

# Microspeak: Respin

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## Raymond Chen

Some time ago, I documented the Microspeak phrase *to spin up/kick off a build*, meaning to start a build, often with the suggestion that the build request comes outside of the normal cadence.



The concept of *spinning up* a build is linguistically productive, leading to the verb *to respin* meaning “To request that a new build be spun up”.

There are two common cases where you’ll see this phrase. (There might be others, but these two are most common.)

One is when a build has already spun up, and then somebody has an important fix that just missed the snap. For example, the fix might address a bug that prevents an important scenario from working. Without the fix, the resulting build would be largely useless anyway. In this case, the team might ask to “respin” the build, meaning to cancel the build in progress and start a new one (with the fix).

Another case where you see this phrase is when talking about branches which are very close to release. The proposed final build has been produced, and it is going through validation. To *respin the build* is to ask for a new build, typically after you make a critical fix.

| Can we just release note this issue so we don’t have to respin?

Respinning a build typically pushes out the entire release timeline, since you have to wait for the new build and then go through a new cycle of validation.

| A full respin is not feasible because it would disrupt the servicing train.

Note that the verb has been nounced. A *respin* is an act of respinning.

Even though *kick off* is a synonym for *spin up*, nobody ever says *re-kick-off a build*. It’s always *respin* (and not *respin up* either).

**Bonus chatter:** There is an internal tool for creating virtual machines for testing. It's called *Spin*. It almost certainly gets its name from the concept of "spinning up" a virtual machine, meaning to get a virtual machine up and running.

## Author

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### Raymond Chen

Raymond has been involved in the evolution of Windows for more than 30 years. In 2003, he began a Web site known as The Old New Thing which has grown in popularity far beyond his wildest imagination, a development which still gives him the heebie-jeebies. The Web site spawned a book, coincidentally also titled The Old New Thing (Addison Wesley 2007). He occasionally appears on the Windows Dev Docs Twitter account to tell stories which convey no useful information.





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Newest

-  ZT  
I really admire Mr. Chen's passion for programming. As a junior software engineer, I find him inspiring .  
I wish him good health and continued success .
-  JV  
Jyrki Vesterinen  
I have seen "respin" used outside Microsoft, but with a slightly different meaning for the noun: "a respin" can also be *the build* produced by... well, a respin.

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