The steps to SAFE MODE in Windows 8.0 and 8.1

A. Use the System Configuration Tool (`msconfig.exe`) — works in Windows 8 & 8.1

- The easiest method for booting into Safe Mode is to use the **System Configuration tool**, also known as **msconfig.exe**.

- At the Start Screen, type `msconfig` — then hit Enter or click the msconfig.exe icon.

- Once there, go to the Boot tab and, in the Boot options section, check the box that says "Safe boot". Then, click OK.

I assume you have to turn this off when you no longer want to start up in Safe Mode.

B. Use the Advanced Startup Options menu.

References:
- http://pcsupport.about.com/od/windows-8/a/open-advanced-startup-options-windows-8.htm
- http://pcsupport.about.com/od/windows-8/ss/windows-8-safe-mode.htm

The Advanced Startup Options (ASO) menu in Windows 8 is the central fix-it location for the entire operating system. From here you can access Windows 8 diagnostic and repair tools like Refresh Your PC, Reset Your PC, System Restore, Command Prompt, and much more. ASO is also where you access **Startup Settings**, the menu that includes Safe Mode, among other startup methods, that could help you access Windows 8 if it's having problems starting.

 (The Advanced Startup Options menu should appear automatically after two consecutive startup errors.)

Below are two ways to open Advanced Startup Options manually:

Method 1: SHIFT + Restart

- Power icons are available in Windows 8 from either the Settings charm or from the logon/lock screen.

- At any available Power icon, hold down a SHIFT key while clicking on Restart (

- Wait while the Advanced Startup Options menu opens.

- See the Once at ASO section below.

Method 2: PC Settings

1. Open the charms bar.

2. Click on **Settings**.

3. Click on **Change PC settings** at the bottom of the charms bar.

4. Choose **Update and recovery** from the list of options on the left of the PC settings window.

   (For Windows 8.0, choose **General** instead and then skip to Step 6.)

5. Choose **Recovery**.

6. At the bottom of the list of options on your right, click on **Advanced startup**.

7. Click on **Restart now**.

8. Wait through the **Please wait** message until Advanced Startup Options opens.

Once at ASO (Advanced Startup Options)...

- Click **Troubleshoot**
- Click **Advanced options**
- Choose **Startup Settings**
- Click the **Restart** button and wait while your computer restarts
- Choose a Windows 8 Safe Mode Option.
- Choose the Safe Mode option you want by pressing either 4, 5, or 6. Wait while Windows 8 starts
- Login to Windows 8 (you'll need to login with an account that has administrator privileges)
- Make the necessary changes in Safe Mode
- Restart the computer.