

## Re: Progressive slowing – a chronic condition

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**From:** RA (nomail\_at\_thisplace)

**Date:** 08/11/04

Date: Wed, 11 Aug 2004 08:36:45 -0500

Get AdAware and Spybot S&D and their updates to get all the crapware off.  
Clean out your temp files and IE cache.  
Defrag the disk.

"Steve" <Steve@weirdstreet.fsnet.co.uk> wrote in message  
news:cfd22b\$1@newsg3.svr.pol.co.uk...

> *Can anyone comment on or explain the following?*

>

> *1. I bought a new 2.8 GHz laptop in January. Windows XP. Performance was  
> never great, but I noticed perceptible slowing by about March.*

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> *2. Having experienced similar progressive slowing with my last computer, I  
> felt suspicious and took a few rough timings... The time it took for menus  
> to appear, for example.*

>

> *3. Now, I've been using computers for around 15 years and have NEVER  
before*

> *had to worry about how long it took for menus to appear!!!*

>

> *4. I reappraised the situation this week. Here's what I found.*

> *a. In March, it took (near as I could estimate it) about half a second  
for*

> *the Accessories submenu to reveal from the Start menu. (I chose this  
because*

> *it's reasonably large and doesn't change.) I timed this immediately after  
a*

> *boot up.*

> *b. It now takes more than a full second for the same submenu to reveal  
> under the same circumstances.*

> *c. A music programme which ran beautifully back in January no longer runs  
> without the sound completely breaking up and repeating. I'm no expert in  
> this, but my guess is the problem is it's using virtual memory and the  
> programme's having to wait for the disk to catch up. Whatever, it didn't  
> have to do this under the same circumstances back in March.*

> *d. Even my word processor is slowing to a standstill. It can sometimes  
take*

> *nearly a second for a single key to register.*

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- > 5. *My computer does NOT have a virus. That is, I have had a fully updated*
- > *NAV installed and active from the start. So, if I do have a virus, it must*
- > *be one that has escaped Symmantec's attention since January. I also use*
- > *RegScrubXP to keep the registry trim, and manually trim down the prefetch*
- > *directory.*
- >
- > 6. *It seems to me there are only two possibilities.*
- > *a. There's something wrong with the computer hardware.*
- > *b. There's something wrong with the operating system.*
- >
- > 7. *The fact that I noticed a similar effect with my last computer (Pentium*
- > *2, 333MHz running Windows 98) might suggest it isn't the computer, unless*
- > *it's a problem with Intel chipsets generally. It seems more likely it is*
- > *something to do with the operating systems.*
- > 8. *Microsoft/Intel have been accused of bloating software to reduce*
- > *computer*
- > *lifetimes.*
- > *I don't know anything about this, and don't make any such accusation. But*
- > *Whatever is going on here, it seems clear something somewhere's getting*
- > *progressively clogged up.*
- > *What?*
- > *Either someone with too much power is doing something very cynical, or*
- > *someone with too great a monopoly is producing substandard software.*
- >
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