

Installed Security Updates: now boots & dies (Gray screen of death)

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Windows XP Pro, SP2... had all latest patches (except for 3 from Feb that locked up system). So I installed all of the newest patches – still keeping those old ones from loading because I know they cause problems.

Well... I had to shut down last time (vs. reboot) and, as it was shutting down I closed the Explorer window rather than letting the reboot do it. Well, from there I kept getting "Explorer trying to shut down 'End Now' or 'Wait'" with the buttons... I waited twice but when it kept coming back I hit "End Now"... then it came back and I hit it again... so finally I held in the power button and shut down. OK... I was tired...

Anyway, today I try to start it up and it boots, shows the Windows XP Pro Black splash screen with the little 2" bar in the middle bottom, then it blinks like it is about to start up, and I see a momentary flash of blue, followed by a click of the hard drive as it starts to spin down... and the screen "clicks" (adjusts) and goes gray. So I tried each of the SAFE mode options and at least I momentarily see a blue screen with something about "Except" in the middle of the first row...

I tried "last known good"... and it did the same thing.

Finally I got my CD out and started up the repair console. I was able to navigate through the hard drive... see the files, etc, so the drive is not dead, but I could not/can not start the system.

Right now I am back on an old Windows 2000 system (had 6 months worth of updates to load... lots of fun!) so I could work and post this.

Any suggestions? Oh, and I HAD (voluntarily) verified on the MS Website that my Windows XP (SP2) is a legitimate installation.

History of the drive: Initially I had Win95, transitioned to Win98, then to Windows 2000 Pro. When went to new Drive I could not clone the system, so I COPIED the Win2000 Pro files and then did an install of

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the full version of Windows XP Pro. It made it easier to pull in my loaded apps.

I had not wanted a TOTALLY clean install because some of my apps are updates of updates of the original and, while I have the original CD/disks, some of the updates are no longer available. Anyway, this history MAY be why things were flaky with that last update... though SP2 was a snap (months before that).

So, if I were to try to get the XP disk going, must I use the repair console? Anybody seen anything like this?

TIA,
KWW

IE 6 patch from Feb – caused IE/Windows explorer to fail)

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