

# XP Keeps Rebooting During Startup and Setup

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- *From:* "dbh" <dbh@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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I have really done it now. I had been using XP SP2 on a very stable AMD 64 3200+ machine. Power supply at 500w more than enough. Again, the machine was very stable. Over the weekend, I executed a program that seems to have been some kind of trojan, but I thought my Symantec antivirus caught it (messages came up that seemed to indicate that the item had been quarantined or deleted). However, when the same Symantec message began to creep up periodically, I assumed that maybe the antivirus program hadn't completely eradicated the problem. I decided to reboot in safe mode and try running a full virus scan. That's when I noticed that the computer would not boot into safe mode. I used F8 to select safe mode, but shortly after beginning (when the screen fills up with the files it is loading), the computer would automatically reboot. At this point, I could still boot into "normal" XP.

I tried F8 several times, using various safe mode options (command prompt, etc.) but got the same effect. When I selected the "don't restart on error" (or whatever that option said), I got a BSOD pointing to a 7b error. At this point I was still assuming that my problem was a virus that corrupted something (files, MBR).

I went back into normal XP and went to msconfig and checked the "/safeboot" option in boot.ini. At that point, after rebooting, I could not get into safemode or "normal" XP, the machine kept rebooting at either option.

Next, I tried recovery console and tried the fixmbr command. No change in behavior. Lastly, I tried reinstalling XP SP2 from the CD ( I could boot from the CD directly). All of the appropriate files were copied to my computer. However, when I rebooted to continue to setup process I noticed my final problem. XP tries to boot to continue setup, but immediately I get a message saying that the setup program is restarting. The computer, on its own, goes into safe mode where I get a new message stating that setup cannot be done in safe mode (hit OK to Continue), at which point the reboot process begins again.

So now I can't get setup to finish (or even begin for that matter) and I cannot get anything to boot (other than from the CD drive).

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Can someone help me out of this endless loop (short of formatting the disk and laying down a new copy of the OS)? TIA

DBH

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