

# Re: Windows XP SP3 – Is it safe to do the upgrade now ???

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windowsupdate/2009-02/msg01644.html>

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- *From:* "Bubey" <catlov@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Tue, 24 Feb 2009 19:08:50 -0500
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Thanks for the info Shenan....Bubey

"Shenan Stanley" <newshelper@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:e4vDHRkIJHA.4420@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:e4vDHRkIJHA.4420@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Bubey wrote:

I have read quite a few article that SP3 had problems and to wait to upgrade.  
I've waited for quite awhile now so was wondering if they've worked all the bugs out.....Thanks in advance for the help.

Nothing has or will change with Windows XP SP3. The majority of the issues you read about will be because the computer in question \*had\* a problem to begin with and had that problem been properly dealt with (or never caused) then SP3 would not have exposed the issue (because it wouldn't have existed to expose.)

I've installed Windows XP SP3 onto thousands upon thousands of machines by now – I may have ran into issues on a dozen or so machines – and for the majority of those, my bad.

Short:

With proper preparation – you are unlikely to have problems – and if you have been performing proper maintenance all along – even if you do – you are only out a short period of time (restoring from the backup/drive image you made wisely before diving in...)

A place to get FREE support for SP3 installation issues \*from Microsoft\*...  
<http://support.microsoft.com/oas/default.aspx?ln=en-us&prid=11273&gprid=522131>

WinXP SP3 – Read all prerequisites for a successful installation  
<http://msmvps.com/blogs/harrywaldron/archive/2008/05/08/windows-xp-sp3-read-all-prerequisites-for-a-successful>

Steps to take before you install Windows XP Service Pack 3  
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/950717>

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### Suggestions:

- 1) Download the full SP3 installation file and/or burn the ISO download to CD.
- 2) Ensure (as well as plausible) you have no spyware/malware by doing a full scan with SuperAntiSpyware and MalwareBytes.
- 3) CHKDSK
- 4) Defragment
- 5) Ensure your hardware drivers are up to date (from the hardware manufacturer's respective web pages.)
- 6) Reboot right before you try to install SP3.
- 7) Disconnect from the internet before installing (physically.)
- 8) Disable your antivirus and antispymware applications when you are about to install SP3.

Some (if not all) of that is covered in the above links.

### Long:

Like it or not – Windows XP SP3 is something that you probably should install if...

- You are currently running Windows XP (32bit).
- You care about keeping your machine current and running its best.
- You wish to continue running Windows XP for some indeterminate time into the future.
- You want to free support if you have any trouble installing it (SP3 that is.)

Service Pack 3 is mostly all of the updates released after SP2 and until the release of SP3. You may think to yourself that you have been keeping your PC updated – so you probably have all those updates – fact is, you'd be incorrect. You may have all the publically released ones, but SP3 contains 1179 previously released updates – guaranteed you do not have them all installed without it. ;-)

Most of the issues people have had with SP3 have to do with their particular configuration or a problem caused by a third party change/mis-configuration on their system – and almost all have a relatively simple fix.

Before starting, know where you can get help:

A place to get FREE support for SP3 installation issues \*from Microsoft\* until April 2009...

<http://support.microsoft.com/oas/default.aspx?ln=en-us&prid=11273&gprid=522131>

Other than "Automatic Updates" or the Windows Update web page – how can you get SP3?

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Windows XP Service Pack 3 – ISO–9660 CD Image File

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=2fcde6ce-b5fb-4488-8c50-fe22559d164e&DisplayLa>

Windows XP Service Pack 3 Network Installation Package for  
IT Professionals and Developers (works just as well for you.)

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=5B33B5A8-5E76-401F-BE08-1E1555D4F3D4&displa>

Do a little reading – to ensure you are ready...

WinXP SP3 – Read all prerequisites for a successful installation

<http://msmvps.com/blogs/harrywaldron/archive/2008/05/08/windows-xp-sp3-read-all-prerequisites-for-a-successful>

Steps to take before you install Windows XP Service Pack 3

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/950717>

Release Notes for Windows XP Service Pack 3

<http://download.microsoft.com/download/c/d/8/cd8cc719-7d5a-40d3-a802-e4057aa8c631/relnotes.htm>

Key things to note:

Internet Explorer:

"If you have installed Windows Internet Explorer® 7 or a beta version of Internet Explorer 8, and then install Windows XP SP3, you cannot uninstall Internet Explorer. To avoid this, ensure Internet Explorer 7 or a beta version of Internet Explorer 8 is not installed before installing Windows XP SP3. If you have already encountered this issue, uninstall Windows XP SP3, uninstall Internet Explorer, and then reinstall Windows XP SP3."

Windows XP Media Center Edition 2002:

"If you install Windows XP SP3 on a computer running Windows XP Media Center Edition 2002 with SP1, Windows XP Media Center Edition may malfunction. To avoid this, install Windows XP SP2 before you install Windows XP SP3. If this issue has already occurred, uninstall Windows XP SP3, install Windows XP SP2, and then reinstall Windows XP SP3."

Did all that and have some issues you believe might be related to SP3?

Check these out:

It seems some people are unable to get further updates after installing SP3... Seems some have experienced a symptom similar to doing a repair installation on Windows XP – and the same fix seems to work for them for that...

Updates are not installed successfully from Windows Update, from Microsoft Update, or by using Automatic Updates after you repair a Windows XP installation: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/943144>

Some people experience an "endless reboot" issue...

Workarounds:

<http://msinfluentials.com/blogs/jesper/archive/2008/05/08/does-your-amd-based-computer-boot-after-installing-xp>

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[NB: The above has been updated many times and now includes "a small tool that will detect the IntelPPM problem and mitigate it before installing [WinXP SP3]."

1. Boot into Safe Mode and rename INTELPMMSYS to INTELPMMSYS.OLD.
2. After booting into Safe Mode:  
Start --> Run --> (copy/paste)  
sc config intelppm start= disabled  
--> OK --> Reboot into normal (Windows) mode.

Other references include:

1. <http://aumha.net/viewtopic.php?p=187790#p187790>
2. <http://msinfluentials.com/blogs/jesper/archive/2008/05/08/does-your-amd-based-computer-boot-after-installing->
3. [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/05/09/windows\\_xp\\_sp3\\_reboots\\_crashes/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/05/09/windows_xp_sp3_reboots_crashes/)
4. <http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9084418>
5. You receive a "Stop 0x0000007E" error message after you upgrade to Windows XP Service Pack 2 or Service Pack 3 on a non-Intel-processor-based computer (Revised 06 May-08):  
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/888372>

Some people have gotten an "Access Denied" message when trying to install SP3... I suggest going straight to the third method of this article:  
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/949377>

Beyond that – some simple maintenance might be needed – like installing the latest hardware drivers from your hardware vendors...

Good luck to you! You shouldn't need it, however, with just a little planning. ;-)

Come back – let us know what you decide to do and how your decision goes for you...

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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>

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