

Re: XP computer is slow

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.perform_maintain/2008-07/msg00005.htm

- *From:* "Daave" <dcwashNOSPAM@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 2 Jul 2008 09:05:53 -0400
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(Re-send in case previous post was difficult to read. Comments inline.)

sweetp5555@xxxxxxxxxx wrote:

I repair computers for my friends. I receive a lot of computers that my friends say are ?slow?. It used to be that a cleanup of Spyware and startup programs would speed things up. But more often lately this does not work. I have had 3 computers in the last month that are slow, that is when you press the start button it takes a long time to draw the start options and switching between windows is slow, you can literally watch the windows being redrawn.

After re-installing XP on 2 of the computers, things worked fine and they were MUCH speedier. This slowness has nothing to do with networking, local programs are slow. I am working on a 3rd computer now with same issue,

I have checked all of the following and have nothing else left to check and I am almost ready to re-install XP again:

- Ad-aware is up to date and runs clean
- Spybot S&D is up to date and runs clean
- Norton AV is up to date and runs clean
- 80 gig HD, 40 gig free
- HD is not fragmented
- Removed all not needed programs out of startup via msconfig
- No errors in error logs
- Scan disk runs clean
- Indexing is off and set to manual
- 256 meg RAM
- (one of the other PCs with same issue only had 256 and after XP re-install it was fine)
- XP sp2 installed and up to date on all XP updates
- Only one FW enabled, that is Sygate personal FW
- Pentium 4 CPU
- taskmanger shows CPU is not over worked, 70-90% idle

I am getting tired of re-installing XP to fix this issue, any ideas, please HELP!!!

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I am suspecting that in these cases maybe the registry has grown too big over the years.

That's not happening.

But I do not trust registry cleaners, I've had bad luck with them in the past.

There are different types of registry cleaners. The bad ones are actually a type of malware. The better ones often cause more harm than good. So, it's good you don't trust them.

It's possible a read error caused the hard drive access to change from Ultra DMA to PIO mode, reset it:

<http://technize.com/2007/08/02/is-your-hard-disk-cddvd-drives-too-slow-while-copying/>

Otherwise, I would imagine the sluggishness is a combination of the resource hog Norton and the low amount of RAM installed (256 MB).

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