

Turn Windows features on or off" window is stuck loading, spinning, or taking a very long time to apply the changes

If the "Turn Windows features on or off" window is stuck loading, spinning, or taking a very long time to apply the changes, it is usually because the **Windows Update services** or **system files** are hanging in the background.

You can bypass the slow graphical interface entirely or kickstart the hanging background services using these faster methods:

Method 1: Force it via PowerShell (Fastest)

PowerShell bypasses the visual loading screens and forces Windows to toggle the feature directly.

1. Right-click the **Start Button** and select **Terminal (Admin)** or **PowerShell (Admin)**.
2. Copy and paste the following command, then press **Enter**:
powershell
Enable-WindowsOptionalFeature -Online -FeatureName
"SMB1Protocol" -NoRestart
Use code with caution.
3. If it finishes successfully, manually **restart your PC** to apply changes.

Method 2: Wake up the Windows Modules Installer

If Windows Features is taking forever to open or load, the background service responsible for changing features might be stuck.

1. Press **Windows Key + R**, type `services.msc`, and press **Enter**.
2. Scroll all the way down to find **Windows Modules Installer**.
3. Right-click it and select **Restart** (or **Start** if it isn't running).
4. Double-click it, change the *Startup type* to **Automatic**, and click **OK**.
5. Try enabling SMB 1.0 again.

Method 3: Clear Stuck Windows Update Components

Windows often tries to check online for feature updates before installing SMB 1.0. If your Windows Update cache is bugged, it will hang indefinitely.

1. Search for **cmd** in your Windows search bar, right-click **Command Prompt**, and choose **Run as administrator**.
2. Run these three commands one by one (press Enter after each) to reset your network and system deployment layers:

```
netsh winsock reset  
dism /online /cleanup-image /restorehealth  
sfc /scannow
```

Once the scans complete, try enabling SMB 1.0 again.