

New Windows 10 Laptop Slow and Unresponsive - Quick Solutions

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In brief

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It's no secret that Windows 10 has its fair share of performance issues. From freezes and crashes to general slowness, there are several reasons your Windows 10 PC might not be running as smoothly as it should be. If you're struggling with a slow and unresponsive system, here are a few potential solutions.

1. High CPU Usage

You're not alone if you've noticed your Windows 10 computer running slowly and your CPU usage suddenly spikes. Many users have reported this issue, and it can be frustrating trying to figure out why it's happening.

In most cases, the culprit is a process called runtime broker. This process uses many CPU resources when it starts up, leading to unresponsiveness and slowness.

There are a few ways to fix this issue. First, try ending the runtime broker process in task manager. If that doesn't work, try resetting the Windows Store app. Finally, if all else fails, try performing a clean install of Windows 10.

2. Antivirus Software

Antivirus software is essential for protecting your computer from malware, but it can also slow down your machine. One reason for this is that antivirus programs need to scan every file on your hard drive, taking a long time.

In addition, antivirus software can also hog resources by running constant background processes. As a result, your computer may become slow and unresponsive.

One way to boost the speed of Windows 10 is to disable or uninstall any unnecessary antivirus programs. Another solution is to use a lightweight antivirus application that doesn't slow down your system.

With a bit of effort, you can keep your computer safe without sacrificing performance.

3. Lack of Disk Space

Windows 10 is designed to be a fast and responsive operating system, but it needs to have enough disk space to work properly. If you have the 32-bit version, your free space should be around 16GB. A 64-bit version, meanwhile, might need 20GB of space.

When Windows 10 doesn't have enough space to store temporary files, it has to use the virtual memory feature. It writes data to your hard drive, which is much slower than accessing data from RAM. As a result, your computer can start to lag and freeze.

To fix this problem, you need to free up some disk space. You can do this by deleting unnecessary files, uninstalling unused programs, and emptying your recycle bin. Once you have made some space, your computer should start running more smoothly.

You can also use tools to help speeding up Windows 10, such as those that clear your PC of junk files.

4. Hardware Failure

In some cases, a slow and unresponsive computer can be caused by hardware problems. This is most likely the case if your computer is old (remember, Windows 10 was released in 2015) or if you've been using it for a long time.

One way to check for hardware issues is to run a diagnostic tool like Memtest86. It will test your RAM for errors and help you identify any faulty components. If you find any defective hardware, you'll need to replace it before your computer starts working properly again.

Another way to diagnose hardware problems is to use the Event Viewer tool to show you errors or warnings that Windows has logged. If you see any messages related to hardware, there's likely a problem with one of your components.

5. Software Issues

In some cases, your computer's slow performance might be due to a problem with the software. This is most likely the case if you've recently installed a new program or update.

One way to fix this issue is to perform a clean boot to start Windows with only the essential programs and services. It can help you identify any software that's causing problems. Then, if you're still having issues, you can try uninstalling any recent programs or updates.

Another solution is to use the system restore feature to revert your computer to an earlier time before any software problems occur.

6. Overheating

Another common cause of slow performance is overheating. When your computer gets too hot, it can start to lag and freeze. It is especially likely to happen if you use your computer for intensive gaming or video editing tasks.

To fix this problem, ensure that your computer has adequate cooling. If it's been a while since you've cleaned your PC, now would be a good time to do so. You should also consider investing in a better cooling system, such as an air cooler or water-cooling setup.

7. Outdated Drivers

Another common cause of slow performance is outdated drivers. Drivers are the software that allows your hardware to communicate with Windows. They need to be up-to-date for everything to work correctly.

You can check for updates for your drivers through the Device Manager tool. Type "device manager" into the search bar and click on the top result. Expand each category and look for any with a yellow exclamation mark next to them.

Final Thoughts

There are several reasons why your brand-new Windows 10 laptop might be slow and unresponsive. Fortunately, there are also several different solutions that you can try to speed things up again.

You can keep your system updated, use reliable tools to clean your PC, and ensure adequate cooling to prevent overheating.

References

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