Its Broken But It Isn't My Fault

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What The

- FM2Play worked fine yesterday and now it attempts to play exes

  - I haven't touch anything in the last year that had anything to do with this

  - At least I can't see anything that should effect it

I built all the change sets since FM2Play was added

- They all try to play exes and text files and …
- What am I missing
- What else did I change

Remember The F1 Failure with PMSeek

- Nobody changed PMSeek

- Nobody even had the source

- How could this happen

- Then it became obvious it happen on all utility programs that were dialog boxes instead of frames

Who's Help Hook is this Anyway

- I had installed a Rexx Xcenter Plugin

  - Who knew

- I uninstalled the Rexx plugin and nothing changed

  - Would have been helpful if I knew that Xcenter plugins get loaded if they are in the plugin directory even if they aren't installed

This Makes Me Nuts

- I then started to believe it was Xcenter not the Rexx plugin

    – If I closed Xcenter the problem went away

- Then I tried it on my maintenance partition

    – Xcenter and no Rexx plugin and guess what

    – Finally I asked if the DLLs get loaded

        - Of course they do

Smoking Gun Sorta

- I knew what did it but had know idea why

- What I knew about Xcenter plugins could be placed in a thimble with plenty of room left for a finger

- But what is a global help hook and why is it in this Rexx plugin

Remove the Hook

- Dumb luck is always better than skill

- I removed the hook

    – The bad behavior in PMSeek and its relatives when away

    – The Rexx plugin help still worked

    – Go figure

What Does Any of This Have to Do with FM2Play?

- Since I wrote the code to include FM2Play in FM2 the obvious problem was the nut behind the keyboard

- So why does it work on a fresh install of eCS?

    - Licensing?

- MMIOMP3 isn't installed

MMIOMP3?

- I finally look at the code; the LIB used in the original was rigidly tied to the standard which is routinely violated

  – Using the MMOS2 check code would have resulted in most MP3s not playing

  – Solution say you can play anything

Mommy Make It Stop

- Fortunately the latest madlib (appropriately named) has a relaxed ID protocol

- I simply reinstated the check and all works

- I have it with me if you would like a copy

- I have been in communication with Alex Taylor about updating the package on Hobbes

  - It will happen soon

It Isn't Possible That There Are More

- Enter lSwitcher

  – Programs should be restored to the desktop they were minimized on.

    - Sounds reasonable

  – Pager sticky windows shouldn't work anyway

  – It's a lot more fun when programs get sent to never never land

    - Program location coordinates that are negative is creative but not a great idea

lSwitcher

- OK I will fix it (actual already have)

- I'm keeping the code just in case

    – Remember Object Desktop

        • It restarted apps on the virtual desktop you wanted it on

        • How did they do that?

- Is it also what forces me to restart the desktop to avoid icon loss?

    – Probably should actually test this

How Does This Work

- The OS2 Desktop is huge (at least 32k by 32k)

  - This is what makes virtual Desktops possible

- Ever wonder why on shut down you switch to the base window and all the running apps follow?

- lswitcher tried to restore minimized programs to their virtual desktop of origin instead of the current desktop using the absolute coordinates

  - It works sometimes

Sticky Windows?

- Uses the fact that minimized windows are restored to the current desktop in the same relative position as where they are minimized

  – Now ISwitcher has changed this

  – Sticky windows not only don't work they can't work

- Obvious work around identify sticky windows and bypass the code that returns them to their original desktop

Problem

- There is no public interface to query to find out if a window is sticky or not.

- Need to fix this in Xworkplace

- Need to add conditional code to maintain backward compatibility

Moral of the Story

- If something suddenly brakes immediately figure out what you changed

- Waiting until you have made 25 changes is not the way to fix these

- Always suspect other software!
  - It can't possibly be me

Thanks

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