

# XP fix problems

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**Date:** 04/17/03

Date: Thu, 17 Apr 2003 10:03:11 -0400  
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I have several Windows XP SP1 systems, all of various flavors (old Compaq laptop, very old Dell desktop, new homemade system). All, as of yesterday, had 100% current hotfixes. Each of these systems had automatic updates available yesterday; specifically, Q817287 and Q811493.

I performed the install on all three systems, and it has caused me no end of grief. Nothing fancy on the install, mind you; used Windows automatic update, click Install, reboot. Here is what happened:

1. Compaq M700: Could not get past the black Windows XP loading screen. Stayed there, with the little bar moving under the logo, for HOURS. A power-cycle was necessary to reboot, at which time I tried to boot normally (gave me the option for Last Known Good and Safe). This time I let it stay locked on that black XP loading screen overnight. No dice. I finally had to power-cycle it again and choose LKG, and it came back up.
2. Dell Desktop: Same as the M700. Had to use LKG to get it to boot.
3. Homemade system: This system actually rebooted fine, but is now wicked slow. Loading time is not substantially longer, but the time it takes to run apps is SIGNIFICANTLY longer. This is a P4 2.53GHz system that now takes 10+ seconds to bring up perfmon, control panel, etc. It is pathetic. Rebooting does not help. It is like using a PII system with respect to load times, although apps seem to run fine once loaded. Thus, only load times are affected, but it is a global problem (even bringing up a DOS prompt, which used to be instantaneous, takes 5+ seconds).

On systems #1 and #2, only Q811493 is listed as being installed; Q817287 is not shown at all under Add/Remove programs, but clearly shows up in the Event Log. On system #3, both Q817287 and Q811493 appear in Add/Remove programs as well as the Event Log. I assume that Q817287 does not appear in the Event Log due to the use of LKG, but I dunno.

