

SQL Server Agent hangs and becomes unresponsive

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I have my SQL Server and Agent both installed as a power use named "SQL_User", the jobs include some standard backup and maintenance plan jobs, along with a fairly long running (up to about 30 minutes) DTS job that manages downloading and importing data from a remote server via FTP, then merging that data with my own.

This has been running fairly well for about a year, but lately I've been having significant problems with SQL Server Agent. It seems to hang regularly, the symptoms being that if I open Enterprise Manger and view jobs (after refreshing the view) then all jobs show a last date run of "cannot determine the last job was run" or something like that. So, I shut down SQL Server Agent via Enterprise manager, which gives me a message that says it is not responding to the control request. Enterprise Manager at this point shows SQL Server Agent as still running. Finally, if I try to shut it down again via Enterprise Manager, it shuts down immediately, and I can restart it. I've checked the event viewer and there don't appear to be any error messages in the system or application logs. I am running SQL Server 2000 SP3. The database is fairly large, but not huge (a few tables with around 1-2 million rows, with many tables on the order of tens of thousands.)