

Windows 95/98/ME - Increasing the "MinSPs" settings to solve "The MinSPs Problem" !

The Problem

You have the "**MinSPs**" problem !

On every or most boot-ups you get one of the error messages below; you are then prompted to press any key to continue, and when you press a key the PC continues booting up. Alternatively, you try to run a program or you are simply using Windows, and you also get one of the error messages below :

"There are no spare stack pages. It may be necessary to increase the setting of 'MinSPs' in System.ini to prevent possible stack faults. There are currently X SPs allocated."

"Terminating thread due to a stack overflow problem. A VxD, possibly recently installed, has consumed too much stack space. Increase the settings of "MinSPs" in SYSTEM.INI or remove recently installed VxD's. There are currently X SP's allocated."

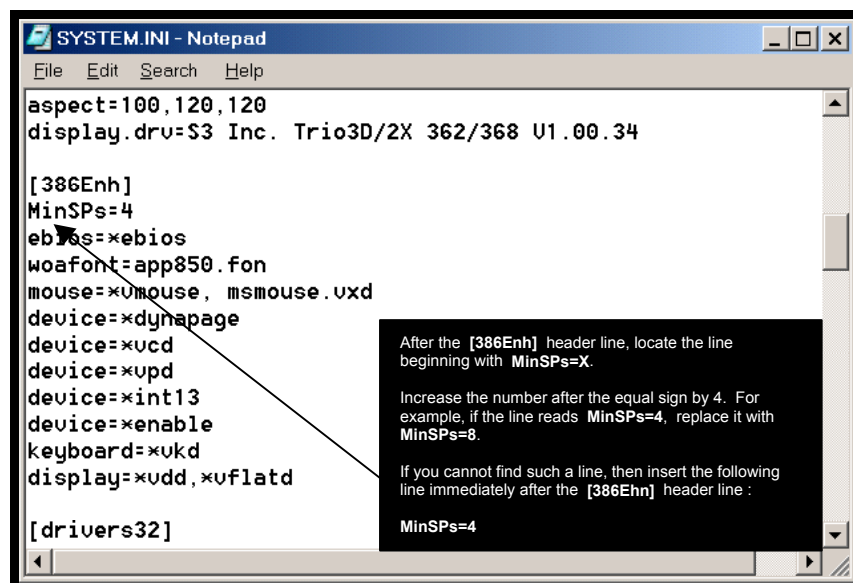
In the above error messages **X** is a number divisible by 4. In our experience this problem happens mostly in systems which started life with a different version of Windows (e.g. Windows 95), and which were subsequently upgraded to a later version of Windows (e.g. Windows ME).

The Solution

You will need to edit one of your Windows system files, **SYSTEM.INI**, to solve this problem. As follows :

- Click on **Start \ Run**.
- Type **SYSTEM.INI** and click on **OK**.
(This will open the **SYSTEM.INI** system file in 'Notepad')
- Maximise Notepad for easier use.

- Scroll down and locate the section that starts with **[386Enh]**.
- Within the section starting with [386Enh], locate the line that looks like **MinSPs=4**. Please note, the number after the equal sign (=) may be different from 4.
- If you find such a line, increase the number after the equal sign by 4. For example, if the line reads "MinSPs=4", replace it with "MinSPs=8".
You can use 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, etc... – do not use a high number unnecessarily; use the next number and test to see if the increase is enough. If it is not, increase the number again.
- If you cannot find a "MinSPs=xx" line, then insert one immediately after the [386Enh] header line. Insert **MinSPs=4**.



- Close 'Notepad' by clicking on the **X** in the top right-hand corner.
- When you are prompted to save changes, select **Yes**.
- Reboot the PC (**Start \ Shut Down \ Restart \ Yes**).
- That's it. You're done.

**'MinSPs' error with
ScanDisk or Defrag**

Note : If you experience the "**MinSPs**" problem specifically while running disk utilities such as ScanDisk, Defragmenter, or Norton Hard Disk Utilities, then the above solution will do nothing for you as you may in fact be infected with the **W32.HLLW.Bymer** virus (also called **Dnet.Dropper** or **W32/Msinit**).

If this is your case, then first make sure your antivirus software is up-to-date and then run a full virus scan on your PC.

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