

Re: System process is taking over 50% of CPU time

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2006-08/msg02468.html>

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- *From:* "Vic Russell" <nospam@xxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Sun, 13 Aug 2006 18:45:03 +0100
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Will do. I'll let you know how things go.

Thanks for your help.

Vic

"JS" <@> wrote in message <news:uVkIp6uvGHA.1808@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Boot to safe mode and do a Virus scan.

Next: Rootkit detection software is just another flavor of Stealth Virus detection, so find a free version that you can download, install and run.

JS

"Vic Russell" <nospam@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message <news:eqN8CtsvGHA.3372@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Thanks again JS.

Before I get into rootkit stuff (looks complicated), a few more clues and details.

- 1) I have Norton Anti-Virus completely up-to-date (includes spyware)
- 2) I have ZoneAlarm Pro completely up-to-date (includes spyware)
- 3) I have PestPatrol completely up to date
- 4) The System process does not exhibit the 50% CPU time when I boot in Safe Mode with networking
- 5) When I use MSCONFIG and stop everything I can and reboot, the system comes up again and pauses at the MSCONFIG screen. At this point the task manager and Process Explorer show very few processes but the System process still shows 50%

Any comments on this?

Kind regards,

Vic

"JS" <@> wrote in message <news:%23C98FNivGHA.2260@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

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If it's the System process and not a sub-process underneath it as your attachment shows then it could well be a rootkit (stealth virus).

Googled:

<http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&lr=&q=rootkit%2Bremove>

JS

"Vic Russell" <nospam@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message <news:%23ip8PgevGHA.1808@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Thanks for that JS

It is the System process itself that is using 50% of the processing time. Expanding the Process Tree shows that there is nothing much underneath System which is using any time at all. It is something internal to Microsoft's System process. I wonder if anything has corrupted System!

I have attached a view of the Process Explorer screen if this may help shed any light on the problem.

Any further ideas?

Kind regards,

Vic

"JS" <@> wrote in message <news:eO3kmKYvGHA.560@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

You need to find the specific process in that application that's taking all the CPU resources.

To do this try Process Explorer:  
<http://www.sysinternals.com/Utilities/ProcessExplorer.html>

Once you have Process Explorer installed and

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running:

Click on the CPU column to  
sort processes by %CPU  
usage.

Then click on the process  
that using most or all the  
CPU %, once it  
highlighted, right click  
and from the options listed  
select: google  
This should display what  
out there on the web about  
that process.

Note: some entries like  
svchost may need to be  
expanded to show the  
detail,  
in this case click on the +  
located to the left on the  
entry.

JS

"Vic Russell"

<nospam@xxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

[news:%23oAue0XvGHA.3372@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:%23oAue0XvGHA.3372@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Hi,  
I have XP  
SP2  
–completely  
up–to–date  
I think –  
and the  
System  
process  
is  
taking over  
50% of the  
CPU time –  
all the time!  
Any ideas  
how to  
track  
down the  
cause of the  
problem.  
It's a bit

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tricky when  
it is the  
main  
Windows  
process that  
seems to be  
causing the  
problem!

Regards,

Vic Russell