

SP2 Totally Screwed up My Computer!

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Was running XP Pro with all the latest updates, on a Pentium 4 M, 2.0 GHz, 768 MB RAM. As I wasn't seeing SP2 on the Windows Update site, I downloaded the Full SP2 pack (for IT Professionals). (As I have two computers, I figured that way I wouldn't have to download it twice through Windows Update either.) (Glad I have two computers. I'm writing now through the other one, that didn't have SP2 installed. I cannot do anything now with the SP2 computer.) (With my dial-up connection, took a long time to download! One full night and part of another.

The SP2 installation didn't give me any choices, no customization. On executing the file, it went through to the end of the process, until the one choice "do you want to re-boot now"?

First of all, a couple of minor gripes. An icon for Windows Media Player is put in the Quick Launch bar and the Start Menu, without having consulted me. I don't want an icon for it in the QL bar. I already have it in the Start Menu, in a folder where I want it, I don't wish to have another icon for it. Why is that done without asking the user?

The "Security Center" is also annoying. I don't mind it popping up at the beginning, asking for your preferences. But that it later keeps popping up with a warning, that "YOUR COMPUTER IS AT RISK!" CLICK ON THIS BALLOON TO FIX IT", because I disabled "Automatic Updates" (I frequently manually update), and because it doesn't recognize my virus scanner. (A good one, Trend Micro, and I frequently update the virus signatures.)

I right-clicked on the Quick Launch icon for WMP, so that I could choose delete, and delete the unwanted intruder in my QL bar. Well, rather than seeing the context menu, I saw an hourglass, got an error message that said:

Explorer.exe application error

The instruction of 0x02464156 referenced memory at 0x00000000. The memory could not be written. (OK to terminate, Cancel to Debug)

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Well, whether I clicked on OK or Cancel, I then had to wait a very long time with an hourglass, before I could do anything with the mouse again, before I could try anything with the computer again. I went to the folder where the Quick Launch shortcuts are kept. (They sure try to hide that--in the "Internet Explorer" folder in Application Data". Why is it there? The Quick Launch bar has nothing to do with IE.) I highlighted the WMP icon, and pressed the delete key. Same result, same error message.

I was beginning to think it was a ploy by Microsoft to prevent anyone from deleting that WMP icon. But I discovered that I would get the same result on trying to do almost anything in Windows Explorer, including deleting files from the Temp folder, etc. I also sometimes got a Dr. Watson error message after that, I forget the wording.

I went to Control Panel and disabled the new Windows Firewall, thinking that might be the source of the problem. I went to "services" under "Administrative Tools", and changed any service that looked new and suspicious to me to "Manual", instead of "Automatic". This included disabling the Security Center. But no matter what I tried, including rebooting in between, nothing solved the described problem.

Booting up is also MUCH slower than before, like molasses, although I have all startup programs currently disabled, and turned off many of the automatic services.

I am on the verge of uninstalling XP2. If I do so, I certainly hope it reconfigures my system to how it was before the install. Anyone done that yet?

Before I do so, if anyone can give me advice on how to fix the problem I am having with SP2, please let me know. Something to change in configuration somehow. Some Windows tweak? Registry change?

To those who have been successful in installing SP2, do you really find any improvement in it? In what ways? Only security, the Windows Firewall, etc.? Other improvements?

I thought this product was in Beta a long time. You think they would have thoroughly tested it, and worked out all the bugs. It sure didn't work well for me so far. (Perhaps they want to fix it more before putting it on Windows Update. But why put out the final release for "IT Professionals", who might install it for a whole company, and then find out it screwed up many of the company's computers?

What's up with this SP2?

If anyone can help me, I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you.