

# Re: Windows XP auto updates stinks!!

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- *From:* Bob I <birelan@xxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 12 Oct 2006 13:21:14 -0500
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Nope, Murphy has a law addressing that. "What can go wrong, will go wrong, and usually at the most inopportune time." Never, NEVER walk away without saving.

Wy0 wrote:

At the risk of being accused of "ranting", or "nitpicky", I have had a similar problem with Auto Update, which caused my to lose a lot of work and time

Briefly, I was working on an MS Word document late in the day. The documnet had been saved earlier, and I have Word set to automatic save every 10 minutes (the Word default). I was called away, and ended up leaving for the day without returning to my desk.

Windows Update did an automatic update, and then auto restart, during the night.

When I came in the next morning, I found my computer restarted with Windows sitting there waiting for me to supply my windows password. When I did, after boot up, I opened Word, but no autorecover documents sprang up. I opened the document that I had been working on the previous afternoon, and most of it is gone. I ran the document recovery program, but it only turned up the document that opened when I pulled up the document from the folder it was originally saved in.

I admit I have become some what lax due to the autosave feature and dont always hit the save button as often as I should, but I have not figured out where the rest of the document that I was working on has gone.

Bottomline, if Update wouldn't restart until I told it it was O.K., I would have first manually saved the document and then rebooted.

Now, in order to avoid this same problem in the future, I have disabled automatic updates and put a reoccurring event in my calendar to remind to once a week manually update windows. A huge pain, but less than having to restart all the work on the document that was lost.

"Nick Goetz" wrote:

"home\_user" <shoorazeel@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in

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news:f5kXg.3672\$gU6.652@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx:

The reminder is not a configurable feature that I turned ON.  
This is  
the way it works on several Windows XP professional PC's  
that I use. I do not believe it can be turned OFF.

Setting the mouse–pointer to go to the default mouse button  
is a  
convenience feature that I am sure many users take  
advantage off. Microsoft's Quality Assurance department  
should have software tests  
that include this mouse pointer functionality being turned  
ON.

I clicked on my application. However, since the Windows  
Update  
reminder dialog came up so fast, the click went to the default  
button  
on the Windows Update dialog. Hence, the PC was restarted.

"Bruce Chambers" <bchambers@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in  
message  
news:%23LN7XxZ7GHA.1244@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

home\_user wrote:

Once the Windows XP  
auto–updates mechanism  
installs the updates on  
the system, a dialog keeps  
coming up – every few  
minutes – asking  
"Do you want to restart the  
PC".

How curious. I've \*never\* seen any such  
reminder. Why do you have  
you Update feature so configured, if it  
annoys you so?

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The dialog has two buttons:

- 1) restart now (the default)
- 2) restart later

Of course, the genius who designed this annoying dialog made the "restart now" the default button.

As a convenience for users, certainly. This is common practice among software developers.

And because I have set the mouse pointer to automatically move to the default button in a dialog, the mouse pointer points to the "restart now" button.

Now, how could anyone else possibly know that you deliberately set your mouse to such an unsafe (data-protection-wise) option?

I was working on something important and then this STUPID dialog comes up and the mouse pointer is automatically on the "restart now" button. My mouse click was meant for a different application.

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Were that the case, the pointer wouldn't have been anywhere near the default button, would it. In fact, that reminder dialog box shouldn't even have been "active>"

However, this stupid dialog comes up and the "restart now" is pressed without giving me a chance to save any of my work or any of the web pages I had opened.

Ah..... Correct me if I'm wrong, but aren't you the one who clicked the mouse button without paying any attention to where the cursor was located? I'd say that, given the way you've configured your system, you got exactly the kind of behavior you wanted.

This has happened to me before.

I can see it happening once, the first time you ever used the OS and installed updates, but if you made the same mistake more than once, it's definitely no one's fault but your own.

This system is not user friendly at all.

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On the contrary; it's dumb--down to the point that I almost dislike using it. It's far too simple.

Now I have turned OFF the stupid automatic updates.

Well, as it was never a good idea to let updates install automatically, anyway, this is all to the good. I really don't like to see people use the Automatic Updates, unless they take precautions to ensure that no patches get installed without the user's express permission, given only after he/she has researched each individual patch to ensure that it applies and is necessary. Due to the nearly infinite number of possible combinations of hardware, device drivers, and applications on any given PC, it's impossible to guarantee that all patches will be 100% harmless. In a very small number of cases, patches and hotfixes can cause conflicts or other problems. So, as with all changes to an OS, caution is advised.

All "Critical" updates should be installed. These address serious issues that can affect a large number of computers. There will be only rare occasions when a Critical update will not apply. Of special importance are those that address security vulnerabilities. If people had installed the available critical updates in July of 2003, the Blaster and Welchia worms would not have spread throughout the Internet the following month. In the unlikely event that problems do develop, you can always use the Control Panel's

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Add/Remove Programs applet or a System Restore Point to uninstall the troublesome hotfix.

For the "Recommended" updates, simply study the information provided to see if these updates apply in your specific situation. If they don't apply, or you're not experiencing the problem(s) addressed, you needn't install them. For instance, I have no use for WinXP's MovieMaker, so I ignore any updates to it. Again, in the unlikely event that problems do develop, you can always use the Control Panel's Add/Remove Programs applet or a System Restore Point to uninstall the troublesome hotfix.

In general, though, I've found it best not to download the "Driver" updates from Windows Update, unless they're for a hardware device originally manufactured by Microsoft. Device drivers provided by each component's manufacturer's web site are likely to perform better and offer more features than will the watered-down, "generic" drivers that those manufacturers provide to Microsoft for distribution via Windows Update.

I hate it!!

Wouldn't be more productive to learn a little about using your computer, rather than venting spleen?

And why does the reminder have to come up so often? If

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I said,  
"restart later", I am  
responsible for the  
consequences. I don't  
want to be interrupted or  
reminded every 5 minutes or  
so.

Then look for a way to turn off the reminder.

This is a really terrible  
design!!!

Not once you've configured it to meet your  
needs.

is  
there  
any  
way  
to  
prevent  
Windows  
XP  
from  
continuing  
to  
shut  
down  
–  
so  
important  
work  
can  
be  
saved  
–  
once  
the  
shutdown  
process  
has

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started?

You could try to click Start > Run, and enter "shutdown -a" if you're fast enough.

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Bruce Chambers

Help us help you:

<http://dts-1.org/goodpost.htm>

<http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html>

They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety. –Benjamin Franklin

Many people would rather die than think; in fact, most do. –Bertrand Russell

Hard to fathom anyone would post something as nitpicky as this...

- change the mouse pointer behaviour
- change the way Windows Update Works
- learn how tie your own shoelaces

NG