

microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin: virus (?) has corrupted admin PW & system registry

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anonymous_at_discussions.microsoft.com

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PS --- forgot to add one other conspicuous item. When I originally checked the windows\system32\config directory, all the files had dates of "12-26-35" --- the day was right, but the year was (obviously) way off. Not sure if this will "ring a bell" for anyone...

Thx again for any and all help,

RF

>-----Original Message-----

>My wife was using my laptop to surf the web (my first >problem), and she later told me "oh something's wrong >with the computer, I don't know what I did..."

>

>When I tried to start it up, the system got just past the

>XP Home splash screen and up popped the strange error

>message: "Unable to start: system is unable to start

>because the following file is missing or corrupted:

>c:\windows\system32\config\system" -- and here it stayed

>until I did a hard reboot.

>

>So, I grabbed my trusty XP boot floppy, booted to the A:

>drive, then checked out the system32\config directory.

>The system file was not there. So I copied the one from

>windows\repair to windows\system32\config, and tried to

>reboot. Again, same error message. When I again booted

>from the XP boot floppy, the entire windows\system32

>\config directory was gone... in it's place was a single

>file called config (!)

>

>Now totally befuddled, I made a temp directory in

>windows\system32 and copied this new config file into

it,

>then deleted the windows\system32\config file. I then

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*>made a new directory called config in the
>windows\system32 directory, and in it copied all the
>necessary files from the win*