

microsoft.public.windowsxp.hardware: BIOS Update? If Y; before or after XP installation?

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From: James (*anonymous_at_discussions.microsoft.com*)

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Hi,

QUESTION:

I am moving from ME to XP in the next 1-2 days. A friend suggested I might consider updating my HP BIOS because of the problems I've been having in the last 2-3 weeks with crashes / slow performance / general intermitant problems. If I do this should it be done, before or after the XP installation?

Thanks.

James
Burbank, CA

BACKGROUND:

About 3 weeks ago, after installing more RAM in my HP pavilion 7970 (now I have 640 MB), I reformatted my HD and reinstalled my applications. Things seemed to run fine and faster, until I reinstalled my AOL software version 8 (said friend, said it was actually AOL 8.5 after I started to see an ONSLAUGHT of POP ups never before seen with version 8.0).

As my computer performance continued to slow and bog down with background running programs ("super savings from Ebates" etc), I used the sys conf utility to stop these programs from coming on at start up, deleted some of them, changed other things in my startup proces. After a couple weeks of this, I've lost track of all the things I've done/that have happened. Including crashes where I was unable to get the machine to start in anything but safe mode. It wouldn't start up from a start up disk either.

All I know is that now, one daily use ap won't open, others are slow, system resources are 20-30% free with no progrmas open and sometime 10% free with 1-2 programs open.

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So, I want to "start over" basically: Do a clean install with XP ("a more stable OS") and use some other internet access provider.