(Approx. 396 words)

Dan’s Desk

Windows Blue Screen of Death

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At a recent learning center meeting, we reviewed what that dreaded Windows blue screen of death (BSOD) meant when it stated it was performing a system dump. Let me explain that in detail here:

When the operating system, which is Windows for most of us, encounters an abnormal or crash situation where it doesn’t have a pre-determined way to recover, the BSOD will usually occur. In order to provide details about what programs were loaded at the time of the crash and what actions or clicks may have been processing, a system dump file is created. A system dump file is used by Microsoft to fix potential situations that caused the BSOD, from happening in future releases of Windows.

This is why Windows gets regular updates automatically from Microsoft. Each of those updates is designed to improve or correct the operation of different components of Windows or its applications. In those cases where the situation is so bad

Windows can’t even present the BSOD, the whole PC will just restart.

By default, Windows is set to create a dump file when a crash situation is encountered. If you do not want to create a dump file you can adjust that setting. Depending upon the version of Windows 10 that you’re on, the manner to get to the advanced system settings tab can differ. This set of instructions will work on any:

1) Click on the control panel - if you can’t find the icon, use the Windows 10 search bar at the lower left of your screen to locate it

2) Click on the System app

3) Click on Advanced System Settings or Advanced item

4) Click on Startup and Recovery - Settings

5) Under System Failure – check Write an event to the system log and Check Automatically restart

6) Where the Write debugging information is, click on the drop-down arrow and choose (none)

With these settings, your computer will not create a system dump file but will record an

error in your system log file which is much quicker. I’m sure Microsoft will get lots

of system dumps with similar situations as yours, without you having to clog up your

hard drive with dump files to be uploaded to Microsoft.