



# Dell Inspiron 17R-5721 Access Panel Replacement

This guide will demonstrate how to open and remove the access panel on a Dell Inspiron 17R-5721.

Written By: Thomas Griffin



---

## INTRODUCTION

As its name implies, this component provides access to the hard drive and RAM, expediting further repair to the system.

---

### TOOLS:

- [Phillips #000 Screwdriver](#) (1)
  - [Metal Spudger](#) (1)
-

## Step 1 — Battery



- Located on the bottom of the laptop's external shell, there should be two plastic sliding tabs to the right and left of the battery pack. Using your fingers, push these two tabs away from each other, toward the sides of the machine.
- ⓘ This mechanically unlocks the battery pack from its slot at the back of the machine.

## Step 2



- Using your fingernails, pry the battery pack away from the rest of the machine, at the physical seam between the pack and the laptop's plastic case.
- ⓘ This may take some effort to accomplish.
- Remove the battery.

## Step 3 — Access Panel



- Using a Phillips #000 screwdriver, loosen the two screws at the top left and top right of the access door.
- ❗ These two captive screws will loosen but will not separate from the panel.

## Step 4



- Using a spudger, pry into the gap in the plastic revealed by loosening the screws.
- Lift off the access panel.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.