

Re: Will Windows XP Upgrade Help Me?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2008-03/msg03292.html>

- *From:* "Bob Harris" <[rharris270\[SPAM\]@hotmail.com](mailto:rharris270[SPAM]@hotmail.com)>
 - *Date:* Sat, 15 Mar 2008 10:13:20 -0500
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Your computer may have several levels of problems.

First, you already know it has some malware (virus, Trojan, etc).

As for the cleaning you mention, that sounds like mechanical cleaning, such as vacuuming. That would not help with any software issues.

As for the floppy and CD drive, if they were working before you sent it out, demand that the company that did the cleaning repair/replace them. If they were not working beforehand, then you were merely guessing/hoping that some sort of cleaning would fix them. It did not.

At this point I would suggest several fairly drastic actions:

1. Disconnect from the internet.
2. Get a new floppy drive and a new CD drive. Given the cost, I would go for a DVD-writer, which also reads DVDs, and reads and writes CDs. A plain CD reader will be cheaper, but not by much. Check both local stores and on-line stores. Note that CD-reading is automatic with 98 and higher, and that is all you need to install programs. But, CD/DVD writing requires extra software. Some software often comes with the hardware, but it may have minimal functionality. Better software can be purchased separately (e.g., full Nero or full Easy Media Creator), and there are even some decent free writing packages. Do not worry about these software packages, until after you get the PC working and then want to write a CD or DVD:

<http://www.deepburner.com/> (offers basic free burner and enhanced version for a price)

3. Using either a boot floppy or a bootable CD, erase the hard drive. Not just format, but erase/overwrite every single bit on it, including the boot record. Use something like FDISK to remove all partitions, or a special disk wiping software. See the following link for a bootable CD with many tools:

<http://ubcd.sourceforge.net/>

4. Create new partitions via boot floppy (i.e., FDISK) or via bootable CD, partitioning or disk preparation tools. Choose FAT32 for 98 or ME. This

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can be optional, if all you want is one big C:\ partition. However, I strongly recommend a separate partition for personal files, if not a separate hard drive.

5. Install your favorite operating system. Operating system CDs are bootable, and will usually create one big partition (C:\), unless you pre-make partitions, or perform a custom installation. If considering upgrading to XP, first check whether your hardware meets the minimum requirements for XP, and whether you have a full set of drivers for any peripherals. XP will automatically handle most mice, keyboards, simple monitors, some printers. You could run the XP upgrade advisor, free from Microsoft, after you re-install ME. If things look good, then you could either upgrade to XP, or better yet, do a clean install of XP. This advisor can be downloaded on another computer and then copied to yours.

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/upgrading/advisor.msp>

Hint: To be happy with XP, have a minimum of 256 Meg of RAM. And, more is better. XP may run on 128 Meg or less, but you won't like it.

6. Before going on the internet, and before reading any DOC, XLS, etc. (which might be infected), install an antivirus !!! Also install a firewall. If cost is an issue, there are several free ones. Be sure to check that they support your operating system. Some only support XP or higher. AVG is a free antivirus that support 98 and higher, thus ME. See the following links for some options:

<http://www.majorgeeks.com/downloads29.html>

<http://www.majorgeeks.com/downloads34.html>

Caution: Do not install more than one antivirus and one firewall. Two or more may fight each other.

6. Also install a anti-spyware program, which is different than anti-virus. A good free one is Spybot Search & Destroy:

<http://www.safer-networking.org/en/index.html>

Others are listed here:

<http://www.majorgeeks.com/downloads31.html>

7. Re-connect to the internet. You may need to run some installation CD for the DSL. Contact your ISP about that.

8. Get some backup software, such as Norton GHOST or Acronis TrueImage, or similar product. Get a USB hard drive, and make an image of the C:\partition. Also make a copy (not an image) of your personal data. How, in the event that the PC gets a software problem, whether it be a bad install/uninstall or a virus, you will have the option to restore the PC. Note that most backup/restore programs will not fix a boot record problem,

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unless you backup/restore the entire hard drive. But, that can be done separately via FDISK. The latest version of TrueImage is one that can backup/restore the boot record as part of a partition backup. (If you have one big C:\ drive partition is almost the same as whole drive, except for the boot record.)

9. Install any other software, such as office suite, CD writer, etc.

10. Occasionally make a new image of the C:\ partition. Frequently make a copy of your personal files. In fact, occasionally write personal files to CD or DVD. Use standard optical format (not drag&drop), finalize (or close) the CD\DVD, store in a dark, cool, dry place.

11. Update your antivirus definitions at least weekly !!! Some anti-virus programs check for new definitions and pop-up asking you to download them, some do it automatically (if you let them), but others require you to manually go get them. Learn which type you have.

12. Check for ant-spyware updates every week or two. This is usually less important than antivirus, but at DSL speed, it should only take seconds to check and less than an minute to update. That is time worth spending.

Good luck.

"Topazprincess77" <topazprincess77@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:1c09d555-f924-4bc1-af02-563d055825e0@xx

Hello,

I have Windows ME OS on one of my computers, it came from a questionable background with many viruses and spyware, I have tried and tried to get this computer up and running. The original goal was to get it online, I have DSL and it refused to load webpages. I spent a little more than a week, night and day removing unwanted programs/spywares/viruses/adwares/etc. Straightening out annoying settings and so on, either way she worked beautifully....for a few months, went online and did everything you could ask of it.

And then...this is where it goes bad...because the of issues with the computer there was no virus software on it...it was taken to a risky website and it all went downhill from there. It started running slow and was constantly lagged down with nasty bugs running in the background all the time. I wanted to fix it the right way this time so I figured my best shot was the get the floppy drive working, I sent it to be cleaned out on the inside, removal of dust and what not. Well it was returned without a working floppy drive or cd drive! Any disc put in it now just whirrs for a few seconds and then does nothing.

If I get an XP upgrade will it still force the computer to boot and go on with the install? As of currently it will only boot in safe mode an

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area I know nothing about....

Any help would be appreciated...

Thanks,

Topaz.