

HOW TO DISABLE DATA EXECUTION PREVENTION FOR EXPLORER.EXE IN WINDOWS XP

Data Execution Prevention (DEP) is a valuable feature available to **Windows XP** users with at least Service Pack level 2 installed.

Since not all software and hardware fully support **DEP**, it can often be the cause of certain system issues and error messages.

For example, the **ntdll.dll** error is sometimes seen if **explorer.exe**, a vital **Windows** process, has difficulties working with **DEP**. This seems to be an issue with some **AMD** brand processors.

Follow the simple steps below disable **DEP** for **explorer.exe**.

Difficulty: Easy

Time Required: Disabling **Data Execution Prevention** for *Explorer.exe* in Windows XP **takes less than 10 minutes**;

Here's How:

1. Click on **Start** and then **Control Panel**.
2. Click on the **Performance and Maintenance** link.
Note: If you're viewing the *Classic View* of **Control Panel**, double-click on the **System** icon and skip to Step 4.
3. Under the *or pick a Control Panel icon* section, click on the **System** link.
4. In the *System Properties* window, click on the **Advanced** tab.
5. Click on the **Settings** button in the *Performance* area of the *Advanced* tab.
Note: This is the first *Settings* button.
6. In the *Performance Options* window that appears, click on the **Data Execution Prevention** tab.
Note: Only **Windows XP** users with service pack level 2 or higher will see this tab.
7. In the *Data Execution Prevention* tab, choose the **Turn on DEP for all programs and services except those I select**: radio button.
8. Click on the **Add...** button.
9. In the resulting *Open* dialog box, navigate to the **C:\Windows** directory, or whatever directory **Windows XP** is installed in on your system, and click on the **explorer.exe** file from the list.
Note: You will probably need to scroll through a number of folders before reaching the list of files. **Explorer.exe** should be listed as one of the first few files in the alphabetical list.
10. Click the **Open** button and then click **OK** to the resulting *Data Execution Prevention* warning that pops up.
Back on the *Data Execution Prevention* tab in the *Performance Options* window, you should now see *Windows Explorer* in the list, next to a checked checkbox.
11. Click **OK** at the bottom of the *Performance Options* window.

12. Click **OK** when the *System Control Panel Applet* window appears warning you that your changes require a restart of your computer.
13. After your computer restarts, test your system to see if disabling **Data Execution Prevention** for **explorer.exe** resolved your issue.

If disabling **DEP** for explorer.exe did not solve your problem, return the **DEP** settings to normal by repeating the steps above but in Step 7, choose **Turn on DEP for essential Windows programs and services only** radio button.