

SIMPLE FIXES FOR YOUR SICK PC

(Simple...Easy...No-Brainer Steps)

BY

MAX PINNER

Version 3.4

SAMPLE CHAPTER

MY PC KEEPS RESTARTING

MY PC KEEPS RESTARTING

We call this Spontaneous Rebooting (SR). It can happen before or after Windows has loaded. Decide if it restarts *before* or *after* Windows loads.

Restarts Before Windows Loads The Desktop

A prime suspect in this case is a faulty Power Supply Unit, the transformer that sits in the rear of your PC.

It's probably not delivering enough voltage for your PC to pass its internal Power Good test.

Talk to your technician. Trying a new PSU will decide the matter.

They're relatively cheap and take only 15-20 minutes to install.

Restarts After Windows Loads The Desktop

Whenever there's a system failure Windows has a special setting enabled that tells it to shut down and restart.

We need to change the setting:

- RIGHT Click My Computer – click Properties – Advanced – Startup/Recovery Settings
- Now, on the new screen about half-way down remove the tick next to Automatically Restart
- Click OK

Now shut the PC down and try again. When it starts up expect to see Stop Errors on a blue screen. (See page 43 or thereabouts.)

Viruses

Scan your PC for viruses if the problem continues. Certain ones cause SR.

Device Conflict

SR can also be caused by one device fighting with another, or fighting with your PC. If SR started happening after you installed a new hardware device then a conflict is highly likely.

Try uninstalling the device driver, rebooting, and then reinstalling the driver from the CD.

If SR continues:

Go to the device maker's website and download the latest driver for it. Install it. Often bugs are fixed in a later update of the driver.

Overheating

A PC overheating can cause SR. Internal dust is an on-going problem because the PSU has a fan to suck in air for cooling. Trouble is, dust comes in as well.

All PCs need periodic internal cleaning. If you can't read the writing on internal bits then clean inside your PC is long overdue.

- Perhaps have a technician do this as part of on-going maintenance.
- And also, perhaps download and run the free SpeedFan.

Get it from: www.almico.com/sfdownload.php

The author writes:

“It can help you a lot to find the reasons for an unpredictable reboot or for a failing hard disk. It can tell you whether you are likely to experience temperature related issues...”

WARNING: Read the author's disclaimer at the bottom of his home page before you run this program.

Kernel32.dll Problem

If your PC is still not working:

Then it's also possible the vitally important Kernel32.dll file is missing or damaged.

Simple Fix:

So, now that you have the overall picture of this problem, here's what we'll try to do:

- we're going to rename the damaged Kernel32
- Then we're going to visit the XP CD to find a healthy copy of the file (It will be stored in a compressed form)
- We will expand it and then copy it back onto our hard drive to the correct location

Then if the computer gods are smiling our PC will load Windows without aggravation...Perhaps...

OK. Let's give it a go. (*Exitus acta probat.*)

We must use the Windows Recovery Console to extract a new copy of the Kernel32.dll file from the original Windows XP CD.

To do this, follow these numbered steps:

1 Start the Recovery Console.

If you do not have the Recovery Console installed, start it from the Windows XP CD. To do this, follow these steps:

- Insert the Windows XP CD and restart the computer. If prompted, select any options required to boot from the CD.
- When the text-based part of Setup begins, follow the prompts; choose the repair or recover option by pressing: R.
- If you have a dual-boot or multiple-boot system, choose the installation that you need to access from the recovery console.

When prompted, type the Administrator password. (If you've lost this, or can't remember it, you'll be locked out of your own computer. Commercial fixes are quite costly. Free fixes tend to be damned complicated, and prone to failure, I've found.)

2 Now, at the command prompt, type in: `cd system32` Press ENTER.

3 Next, type in: `ren kernel32.dll kernel32.old` Then press ENTER. (This renames the damaged kernel)

4 Type in: `map` Press ENTER.

Now carefully take note of the drive letter assigned to the CD-ROM drive that contains the Windows XP CD.

It will be displayed in a format similar to this: `D: \Device\CdRom0`

5 Type in: expand <drive>\i386\kernel32.dl_ Press ENTER

NB: Make <drive> the actual drive letter of the CD-ROM drive you took note of. And I hope your Windows XP CD is still in it.

NB: Be sure to include the underscore character after the "L" in Kernel32.dl_

If successful, (it's not always) the following message should appear:

Kernel32.dll, 1 file(s) expanded.

6 Type: exit (to leave the recovery console)

7 Quickly remove the Windows XP CD to start the computer normally. (Leave it in, and the PC will again boot off the CD!)

If The Problem Continues...

There's an underlying issue making your PC keep restarting.

The Stop Error that you will see displayed on the screen will give some clues.

It's likely you'll need a technician to help with identifying faulty memory, CPU or motherboard just for starters.

Each will need to be tested and replaced by a qualified computer technician.

S(he) will swap components and, by a process of elimination, discover the offender.