

# XP loops to reboot when almost fully up

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*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help\\_and\\_support/2006-10/msg00649.htm](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2006-10/msg00649.htm)

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Oh boy, another stupid XP problem...

XP, SP2, doesn't visit bad/infected sites, mostly used for college coursework & email by the wife who is a certified support engineer as well.

System ran perfectly up to Wednesday night when it was put to bed with the usual hibernate command.

Next boot in the morning, the system seemed to come back as normal, but when it finally started putting the icons back on the desktop (where it is pretty much ready to go), it got about 4 columns of icons up, and then immediately blackscreens and reboots. It will now do this over and over if you let it, though future attempts pause for 15 minutes while it does the chkdsk prior to continuing to boot.

Safe mode boot ALWAYS hangs at amdagp.sys forever, UNLESS you have first done a chkdsk/r either on another system, or from recovery console boot.

Setting to VGA mode fails same way, icons almost up, then boom, blackscreen, reboot.

After a lengthy chkdsk/r which generally takes 45 minutes (160g disk 1/2 full), system can be safe booted; doing this, we have system restored back to two weeks ago, but still have same issue after restore.

One other oddity: ONLY after the chkdsk/r is done, if you try, it WILL successfully boot normally, all the way through with all icons up, processes starting, antivirus update happens, etc. Then it responds normally. If you then immediately do a normal shutdown, power off, then power back on to reboot, boom, back to the failure mode again, which now of course continues until the NEXT time you chkdsk/r for 45 minutes first before trying anything else.

We also tried: chkdsk/r first, then ghosted to another known-good 160g drive. Same exact pattern as described above... i.e. will boot

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correctly ONCE (only after chkdsk/r), and then subsequent reboots always fail with the loop described above.

When it is hung on the safe boot attempts, it always shows amdagp.sys as the last item loaded, and the disk led is solid on for as long as you want to watch it. However, if you have just chkdsk/r'ed, now the safe boot will go through, after pausing at amdagp.sys for 38 seconds.

We swapped in different video card, removed all other cards, installed different memory, defaulted bios, tried different power supply, unplugged everything but keyboard. No hardware changes affect the problem; the only thing we've found to affect it is the chkdsk/r procedure. We even have a 2nd identical machine to this one (both Compaq Presario 7000), tried the hard drive in it, and get same failure, so it really doesn't feel like ANYTHING to do with the hardware at this point.

System also had a Win2000 disk in it which, when selected, boots up 2000 normally and uneventfully.

Ring any bells? Boy, this is frustrating. No new software was installed, no changes to system were made that final night before, nothing; it has been being used this way each evening for the past couple of week as she's in a new set of online classes and just doing the homework each night. I pressed her for SOMETHING she must have done to change things; no such change. I can't believe we'll have to fool around with recovery install to fix this... but can find no real clues after a LOT of googling...

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