

CPU going to 100% Suspect network driver from windows update

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Hi All,

I hope someone can help or point me to the correct place....

I have seen 4 other people with exactly the same symptoms as me....some with extremely closely managed PCs in that the software placed on the PCs is closely controlled by admins.

About 4-6 weeks ago I started to have infrequent occurrences where the CPU usage goes to 100% and stays there and the machine needs to be rebooted.

From observing when exactly this happens I suspect some kind of

network driver problem. The problem always starts when something is actively retrieving someone from the internet...not just retrieving something from the network. For example the CPU usage might shoot up to 100% when I fetch email....it might shoot up to 100% when I read a web page.....it does not happen all the time.....about 3-4 times a day which leaves me rebooting 3-4 times a day....I have noticed if i run my internet explorer with add-ons turned off that I can sometimes get the laptop to run for 4-5 hours without crashing like this.....

I have seen this problem on a PC with IE 6 as well as mine on IE 7.

When the machine is rebooted one by one processes will leap up to 100% usage and then the box will pop up to say end process and I end the processes.....usually there are 20-30 processes to kill this way before the PC will boot....and all the processes I have to kill look like processes that talk to the network.....ones that don't talk to the network do not seem to need to be killed.

Most of the other people I have seen this happen to have had to completely rebuild their PCs from scratch to get rid of the problem...which would seem to me to be a bit much.

One friend said 'I deleted and reinstalled something to do with

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network drivers and that seemed to ease the problems....' but she could not remember exactly what she did.

I cannot imagine there are only 5 of us out here who have seen this happen over the last 4 weeks or so.....my guess is that there was an update with a piece of bad code in it and my laptop is not reinstalling or fixing that piece of code...

I am running

Dell 8600

2Ghz Pentium M

1GB memory

100GB HDD

Windows XP Pro SP 2 with all mandatory patches.

I have scanned for spyware, viruses, you name it....found nothing...I am certain that at least one of the laptops that I have seen this on would be extremely unlikely to have become infected with any virus/shareware as it is locked down so tight....

I take very good care of changes I apply and software I install and the only thing I put onto the machine before this started was the IE 7 upgrade and the normal windows updates....

Has anyone else seen this? Can anyone provide a pointer?

Thanks in Advance for any assistance you can point me to...

Peter

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