

Microsoft quietly disables important feature, affecting performance of many high-end AMD Ryzen CPUs

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Last March, Microsoft released a new update to the Xbox Game Bar, a built-in tool in Windows that helps gamers monitor system performance, record gameplay, and more. While many people choose third-party software like MSI Afterburner or tools from AMD/Nvidia, in reality, with some high-end AMD Ryzen CPUs, the Xbox Game Bar plays an extremely important role.

According to a new report from PC Games Hardware (PCGH), Microsoft appears to have disabled the Xbox Game Bar performance optimization feature in Windows 10 – at least for Pro and Enterprise editions. This change could severely impact the performance of some CPU models, especially those from AMD.

Game Bar helps optimize the Ryzen X3D platform experience

When AMD launched the Ryzen 7 5800X3D, the first CPU to use 3D V-Cache technology, every processing core had smooth access to high-speed cache, without the need for optimization from the operating system.

However, the Ryzen 7000X3D and recently Ryzen 9000X3D models use a dual-CCD architecture (each CCD contains 8 cores). In which:

1. A CCD equipped with 3D V-Cache for optimized gaming.
2. The remaining CCD prioritizes higher clock speeds to handle other tasks.

On Windows 10 and 11, Xbox Game Bar works with the 3D V-Cache Performance Optimizer Driver (included in AMD chipset drivers) to ensure gaming tasks are properly routed to the fast CCD cache – maximizing performance.

Users just need to enable the "**Remember this is a game**" option in the Xbox Game Bar settings for the system to remember and apply optimally.

However, PCGH said that after trying to reinstall Windows 10, the Xbox Game Bar no longer worked properly, even after re-enabling all options. The important ' **Remember this is a game** ' feature was also no longer available.

When the testing team updated the Xbox Game Bar on Windows 10, the Game Settings section even crashed when accessing, unable to activate game optimization as before. Even more strangely, Microsoft's official support page related to this feature has also been removed.

While mid-range Ryzen users like the 5700G may not be affected much, Ryzen 7000X3D or 9000X3D series which rely heavily on Game Bar to optimize gaming performance will definitely see a noticeable difference.

Microsoft needs to act fast

Even if this is just a temporary bug, Microsoft should still approach the issue with urgency but also caution, because the performance of AMD's X3D chips depends heavily on the coordination between software and hardware. Even a small change can "lose the quality" of what is considered AMD's strongest CPU in the gaming segment today.

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