

Yesterday, the Echolink computer froze mid-net. I tried to reboot the computer but it kept rebooting into the BIOS. Here's an outline of what I tried and to re-install Windows.

- From a working Windows computer, I downloaded Windows 11 from the [Create Windows 11 Installation Media](#) section and created a USB boot drive.
- I booted the Echolink computer using the USB boot drive and tried to "Troubleshoot" the computer (see section 3 of [these instructions](#)). Unfortunately, that option wasn't available.
- Before trying to re-install Windows, I had to find the Windows Product key.
 - If Windows was working, I could have used regedit, navigate to Computer\HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\SoftwareProtectionPlatform, and lookup BackupProductKeyDefault. (See [Method 3 here](#) for more details)
 - But I couldn't boot into Windows so from Linux, I first tried to `sudo strings /sys/firmware/acpi/tables/MSDM | tail -1` but the MSDM file didn't exist. I tried it in my personal computer and it worked though. (See [here](#) for more details.)
 - Finally, I installed reglookup and ran

```
reglookup -p "/Microsoft/Windows  
NT/CurrentVersion/SoftwareProtectionPlatform/BackupProductKeyDefault" \  
[MountPoint]/Windows/System32/config/SOFTWARE
```

- I instead tried to re-install Windows 11 from scratch, but it again booted to the BIOS.
- I used a [Linux Mint](#) boot USB drive that I had to load GParted and delete every partition on the Echolink computer. I then reinstalled Windows