

## XP Startup glitch and slow downloads

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network\\_web/2004-11/3161.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network_web/2004-11/3161.html)

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Hello, I was hoping someone here could help me with this problem I'm having.

Firstly my system specs:

OS: WINDOWS XP SERVICE PACK 1  
PROCESSOR: AMD64 3200+  
MOTHERBOARD: MSI NEO PLATINUM K8N  
RAM: 1GB KINGSTON 3700  
HARDDRIVES: 74 GB WESTERN DIGITAL RAPTOR and 80GB WD CAVIAR  
VIDEO CARD: MSI RADEON 9800XT  
SOUNDCARD: TURTLE BEACH SANTA CRUZ  
ROUTER: DLINK DI-784  
NETWORK INTERFACE CARD: DLINK DWL-AG530  
CABLE MODEM: RCA DCM305R  
OTHER: NORTON SECURITY AND ANTIVIRUS 2004 WITH LATEST UPDATES

Here's the problem:

On startup, when I get to the logon screen if I don't hit ok right away and sometimes when I do I will have problems with starting Windows correctly. It will go to the desktop, load my icons, and the only item in the system tray will be the remove hardware icon. The one with the green arrow pointing left.

I can tell this is an abnormal startup right away because it should load Norton Security and Antivirus along with the speak icon for volume control. For some strange reason that safely remove hardware icon is always in system tray. If I open it up the only item listed is my WD Raptor harddrive. Besides not loading programs correctly it seems to just lock up and won't respond to any input aside from alt ctrl del. I try to open task manager and it just stalls and never does. The only thing I'm able to do is restart or shutdown. I'm forced to restart. I put this system together a few months ago and I have been having this problem daily since.

I have heard that AMD processors are picky about their calibration with your system RAM. Could this be the culprit? If so, how do I calibrate it?

Another problem, possibly related: My arrangement with the harddrives is to install all programs on my faster Raptor drive and store data files on my older 80GB caviar drive. When I right click the desktop or within folders to create new folders or adjust things I get a delay. This delay averages about 4 seconds. It can get very annoying to say the least. It seems even with all this firepower of a system I am having the worst performance I have ever gotten from one.

It seems the longer I keep it running, the more tasks I do, the slower and laggier the system starts to become until finally something causes it to freeze up and force me to reboot. I was wondering if perhaps there are too many services running in the background that are eating up my memory and causing conflicts. I used to run Windows 2000 and never had any problems like this. That system seemed rock solid compared to this.

In addition to this, I'm also having a problem with slow downloads when using peer to peer programs like kazaalite or shareaza. It shows in the program logs that most of my connections are lost or closed. Most that do initiate decay to a rate of 0kb/sec and close. Another older computer downstairs running Win2000 has the same problem even when connected directly to the cable modem. A Mac Laptop we have seems to work alright when connected directly to the modem but shows the same problem when connected wirelessly. Browsing the internet and downloading large files from an internet server works fine, but not peer to peer connections. Does anybody know why this is? I see that the Mac uses a network protocol called IPv6. I tried to replicate the success on my windows machines by installing this protocol but no such luck. I opened up the necessary ports in the router and I know it should work because it was working at a previous time with these same router settings.

I found a similar thread in another google

group:<http://groups.google.com/groups?q=slow+downloads&hl=en&lr=&selm=b4579cdf4b.alanlewer%40ntlworld.co>

The person seemed to fix the problem with a cable switch. But isn't the router supposed to do the job of a cable switch? It seems like yet another thing that can go wrong to me. If worse comes to worse I may try this route though.

I was getting this same exact problem with a different router and card made by LINKSYS. The strangest thing about this problem is that it was working on my new system just a few weeks ago. All of a sudden it's not working. Previously I was getting total rates with all transfers of up to 1MB per sec on shareaza. Shareaza and WinMX would work but kazaalite wouldn't. Now none are working. I called my ISP and they did a ping test which averaged 5ms. They said everything is

fine on their side and that I can theoretically have 3MB of bandwidth.

I asked them if they block P2P transfers and they said no. So I'm truly baffled now, I don't know what is the problem.

I've tried a registry cleanup program, defragmenting my harddrives, and removing some background services with an XP tweak program. All to no avail though I've noticed some significant performance increases. It seems strange to me that a new system with all this power can be more sluggish and laggy than systems many years older and a mac laptop with far less power. All the power is worth nothing without efficiency.

Lastly, is there a tweak or windows xp guide that you could recommend that may help me alleviate my issues? After spending the money and time building this system I would like to get the performance I know it's capable of. Any help would be greatly appreciated.