

Computer Slow Down

IF your computer has slowed down....do a really good monthly maintenance and see if it picks up speed. Usually a slow down is due to one of two things,

1. Too many files that need to be deleted such as temporary internet files, temp files, history files, old email files,etc...even old System Restore Points.
2. A program that's been installed that is a resource (RAM) guzzler.

Doubleclick My Computer and rightclick the C: drive.

1. Click Disk Cleanup to take care of #1 above
2. Then click Tools and click Error checking. You'll need to restart your computer to do this and it will take quite a bit of time if you have a large hard drive...so let it run while you're doing something else.

Click Error checking and restart your computer to allow it to do the program.

2. Next do defrag.
3. If no difference in speed after doing the above, check for that "program".
 - a. Click Start...Run and type in msconfig then click OK
 - b. Click the LOAD THESE ITEMS AT STARTUP to remove the check.
 - c. Click Apply and Ok and restart your computer....if it is speedier now, you can be pretty sure the problem is a particular program that is starting each time you start your computer. Problem is, it isn't quick and easy to isolate the problem. So, do this when you have several hours to spare. (if you can't do it now, go back to msconfig and put the check back into Load these Items.....) click Apply and Ok and restart as you MUST have your anti-virus program and firewall and spyware programs running if you plan to get online at all.

4. Isolate problem program:

- a. Click Start...Run and type in msconfig then click OK
- b. Place a check in SELECTIVE rather than Normal
- c. Click the Startup tab.
- d. Uncheck half the boxes. Make a note the last box unchecked so you'll know where to start next. Click Apply and Ok and restart your computer. Is it speedier? IF yes, then you know the program is one of those you unchecked. Go back and check back half of those unchecked and see if it's still speedier. IF yes, you know it's one of those boxes still unchecked.
- e. You must continue unchecking and checking boxes until you find the particular program box that causes the slow-down. Once that is determined, you must decide if you can do without that program being in STARTUP or even if you can uninstall that program entirely.

Items that Must be in Startup:

Anti-virus program

Anti-spyware program

Firewall, if using a firewall

Any other program that if it is not in startup causes problems in running your computer. You will know this when you restart and begin using the computer if you get an error message relating to a particular program that it is looking for that has been unchecked in Startup.

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Another possible way to find the slowdown culprit

Assuming you're running Windows XP:

1. Rightclick the taskbar at the bottom of your screen, and select Task Manager
2. The task manager has 5 tabs: Application, Processes, Performance, Networking and Users. Click the Processes tab. It has 4 columns. Image Name, User Name, CPU and Mem Usage. Each column can be sorted ascending or descending by clicking the column title.
3. Open the task manager, select Processes and the CPU column until you experience one of these slowdowns. Sort by the CPU column and note which image name which is using most of the CPU processing.
4. Click that image name and select END PROCESS.
5. Now, go to www.google.com and enter the image name of the process to learn which program it is associated with.
6. Remove this program from your STARTUP to prevent it from starting every time you start your computer.

NOTE: if it is your anti-virus or firewall, you may consider changing the settings, but you do not want to remove these two programs from STARTUP. Might be better to consider using a program that is less hoggish in it's demands on your processor.

Note: System Idle Process is not a bad process, don't try and remove this process.

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