

Re: Task Scheduler Fails, But Not All the Time

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2006-04/msg06902.html>

- *From:* "Pegasus \ (MVP)" <L.can@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 19 Apr 2006 18:46:52 +1000
-

"Dennis Q. Wilson" <DennisQWilson@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:1145433226.319020.179060@xx>

Pegasus (MVP) wrote:

"Dennis Q. Wilson" <DennisQWilson@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:1145428897.441914.251150@xx>

Pegasus (MVP) wrote:

"Dennis Q. Wilson"
<DennisQWilson@xxxxxxxx> wrote in
message
<news:1145375512.313090.28040@xx>

I'm running a clean install of
Windows XP Pro with
Service Pack 2,

and

I wish to use Task Scheduler
to run a certain program at
various

times

each week (an ATI
Multimedia Center video
capture, for what it's
worth).

Most tasks complete just
fine, but not all — some
never start.

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When

I

check the "Scheduled
Tasks" folder following
such a failure, what

I

invariably find is that the
"Next Run Time" pertaining
to the

failed

tasks has mysteriously
jumped many days ahead.

For example, if a program is
scheduled to run every
Wednesday at 8

p.m

beginning April 12, I might
check it the next morning to
find

that,

not

only did it not happen, but
now the "Next Run Time"
isn't set to

April

19, but something like April
23, which is MORE than
seven days

ahead,

and isn't even a Wednesday!

To the best of my ability to
double-check, the task
properties

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have

been set correctly. And as I said, this only happens with SOME of

the

scheduled video captures -- the rest execute as, well, scheduled.

Does anyone know what might be happening here?

Before *****assuming***** that the task never starts, *****prove***** it beyond doubt that it does not, by embedding your command into the batch file below, then scheduling that batch file:

```
@echo off
echo %date% %time% Start of task >
c:\test.log
echo User=%UserName%, Path=%path%
>> c:\test.log
c:\Tools\YourTask.exe 1>>c:\test.log
2>c:\test.err
echo ErrorLevel of
c:\Tools\YourTask.exe=%ErrorLevel% >>
c:\test.log
echo %date% %time% End of task >>
c:\test.log
```

Now examine the two log files. I suspect they will show that the task DID start but that it failed for some perfectly good reason.

Do remember that I said, "Most tasks complete just fine, but not

all --

some never start." That being the case, I created *****several***** of

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those batch files and scheduled them to run at different times,

because

just trying it once wouldn't ***prove*** much.

Five times the batch files executed properly; twice, not at all, and with no log files produced. And again in the case of the two failed trials, the Start Time mysteriously jumped nine days ahead.

I remember your words well but with the experience of a large number of posts on the Task Scheduler I have learned to question such remarks. In most Task Scheduler posts the OP claims that some or all of the tasks fail to run when in fact they do run but he looked in the wrong place.

I note that you reported in your first post that some tasks started but never finished. You did not report this phenomenon for your subsequent tests. This makes me wonder what has changed.

Nothing changed. Where I wrote "Most tasks complete just fine, but not all -- some never start," I meant that some not only don't complete, they never start. In other words, my Scheduled Tasks have only two results: successful completion and failure to launch.

But I also forgot to mention that when "Next Run Time" mysteriously jumps forward, so does the Starting Time. The "Last Run Time" keeps displaying "Never."

I'm also curious about the logs kept in the Task Scheduler's own log files, and in the Windows Event logger. Did you check them?

Yeah, the logs bear me out. There's no mention of the tasks which fail to launch.

Lastly I would run my proposed batch file with some stock standard Windows command, e.g. `attrib c:*.* >> c:\test.log`, in order to eliminate any possible interference from a misbehaving third-party application.

I anticipated you there when running the tests you suggested. Same result: most run, but not all. I'm still totally mystified.

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Have you considered the possibility that something may be playing havoc with your system date/time? To prove/disprove this I would start a Command Prompt and invoke the following batch file. Keep it running while you repeat some of your other test so that you capture one of the moments when you get the jumping time phenomenon.

```
@echo off
:again
echo %date% %time% >> c:\loop.txt
ping localhost -n 300 > nul
goto again
```

I would also use the Task Scheduler to run this single-line batch file once every 5 minutes, 24 hours a day:

```
@echo off
echo %date% %time% >> c:\ticker.txt
```

.