

## "svshost.exe"

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.perform\\_maintain/2004-05/3435.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.perform_maintain/2004-05/3435.html)

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**From:** MAP (*anonymous\_at\_discussions.microsoft.com*)

**Date:** 05/22/04

Date: Sat, 22 May 2004 06:10:57 -0700

>-----Original Message-----

>Hello, and thanks in advance –

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>Sometimes, when I have to "help" a program stop, Task  
Manager shows me that

>many instances of "svchost.exe" are running – sometimes  
seven or eight. Is

>this normal? If not, what is to be done about it?

>

>Thanks...

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>Steve E.

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>

Yes this is normal, if you mean svchost.exe and not  
svshost.exe as in the subject header of your post.  
svchost.exe is an xp system process.

Service Host – Generic Host Process for Win32 Services.

The full path to this file should be shown in The  
Ultimate Troubleshooter as C:\WinNT\System32  
\Svchost.exe or C:\Windows\System32\Svchost.exe.

Windows 2000/XP/2003 only. SVCHOST is a generic process  
which acts as a host for processes that run from DLLs  
rather than EXEs. At startup SVCHOST checks the Services  
portion of the Registry to construct a list of DLL-based  
services that it needs to load, and then loads them.

There can be many instances of SVCHOST running, as there  
will be one instance of SVCHOST for every DLL-based  
service or grouping of services (the grouping of services  
is determined by the programmers who wrote the services  
in question). Under Windows XP Professional and Windows  
2003 you can find out what DLL-based services SVCHOST is

microsoft.public.windowsxp.perform\_maintain: "svshost.exe"

running by typing Tasklist /SVC at a Command/MS-DOS Prompt (this command is not available in Windows XP Home), while under Windows 2000 you need to use the TLIST -s command from a Command Prompt (MS-DOS Prompt) (depending on how Windows 2000 was installed you may need to download TLIST from the Microsoft website or install it from one of the miscellaneous folders on the Windows 2000 CD).

Recommendation :

An integral part of the operating system, leave alone – multiple instances of SVCHOST is a normal occurrence. If you experience SVCHOST errors, the problem is most likely not with SVCHOST but with the DLLs it is hosting. However, if you experience a lot of SVCHOST errors, and particularly, if the full path to SVCHOST.EXE is not any of the above, then you most likely have a virus (see below).

Svchost (2)  
SVCHOST.EXE

(???)

Many viruses masquerade themselves as SVCHOST to escape detection. Some have names that are similar, such as SCCHOST, others actually drop a program file called SVCHOST in the Windows folder or a Windows subfolder.

Recommendation :

The first recommendation is a simple one : always have a good antivirus product which is regularly updated (automatically preferably) and always renew your updates subscription when it expires. To detect if you have a virus that calls itself SVCHOST, first see if its full path shows up in The Ultimate Troubleshooter as either C:\WinNT\System32\Svchost.exe or C:\Windows\System32\Svchost.exe – if it does not, then it is almost certain you have a virus. Secondly, if you have Windows 95/98/ME rather than Win2000/XP/2003, then it is also almost certain you have a virus