

Called ServiceBase.Run(), but never receive OnStart()?

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I have a service, written in C# and .NET V2.0.50727, that works fine on some machines, but hangs on start on others.

In MyService.Main(), I read the registry for a few initialization settings, most important of which for our purposes is the name of the logfile.

I then create a new MyService object, and pass it to ServiceBase.Run(). (MyService is, of course, derived from ServiceBase).

I write a log message immediately before ServiceBase.Run(myServiceObject).

MyService.OnStart(args) writes a log message immediately on being called.

On the machines where this works, I see, in the logfile, the two messages one immediately following the other.

On the machines where it does not, when I try to start the service, the progress bar seems to stop, half-way, then after a long wait, I get a failed to start dialog. In the Services Manager, the service displays a "Starting" status, with the start, restart, and stop buttons greyed out.

If I try to remove the service, the Startup Type in the Services Manager changes to "Disabled", but MyService stays in the list. Nothing short of a reboot seems to work to get rid of it.

Meanwhile, the logfile shows nothing after ServiceBase.Run(). Either MyService.OnStart() is not being called, or it's failing to write to the logfile.

The event viewer shows only an uninformative message: "The MyService service terminated unexpectedly".

I'm catching and logging all exceptions – none seem to be thrown.

I have no idea what is going on, and have no idea at all as how to figure out what the problem is.

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Since it shows up on one machine, but not on another, my guess would be that it might be some sort of security or permissions issue. But guesses aren't of much help. Is there anyway of tracking what is going on? SCM is running into some sort of problem, where do I look to find out what it is?

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You have to sit there and accept one of the most galling things that a bunch of dedicated individualists can ever realize -- that you were trained to be individualists by the most relentless campaign of public indoctrination in history, suckling your love of rebellion and eccentricity from a society that -- evidently, at some level -- wants you to be that way!

– David Brin

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