

Windows XP Quirks, Viruses and Cameras

Sasser Virus

This past week has seen the infection of millions of computers with the “sasser” virus. Starting on Monday May 3rd, we were deluged with computers being brought in for servicing of the sasser virus.

The virus’s symptoms were that the computer would restart itself. This virus was spread, not through email, but simply through random IP addresses. This means that all you had to do to contract the virus was to connect to the Internet. The virus would randomly search for an “open” IP address and “walk right in.”

By Monday afternoon Symantec, the Norton Antivirus people had released a Sasser Fix available for download, and Microsoft had released an update to close the security hole in their Windows XP that allowed this to happen so easily.

In this instance, the authorities have actually captured the culprit.

“May 08 2004 - An 18-year-old German man faces up to five years in prison after he confessed to creating the Internet Sasser worm which infected millions of computers worldwide, police said.”

Try automatic camera recognition in Windows XP

If you have a digital camera, try this trick for downloading pictures to your machine. Don't load any of the drivers or software that comes with your digital camera. Instead - if your camera supports USB - connect your camera via a USB port. There's a good chance that Windows XP will recognize the digi-cam. After a few moments, the Scanner and Camera Wizard should start up and walk you through the steps involved in copying your pictures from the camera to a folder of your choice on your computer

My Computer Won't Automatically Shut Down After Installing XP

There are a number of users who have been complaining that their PC will no longer automatically power down/ shut off without pressing the power off button on the computers - unlike in Windows Me/95/2000. There could be a number of reasons for this - but the main one seems to be that ACPI is not enabled on the computer or in Windows XP.

Here is how to enable it:

- Click START | CONTROL PANEL | PERFORMANCE and MAINTENANCE | POWER OPTIONS tab
- Then click APM - Enable Advanced Power Management Support

Changing Thumbnail Options

You can change the size of the Thumbnails view in My Computer by opening up the Registry Editor (regedit.exe) and navigating to the following location:
Current user only:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER \ Software \ Microsoft \ Windows \ CurrentVersion \ Explorer

All users:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft \ Windows \ CurrentVersion \ Explorer

Add a new DWORD value called ThumbnailSize and give it a hexadecimal value that is between 32 and 256, inclusive (that is, the lowest possible value is 32 and the highest is 256.) A value of 32 will give you the smallest possible thumbnails, and 256 will give you the biggest. Experiment a bit to find your sweet spot.