

Re: Video Game crashes

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.games/2004-08/0271.html>

From: Neil Dela Osa \[MS] (neilde_at_online.microsoft.com)

Date: 08/10/04

Date: Tue, 10 Aug 2004 10:31:31 -0700

In most cases if you suspected a bad power supply you'd replace it because it can be difficult to repair (and possibly dangerous because of stored electricity) if you don't have the proper training. I don't know anything about the subject so I can't offer any further suggestions besides "it might be dangerous."

If you haven't been in your BIOS your settings are probably okay because most manufacturers are conservative with their out-of-box settings. I don't have any other suggestions outside of thinking your Windows install may have something broken or there's a hardware problem.

You mentioned you were considering buying a new computer so I presume you have nothing to lose with your current rig so I'd suggest the following:

- 1.) A reinstall of Windows XP if you have your data backed up and backups of your software, drivers, etc to reinstall after you finished the installation.
- 2.) Flash the motherboard BIOS. It's a long shot but maybe there's a firmware upgrade that will fix your problem. Another candidate for flashing is your optical (cd / dvd) drives.
- 3.) I'm thinking hardware problem. See if you can borrow someone else graphics adapter to see if the crashing behavior changes.

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"Neil Dela Osa (MS)" <neilde@online.microsoft.com> wrote in message news:%23IpqsTjfeHA.2812@tk2msftngp13.phx.gbl...

> Well your drivers look current for the SB Audigy and NVidia card. Have > you updated your motherboards chipset drivers too?

>

> I'd consider the following avenues of investigation for your system:

>

> 1.) Make sure you aren't running any memory resident programs like virus > scanners, software firewalls, P2P sharing software, IM programs, when > gaming to see if it has any impact on the crashing behavior.

>

> 2.) If it's just games that are crashing it might be a heat issue - but > less so because of the hardware in your system and more of an airflow > issue. Make sure the neighboring PCI slot is freed up from your graphics

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> card. Tidy up the cables in your cases and dust your fans. You want to be
> pulling in air from the front of the case and blowing it out the back.
>
> 3.) Run memtest86 (http://www.memtest86.com/) on your memory.
>
> 4.) How much wattage does your power supply provide? Is it a name-brand
> supply? It's possible the power output from your PS isn't clean and it's
> expressing itself when your system is under load (playing games).
>
> 5.) Check your BIOS settings. Try setting your system to "fail safe" mode
> and see if that makes a difference in your games. If it does, then it's
> likely that some performance setting in your BIOS is causing issues. It
> can be resolved by disabling the setting or possibly getting a newer BIOS.
>
> 6.) Some games may be expecting to find a pagefile. If you've disabled
> your Windows page file try re-enabling it and see if your games crashing
> behavior goes away.
>
> --
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> "NT Canuck" <ntcanuck@hotmail.com> wrote in message
> news:sUbRc.40476$gE.34148@pd7tw3no...
>> "Corey" <Corey@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message
>> news:4F4E4817-0568-457D-BB25-FE00162E3B76@microsoft.com...
>>
>>> I've got the same problems, but almost every game I play crashes. List
>>> includes: Neverwinter Nights, Rise of Nations, Command and Conquer:
>>> Generals
>>> (+ Zero Hour), and many others... I've been looking for a fix for like
>>> over a
>>> year, but have pretty much given up hope. This will probably be my last
>>> stab
>>> at the issue before I get fed up and buy a new computer.
>>>
>>> Anyways, here's my dxdiag.txt. I have all the latest drivers for my
>>> video
>>> and sound card, I just updated them yesterday. I finally fixed the
>>> problem I
>>> had with XP auto-installing old, stupid drivers! Woot.
>>
>> basically you have an amd 2600 and an nvidia ti-4200,
>> that's still a good system although more geared to DX8
>> type of games (will run dx9 games if turn off some items).
>>
>> that processor can handle ati-9800 no problem and
>> even x600 series, or the newer nvidia also.
>>
>> I don't know the type of ram or amount, or how
>> you are defragmenting the games (should defrag
>> before and after a game install to keep sound
>> and movie files contiguous (united)). Also if
>> you moved/changed the swap file (pagefile)
>> settings it might be better to let windows
>> manage that (is rudimentary AI in XP).
>>
>> still...the games should be running fine, there
>> is some tuning issue (hardware) or drivers
>> acting up (I suspect) in your case.
>>
>> Likely a newer computer won't help too much
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>> unless it's just video card or some setting.
>> (in other words...just a cleaner system)
>>
>
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