

Computer Keeps Trying to Boot Over & Over – Harddrive Bad?

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Just got back from a 7 month deployment overseas. Wife says the computer (Medion, Windows XP Home, 3.2GHz Pentium IV Hyper-Thread, 512 DDR SDRAM, dual layer DVD/CD+/-RW x2, no floppy) not sure what else might help) would randomly restart on its own and boot back up. This got progressively worse during the past week. Uninstalled a bunch of Nickelodian flash games the kids had downloaded. Yesterday, I updated Spybot and Ad-Aware, ran them, and cleaned up a few other things.

Then, for no reason, the computer shut off. The Microsoft logo came up (the blue bar got half way across), I saw the "blue screen" for a split second, then the following options came up for restarting:

Safe Mode
Safe Mode with Networking
Safe Mode with Command Prompt

Start Windows Normally (last known good configuration)

I started with Start Normally, no joy. Proceeded through the other three options, no joy. Can't even get in through Safe Mode. If I let it count down the 30 seconds, it will just keep trying to boot and never get there. I F8 in Advanced Options during the next boot attempt and none of those options worked either. I did Disable the auto restart so I could see what error codes came up on the "blue screen." This is what I got (minus the text that precedes it talking about power interruption and other possible reasons for the restarts).

Stop: 0x00000024 (0x00190203, 0x823790B0, 0xC0000102, 0x00000000)

I tried to use the System Recovery disk that came with the computer to boot from it. When selecting CD-ROM it gives me these choices:

1. Recovery of Startup Files
2. Recovery of System & Driver Files
3. Restoring Factory Settings
4. Reboot

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Option 1 didn't work. It keeps starting over and asks if I want to boot from the Hard Drive or the CD-ROM. Just a neverending circle. Option 2, no joy, didn't do much. And I'd prefer not to restore to factory settings or anything that will require me to format my harddrive at this point. I have too many family pictures and personal files that I can't afford to lose, especially since none of them have been backed up to disk in the 7 months that I was away.

Appreciate any help.

V/R,

John

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lohryx5

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