

# Process "System" utilizes a lot of CPU (Windows XP Professional)

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Hi,

For past few years I had only one HDD Baraccuda IV 40GB. It was connected firstly to IDE controller and then to Sil3112 sata by ATA->SATA adapter. Few weeks ago I bought Seagate Baraccuda 7200.10 320GB SATA II and it seemed to work good. Firsty I just connected it and made 3 partitions with Partition Magic. OS was on the first disk. But I thought this one is like 2x faster at least average transfer. So I formatted the old one and made fresh installation on SATA II drive. And I'm not sure if I didn't set Windows XP properly but I see some freezes and so on. I'm using Opera web browser and see many freezes while opening new pages, enlarging photos with open in new windows. 100% CPU unitlization. When opening new page switching to desktop or other window take noticable time. My CPU AXP 2500+ with 1GB. It wasn't happening on the old HDD and if I won't find solution I'll probably move OS to Baraccuda IV.

I thought take Sil3112 controller may has some problems with to different HDDs connected so I disconnected the old one, but it didn't help.

I was trying to find any post over Internet with similar problem, but with no luck. I'm looking forward to any suggestions.

PS. Benchmark give great results so I'm really confused.

PS2. In Opera page stutters even if I scroll it up and down. IE 7 seem to be working better but all of it is so strange. Faster HDD but everything seems to be stuttering which is so annoying

Getting back to topic. It takes Opera and Gadu-Gadu (it's Polish instant messenger) about 30 second maybe more to start when OS was installed on new drive. Now is matter of seconds. Really weird. I hope that this hard drive is not broken.

End the same problem with OS on the old drive. I noticed that when I do something like open new tab or enlarge photos on webpage especially those managed by JAVAScripts or just hoover mouse over a link process System utilizes like 40-60% of my CPU and it shouldn't be more like few per cents. So I assume there's something wrong with drivers. I'll check it later when I

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come back from work. It's 40–60% sometime more, but it looks like this: Opera utilizes 40% so System process 60% so it's always 100% until web page loads etc.

I made clear installation of Windows XP and noticed when this weird thing appears.

If I activated Guest account or make new account and log in process System starts to act in this weird way. I can't check the system process from guest account. But on my main account everything works slow, I can see that doing anything utilizes so my percentage of CPU power and the worst thing I can't restore system. Fortunately I made system image with Ghost.

I made all my ghost images prior to making additional account so when I restore my system from those images everything is OK.

Weird thing after using my computer for couple of days it happened without making new account. This weekend I'm investigating the matter.

BUT I have to write that when my PC was affected but this strange behaviour I run Windows in this safe mode with network and System process wasn't utilizing my CPU more than 2%.

I also used process explorer because I found quite similar problem on this forum, but it shows that System process utilizes so much CPU, not process under it like svchost.

My post I getting to long so I add that not everything I do causes System process to utilize most of CPU. Opening MS Word, MS Excel, Visual Studio don't make this process to behave this way. Opening IE 7 also until it starts to load web page. It stucks my PC while opening opera when many tabs opened, cause it's loading many pages. So I notice that programs that connects to Internet stutters. Maximizing utorrent takes like 10–15 second or hovering over its icon in tray to show DL/UL also. Running added games that uses Internet connection i.e Heats Internet also. Sometime opening a folder... But games runs good, no stattering. Oblivion and many more.

I read in my motherboard's manual that this Sil3112, PCI 1 and PCI 5 uses the same IRQ so maybe that's the reason cause my NIC is inserted in PCI 5, but on the other hand in safe mode with network everything worked fine. Maybe there's driver conflict but everything worked fine before adding new HDD. I'll check it the same thing now happens when only the old drive is connected of course unless someone finds the 'cause:)

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I made some "research". So when I'm opening Gadu–Gadu (it's Polish instant messenger) I see in KrView (kernrate\_i386\_xp from Microsoft), program which shows Hits for the Kernel (whatever it means) that on the first place is ntoskrnl with 47% of total hits, then Ntfs with 30% hits, next SYMEVENT with 10% hal with 7% SAVRT with 3%.

Firstly I thought take the reason was the amd7. But this modul should take

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90% hits, almost 100%. On Intel machins there's equivalent modul (I don't remember its name but I checked it at work).

I have only one clue. Cause I have one folder where I keep all my stuff. Because I used to have additional account for everyone in my family to use my computer I deleted permission to access it for Users(Artur\Users) (Artur is name of my computer) and then make permission only for my administrator account. I should have denied access for those new account but back then few years ago I did it this way. And now everytime I reinstall OS I have to make myself owner to this folder. I don't know but maybe it's the reason of my problem.

If not I still would like to know is there any command or something in Windows XP to reset permission to all folders and files to default. Maybe it'll help.

EDIT I just restarted OS from Ghost's image and checked how situation looks in KrView when I open e.g. Opera when everything with System process is OK. First place with 44% of total hits for amd64, next is ntoskrnl 28%, NavEx15 6%, hal 5%, Ntfs with only 2%, NAVENG 2%, SYMEVENT 2% and so on.

I think I restore all permissions to default, but it wasn't the cause.

I'll also tried Process Explorer and it shows that System is utilizes that much of CPU – processes under it behaves normal. I checked threads of this process and it shows that one of ntoskrnl.exe+0xd196 uses CPU... so still I don't have any clue.

PS. By accident I found out that Counter Logs are written to xjxj\System\_Overview.blg and it should be C:\PerfLogs\System\_Overview.blg I doubt it causes anything, but I can't change the directory – maybe there way to do that, but I don't know how. But xjxj is weird...