

RE: System Fonts Have Changed to Symbols

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2004-05/16341.html>

From: coliboy (*anonymous_at_discussions.microsoft.com*)

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I've had the same problem a few times in the past couple of months as , apparently have a couple of others who have posted to these pages, so far with no advice forthcoming.

The only remedy I can get to work is to do a system restore to before the problem occurred, if you can work your way round the garbled text. Mind you anything you've saved on your system will probably be lost unless you saved it in your documents.

----- J Hines wrote: -----

Hello,

I have a Dell Inspiron 8000 laptop, P3 700mhz with 256 mb RAM and a 32 gb hard drive. When I bought the system, It came with ME, which I upgraded to XP Home a few months later.

Up until now, the computer has worked flawlessly, until last night, when I ran a routine Defrag which freed a bunch of space (About 22 mb). It completed successfully, and there was nothing wrong with the computer, until I booted it up the next morning. All of the Windows system fonts have now been changed to Symbols and Characters (ASCII, I think).

The computer runs fine, except that I cannot read anything, as it is all in code. When I load up webpages, the address is garbled, but the header information at the top of the window is correct, as is the content of the webpages. Word opens, but typing produces the same characters, and there are no recognized fonts in the font menu (or in the Fonts folder of Control Panel). Excel works OK, as does Powerpoint, although the fonts are not normal, and I cannot change them at all.

I had thought that this was maybe a virus, so I updated my McAfee VirusScan 8 definitions, and downloaded the latest Stinger application, and ran a check. Both came up empty. I contacted McAfee, to report this as a potential

new virus, and they advised that it probably wasn't, and that I should reinstall Windows.

I then tried to reinstall Windows, with a number of problems. First, my copy is an upgrade disc, and when I insert it, the Autoplay screen comes up, with only the option to Install Windows (no repair or reinstall). When I select it, it takes me to a new screen with a drop-down box with two options, and some writing underneath. All of this is in the code, so I don't know what it exactly means, although trying to decipher it, I came up with "Upgrade (REcommended)" and "New Install" as the two options.

No matter which I choose, it takes me to the screen to input my CD Key, which is back in Canada, as I am travelling on Business in Central America.

Is there some way to fix this problem, bearing in mind that I cannot read the menus or folder options due to the font change, and if so, without reinstalling windows?

Please help me as this problem is very frustrating!!

Sincerely,
Justin

P.S. I have applied all the Service Packs and updates except the most recent Critical Update (Security update), and the Media Player 9 most recent update.