

Installing and use EasyLog 5 on old operating systems like: Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows 98 SE, Windows Millenium

Overview

This document explain how to avoid the architectural problems in the old operating systems like Windows 95, 98, 98 Second Edition, Millenium (in this document all these operating systems are indicated as Windows 9x).

Due to this problems EasyLog5 could have some troubles when running on these old operating systems. No problems are with Windows 2000 or Windows Xp, due to a new operating system structure.

The main problem is related to an exotic handling of resource in Windows 9x. A limited amount of RAM memory must handle all the running processes (or programs).

This mean that after a few programs have been launched, the free resources may sometimes goes to low to run correctly new programs, sometimes a running program can crash, or worse the operating system can crash.

This problem is not relative to some software like EasyLog5, but to the operating system (Windows 9x version only)

System resources

Unfortunately the System resources are not expanded if more memory (RAM) is bought. So if the PC has 1 GByte of RAM the resource space is always the same.

EasyLog5 as some other few programs requires a lot of resources, if the operating system has already allcocked part of the free resources, EasyLog5 could run in a bad environment. Sometimes EasyLog5 could crash. Again: the problem is not created by EasyLog5 but by the operating system.

There is a very-easy way to avoid this problem: shut-down all the unneeded iconised programs.

Normally a lot of these are showed as icons in the System Tray Bar (it is on the bottom right part of the Windows main window, at the left to the Windows clock).

Sometimes these eating-RAM software are installed without a really necessity, simply because they are freely available or because they are on a CD-ROM bought togheter with a magazine.

Since EasyLog5 is a very big program, with a lot options, it uses the operating system in a very hard way, during its normal work, EasyLog5 create threads, use a big amount of RAM (however only that the system own) and a big number of opened files.

For this reason it is absolutely necessary to set correctly the operating system and avoid to run unneeded software. (This is always true for any software you would run on Windows 9x however).

It is important to point about the weight of EasyLog5, most of the programs used daily in a computer are lighter than EasyLog5, they in fact normally don't create threads, use only few opened files, use only few Mbytes of RAM, so they use the PC in a very light way.

Since EasyLog5 can run an unlimited QSO number for each Log, up to 4 cluster connections, 2 radio connections, audio card connections, background threads for better performances, it is obvious that the PC must be well set.

What needs EasyLog5 to run correctly

EasyLog5 run on any PC well set, on Windows 9x, to Windows 2000 or Windows Xp, with almost 32 Mbytes of RAM, and less then 100 Mbytes of free hard disk space.

During the testings, we have run up 200.000 QSOs without any problem on an older Pentium with Windows 98. On an old AMD (200 Mhz) with 32 Mbytes (RAM) you may run well up to 15.000 QSO without any problem.

Of course since these operating systems (Windows 9x family) has been dismissed by Microsoft, it is important to avoid to buy a new motherboard and put on it for example Windows 98.

It is not only for support problems that you must avoid these older operating systems, remember that the new motherboards needs new native drivers, that the oldest operating systems haven't.

The drivers found on the cards CD-ROM are only a short cut! To obtain right power back from a new motherboard it is necessary to have the right operating system. This can be achieved using the last versions like Windows Xp.

Please note that we are not involved at all with Microsoft !

As software techs we are worried about the Microsoft operating systems, this since the first MS-DOS version. Although other operating systems are and were much stable, powerful, less expensive, (see Linux, etc.), Windows is the most used operating system so we must live with it... in the best way we could.

Microsoft and the obsolete operating systems

In the Microsoft web site there is a table that explain when the license for a specified operating system will end, please thake a look, and start worrying about the operating system you are using Hi.

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/lifecycle/default.mspx>

The next operating system will dead is Windows 2000, then Windows Xp in the 2005.

Of course Microsoft has some reasons to do this, in fact Windows 98 made in 1998 couldn't support the last state-of-the-art motherboard.

The worst thing is that Microsoft has designed all the operating systems with no care about the last operating system tecnologies. Windows 98 was useles still in the 1998!

Desktop Operating Systems	Date of General Availability	Direct OEM and Retail License Availability (end date)	System Builder License Availability (end date)
MS DOS 6.xx	June 1, 1994	November 31, 2001	November 31, 2001
Windows 95	August 15, 1995	December 31, 2000	December 31, 2001
Windows NT Workstation 4.xx	July 29, 1996	June 30, 2002	June 30, 2003
Windows 98	June 30, 1998	June 30, 2002	November 30, 2003 ¹
Windows 98 SE	June 30, 1999	June 30, 2002	March 31, 2004 ¹
Windows Millennium Edition	December 31, 2000	December 31, 2003	December 31, 2004
Windows 2000 Professional	March 31, 2000	March 31, 2004	March 31, 2005
Windows XP Professional	December 31, 2001	December 31, 2005	December 31, 2006
Windows XP Home Edition	December 31, 2001	December 31, 2005	December 31, 2006

¹In the US and Canada only System Builder License Availability end dates are June 30th 2003 for Windows 98 and September 30th 2003 for Windows 98 SE.

How to resolve the resources leaks problem

Simply shut down all the unneeded programs. To do this use the CTRL-ALT-CANC to kill all the unneeded processes showed in the processes window, or use the **MSCONFIG** application.

To run the MSCONFIG, simply press the Start button, then choose the run option from the menu. Write the command MSCONFIG in the input key and press the OK button. There are some tabs where you can found what Windows runs during the startup.

How much resources have Windows?

In Windows 95, 98, ME, SE, there is a native application useful to know how many resources are in the Windows. Normally it is installed automatically some times it is not installed at all, it depends on what you choosed during the Windows 9x installation.

This program is called Resource Monitor.

You can find it choosing the menu item: Programs | Accessories | System Utilities | Resource Monitor.

If you haven't it istalled, simply install it from the Windows CD-ROM. To do this follow these points:

- 1) double click on My Computer icon (on the Windows desktop)
- 2) choose Control Panel
- 3) then choose Application (or Install new Application, or something like that)
- 4) in the new window there are three tabs, the first one is for Install/Uninstall all the user programs, the second one is for the Windows install/Uninstall software. Click on it.
- 5) Choose the System Utilities row, and press the Details button
- 6) select the Resource Monitor, then press OK
- 7) then the software will be installed.

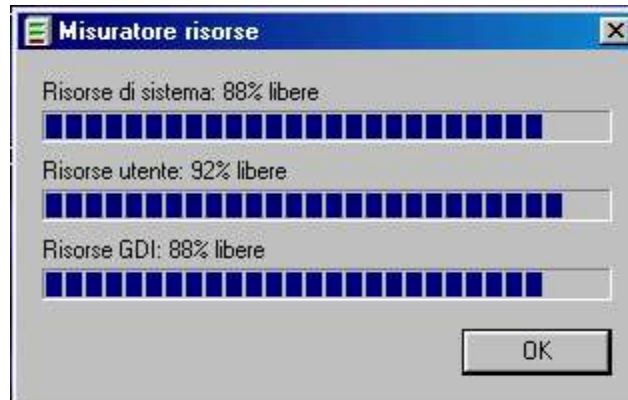
The Resource Monitor will be installed in the menu, as described above.

When this program is running, you must make a double click on its icon, in the System Tray Bar, as described in the next image:



This is the Italian version of the Resource Monitor, unfortunately I haven't found the English version Hi! However in your window you will find:

In the first row there are the system resources, in the second row you will find the Users resources, in the last row, there are the free GDI resources. All these values must be the greatest. If less than 60-70% you must shut-down some software, or some iconized programs.



How run EasyLog5 after the optimization

All the systems will run better, more quickly during the start up and during the normal operations. EasyLog5 will start and run without problems.

For example we handled three different logs with a total of 200.000 QSO in an old Pentium with Windows 98.

If no improvements after all these operations are visible, you need to reinstall your Windows, please remember that sometimes Windows is in a very unstable state, and the only way to get it running well is to reinstall from scratch. In this case it's better to format the disk and reinstall all software. However normally a simple reinstall of the Windows operating system it's enough.

If no result, please take away the operating system, and switch to a newer like Windows Xp, if needed upgrade also the mother board. You will resolve a lot of problems, not only that you can found using EasyLog 5!