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Windows Update svchost problems and fix

After this weekends updates, four of our office PC's exhibited the same problem. An application popup with a title of svchost.exe and a "the memory could not be read" error.

Click OK on this button and your computer freezes. Seems to be a pretty common problem, see [here](#) and [here](#). The procedure to fix this is

reboot

immediately open a command prompt

run "net stop wuauserv"

run "net stop bits"

run "del /q /s %windir%/softwaredistribution

[CmdrChalupa](#) :: Sep.18.2006 :: [IT](#) :: 12 Comments »

12 Responses to "Windows Update svchost problems and fix"

1. on 18 Oct 2006 at 2:38 am [1Phil](#)

Worked for me! Many thanks.
Phil.

2. on 22 Oct 2006 at 11:53 pm [2Mark](#)

This worked for me as well, but I had to change the last "/" to a "\".

3. on 13 Mar 2007 at 1:02 pm [3nitsua](#)

worked for me as well! thnx al lot!

4. on 10 Apr 2007 at 3:18 pm [4Catharina from Sweden](#)

Thank's a lot for putting out this information. It worked right away and you saved me from going crazy! Found more info googling "svchost.exe" but this was the one that worked for me! Thank's again!!!!

5. on 10 Apr 2007 at 4:17 pm [5Mike From Colorado](#)

Thanks very much, this was it OK. The SoftwareDistribution folder must have been corrupted. After doing this, if you return to Microsoft Update, it sees you as not having the software and will reinstall it, creating a new SoftwareDistribution folder and populating it.

6. on 05 May 2007 at 6:21 pm [6Don](#)

Thanks for the svchost fix. I search all over the place and found nothing that made sense, or even look close to a fix. Until I stumbled accross your site. Carried out the procedure and it seems to have fixed the problem. Well done and thank you.

7. on 10 May 2007 at 12:25 am [7Vijay Patodi](#)

Saved my day literally, spent 5 hours in troubleshooting!!!!

8. on 11 May 2007 at 10:32 pm [8Stefania](#)

Smack!!!!

Stefania

9. on 16 May 2007 at 6:07 am [9Mark](#)

Hey this worked for me aswell, until i reboot, any idea how to fix it long term?

10. on 29 May 2007 at 3:10 pm [10Kevin](#)

Thanks for the fix! I spent the weekend trying every recommendation under the sun, and this is what did the trick.

11. on 03 Jun 2007 at 8:19 am [11Jabu](#)

This worked for me as well, but I had to change the last “/” to a “\”.

12. on 06 Jul 2007 at 1:05 pm [12Curzon](#)

Good tip! Didn't had to stop the service, I just renamed the directory as SoftwareDistribution.bak to be safe, ran the WindowsUpdate web console, and it went well...

Thanks a lot for this “undocumented feature” 😊

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Wisdom:

Tell a man there are 300 Billion stars in the universe and he'll believe you. Tell him a bench has wet paint on it and he'll have to touch to be sure.

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