

## Re: XP Suddenly Slow to Boot [Long/Detailed]

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.basics/2004-11/2281.html>

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**From:** Patty MacDuffie ([pattymacduffie\\_at\\_sendspamhere.comcast.net](mailto:pattymacduffie_at_sendspamhere.comcast.net))

**Date:** 11/20/04

Date: Sat, 20 Nov 2004 09:13:32 -0800

Just a suggestion. Check Dell's site to see if there are any updates for the machine, particularly any that they suggest are for SP2. Also might check for BIOS upgrade.

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Patty MacDuffie  
www.computerhaven.info  
"Bill" <Bill@no.invalid> wrote in message  
news:TtGdnSTFC5D76gLcRVn-pw@comcast.com...  
> Specs:  
>  
> PC - Dell XPS  
> OS - Windows XP (SP2) Fully updated.  
> CPU - P4 (3.0GHz)  
> HDD - 120GB (80% free)  
> RAM - 1GB  
> Internet Connection - Cable  
> Network - Problem machine plays "host" to one other machine.  
> Router - Linksys  
> XP Firewall - On  
>  
> Problem:  
>  
> This machine used to take less than 30 seconds from Power-Up, to ready to  
> use. It now takes over three minutes. This occurs from either a cold  
> boot, or a restart. No new programs have been recently installed, and SP2  
> has been running flawlessly for a couple months.  
>  
> Sequence:  
>  
> Dell splash comes up as usual. Goes right into loading Windows, and the  
> (default) opening music plays as the welcome screen appears. Also as  
> usual.  
>  
> Now it get's strange.  
>  
> The welcome screen hangs for 30-35 seconds, then drops out of sight  
> revealing my desktop with no task bar, no icons, and no start button.  
> About 2 and a half minutes later, everything comes up and the machine  
> functions normally. (Or at least I haven't noticed anything unusual about  
> it's performance.)  
>  
> What Happened RIGHT BEFORE the problem Occured:  
>  
> Only programs open were OE and AIM. I was IMing with a friend, when

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> suddenly I heard a 'pop' from my spekaers, and my sound cut out. So I  
> finished my converstion in "silence", sent and received a few more emails,  
> and decided to just reboot and see if the sound situation would return to  
> normal. The machine was working perfectly other than the sound, so I  
> figured it was just "one of those things", and a simple reboot would solve  
> the problem. Which it did, sorta. The sound came back, but that's when  
> the boot problem first appeared, and it's been this way ever since. A  
> couple other things of note;  
>  
> - After that first reboot? The system32 folder would appear on my desktop  
> informing me that "These Files Are Hidden". A problem I resolved by  
> searching the web, and disabling /L:ENG (whatever that is) in Start-Up,  
> via msconfig. That had never happened before.  
>  
> - One of the first things I tried to do in attempt to resolve this issue  
> was to do a System Restore. Imagine my surprise when I got there to find  
> that all of my previous restore points were gone?! (The machine usually  
> lets me go back at least a week, and nobody had messed with the settings.)  
> I'm the only one who uses this machine, and for the past four days, it's  
> been once again setting restore points automatically. So that's odd too.  
>  
> What I've Done To Try and Diagnose and Resolve the Issue:  
>  
> - Cracked the case and reseated the sound card (SB-Audigy 2)  
>  
> - Uninstalled and reinstalled the sound card drivers.  
>  
> - Ran chkdsk and sfc. (All Ok)  
>  
> - Ran fully updated versions of Spybot, Ad-Aware, HijackThis, Stinger, and  
> AVG. (All OK)  
>  
> - Ran "Housecall" by Trend-Micro. (All OK)  
>  
> - Ran the Disk Cleanup utility and defragged. The defragmenter took  
> forever to open and close. It seemed to run OK though. By "open and  
> close" I mean it took a while from the time I clicked on it, to the time  
> it finally appeared on my desktop. Probably 20 seconds or so. Then it  
> ran normally, but when it was done, it took another 20 seconds from the  
> time I clicked the 'x' to close it, to the time it actually went away.  
> Don't know if that's helpful or not, but I thought I'd mention it just in  
> case.  
>  
> - Went to the Black Viper site and looked for any services that shouldn't  
> be running. (OK)  
>  
> - Used msconfig to check for anything unusual in the start-up list. (OK)  
>  
> - Unplugged my cable modem and rebooted. (No Joy)  
>  
> - Shut down the 'client' machine and rebooted. (No Joy)  
>  
> So now, as I've already informed Doug Knox, (who suggested I post here)  
> I'm really at my wits end with this. I've been Googling around for days  
> trying to resolve this issue. And though I've seen a lot of folks  
> reporting the same problem as me? I've yet to come across a "solution"  
> that doesn't require a format and reinstall. The bottom line is, I can  
> live with the slow boot. Unlike a lot of other folks who have this same  
> issue, the performance of my machine isn't suffering. I'd just love to  
> know what happened, and if anyone has a 'fix' other than a format. I'll  
> be happy to try any suggestions you may have and post back with my  
> results.

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>  
> IF somebody hear can sort it out? I'm sure it would make a lot of people  
> very happy.  
>  
> Thanks for your consideration,  
> Bill  
>  
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