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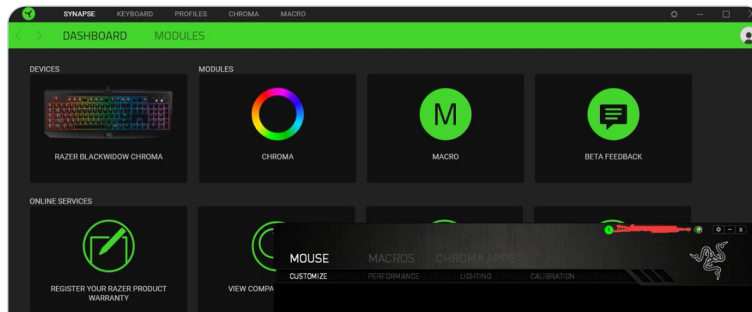


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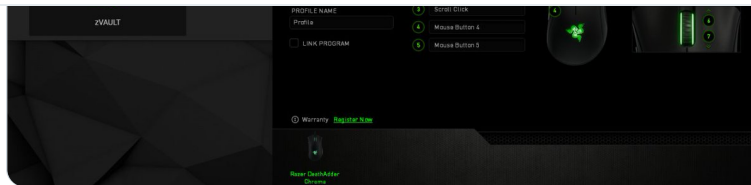
So I learned of an amusing bug today:

Docker for Windows won't run if you have the Razer Synapse driver management tool running.

But the reason is the funny part...



← Thread



12:38 AM · Feb 18, 2020 · Twitter Web App

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Replying to @Foone

So, both programs want to ensure you only run one copy of themselves. So they create a global mutex using the GUID of their .NET assembly, right?

5

43

1K



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except! they do it wrong. And they both do it wrong in the same way. The code involved is something like this:

```
string.Format("Global\\{0}", (object)
Assembly.GetExecutingAssembly().GetType().GUID);
```

11

52

1.1K



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The idea is to get the GUID of the assembly that's executing and to create a GUID based on that, so now you can only run one copy of it.

2

20

800



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But it's wrong.
The .GetType() part isn't supposed to be there.
That gets the type of the assembly, not the assembly itself.
And that type is System.Reflection.RuntimeAssembly, part of .NET itself.

3 30 1.2K

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So what happens is that both of them are creating a global mutex to ensure only one copy runs, but instead of basing the GUID on their own code, they're both using the GUID of a part of .NET itself.
And they're using the same one!


4 54 1.4K

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So how'd that happen?
Well, it turns out we can tell EXACTLY how that happened.


Because the answer is... **STACK OVERFLOW**

17 338 3.7K

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Back in 2009, the user "Nathan" asked how to get the GUID of the running assembly.
Twelve minutes later, "Cerebrus" answered. And that answer was wrong.

6 83 2.1K

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A year and a month later, it was pointed out (by "Yoopergeek") that it gives the wrong GUID.

Three years later, Cerebrus returns and fixes the answer. They can't delete it, because it was accepted

8 31 1.5K


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But because they made an error in replying to someone in 2009... this flawed code caused bugs that still exist as recently as March of 2018.



Docker for Windows won't start if Razer Synapse 3...
Just a quick tip if you're struggling to get docker for Windows working on Windows 10. If you have Razer
reddit.com

9 149 2.2K


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That flawed stackoverflow post is here:




How do I programmatically get the GUID of an appl...
I need to access the assembly of my project in C#
.NET2.0. I can see the GUID in the 'Assembly
stackoverflow.com

6 41 1.6K

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(And thanks to [@matt_sieker](#) for pointing this out to me!)

9 6 867

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homework assignment for all programmers reading this thread:
Think about how you'd find this bug in your own programs.
You copy/paste the code, it seems to work, and you don't realize it's broken because you don't run either of these programs which made the same mistake.

11 75 1.1K



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and you don't find out the error until users report it.

How could you change your development processes to detect this kind of error prior to shipping it?

💬 41

↻ 14

❤ 802



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I found another example of someone making this same error, and then someone else noticing it's wrong.
But this one is from 2003!



💬 13

↻ 15

❤ 745



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An update to clear up some confusion:

I didn't mean to suggest this was a bug that was STILL HAPPENING, although at the time I didn't have confirmation that it was fixed. I didn't make that very clear, though! Sorry about that.

💬 1

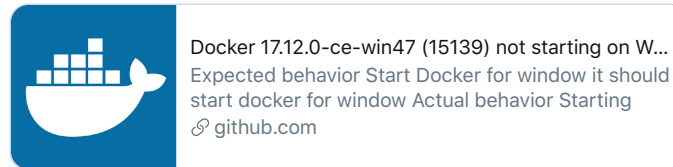
↻ 2

❤ 146



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in any case, here's one of the (several) bug reports to docker/for-win which reported this problem back in 2018:



💬 2

↻

❤ 47



foone @Foone · 18h

and that thread (as well as Docker dev [@stefschere](#)) show that it's definitely not still in existence, as it was fixed by May, 2018.

💬 1

↻ 1

❤ 44



foone @Foone · 18h

Still an open question: did they fix it on the Razer Synapse side too? If they're still broken, it won't interfere with the now-fixed Docker, but it might interfere with any other program making the same mistake.

💬 4

↻ 1

❤ 57

