

microsoft.public.windowsxp.general: Re: What are the odds of SP2 messing up?

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Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2004-12/3819.html>

From: Don Taylor (*dont_at_agora.rdrop.com*)

Date: 12/06/04

Date: Sun, 05 Dec 2004 21:49:18 -0600

"Ken Blake" <kblake@this.is.an.invalid.domain> writes:

>In news:uB59Qyx2EHA.2568@TK2MSFTNGP10.phx.gbl,

>Carey Frisch [MVP] <cnfrisch@nospamgmail.com> typed:

>> Odds are 100% that SP2 will install successfully if you follow
>> these guidelines:

>I certainly agree that the odds are excellent, but I'm never
>willing to say that they are 100%. However unlikely, it is always
>possible that something can go wrong. For that reason it's
>prudent to be sure you have a backup of anything you can't afford
>to lose before beginning.

There are far too many people with agenda's here who will swear one way or the other what the odds are but I don't think that ANYBODY who has a statistically valid sample is telling what the real odds are. Microsoft knows and they certainly aren't telling.

There have been fruitloops, even with credentials, who have sworn that there are ZERO bugs in the five million lines of code that were supposedly changed for SP2, you can search for the several such postings here claiming this and find them in google. If that were true then this would be the first time in the history of computing that this had ever been accomplished. I offered to bet a couple of these individuals \$100,000 and a loaded pistol on whether this was true or not. They wouldn't take the bet.

To be fair, Sp2 likely fixed a few thousand small and massive f&&kups in XP, they spent years and maybe a billion dollars on this, you would certainly hope so. But the history of software almost guarantees that it introduced probably a few hundred small and massive f&&kups. That is just what people have found in fifty years of experience patching software.

The majority of folks with configurations similar to what were tested before the release of this will likely not have problems.

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There are ZERO guarantees in this, anyone rational will agree with that. Preparation is always a good idea, who could disagree with that. But that does not guarantee it will work. I and 200 other people have reported here being hit with the "Windows Explorer Bug" and thus far less than a dozen have ever reported getting a fix for this, even though almost every one of these people had no viruses, etc, etc... I spend an hour or two with Microsoft support every few days still trying to get them to actually diagnose the source of this. They keep randomly asking me to try something, I do, it doesn't find the problem, and we repeat this game. They keep saying that there is no way to actually diagnose this, that they just keep checking things to see if they can trip over something and the problem goes away. We've done virus scans, we've done malware scans, we've done process scans, we've done dll scans, we've done shell extension scans, we've done hijack scans, we've renamed things, we've put them back, we've repeatedly gone around in circles and tried things that have already been repeatedly tried...

>--

>Ken Blake – Microsoft MVP Windows: Shell/User

>Please reply to the newsgroup

>> Windows XP Service Pack 2 Checklist

>> <http://www3.telus.net/dandemar/spackins.htm>

>>

>> [Courtesy of MS–MVP Jupiter Jones]

>>

>>

>>| My mother asked me last night if SP2 for WinXP Home would mess

>>up

>>| her computer if she installs it. She has heard quite a few

>>| disturbing tales on the internet and she has it sitting in her

>>| Updates are Ready Notice for a while now.

>>|

>>| What would be the odds of her having serious problems that she

>>| couldn't remedy by uninstalling SP2 from the Add/Remove

>>Software or

>>| using a Restore Point?

>>|

>>| It's not that old a system, having been upgraded over time to

>>stay

>>| reasonably current and she has no problems with XP Home itself

>>at

>>| this time. It's been much more stable than 98 was for her.

>>|

>>| Are the odds good, bad, 1 in 10, etc?

>>|

>>| Thanks

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