

PC cards stopped working after uninstal of hotfixes

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http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.setup_deployment/2005-01/0805.html

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Date: 01/15/05

Date: Sat, 15 Jan 2005 10:22:28 -0500

I have a Satellite 3005-S307 and suffered a crash which involved my needing to rebuild my desktop: Explorer.exe wouldn't start. All I got to was a blank wallpaper.

I had started getting some error message or other and googled it and found that it was related to some hotfix which I was told I should delete.

Unfortunately I couldn't figure out which one it was so I thought I would delete all in turn and then either install SP2 or update with one cumulative patch from the MS site.

I had about twelve of them and was uninstalling all in turn with restarts when necessary. It TOLD me it was uninstalling and restoring from a backup of a previously backed up version.

At about the eighth hotfix, I got this problem. When I restarted, I started getting a plethora of successive error messages telling me that Windows couldn't access some starting point within shlwapi.dll which I figured was corrupted and wouldn't start explorer. So I scouted around on a similar machine for this file and found about four versions. I then tried copying all of them in turn to the windows\system32 directory and all but one gave the same error message that it couldn't start some service within this dynamic link library.

Eventually I discovered that I could CAD from the blank XP wallpaper where loading windows stopped to Task Manager and then start explorer from the explorer.exe in a directory called dllcache. I then rebuilt my system from there and even ran SFC /SCANNOW as well as (obviously) immediately going back to the MS site and reinstalling all the hotfixes in one package

If explorer.exe is running from dllcache and my sfc /scannow ran from dllcache, then its results won't have told me anything. And the problem might well be that explorer IS actually now running from dllcache which is where I probably rebuilt it from even now after reboot if the OS saved system settings on exit? I distinctly remember the computer not wanting to

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run explorer (or sfc) from RUN in task manager when I tried to do so from the windows directory

How can I see where it is running explorer from? This might be a starting point.

Everything now seems to work properly except that I am getting some unidentifiable error messages on boot into windows including something involving not being able to run some Java Virtual Machine and an error message telling me that boot couldn't find hkdrv.sys which no one seems to be able to identify but which IS in my system32 directory as well as in a backup directory (with the same file size and date) so it is UNLIKELY to be corrupted. Again, I may have my whole desktop running from dllcache while the registry is looking for drivers in some other directory off Windows so peripherals (including presumably some I haven't discovered yet) wont work.

MY PRESENT PROBLEM is that for some reason OS has stopped sending power to its PC card slots: Neither of my 802.11b cards work and neither are detected by XP Pro when inserted. Again, is there any way I can find out whether the OS might well be running from the DLLCACHE directory rather than from the windows directory? Anyone got any ideas on how to get the slots working properly? Computer came with a recovery disc (which has been in any event lost as has been a few of the software discs over the years) so re-installing from scratch isn't an option