Ubuntu 12.04 Desktop Becomes Unresponsive

Some Ubuntu 12.04 servers can experience what appears to be a system crash. The desktop will become unresponsive, and certain desktop elements will disappear.

To fix:

1.) Hard reboot your machine

2.) Open a terminal. Applications --> Accessories --> Terminal

3.) Type the following command:

sudo gedit /usr/share/xsessions/gnome-classic.desktop

4.) Find the line that says:

Exec=gnome-session --session=gnome-classic

Change the line to say:

Exec=gnome-session --session=gnome-fallback

5.) Save the file and reboot the system (or logout/login)