

Re: Windows keeps "blacking out". Strange error.

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Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2006-06/msg02360.htm

- *From:* "Brian A." <gonefish'n@afarawaylake>
 - *Date:* Sun, 25 Jun 2006 13:58:41 -0500
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Sounds very much like faulty RAM, I've been through that situations exact symptoms.

Whichever app you choose, let it run for a few hours at the least for a thorough test, that's only if it's not finding error after error.

Memory testers:

<http://www.memtest86.com/>

<http://www.memtest.org/>

<http://oca.microsoft.com/en/windiag.asp>

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Brian A. Sesko { MS MVP_Shell/User }

Conflicts start where information lacks.

<http://basconotw.mvps.org/>

Suggested posting do's/don'ts: <http://www.dts-l.org/goodpost.htm>

How to ask a question: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/555375>

<normloman@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message

news:1151255242.292627.324560@xx

Hi. Ive been running windows xp professional for a few years now, but latley I've been experiencing a strange problem. Every time I try to start windows, it "blacks out". In other words, right after the windows xp loading screen completes, the screen becomes black, and the light on the monitor slowly fades to orange. At this point, no mouse movement or keystroke invokes a response, the cd rom drive will not open, and the "busy" light on the computer stays a solid orange, and does not move. The computer is still technically on, because I hear the fans moving. I just cant get the machine to do anything. I can't power it down at this point either, or use controll-alt-delete. I have to unplug the machine before I can get it to restart.

This started happening about a month ago, but It didn't happen every

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time. Most of the time, I could just unplug the machine, turn it back on, and if I was lucky, the machine would go back to normal. Today it will not start at all, no matter how many times I unplug and reboot. Between now and then, I've used system restore which seemed to fix the problem temporarily (but it came back the next day) and I've reinstalled windows xp (But it wasn't a clean reinstall. I don't want to resort to that unless I have to). None of these things seemed to help.

Starting in safe mode also makes me experience the "black out" problem, except in that case, it doesn't even reach the loading screen before everything is locked up. The only thing I can get into without blacking out is "Safe Mode With Command Prompt". I have figured out that I can still run everything in command prompt by using ctrl-alt-del and running explorer. What really puzzles me is that the blackout problem will even occur when I'm starting other operating systems. For instance, I tried running Linux off of a live cd, to see if I could get the computer to start, but the computer blacked out after it reached the desktop screen.

Last week, I also noticed that the computer would "black out" if I tried to open an audio file through windows explorer. If I opened the song with a player like media player or winamp, the computer would run fine. If I tried to open it through my computer, however, it would black out again. I'm not sure if it blacks out with other files, but I've only experienced it with audio files (mp3, wav, ogg).

Today I also noticed that If I tried to boot off of the windows xp cd, the computer would black out once again after the cd was done loading it's various drivers.

I have no clue whats causing this problem, and internet searches have not had much success in diagnosing the problem. I've run scandisk, done virus scans with AVG, scanned for spyware with three different programs, checked my Hijack this log, and looked at my boot log, but everything seems perfectly normal according to these programs. Has anyone else here ever experienced a problem like this? Does anyone have an opinion on this?