

Windows freezing, setup problems, and possible memory leak?

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Hi, my system is driving me crazy. Hope someone can offer suggestions or help. I've also sent this message to tech support too.

My computer specs are:

Windows XP Pro 64-bit
Asus P5N32-SLI Deluxe (Bio version 0310)
Intel Pentium D 940 Presler 3.2 GHz LGA 775 Dual Core (Model BX80553940) Retail
Mushkin extreme Performance 2 x 512 MB SDRAM DDR2 667 (PC2-5300)
eVGA Geforce 7900GT 256MB PCI Express x16
Antex SmartPower 2.0 500W power supply
Seagate 300GB 7200.9 Barracuda SATA-II

Problem history:

I put this system together June 2006. I started experiencing problems I guess at around the time I installed a new monitor in November (Samsung Syncmaster 940 Widescreen). Since then, I've been experiencing problems, some seem unrelated to the monitor installation.

The first time I had the problem was last year when I was playing Medieval Total War 2 and it would always lock up at turn 200(?) or when I play Battlefield 2142, it'll freeze on occasion. When I reboot, Windows would freeze during the loading and I would have to manually restart again. During the restart, I was asked and always chose to boot into safe mode, restart again, and then it'll boot normally. During one of these instance, I just decided to try and boot normally instead of safe mode. Unfortunately, it still locked up during the boot but when restart, it gives me a hard drive error instead and I was forced to re-install windows altogether.

During the re-install, I installed the latest Nvidia Drivers, Internet Explorer 7.0, and all security updates. When the freezing happened, i repeated the above sequence but I decided to change hard drives during the re-install.

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Problems still appeared, but instead of freezing instantly, it's slows to a crawl and freeze. Also, my printer port seemed to have stopped working. During the reboot, it says it can't detect the hard drive again. Instead of re-intalling Windows, I decided to just shut the power off, disconnect the power cable, and let it sit overnight. This seemed to have worked as it booted normally the following day but the problem was not solved and on every other boot, the system would just freeze (even if i'm just using internet explorer). At this point, I'm suspecting some kind of memory leak which I have not researched a solution yet. Three weeks ago, the boot sequence actually says something on the line of "Unable to locate files in Windows/System/Config/" and I was unable to reboot. To my recollection, I've install Roller Coaster Tycoon 3 Deluxe Ed and a mod for Medieval 2. I left my system off overnight and the next day, and Windows auto ran a chkdsk during a boot sequence and recovered about two dozen files.

Internet Explororer 32-bit seems to not work in handling secured sites but 64-bit works just fine. After reading some forums, someone suggested removing the NVidia Ethernet drivers and then re-installing to disable the 32-bit firewall. I did that but when my system reboots, it'll freeze at the Windows loading screen. When I shut the power off to reboot, I can't even boot into safe mode. I left it off overnight and managed to boot it normally but IE is still wacky.

So two days ago, i tried to re-install Windows again. The hard drive was formatted and it rebooted iteself. While loading the Windows setup, I get a blue screen error stating the following:

```
Stop: C000021a {Fatal System Error}
The Windows Logon Process System process terminated unexpctedly with a
status of 0x00000080 (0x00000000 0x00000000) The sytem has been shut
down.
```

My initial thinking was driver problems when this thing started in 2006 but with this error, there's gotta be some hardware problem somewhere. Is there a compatibilty issue I'm overlooking or is this a motherboard problem?