

Re: sys.ini problems

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.perform_maintain/2006-12/msg00163.htm

- *From:* Bill <Bill@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 7 Dec 2006 09:49:00 -0800
-

Hello again Wes:

I hope this will be the last time we need to communicate on this issue. Yesterday I got a complete update on my AV from Norton. Today I ran a full system scan in safe mode, which scanned a larger number of files than it did previously, which I presume is a result of the AV update and running in safe mode? The scan found 1 bit of adware which the utility rated as "low risk" and it is quarantined; it also warned that removal might disable some programs. I don't know what to make of that.

Another issue: in the "standard" list of services at service.msc, I counted 108 services. Is this number normal? Yesterday when I went into the file as per your instructions, I would guess that nearly half of them were disabled. As I wrote to you yesterday, I enabled all that I thought were necessary to my machine; there were several that would NOT start, and displayed an error message saying the program was not available, or words to that effect. What I'm asking is: should all services in the standard list be started? or are there ones I don't need, and can I tell if I need them, or not?

One more thingj: last night I was working with MS Publisher, which I use a lot, and it ran very slowly and stalled a couple times; not quite to the point of my having to "end task," but almost. I run Publisher on my Iomega F drive. Until last night it was running fine.

Any thoughts you might have on these issues will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

Bill

"Wesley Vogel" wrote:

Bill,

If you didn't disable those services, something did.

Canned spiel....

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UPDATE your antivirus software and run a full system scan.

UPDATE whatever anti-spyware applications that you have and run a full system scan with each one.

You might want to start in Safe Mode to run your antivirus and anti-spyware software.

Running a full system antivirus scan or anti-spyware scan in Safe Mode can be a good idea. Some viruses and other malware like to conceal themselves in areas Windows protects while using them. Safe mode will prevent those applications access and therefore unprotect the viruses or other malware allowing for easier removal.

How to start Windows in Safe Mode Windows XP

<http://www.bleepingcomputer.com/forums/index.php?showtutorial=61#winxo>

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Hope this helps. Let us know.

Wes

MS-MVP Windows Shell/User

In [news:D62D7B3B-F3C9-4BE8-A401-8EB61226ED78@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:D62D7B3B-F3C9-4BE8-A401-8EB61226ED78@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx),

Bill <Bill@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> hunted and pecked:

Hi Wes:

It worked! I opened services.msc and followed your instructions. In addition to the spooler and Themes, there were many other services that had somehow become disabled. I noticed the "expanded" and "standard" tabs at the bottom of that page, clicked "standard" and re-activated all those that were marked "disabled," assuming "standard" meant almost the same thing as "default." So far everything seems to be working normally, and the machine is a bit faster than before, which was my original complaint. The crash also marked my Norton AV subscription as expired, since I know I had two and a half months left, and I had to contact them by phone to get that solved. I will follow your advice and do full system scans in safe mode.

Thanks again for your help.

Cheers,

Bill

"Wesley Vogel" wrote:

Bill,

I would update your AV daily. I use AVG 7 and they have at least 5 or 6

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updates a week. I am sure that Norton Anti-Virus is similar.
Are you
sure that you do not have it set to automatically update?

FYI, the Win.ini and System.ini are not required by XP, they
are both
included for backwards compatibility with old MS-DOS 16
bit programs.

The System.ini file is used to start and store information for
drivers
and services; the Win.ini file plays a similar role for
applications.

Both of these files were used for different settings before
there was
such a thing as a registry.

To check on the Print Spooler and Themes services,
open Services...

Start | Run | Type: services.msc | Click OK |
Scroll down to and double click Print Spooler | On the
General tab, set
the Startup type to Automatic | Click Apply | Click the Start
button |
When the service starts, click OK

Scroll down to and double click Themes | On the General
tab, set the
Startup type to Automatic | Click Apply | Click the Start
button | When
the service starts, click OK

—
Hope this helps. Let us know.

Wes
MS-MVP Windows Shell/User

In
news:13BA04E2-4F02-4464-821D-45BE51A72C3D@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx,
Bill <Bill@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> hunted and
pecked:

"Wesley Vogel" wrote:

You have apparently
disabled *some* services
also, i.e. the Themes
service probably.

Never, ever use msconfig to

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disable services, use
services.msc.

You need to re-enable the
things that you disabled
using msconfig.

Msconfig Stuck in Selective
Startup.

Msconfig.exe is the System
Configuration Utility.

The Normal startup option
reverts to Selective startup if
you select
any of the options selected
under other tabs in
Msconfig.

Open msconfig...
Start | Run | Type: msconfig
| Click OK

Click the System.ini tab.
If the Enable All button is
available (not grayed out)
click on it,
that means that you have
something Disabled.
If you have to click the
Enable All button then click
on the Apply
button also.

Click the Win.ini tab.
If the Enable All button is
available (not grayed out)
click on it,
that means that you have
something Disabled.
If you have to click the
Enable All button then click
on the Apply
button also.

Click the Boot.ini tab.
If /SAFEBOOT is checked,
uncheck it.
If you had to do that then
click on the Apply button

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also.

Click the Services tab.

If the Enable All button is available (not grayed out)

click on it,

that means that you have something Disabled.

If you have to click the Enable All button then click on the Apply button also.

Click the Startup tab.

If the Enable All button is available (not grayed out)

click on it,

that means that you have something Disabled.

If you have to click the Enable All button then click on the Apply button also.

Click on the General tab and select Normal Startup, if it's not already selected.

Click on the Apply button. And reboot.

The System Configuration Utility starts when you start your computer

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/312393>

Now, the first thing to do when your computer slows down...

UPDATE your antivirus software and run a full system scan.

UPDATE whatever anti-spyware applications that you have and run a full system scan with each one.

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antivirus and
anti-spyware software.

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antivirus scan or
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unprotect the viruses
or other malware allowing
for easier removal.

How to start Windows in
Safe Mode Windows XP

<http://www.bleepingcomputer.com/forums/index.php?showtutorial=61#winxp>

Also see...

Why is my computer
running so slow, it used to
be much faster?

<http://www3.telus.net/dandemar/slowcom.htm>

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Hope this helps. Let us
know.

Wes
MS-MVP Windows
Shell/User

In

news:E997CB62-9CE9-4AF0-9B89-758BB8E8BA5D@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx,

Bill

<Bill@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

hunted and pecked:

Hello:
My Dell
I8200 was
starting to
run less
efficiently
than

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normal, so I
tried a
diagnostic
recommended
by a
Website
columnist.
It said to
run
msconfig
and then
disable one
by one the
items on the
sys.ini tab.
This is
where I ran
into trouble.
This was
last night (4
Dec) and
since then
the machine
has been
running in a
different
mode than
normal, e.g.
the task bar
is now
white
instead of
default blue.
The
print
spooler
service is
not active,
and I don't
know how
to
reactivate.
The items
in the
sys.ini list
are all
enabled.
System
restore
doesn't
work past

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the point
where the
initial crash
last
night
occurred.
Can anyone
help me, in
English?
Thanks!
Bill

Hello Wes:

Thanks for your timely response to my problem, however, it didn't work. All the Enable buttons were grayed out, leaving only the Disable buttons available. I DID notice under the Services tab, some of the services listed had "stopped" as a status, while others were "running." I presume that the ones "stopped" are the ones preventing my system from running properly? So, the question is: how do I get them running again. Before I posted to this Discussion Group, I had read somewhere of a "process of elimination" to solve problems like this -- does that sound familiar to you? Is there some way I can take those "stopped" services one by one and re-start them?

For the record: I have Norton Anti-Virus, and run full system scans weekly, and update the virus protection monthly, renewing my subscription annually. What you said about viruses hiding in protected areas sounds right to me, because the full system scans report only about 200+K files examined, when I have almost 16GB of my hard drive filled, which suggests to me that there are viruses hiding somewhere Norton couldn't detect. Correct? Once I get this problem solved, I'll run the scans in Safe Mode, as per your suggestion. Meanwhile, back to

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the main problem. Any other ideas?

Many thanks, so far.

Bill