

Re: Tired of freezing laptop

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Ubuntu/2008-08/msg00048.html>

- *From:* James Takac <p3nndrag0n@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 1 Aug 2008 12:46:39 +1000
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Hi Pat

On Friday 01 August 2008 12:23:49 Pat Brown wrote:

Bart Silverstrim wrote:

Pat Brown wrote:

I'm getting very tired of having my PC freeze up almost every time I go online. I'm using Hardy on a Compaq Presario C700, with a Broadcom B43 wireless card. I apply every update the update manager detects. I've been running Hardy since it was released and this problem is ongoing. It doesn't seem to matter what I am doing online, eventually it will freeze and require a soft boot using CTRL+ALT+Backspace. I've run some of the tests people have suggested but the results mean nothing to me – I posted them once and never heard any comments on whether it showed anything.

I also can't watch YouTube videos at all on Konquerer. Sometimes I can watch them on Firefox 3.0.1 but it too will shut down without warning.

I recently picked up an almost new PC which I was originally going to install Ubuntu on. Now I'm reconsidering and think I'm going to go back to XP so I can watch videos and surf without this hassle all the time. I'll keep Ubuntu on my laptop because I like it, but I don't like this

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problem and until it's fixed I need an alternative that's more reliable.

I didn't see your original thread, but a couple things to start with...

The freezing. You said `ctl+alt+backspace` brings the system back...that restarts X, not the system, so this would mean that it's actually the GUI you're restarting and not the system, is this accurate?

What shows up under `/var/log/system.log`? And what is output from `dmesg`?

Does the entire interface freeze, or do you still have *some* control? It would be handy if you could run something like the system monitor or in a terminal run "top" to see if they freeze up as well, because if not, it *might* show if a process is eating the CPU at %100 or if the swap is suddenly growing. I don't know if you have this capability but I diagnosed a problem like that before using a second computer that I secure-shelled into (if your system is running `sshd`, the `opensshd-server`) and ran top on from another system. The interface on the workstation froze, but background processes were still running fine so I could see the offending process (and kill it from the remote terminal).

The flash issue. I had this problem not long ago and as I recall my fix was the `flashplugin-nonfree` package. Using synaptic, do you have the package "flashplugin-nonfree" installed? I believe I could play on the YouTube's once I had that package installed.

-Bart

Okay, I guess I'm restarting the X system. I have some keyboard ability, but that's all. If I knew some commands to run a terminal that way since I can't access it through the GUI, I could check processes and see if something was hogging the system, but I don't know the commands. I have the output from `dmesg`, but it's after restarting X. I would love to know how to get to a place to kill a process – and know the name of the process. I'm assuming it's Konquerer that's doing the CPU hogging since it's always Konquerer that freezes X.

When I have full keyboard access I can see Konquerer in the system monitor. It's called `konquerer [kdeinit]` --si which means nothing to me, I'm afraid. I'm doing my best to learn Linux/Ubuntu but I'm still very green.

The `flashplugin-nonfree` appears to be installed already.

How do I get to a terminal when my X is frozen? I'll try that next time it freezes.

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Pat Brown
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L.A. Heat, now hotter than ever!

Since you still have the working keyboard you should be able to drop into a shell via CTRL ALT F1 and login there to the text screen

James

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