

Verrrrrrry slow shutdown

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I am running WinXP Home with SP2 on a machine with Pentium 4 2.8GHz. This machine originally had 512 Mb memory and a 60 Gig drive. I also have a 60 Gig external (USB2) Western Digital drive. I recently expanded the memory to 1570 Mb and also installed a second 200 Gig Maxtor drive, which I set up as a secondary to the 60 Gig (mistake no. 1, which I will correct). I formatted this drive as two logical drives, using the Maxtor software as per their recommendation. Before these additions, shutdown was fairly slow, as is usual after a couple of years without reinstalling Windows. Since then, it takes about 45 minutes—not seconds but MINUTES—to shut down. I am using Norton GoBack and Norton Ghost release 10. Also, the external drive I could usually power down after checking if it was safe to do so. Since then, I have been able to turn that drive off only when the machine os off. Any suggestions?

Thanks

Allen