

WHY DOES MY MACHINE TAKE FOREVER TO SHUT DOWN?

Start, turn off computer ... and wait.

At least, that's what it seems like in many cases. We hear a lot about delays in booting the computer or slowdowns when running various applications, but how about when it's time to go? How do we get the machine to shut down *now* without just pulling the plug?

As always, there are many possible reasons for a slowdown.

First it's important to realize that shutting down the computer is almost as complex a process as starting it up. Once you tell Windows that you want to shut down, it in turn asks (yes, *asks*) each current program if shutting down is OK. After each program has been asked, each program is then *told* that Windows is shutting down.

Why this seemingly complex chain of events? Naturally, it's a feature! If you have unsaved edits in your word processor, then you *want* Windows to pause so that it has a chance to save those edits or ask you what to do. Some applications need to be in a certain state before powering down, so they're given the opportunity to say no to abort the shutdown. Apparently, this is not the case in Macintosh or Unix users. It tends to be the case in Microsoft's Proprietary applications and Operating systems.

So, it's easy to see that shut down speed is at the mercy of every piece of software you have running when you shut down. Each has to be asked and each has the opportunity to perform some work, perhaps even time consuming work, before Windows shuts down. In the worst case scenario, they can pause the shutdown process completely as they ask you things like, "Do you want to save this file first?"

As a result, I rarely "just" shutdown Windows. I close each application I'm running (or at least the "big" ones) first. But on the safer side I just hibernate my Pc when I

have to carry it around or move from one location to the other without necessarily shutting down.

In addition to the above, another thing to take into consideration is the RAM size of your PC. All applications and processes use the memory. If you tend to be running on a 2GB Ram with about three or four applications such as Grand Theft, Word, Video editors or applications that really runs the processor and RAM then shutting down would take a lot of time. How does this come about?

RAM known as random access memory, a form of [computer data storage](#) which stores frequently used program instructions to increase the general speed of a system. A [random-access](#) memory device allows [data](#) items to be [read](#) or written in almost the same amount of time irrespective of the physical location of data inside the memory.

Many people assume that the speed of the processor is the speed of the computer. Most of the time, the system bus and other components run at different speeds. Because all information processed by the CPU is written or read from memory, the performance of a system is dramatically affected by how fast information can travel between the CPU and memory. Therefore, faster memory technology contributes greatly to the overall system performance. But the more you keep loading applications into memory, the more your shutdowns turn to take a longer time.

Another question comes in what about all that software that's running that you *didn't* start? Of particular note are the applications that started automatically; instant messaging applications, real-time virus checkers, and so on. They also have the opportunity to take time to clean up before shutting down.

Another common cause for shut down slowdowns is the network. There are various types of network connections, from files being shared across a LAN, to instant messaging conversations in progress, with many more in between. Each connection

needs to be individually closed on system shut down. In many cases, that means that whatever you're connected *to* needs to be informed that you're no longer connected. If the remote side is slow or non-responsive, that can contribute to how long Windows takes to close that connection on shut down.

There are certainly hardware problems that can result in slow downs on shut down. More commonly there are conflicts or issues with the device drivers – the software used to control the hardware – that cause shut down problems. Actual hardware issues more commonly cause problems at other times as well.

Make sure your drivers are up to date. Conversely, if you start experiencing a problem after updating a device driver, then it'd make sense to check with the manufacturer.

Finally, there's the issue of viruses and spyware. They can certainly wreak havoc in many ways not limited to shut down. Most cause problems at other times, but have been known to affect shut down as well. Microsoft's OS if bought and licensed should work well without a third party antivirus applications like *avast*, *avira*, *norton* though they are equally good. There is an original antivirus in Microsoft called [windows defender](#) that protects computers against viruses, malware, spyware, and other threats than any other solution.

But I request you don't always shutdown your PC if it is a laptop or portal device like surface tabs etc., when you just have to move 2 or 5 blocks away from home. This doesn't hurt or damage your files or PC. Think about the servers that serve you information on the web or in a local network. It doesn't always go down. Just imagine restarting that kind of system. So I guess you know what I meant. Best of luck.

REFERENCES:

- <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-defender> [Source : Microsoft antivirus protection]
- <http://www.computermemoryupgrade.net/how-computer-memory-works.html> [Source: Computer Memory Update]
- <https://www.quora.com/Why-does-my-computer-take-so-long-to-start-up> [Source : Qoura]