Windows 8: Disabling Driver Signature Enforcement 8/16/2013

Background

With the advent of Windows 8, Microsoft has taken the stance of not allowing USB device attachment without driver "Certification." Previous windows version provided a "customer option" to allow driver installation regardless of certification. Windows 8 does not, *unless the user performs this procedure.* This is problematic in that drivers that work on XP, WIN7 etc are not installable without a "Win8 re-certification" cycle.

In the RTC Evaluation project, our software uses an exact copy of the Silicon Lab's certified Windows 8 USB Express driver. However, we do utilize a different Vendor ID and Product ID. This negates the certification of the motherboard attachment; so it cannot not be installed.

Given that the RTC evaluation software is low volume tool, only used by industrial rather than consumer situations, the cost of certification is not justified.

As a final note, after changing the Windows 8 Startup option as describe in this procedure, the user still receives a message and has the option to not install uncertified devices. This procedure removes the operating system from arbitrarily rejecting the installation.

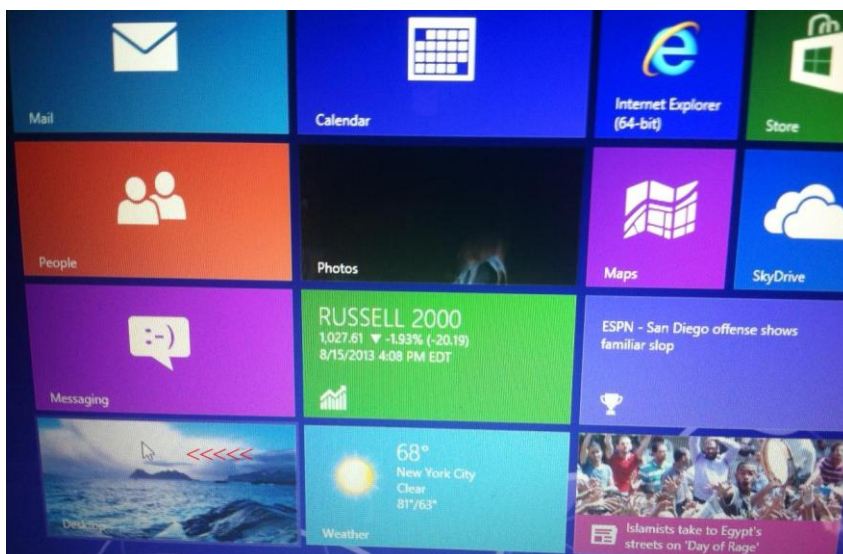**For Window 8 without hidden side bar and a start button.**

Press the "Start" button, select the "Control Panel" button on the right panel.

Select "User Accounts", then select the "Make changes to my account in PC settings" link.
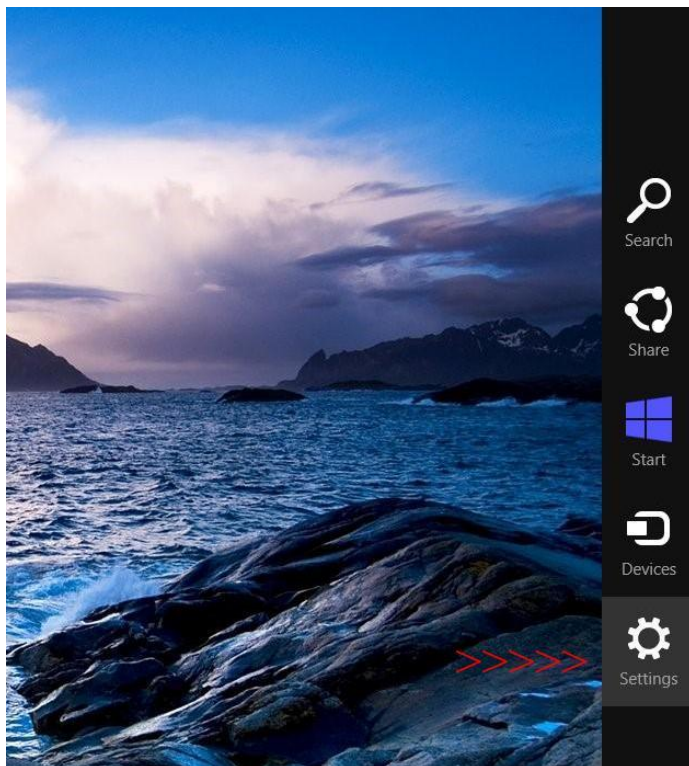
All else the same after the 3rd step below.

For Window 8 with hidden side bar.
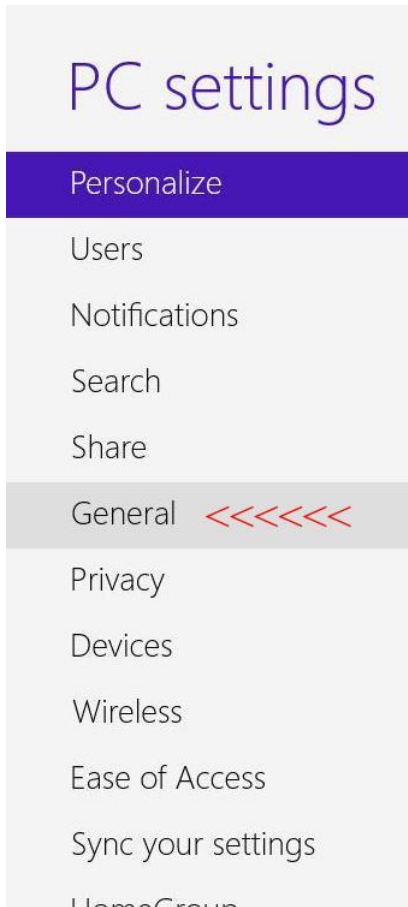
Bring up the Desktop View

Go to the right bottom corner of the desktop and wait for the side menu to appear. When it's there click on the gear icon with the title "Settings".
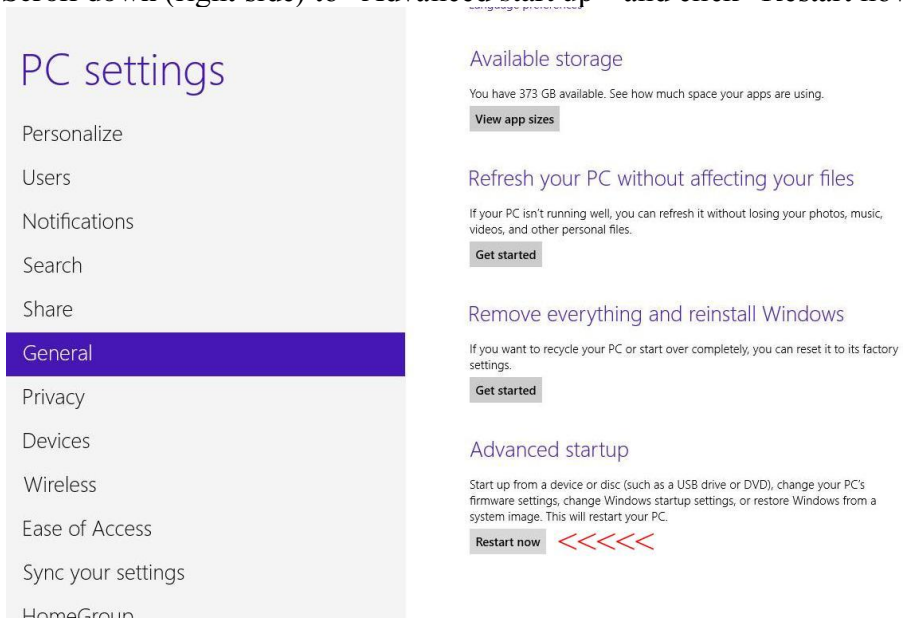

Now click on the entry "Change PC Settings"
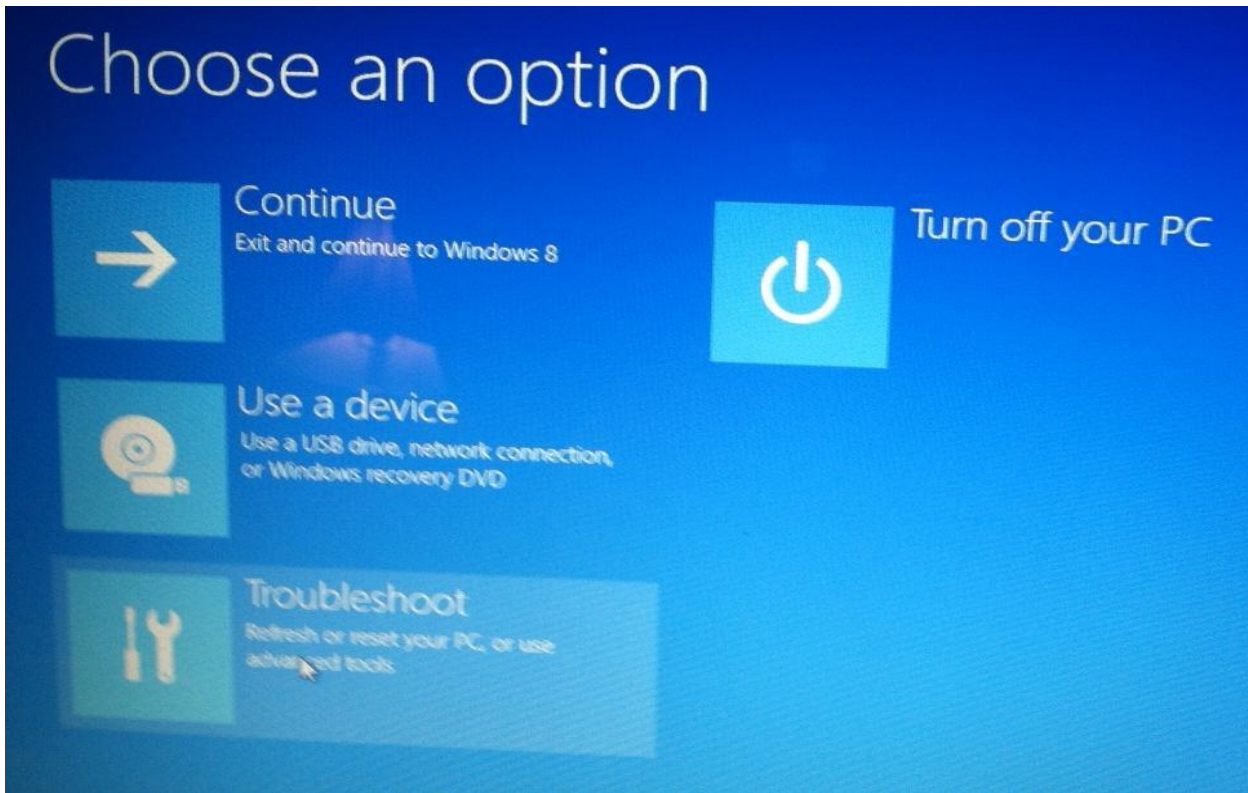
Click on the entry "General"

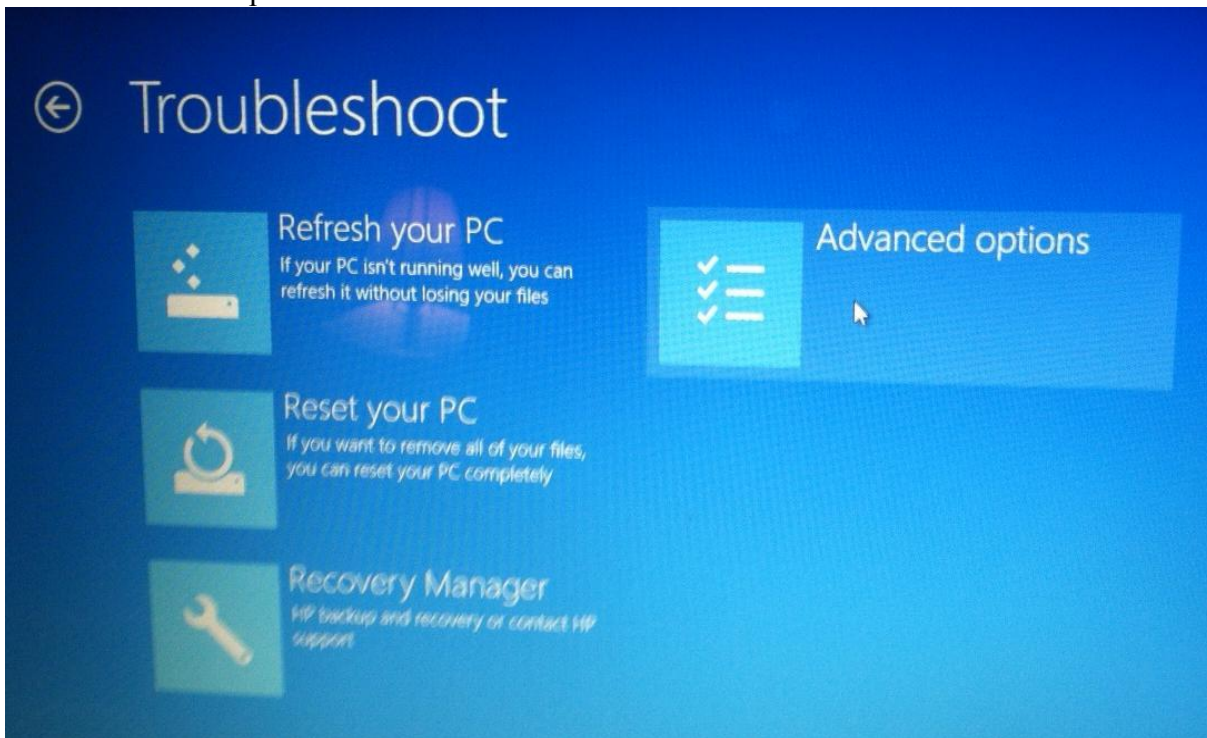Scroll down (right side) to "Advanced start up " and click "Restart now"
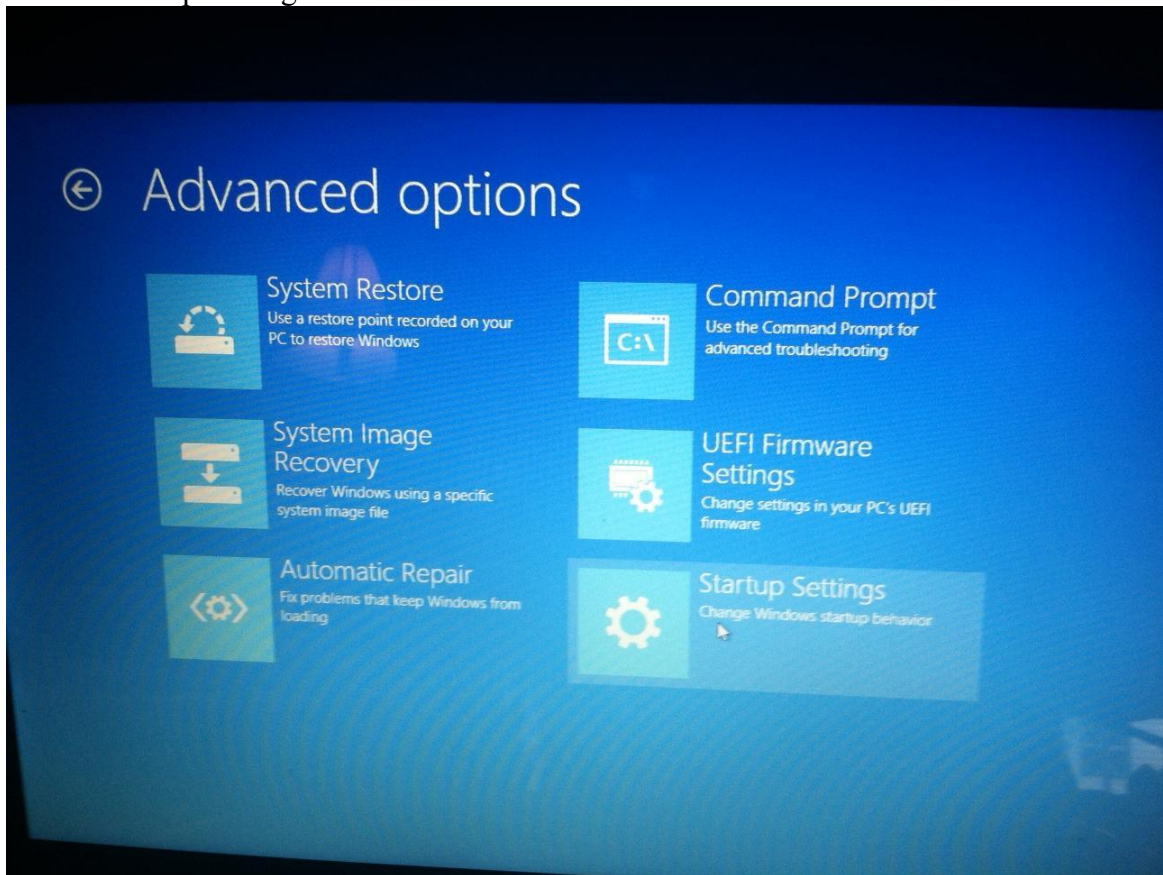
Wait a bit for a menu.

Now click "Troubleshoot"

Click "Advanced options"
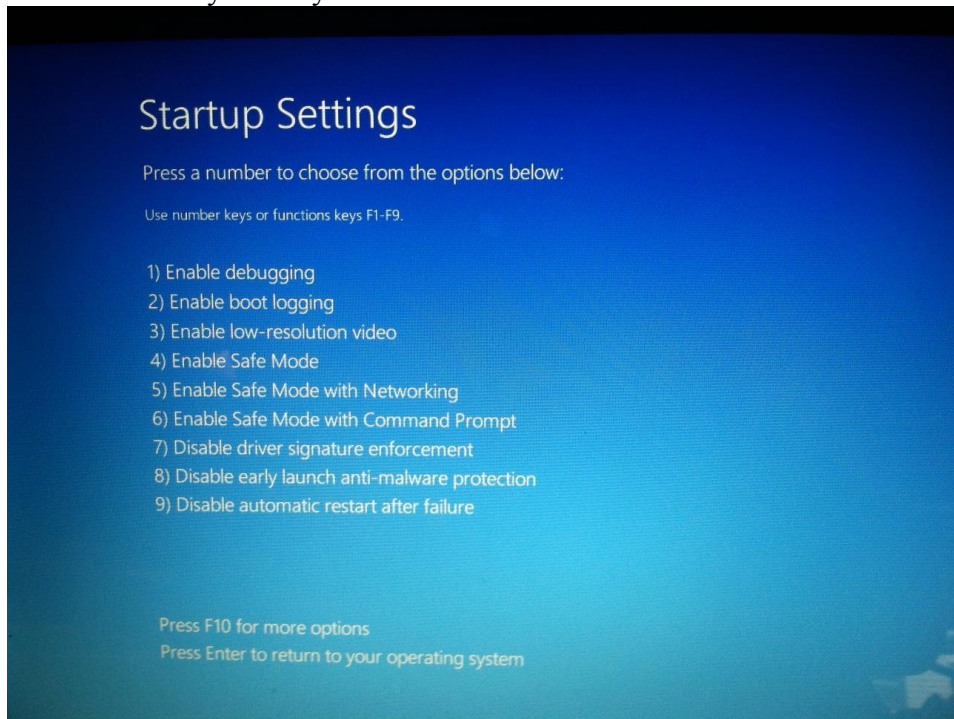
Select "Startup Settings"

After clicking "Restart", wait for next screen to appear.

Press "F7" to "Disable driver signature enforcement"

Press "Enter Key" and system will re-boot.

During the installation of the software you will be asked the following, just click "Install this driver software anyway" and this will install your driver.