

Re: What?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.games/2004-04/0166.html>

From: Jimmy S. (Private)

Date: 04/04/04

Date: Sun, 4 Apr 2004 19:13:04 -0400

Hi Jessica,

Please provide more specific details about your system and the error if this doesn't help solve that problem for you...

"Jessica" <drkangel333@hotmail.com> wrote in message
news:51040A22-0D39-4301-B430-A7B6011615EB@microsoft.com...
[I am trying to install The Sims. It's really confussing! It wont open any windows!

Will the Sims work on XP is a frequent question asked in this newsgroup. According to EA Support the game should work under Windows XP. :-)

Hold onto your hat though, because they have a lot of suggestions to offer:

1. Make sure that you are logged in as the Administrator (for Windows XP Professional) or Owner (for Windows XP Home). This will usually be the first account that was created once Windows XP was fully installed. If you are not certain, contact the manufacturer of your PC for assistance in finding your Administrator/Owner account.
2. Make sure that you have closed any programs or tasks running in the background. To do this, hold the Ctrl and Alt keys down at the same time and hit the Del key once. This will in turn bring up a window called "Task Manager". You will then see 5 tabs; Applications, Processes, Performance, networking, and Users. Select the Processes tab; this will list all current programs that are running. Close all programs that have your login ID next to them. Your user ID is listed in the second column next to the program name. For example here is a portion of what you should see;

Image Name User Name Session ID

Explorer.exe Owner 01

The Image Name column is the name of the programs currently running. The User Name column is where you will find your User Name. The best way to check this is to locate "Explorer" and see what it says under User Name.

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Also, do not close any applications that say "System" next to them. Be sure not to close a program labelled "Explorer" or "Taskmgr" as well. You close each one of these applications by clicking on each one and hitting the button "End Process". Note some applications may take multiple times before closing. Don't worry that you are permanently changing your system configuration; these applications will return when you restart your system.

3. Try editing the shortcut to The Sims. To create a shortcut, Right-click on the desktop, choose New, Shortcut, browse to The Sims folder. (Usually C:\program files\maxis\the sims\sims.exe) Choose Next and finish the shortcut. Right-click on the new shortcut and choose properties. Go to Shortcut, and the Target Line should be high-lighted. Add the following switches to the end of the line: `-nodx6 -skip_verify -w`

(Ex: "C:\..\the sims\thesims.exe" `-nodx6 -skip_verify -w`)

As a last resort use the `-nosound` switch to disable the game sound.

4. Try running the game in Windows Compatibility mode for either Windows 98/Windows ME or Windows 2000. You can do this by right clicking once on the shortcut and selecting properties by left-clicking on it. Click on the tab that says Compatibility and enable "Windows95/98 compatibility mode" or "Windows 2000 compatibility mode". You can also try running the installation for the game using the Program Compatibility Wizard. You can find the wizard program by clicking on Start – All Programs – Accessories and you will see the shortcut for Program Compatibility Wizard listed there. Make sure that as you walk thru the menus that you select the option "I want to use the program in the CD-ROM drive." which will be the options on the second screen of the wizard.

5. Update the drivers for your sound and video cards. To update your soundcard driver, go to your sound card manufacturers web page and download the most recent Windows XP driver available for your Sound card. To update the driver for your videocard, first determine what type of videocard you have. This information is usually available in the System control panel, in Device Manager, under the display adapters heading. Next, try to obtain a new driver for that device from the manufacturer, either by downloading one from the manufacturer's website or by contacting the manufacturer of the card directly. Installing newer drivers for both of these cards should fix your problem. If you need help installing these drivers, please contact the manufacturer in question, as these drivers are not our products.

6. Try to lower the sound acceleration for your sound card. To do this:

- a. Go to Start>Find>Files & Folders.
- b. In the "Named" box, type the following: `dxdiag.exe`
- c. Then make sure the "Look In" box is pointed to your (C:\) drive.
- d. Click "Find Now".
- e. After the file has been found, double click on it to run the application.
- f. Click on the tab labeled "Sound".
- g. Lower the Hardware acceleration down to "basic"
- h. Click "Exit" and try to run the game.

7. Try to lower your video hardware acceleration. I would like you to right click on your desktop and select Properties. Click on Settings and then on the button that says Advanced. Once there, click on the tab that says Troubleshooting. Adjust the setting to one notch to the right of NONE. Also, be sure to check and make sure that the option Write Combining has been unchecked. Then try the game again.

8. Also, if you have any virus protection programs like Norton or McAfee, temporarily disable them by right clicking on the icon in your system tray in the lower right corner of the desktop and selecting "Disable" or "Exit". Also be sure to end all background programs before attempting installation. Do this by hitting Ctrl+Alt+Delete simultaneously and end tasking all applications except for Explorer and systray.

If the game still won't start up, try rebooting your computer, then before you do anything, make sure to end all background tasks then try starting up the game.

Also, make sure that the default cdrom drive in windows for playing audio cd's is the cdrom drive that you installed the game from.

- a) Go to "CONTROL PANEL" (click Start -> Settings -> Control Panel)
- b) Double-Click "MULTIMEDIA"
- c) Click "CD MUSIC" Tab
- d) Where it says: "Default CD-ROM drive for playing CD music", choose the letter of the drive that the game was installed from.

Source:

http://eatech.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/eatech.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_sid=F*O89Q1h&p_lva=13065&p_faqid=83bnl_JnBfY2F0X2x2bDE9fmFueX4mcF9jYXRfbHZsMj1_YW55fiZwX3NjZl9mYXFzKmMkcGxhdGZvc09MTgyJ

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Cheers,
Jimmy S. Windows XP MVP Shell / User
<http://mvp.support.microsoft.com>
Game FAQs: [http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=FH;\[LN\];gms](http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=FH;[LN];gms)
Visit my Zone.com / Gaming Helpsite: <http://nibblesnbits.tk> or Call / Contact
MS Support at: <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=sz;en-us;top>
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