

Re: Logon Takes Forever

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2006-06/msg01072.html>

- *From:* "Ken Blake, MVP" <kblake@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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tchap199 wrote:

I have a Dell Latitude CPi running XP Professional with 256 MB of RAM. When I start it up and log on it takes an incredibly long time (four minutes on average, I've timed it). It shows the "loading your personal settings" screen for about 30 seconds and then the desktop background but without any icons or taskbar for about 3 1/2 minutes. Any ideas or suggestions would help, this is driving me insane.

Each to his own, but I don't think four minutes is "an incredibly long time."

My personal view is that the attention many people pay to how long it takes to boot is unwarranted. Assuming that the computer's speed is otherwise satisfactory, it may not be worth worrying about. Most people start their computers once a day or even less frequently. In the overall scheme of things, even a few minutes to start up isn't very important. Personally I power on my computer when I get up in the morning, then go get my coffee. When I come back, it's done booting. I don't know how long it took to boot and I don't care.

However if you do want to address it, it may be because of what programs start automatically, and you may want to stop some of them from starting that way. On each program you don't want to start automatically, check its Options to see if it has the choice not to start (make sure you actually choose the option not to run it, not just a "don't show icon" option). Many can easily and best be stopped that way. If that doesn't work, run MSCONFIG from the Start | Run line, and on the Startup tab, uncheck the programs you don't want to start automatically.

However, if I were you, I wouldn't do this just for the purpose of running the minimum number of programs. Despite what many people tell you, you should be concerned, not with how **many** of these programs you run, but **which**. Some of them can hurt performance severely, but others have no effect on performance.

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Don't just stop programs from running willy-nilly. What you should do is determine what each program is, what its value is to you, and what the cost in performance is of its running all the time. You can get more information about these at <http://castlecops.com/StartupList.html>. If you can't find it there, try google searches and ask about specifics here.

Once you have that information, you can make an intelligent informed decision about what you want to keep and what you want to get rid of.

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Ken Blake – Microsoft MVP Windows: Shell/User
Please reply to the newsgroup

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