

Computer Slowdown Analysis

Check first to see if the anti-virus program is running it's scan. These will cause a slowdown. Set the time for these scans when you are not using the computer.

Cleanup your computer:

Doubleclick on MY COMPUTER and rightclick the C: drive and select Properties. Run Disk Cleanup. Then click Tools and run the error checking and next Defrag.

Now that your computer is clean, if it still seems slow, it could be a particular program that is in startup causing the slow down. Try this:

1. Click START.....RUN and type in msconfig and then click OK.
2. Click the LOAD THESE STARTUP ITEMS to remove the green dot. Click Apply and OK and restart your computer.
The computer will start up now without starting any of the programs that are usually started every time you start your computer.
3. Run your computer as you usually do and see if it seems to run faster....do not go online at this time as you're not using an anti-virus program and would not be protected from viruses or spyware. IF you find it's running better, you've got to determine which STARTUP program is causing the slow down. This is usually a problem with not having enough RAM to support the resources demanded by some programs.
4. Go back to msconfig as in step 1 above. Place the dot back in LOAD THESE STARTUP ITEMS.
5. Click the STARTUP tab. You will notice that all boxes are checked. The only programs that MUST have a check in their boxes is the anti-virus program and one anti-spyware program so your are protected.

To isolate the problem program:

Note: Click START...RUN and type in msconfig. First uncheck the box LOAD THESE ITEMS AT STARTUP. Click Apply and Ok and restart your computer. If the slowdown is gone, it's a pretty good clue that the slowdown program is one of those that starts up each time you start your computer.

So, go back to msconfig as shown above, this time put the check back into LOAD THESE ITEMS AT STARTUP and then Click the Startup tab. Proceed as instructed below.

- a. uncheck half the boxes in Startup. Click Apply OK and restart the computer. IF the computer begins to show the same slowdown as before, you KNOW that the program causing the problem is one of those with the check in the box.
- b. IF the slowdown occurs, uncheck half of those boxes still checked. Click Apply..Ok and restart the computer. IF the computer speeds up, you will KNOW that the problem program is one of those programs you unchecked.
- c. Now you'll have to check each box of that last group of boxes, click apply and ok and restart the computer, until you locate the program box that when checked slows down the computer and when unchecked the computer speeds up.

Once you've isolated the program...and it's often the anti-virus program, you may elect to uninstall that program and reinstall it. IF that doesn't solve the problem, you may choose to uninstall that program and install a different one. OR if it's not the anti-virus program, you may elect to not have that problem program in your STARTUP. And click it's icon to start it only when you need it.

Note 1: IF you have recently added a RAM "hog" program and it's in your startup tray, it's possible it is draining off much needed resources causing a slowdown.

Note 2: If you only notice the slowdown when doing email, clean up your email folders. A huge pile of old email can cause a slowdown in the program. IF using AOL, after cleaning out all the old mail, sign offline, then click Mail on the top menu bar, select Mail Settings and click the Manage Mail button. Click Compact to compact the PFC to make the space left in the PFC by deleting old mail available again.

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