

# What are the dire consequences of registering a RunOnce command from my RunOnce command?

 [devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20240805-00](https://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20240805-00)

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The [documentation on the Run and RunOnce keys](#) contains this caution:

An application must not continually recreate entries under **RunOnce** because this will interfere with Windows Setup.

What is this “interfere with Windows Setup” all about?

There’s a clue earlier in that same paragraph:

Applications should use the **RunOnce** key only for transient conditions, such as to complete application setup.

The intended purpose of the **RunOnce** is to allow application installers to do some work after a restart to complete the installation. Therefore, any pending **RunOnce** entries suggest that an application install is still in progress, and Windows Setup tries not to upgrade a system while an application is in the middle of installing. (After all, who writes an installer that handles the case where the operating system is upgraded mid-install?)

Windows Setup is used not just for installing Windows from scratch, but also for upgrading from one version of Windows to another. And any persistent **RunOnce** entry will cause Windows Setup to keep asking, “My goodness, can this application finish installing so I can finally start upgrading the OS?”

