

Emergency power resets on Lenovo, HP, Dell, and Acer laptops

 devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20250107-00

January 7, 2025



This is really a note to myself on how to do an emergency power reset. This is a desperation troubleshooting step if you find that the laptop won't charge. One of my colleagues ran into this problem, and some Web searching suggested that there was a BIOS update for it, but unfortunately, the BIOS updater refuses to run unless the machine is on AC power, so they found themselves in a Catch-22.

For Lenovo laptops, look on the bottom for a small pinhole near the power connector. This is the power supply reset button. Unplug the laptop from all power sources, then insert a paper clip (or similar tool) into the hole and press the recessed button for 15 seconds.

For HP laptops and Dell laptops, there is a similar emergency reset procedure: With the laptop disconnected from all power sources, press and hold the power button for 15 to 20 seconds.

Acer figured, “¿Por qué no los dos?” They have both an emergency reset pinhole *and* a power button 15-second reset.