

Re: Taskbar disappearing and reappearing

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2005-01/8822.html>

From: Malke (malke_at_nospoonnotreally.com)

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harry.wj wrote:

> *Thanks: -)*

>

> *My temps are fine, mid 30s for both CPU and case. My GPU is brand new*

> *and runs like a dream, so is cool enough. Sorry, I don't know what a*

> *distributed computing program is, so that's probably not the problem.*

> *I do like to multi-task, but I try to keep as few programs running in*

> *the background as possible; AVG antivirus, Webroot Spysweeper,*

> *ZoneAlarm, and I usually have either a P2P or Firefox running.*

>

> *After reading the HP web pages, I set my System Restore memory usage*

> *to 1% instead of the max and that helped a little. No programmes seem*

> *to be hogging more memory than they should.*

>

> *Why would the taskbar disappear and the quicklaunch icons rearrange*

> *themselves into what looks like alphabetical order though? Can I set*

> *the icons to stay in my custom order?*

>

I have no idea. Check out MVP Kelly Theriot's website for Taskbar repair and icon stuff:

<http://www.kellys-korner-xp.com/xp.htm>

Make sure you have the latest drivers for your graphics card. You said you scan for spyware and viruses "often". It couldn't hurt to run through these malware/maintenance steps. Do everything with updated tools in Safe Mode:

1) Scan in Safe Mode with current version (not earlier than 2003) antivirus using updated definitions.

2) Remove spyware with Spybot Search & Destroy and Ad-aware. These programs are free, so use them both since they complement each other. There is a new version of CWShredder from Intermute. I would not install the other Intermute programs, however. Alternately, there are CoolWebSearch malware removal steps at SilentRunners.

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Be sure to update these programs before running, and it is a good idea to do virus/spyware scans in Safe Mode. Make sure you are able to see all hidden files and extensions (View tab in Folder Options).

HijackThis is an excellent tool to discover and disable hijackers, but it requires expert skill. See below for HijackThis links. A combination of HijackThis and About:Buster works well in removing the About:Blank homepage hijacker. Again, this is an expert tool and novices should get help with it.

3) If you are running Windows ME or XP, you should disable/enable System Restore because malware will be in the Restore Points. With ME, you must disable System Restore completely. With XP, you can delete all but the most recent (presumably clean) System Restore point from the More Options section of Disk Cleanup (Run>cleanmgr).

Links to help with malware:

Software/Methods:

<http://www.safer-networking.org> – Spybot Search & Destroy

<http://www.javasoftusa.com> – Ad-aware

<http://www.majorgeeks.com> – good download site

http://www.intermute.com/spysubtract/cwshredder_download.html

http://www.silentrunners.org/sr_cwsremoval.html. – SilentRunners

HijackThis:

<http://www.aumha.org/a/hjttutor.htm> – HijackThis tutorial by Jim Eshelman

<http://spywarewarrior.com/viewforum.php?f=5> – Spyware Warrior HijackThis forum

<http://www.wilderssecurity.com/>

<http://forums.tomcoyote.org/>

<http://www.spywareinfo.com/forums/>

General:

<http://forum.aumha.org/> – look under "Security" for various forums

<http://rgharper.mvps.org/cleanit.htm>

<http://mvps.org/winhelp2002/unwanted.htm>

<http://www.aumha.org/a/parasite.htm> – The Parasite Fight

http://www.spywarewarrior.com/rogue_anti-spyware.htm

Then move on to general maintenance:

- 1) Delete temporary and Temporary Internet Files.
- 2) Stop unnecessary services/programs from starting with Windows – see www.blackviper.com for services info and www.pacs-portal.co.uk/startup_index.htm for programs info.
- 3) Look in Event Viewer for clues.
- 4) Make sure you've visited Windows Update and applied all security patches. Do not install driver updates from Windows Update.
- 5) Run a firewall.

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MS MVP - Windows Shell/User
Elephant Boy Computers
www.elephantboycomputers.com
"Don't Panic!"