

Re: Service Pack 3 Update

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windowsupdate/2008-05/msg02393.html>

- *From:* "Shenan Stanley" <newshelper@xxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 18 May 2008 10:46:51 -0500
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Chris B wrote:

<snip>

Perhaps MS MVPs can enlighten us about the mysterious way Microsoft updates work and why some of us have problems despite following all their advice. I, for one, would be keen to learn.

<snip>

In truth – no idea. In the end the most likely explanation hovers around the one fact I give so often...

There are millions upon millions of combinations of software/hardware out there. There is no possible way Microsoft (or anyone) can test a patch of any sort on all of those different combinations. So there is no way of knowing exactly whom might have issues and who will not. It could come down to even versions of some software or driver release even. Examples: Norton AV 2006 might give cause trouble with some particular patch because of something in its engine, while Norton AV 2008's engine is not the same and thus does not cause that issue. Someone else might have Spybot Search and Destroy 1.3 installed and not use TeaTimer while another person has Spybot Search and Destroy 1.4 installed and does use TeaTimer. Or maybe someone installed IE7, someone else did not. Someone installed a particular released patch – critical or no – and someone else did not. The combinations/differences are numerous and impossible to predict/test for.

As for things not working when following an MVPs advice – *shrug* – we are you. The only difference is we *might* know more about a particular subject and we have decided to share that knowledge here. There are many people here that are not MVPs that do the same thing – so taking advice from an MVP vs anyone else should not really be the factor. Everyone posting here (except a select few spams, possibly) is human and they can make mistakes and it is unlikely they know everything (especially everything about your particular setup/situation.)

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Shenan Stanley
MS-MVP
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How To Ask Questions The Smart Way

<http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html>