow keys to navigate to the **Advanced** tab.
4. Use the up/down arrow keys to highlight **Smart Card Support** and press the Enter key to open its options.
5. Use the up/down arrow keys to highlight the **Enabled** option, then press Enter.
6. Press the F10 key to save changes and exit Setup.

Install the Smart Card Drivers

1. In Windows Explorer navigate to C:\DRIVERS\SmartCard and double-click Setup.exe.
2. Select **Start, Restart** to reboot. Your Smart Card is now ready to use.