



I was referring to the svchost.exe errors...

the-power-button reboot is really all that can be done. If one just leaves that error box up, though, the system can still be used.

If one sees the automatic updates yellow taskbar icon and installs the pending updates, on most systems they will install, but on a few the first update just hangs and again all you can do is a hard reboot. Here's the kicker, doesn't matter which patch is the first patch AU will install, at least I've ruled out three of the seven pending updates so far.

Also, not every system that gets the initial svchost error will hang or error on installing the pending AU updates. Some do hang on installing whatever the first pending update is and a hard reboot is all that can be done at that point. Some were left as long as 5 hours with no change, so I think we can assume that is an infinite loop condition. Now, on some where the initial svchost error box was closed, sometimes the system is responsive enough to still try to install the pending AU updates, but then the first patch throws another svchost error and things are again locked up and waiting for a hard reboot.

Note that these are systems which were fully patched before the August patches and now before the September patches. These systems already had the ancient KB894391 patch installed and I even tried to install it again, anyway, even though clearly that shouldn't be applicable nearly a year later. Oddly, although a reboot after installing it on a system that already had it didn't throw the svchost error upon boot, when I went to install the pending AU patches, the first one then caused the svchost error and... hard reboot time.

Now, what \*appears\* to have helped me dig my way out of this, although I can't see how this really was any actual solution, but someone had mentioned on one of the posts that they were having the same svchost errors starting last month also connecting to a WSUS SP1 server and by not approving Office-related patches it cleared things up. Well, that also \*appears\* to have helped me as well, once I no longer approved the Publisher 2003 patch nor the Outlook Junk Mail update. Note that some of these problem systems do have Publisher 2003, others do not, although just having Office 2003 installed at all will make the Publisher 2003 available in AU.

Helped in that the initial svchost error no longer is coming up, based on a few more systems I visited after making that change. However, these systems had \*already\* downloaded those Office updates anyway and had them pending to install. So, as was the case before, some systems they install and on others the first update – whichever update happens to be first on the list –throws the svchost error.

Again, no repeatable logic I have been able to find, I just go to each system and it behaves differently. The only solution is to install the updates manually either from the individual downloads or to go to Microsoft Updates through IE. That of course defeats the entire purpose of Automatic Updates, WSUS or no WSUS. I'm going to take some of the

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systems and no longer point them to the WSUS SP1 server and we'll see if next month when patch day comes whether they are saved from these issues. Given that the same svchost error above has happened after two different patch days, it stands to reason this will happen again on some systems next month too.

(Disclaimer: Yes, I typed this really fast and didn't proof-read it, I would if I didn't have all of these systems to patch manually because AU is useless on them.)

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