

Re: help on outlook express won't start

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.inetexplorer.ie6_outlookexpress/2004-05/2

From: ray bowler (*anonymous_at_discussions.microsoft.com*)

Date: 05/12/04

Date: Tue, 11 May 2004 23:09:37 -0700

The problem is now fixed thanks to your reply. It appears the anti virus software was conflicting with OE

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

>Chances are folders.dbx is corrupted. Try deleting that file and then see if OE works then. After that do a File | Folder | Compact all and points 2 and 3 below. See point 8 for more details.

>

>steve

>

>"ray bowler" <anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message news:b1e501c43712\$e2fc96c0\$a301280a@phx.gbl...

>> When I try atrting outlook express it gets to a white page

>> and then stops responding. The problem started after I had

>> deleted a number of old emails suggesting a misaligned

>> register. I have tried a reinstall over the top but the

>> problem remains. I am running windows 98se and ie6. Any

>> solutions?

>

>

>

>1. Don't open attachments.

>

>Most computer infections are the result of the user opening email attachments. The attachment usually contains a virus or worm or trojan that infects the system when it is opened.

>

>Because of this tendency of attachments to infect, Microsoft has now set OE to block all attachments. See

>these articles for explanations:

>

>Cannot Open E-Mail Attachments in Outlook Express After You Install SP1

><http://support.microsoft.com/?kbid=329570>

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>

>*OLEXP Using Virus Protection Features in Outlook Express*
6 (Q291387)

><http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q291/3/87.ASP>

>

>*Note that Microsoft does not send security patches in email. See this article:*

>http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/news/patch_hoax.asp

>

>*If you choose to adjust OE to allow attachments, make sure you save the attachment to disk first and then scan it with your antivirus software.*

>

>*The most significant thing you can do to prevent such infections, is to educate yourself on what attachments may constitute a threat to your system, and never open any such attachments, no matter who they are from.*

>

>

>

>*2. Turn off Background Compaction.*

>

>*When a message is deleted, moved or marked as read in an OE message file (dbx), then wasted space is generated in that file, and the folder must be compacted to remove that wasted space.*

>

>*By default, OE turns on a feature under Tools | Options | Maintenance called "background compaction", which turns itself on if the folders in your message store get too much wasted space. This feature uses 100% CPU time and slows down your system, while it is active. In addition, if the process is somewhat interrupted, then the entire message store can become corrupt.*

>

>*To prevent such corruption, turn off background compaction under Tools | Options | Maintenance for each Identity you have, and then compact manually and frequently using File | Folder | Compact all. This will make OE more stable.*

>

>

>*3. Turn off email scanning in your antivirus software.*

>

>

>*Antivirus software invades the Outlook Express program to try and intercept (incoming and, in some cases, outgoing) messages that might contain virus.*

>

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>*The problem with this approach is that the antivirus software can trigger the destruction of an entire message folder or the entire message store, when it attempts to remove a message containing a potential virus.*

>

>*To prevent the possibility of such destruction occurring, turn off email scanning in your antivirus software. You will still be protected against infection. If you attempt to open a message attachment containing a potential virus, then your antivirus software will recognize that you are attempting to infect your system, and will block you from doing so. The best practice on the user's part is to save an attachment to disk and then scan it with the antivirus software prior to opening it. Messages opened themselves (if you have the latest security updates from Windows Update) will not infect your system — only attachments.*

>

>*You do not need additional email scanning on top of your system being continuously scanned by antivirus software, so turn off email scanning to prevent destruction of your message store.*

>

>>*From a post by Frank Saunders:*

>

>>*From*

>[http://service1.symantec.com/SUPPORT/nav.nsf/df0a595864594c86852567ac0063608c/65434372961d321d8825687f000003f8?](http://service1.symantec.com/SUPPORT/nav.nsf/df0a595864594c86852567ac0063608c/65434372961d321d8825687f000003f8?OpenDocument&src=tr&Highlight=0,email,protection)

OpenDocument&src=tr&Highlight=0,email,protection

>

>*Disabling email protection does not leave you vulnerable to viruses and*

>*malicious software in email. It is a separate layer of protection in*

>*addition to Auto-Protect. Auto-Protect scans any incoming files, including*

>*email, as they are saved to your hard drive. As long as you keep your virus*

>*definitions up to date with LiveUpdate, and keep Auto-Protect enabled and*

>*set to scan files as they are created or downloaded, your system is fully*

>*protected.*

>

>

>*4. Recovering lost messages.*

>

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>*The most significant contributors to lost messages are described in points 2 and 3 above. Turn these options off to prevent message store corruption.*

>

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>If you do lose your messages, you can try using my
DBXtract program to
>attempt to recover the lost messages. Note that dbx
files are hidden in
>Windows 2000 and Windows XP.
><http://www.oehelp.com/DBXtract/>
>
>Alternatively one can also use DBXpress, which is faster
and more accurate than DBXtract,
> and it also has the capability of reading directly from
the disk and bypassing the file system.
><http://www.oehelp.com/DBXpress/>
>
>If you have upgraded your version of IE and OE or your OS
version, and all
>your messages are lost, then see this article (note that
the technique in
>the article does not only apply to the issue addressed in
the article
>title):
>
>*OLEXP: Mail Folders, Address Book, and E-mail Messages
Are Missing After You*
>*Upgrade to Microsoft Windows XP*
><http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;313055>
>
>If File | Import | Messages does not work, ignore the
error message, which
>is erroneous in itself, and try one of the following
techniques to get your
>messages back:
>a. Right click on each dbx file or a selection of them
and go to Properties
>and clear the read only attribute of the files. Then try
File | Import |
>Messages again.
>b. Import the dbx files individually. See the last
paragraph on this page
>for how to do that:
><http://www.oehelp.com/backup.aspx>
>c. As a last resort use DBXtract or DBXpress
><http://www.oehelp.com/DBXtract/> or
<http://www.oehelp.com/DBXpress/>
>
>See also:
<http://insideoe.tomsterdam.com/problems/bugs.htm#mailgone>
>
>
>5. How does one reinstall IE and OE?
>

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>This article seems to work for other OSs than just XP:

>

>How to Reinstall or Repair Internet Explorer and Outlook Express

><http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=KB:EN-US;Q318378>

>

>See point 11 below first.

>

>

>6. How does one backup and restore or transfer OE messages and settings:

>

>See: <http://insideoe.tomsterdam.com/backup/index.htm>

> <http://www.oehelp.com/backup.aspx>

>

>Note that there is also a link in this article to MVP David Guess's free

>OEBBackup programs (www.oehelp.com/OEBBackup/)

>

>

>

>7. Links in email don't work:

>

>see the links on this page

>

><http://www.oehelp.com/>

>

>

>8. Outlook Express is slow.

>

>See the various performance issues and how to address them on this page:

>

><http://insideoe.tomsterdam.com/problems/performance.htm>

>

>

>9. Outlook Express won't start.

>

>This is usually due to a conflict between what is recorded in the registry

>and what is in the message store. Often, one can fix this problem by

>deleting folders.dbx. If that doesn't work, then try moving all the dbx

>files to another directory and see if that fixes it.

Alternatively, see

>these articles and also point 4 above:

>

>http://insideoe.tomsterdam.com/problems/performance.htm#no_start

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>

>[http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q245/4/19](http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q245/4/19.asp)
.asp

>

>

>10. Address book information:

>

>see *The Windows Address Book*

>

><http://insideoe.tomsterdam.com/files/wab.htm>

>

>

>11. Installation issues:

>

>Most of the problems with a faulty installation are due to other programs

>running during the install and interfering with the updating of necessary

>files. Antivirus software is notorious for this. To minimize such

>interference, in Win98, WinMe, and WinXP go to Start / Run and type msconfig

>and disable all startup items and non Microsoft services. Then reboot.

>Then proceed with the installation. Startup items can then be re-enabled.

>

>For additional info see:

>

>Win98: <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;281965&Product=w98>

>WinXP: <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;310560&Product=winxp>

>

>Since Win2000 does not have msconfig, one has to manually go to this

>registry key:

>

>HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run

>

>You can export this key and then delete all values under it. Then disable

>all antivirus services under Computer Management / Services and then reboot.

>Then install. After the installation you can import the key back into the

>registry to restore the values and re-enable the services.

>

>

>12. Screening unwanted email and Spam

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- >
- >*Everybody gets unwanted email these days. Much of this email is either*
- >*trying to sell you something you probably don't want or else is trying to*
- >*infect you with a virus via an email attachment. What can you do?*
- >
- >*a. Never open an attachment. First save an attachment to disk and then*
- >*scan it with your antivirus software to ensure it is not infected (make sure*
- >*your antivirus software definitions are up to date). If the attachment is*
- >*from someone you don't know, don't even bother opening it. Its not worth*
- >*it. See also point 1 above.*
- >
- >*b. Screen email. Disable the Preview Pane (you can put a button on the*
- >*toolbar to turn this on and off). Then go to View | Columns and enable most*
- >*of the headers. That way you can scan the headers and pick out the various*
- >*obvious unwanted mail. Once you find messages that you don't want to open,*
- >*select the headers of those messages without opening the messages and*
- >*perform a Shift-Delete to permanently remove them from the folder. Once*
- >*they are removed, they will no longer be accessible, so don't do this on*
- >*messages you might wish to keep.*
- >
- >*c. On messages left that might be worth opening, go to Tools | Options |*
- >*Read and check the box that says "read all messages in plain text"*
- >*(available only with IE6 SP1 or WinXP SP1 and higher). Reading in plain*
- >*text prevents any returns to the spammer's server, so your email address*
- >*cannot be validated in that fashion. In addition, it prevents malformed or*
- >*malicious HTML code from executing. If you find the message is worth*
- >*viewing as HTML, then you can go back to Tools | Options | Read and uncheck*
- >*the option to read in plain text only and then reopen the message to view it*
- >*as HTML (note that you can put this button on a toolbar*

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with OETool

>(www.oehelp.com/OETool/). You can also use OETool to view the message details without having to open the message. You can also use the "Compact Current Folder" button after deleting to shrink the file size.

>

>d. If you get unwanted email repeatedly from the same source, you can set

>up message rules to block out some of these messages.

See the help file in

>OE and also

>

><http://insideoe.tomsterdam.com/tips/rules.htm>

>

>and

>

>http://www.mindspring.com/~oe_oh/message_rules.htm.

>

>

>e. If you find a message that is spam and that offends you or is deceptive,

>go to Message | Forward as attachment and send it to uce@ftc.gov .

>

>The US Federal Trade Commission is launching a major crackdown on deceptive

>and offensive spam. Visit their site at www.ftc.gov/spam for more info.

>

>

>13. Messages appear blank

>

>>From a post by Frank Saunders:

>

>Several possible causes and therefor several possible fixes:

>1. Go to Start | Run and type

>regsvr32 inetcomm.dll

>and press <Enter>

>2. Go to Tools | Options | Read | Fonts and set Western (ISO) as the

>default.

>3. Clear Temporary Internet Files and the Temp folder.

>4. Turn off email scanning in your anti-virus.

>5. Someone else reported that re-installing OE using method 2 in this

>article fixed the problem:

>How to Reinstall or Repair Internet Explorer and Outlook Express in Windows

>XP

><http://support.microsoft.com/?kbid=318378>

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- >Method 2 works on earlier versions of Windows.
- >6. Eliminate any scumware.
- >See
- >Dealing with Unwanted Spyware, Parasites, Toolbars and Search Engines
- ><http://mvps.org/winhelp2002/unwanted.htm>
- >especially
- ><http://mvps.org/winhelp2002/unwanted.htm#Coolwebsearch>
- >
- >Note that AdAware and SpyBot S & D will each catch some things the other
- >won't. Also, each needs to be updated before every use, even when just
- >downloaded. There's also a lot more to do than just those two programs.
- >CWShredder is also available here:
- >http://www.kellys-korner-xp.com/regs_edits/cwshredder.zip
- >**Post your HijackThis log to
- ><http://forums.spywareinfo.com/> or the Spyware forum at
- ><http://forum.aumha.org/> for expert analysis, not here.**
- >Alternative download pages for Ad-Aware, Spybot, HijackThis and CWShredder
- >may be found on this page:
- ><http://aumha.org/a/parasite.htm>.
- >If trying everything at that site does not fix the problem please post back
- >in the same thread.
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >I've left off some issues, but I believe these address the most
- >common problems that users encounter with OE. In addition, please check the
- >websites of the individual OE MVP's that address other issues not listed
- >here:
- >
- >
- >Tom Koch:
- ><http://insideoe.tomsterdam.com/>
- >
- >David Guess
- >http://www.mindspring.com/~oe_oh/
- >
- >Jim Pickering
- ><http://home.comcast.net/~jimpickering/>
- >
- >Frank Saunders
- ><http://www.fismjs.com/OE/index.htm>

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>

>and my site at <http://www.oehelp.com>

>

>

>If you don't find your problem addressed, then feel free to post a question

>in these newsgroups and we will be more than happy to respond and attempt to

>help. Just go to Tools / Accounts / Add / News and add msnews.microsoft.com as a newserver and then you can address your question to the appropriate newsgroup.

>

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