

Troubleshooting Guide - KB5072033 Installation Failure (0x800f081f)

SECTION 1: Overview

Purpose of this guide:

This guide provides a detailed, technician-friendly walkthrough for diagnosing and resolving installation failures of KB5072033 on Windows 11 build 26200.7171.

Summary of Symptoms:

- DISM error 0x80070002: File not found
- DISM error 0x80070003: Path not found
- DISM error 0x800f081f: CBS_E_SOURCE_MISSING

Affected Build:

- Windows 11 Insider Preview Build 26200.7171

SECTION 2: Error Breakdown

0x80070002 - File Not Found:

Occurs when DISM cannot locate a required file during the initial access phase. Often caused by missing or misnamed files.

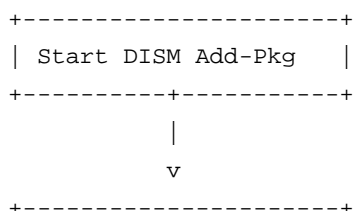
0x80070003 - Path Not Found:

Triggered when DISM attempts to access a directory or path that does not exist or is inaccessible.

0x800f081f - CBS_E_SOURCE_MISSING:

Occurs during the CBS resolving phase when a required component version is not found in the servicing stack. This is the critical error preventing KB5072033 installation.

SECTION 3: Diagnostic Flowchart (Box-and-Arrow)



Troubleshooting Guide - KB5072033 Installation Failure (0x800f081f)

```
| File Access Stage      |-- Error 0x80070002/003 --> Check path/locks
+-----+
|
| v
+-----+
| Package Extraction    |
+-----+
|
| v
+-----+
| CBS Resolving Phase  |-- Error 0x800f081f --> Missing prerequisite
+-----+
```

SECTION 4: Dependency Chain Diagram

```
+-----+          provides          +-----+
| KB5070311 Preview  | -----> | Component Versions  |
+-----+
|
| required by
| v
+-----+
| KB5072033 LCU      |
+-----+
```

SECTION 5: Root Cause Analysis

- KB5072033 assumes that KB5070311 (Preview) is already installed.
- KB5070311 introduces updated component versions required by KB5072033.
- If KB5070311 is not installed, CBS fails during the resolving phase with 0x800f081f.
- CBS does not list missing files because the dependency is at the package/component version level.
- Systems that previously installed KB5070311 succeed because they already have the required components.

SECTION 6: Verification Steps

1. Check CBS.log for 'CBS_E_SOURCE_MISSING' during the resolving phase.
2. Review DISM.log for failure during 'WIMGetMountedImageHandle' or 'FIORReadFileIntoBuffer'.
3. Use 'dism /online /get-packages' to list installed packages and verify if KB5070311 is present.
4. Use 'dism /online /get-features' to check for component versions.

Troubleshooting Guide - KB5072033 Installation Failure (0x800f081f)

SECTION 7: Resolution Options

Option 1: Install KB5070311 Preview Update

- This provides the missing component versions required by KB5072033.

Option 2: Wait for January 2026 LCU

- This update will likely include all required components and supersede KB5072033.

Option 3: Wait for Microsoft to republish KB5072033

- Microsoft may silently repackage the update to include the missing prerequisites.

SECTION 8: Technician Notes

- Preview updates are optional and may introduce instability.
- Installing a preview update changes the servicing baseline.
- LCUs sometimes omit prerequisites under the assumption that previews are installed.
- This behavior is common in Insider builds and pre-release channels.

SECTION 9: Final Summary

- The system is not corrupted.
- The failure is due to a Microsoft-side packaging oversight.
- Installing KB5070311 resolves the dependency chain and allows KB5072033 to install.
- Alternatively, waiting for a future LCU or republished update will also resolve the issue.