

The hardware conflict that XP can't see!

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I have a strange problem that XP won't see or let me fix. (98 used to) I've been having an ongoing problem booting my machine. When I boot up, XP loads, all my start ups load, all my devices. Then, 30 seconds later, my computer either freezes, goes black, or I get the blue screen of death, (rarely blue) I have no choice but to hard reboot. When I reboot, I have to shut the power down, wait 10 or more seconds, then power up again. On the second power up, everything is fine for as long as I stay on, no matter what I do or what I use. If I turn it off, it starts all over again.

On one of the rare blue screens, it gave the usual generic options 'it may be a device, it may be a program, it may be an IRQ conflict', etcetera and so on. The usual solutions, too. 'Disable hardware, unload programs, search for conflicts'. You know, as if that wasn't the first thing I did! Device manager shows no conflicts. Event Viewer shows no failures. This problem started when I went to Satellite Internet Access, and networked our three computers to a router for Internet access (the machines, however, are not networked together...my kids wouldn't allow it.). So I backtracked and said "What could I have done?"

I had removed all the 56 K modems from the three computers, but then realized that I had to keep mine to fax with, since faxes have to go over the phone lines. I realized that my problem actually began when I reinstalled the modem. When I was digging to find out what could possibly have happened, I made a startling discovery. XP has installed nearly every device I have on IRQ 5. My modem, my network card, my sound card, my video card, all my USB Ports, which adds my printer, scanner and optical mouse as well.

In 98, you were able to go to the device properties and choose from different resource settings until you could get combinations that didn't conflict. You could have a choice of at least 2 different IRQs sometimes as many as 5 depending on the device. I went to separate some of these things, but found out that XP doesn't give you that option any more. It's still there, but it's grayed out, and so far as I know, it can't be turned on. None of my driver software gives the option to set up the IRQ setting any more, so what the hell do I do? I've tried uninstalling and reinstalling everything, but XP continues to pile everything onto IRQ 5. This is damned annoying having to boot up twice (and I have no idea why everything works on

microsoft.public.windowsxp.hardware: The hardware conflict that XP can't see!

the second boot!) Obviously, I need my devices. Iâ€™d be willing to remove the modem, but I need to be able to fax readings to my doctor. Thatâ€™s all, but itâ€™s pretty important. Is there any way to change those resource settings? Is there any way to activate that box?

Iâ€™d appreciate any suggestions or workarounds. TIA.

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I solved all my complaints about Microsoft when I finally realized that I never ran into an error I didn't cause. All I had to do is figure out what I did!

Steve