
Subject: My computer is in a comma.

Posted by [prox](#) on Tue, 27 Dec 2005 02:02:08 GMT

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OK so this is how it went down:

Friday afternoon i came home all relaxed because i have a whooole week off. I decided to sit down and just chill on AIM listening to music for a while... and it was going down fine, but all of a sudden the comp crashed and restarted itself. Only problem was that the monitor refused to give me a visual after that. So I thought, shit, its either the monitor or the video card. But nope, i tried the monitor on a different computer and it worked fine.

My reasoning for ruling out the video card possibility is that from time to time the monitor shows a picture, not for long but it does once in a while. I even got to log into windows yesterday, but that didn't last too long... not long enough to finish a virus scan anyways. After that i've been back to where i started. When the monitor DOES show something now it says something about a "checksum rom error" or something like that, and it tells me "drive A detected, please insert system disk and press enter to continue."

I even replaced the motherboard battery and changed cables around...nothing. ATM, my computer is sitting on the floor all taken apart and im looking at it in frustration because nothing i can do seems to be worth a damn. My question to you guys is: Is there anything that can be done? Maybe get a new video card, new motherboard? Or is there anything i can do with what i have?

thanks for your help

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.

Posted by [cmatt42](#) on Tue, 27 Dec 2005 02:21:17 GMT

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I would say it's your graphics card. I had a similar problem, and I resolved it by reinstalling the drivers. Try that, maybe?

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.

Posted by [prox](#) on Tue, 27 Dec 2005 02:24:38 GMT

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I would if i could actually log into windows...or get a picture on my monitor for that matter =(.

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.

Posted by [Goztow](#) on Tue, 27 Dec 2005 07:31:43 GMT

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Try with a cold boot and check if it works then.

(cold boot being a startup disk)

I don't think it's the drivers for video-card, it would still show you your startup info...

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [prox](#) on Tue, 27 Dec 2005 15:43:38 GMT
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Just tried that, this is what i got:

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [Hex](#) on Tue, 27 Dec 2005 17:04:14 GMT
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Try resetting your cmos

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [prox](#) on Tue, 27 Dec 2005 19:02:34 GMT
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Ok now we're getting somewhere. Everytime i reset CMOS it lets my crap turn on and i get to access setup. The only problem is, everytime i try resetting my options and i save, the p.o.s dies again =(.

EDIT: I've been logged into windows for the past half hour now, running all kinds of antiviruses and reinstalling drivers and shit. I'll keep you guys updated D:

EDIT #2: Ok something is definetly wrong with my BIOS. I don't know why but, everytime i wanna turn this on i have to reset the CMOS, and everytime i try to change the CMOS settings it just dies on me... does anybody know how to update my bios? thanks.

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [icedog90](#) on Tue, 27 Dec 2005 23:03:58 GMT
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What is your motherboard? Usually the manufacture website has BIOS updates.

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [prox](#) on Tue, 27 Dec 2005 23:39:02 GMT
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It's an epox EP-8RDA3+, but i've already tried the bios update...didn't do anything =/

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [icedog90](#) on Wed, 28 Dec 2005 02:22:13 GMT
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Try isolating the problem. I think you should try another motherboard... hopefully you have an extra one to try and see for sure?

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [prox](#) on Wed, 28 Dec 2005 02:31:25 GMT
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nope

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [Goztow](#) on Wed, 28 Dec 2005 07:33:55 GMT
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I'm not sure where you bought it but i hope they have a nice customer service... I think it's time to decide that you might need some professional help (for you computer, that is)...

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [mision08](#) on Wed, 28 Dec 2005 08:07:13 GMT
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Did you pull the battery for 24 hours? Have you installed any system drivers of late, SM Bus controller, IDE, RAID?

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [icedog90](#) on Wed, 28 Dec 2005 10:10:44 GMT
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Goztow wrote on Tue, 27 December 2005 23:33 I'm not sure where you bought it but i hope they have a nice customer service... I think it's time to decide that you might need some professional help (for you computer, that is)...

"Professional" technicians know nothing.

mision08 wrote on Wed, 28 December 2005 00:07: Did you pull the battery for 24 hours? Have you installed any system drivers of late, SM Bus controller, IDE, RAID?

Try his method of pulling the battery out for 24 hours.

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.

Posted by [Goztow](#) on Wed, 28 Dec 2005 10:21:46 GMT

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icedog90 wrote on Wed, 28 December 2005 05:10: Goztow wrote on Tue, 27 December 2005 23:33: I'm not sure where you bought it but i hope they have a nice customer service... I think it's time to decide that you might need some professional help (for you computer, that is)... "Professional" technicians know nothing.

That's generalising bigtime. Often what you pay more for in some shops is just the fact that they have someone capable.

Also all the checks to do, which will take you multiple days, they'll do it in some hours due to routine/knowing what to look for. I mean: this guy has no clue what really is wrong and neither do you guys, there are just some possibilities but if you need to try them all one by one, following forum indications, you might be better off doing what i suggested.

And I'm not talking about the fact that when you start messing with the bios, you might do more harm than cure...

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.

Posted by [mision08](#) on Wed, 28 Dec 2005 12:32:32 GMT

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Talking with the manufacturer can be a good thing, as they should know what the beeps during POST mean. If your getting into Windows then the BIOS has past the POST So, I doubt the BIOS or CMOS is the problem. Sounds like incompatible driver(s) for a system controller. Most likely the one controlling the video card, AGP or PCI. I would try rolling back the drivers. Make sure their "Microsoft Windows Compatibility Publisher" drivers from SP2 or somesuch. Absolutely no nVidia drivers!!! You should unplug the ethernet card, sound card, and anything else that is non essential. Remove any drivers not needed like the sound card or NIC drivers.

Anti-virus scan = a waist of time. Oh, and enjoy your vacation.

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.

Posted by [icedog90](#) on Wed, 28 Dec 2005 19:49:54 GMT

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A lot of people everywhere tend to think "drivers drivers drivers!" when I've almost never seen any history of problems being fixed by updating/rolling back the drivers in a situation like this. If it doesn't even boot all the way, it's a lot smaller of a chance that it could be the drivers.

"Professionals" usually don't know anything, but they know how to deal with problems that occur often. Contacting the manufacture is a different thing, but I'm talking about technicians at local stores or other places. If you think I'm wrong, then it's you who's below one of those people. Whenever I hear them talk to a customer it just makes me mad because a lot of times they don't even know what they're talking about. There are some out there that aren't stupid like that, but there are too many that are. Yes, they may be able to solve problems a lot better than me, but that's because they deal with the same ones all the time so they know what to do right away.

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.

Posted by [mision08](#) on Thu, 29 Dec 2005 02:13:40 GMT

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I kind of get what your saying. I have many O/S, on several hard drives and they all seem to work just fine with the drivers from SP2, for the most part. But, we all want to see improvements to 3D Mark scores and game play, so we download the latest drivers to find issues associated with installing them, or uninstalling the old ones. I always thought it was virus this and spyware that. Hell Im more afraid of drivers than I am of a virus, just stay away from girlsonthefarm.com (I hope that's not a web site) The fact of the matter is, Motherboards are streaming out of Taiwan with so many different components, SATA, IDE, AGP, PCI-E, RAID this, RAID that, nVidia chips, VIA chips, on and on. Makes it difficult to know what system drivers will cause problems with a particular configuration. My point is that a driver can cause bad things to happen. My DFI MOBO ships with a CD-ROM full of drivers. Funny thing is, NVIDIA will try and load 5 of them by default resulting in BSOD. NVIDIA SMBus Driver(GOOD) NVIDIA Ethernet Driver(GOOD) NVIDIA IDE Driver(BAD) NVIDIA Audio Driver(BAD) NVIDIA Firewall(BAD) NVIDIA NTUNE(BAD) 2 out of 6 RUN AWAY, RUN AWAY.

here you have 20 pages of good reading

If you don't feel like reading

I like the way this guy thinks

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.

Posted by [Goztow](#) on Thu, 29 Dec 2005 08:14:17 GMT

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Mission, what you say is exactly what I always say: if it works, don't fix it!

And about the technicians: it all depends. You just need to find the right place.

Look at ISP-helpdesk: most people there can just help you with ordinary problems and most people also call for that, so it's logical. My ISP-helpdesk = ONE person and he can help about everyone with every problem they encounter.

You just confirm what i said: many can handle more problems better cause they have the experience, that's what you're paying them for, no? I can also make pizza but I still go get it at pizza hut because they got the experience and material to do it better/faster .

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [prox](#) on Sat, 31 Dec 2005 03:41:14 GMT
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Well, thanks for the help guys but I can't seem to fix this toaster. I tried emailing the manufacturer but it said they have my IP blocked (???) On top of that, I couldn't find a number to call...and there's really nothing else i've left to do. Ahhh, I guess i'll have to buy a new mother board and video card after all .

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [Nineball](#) on Sat, 31 Dec 2005 04:14:18 GMT
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Your video card is fine. Just replace the motherboard.

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [mision08](#) on Sat, 31 Dec 2005 19:12:47 GMT
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I hate that you can't get your rig up and running. I assume you have a video card with an AGP interface. You should try it on another computer before you replace it. If you determine that the BIOS is bad, it can be replaced.
But I would take it to a professional
I doubt both MOBO and video card shit the bed. Even if you just want to upgrade your pc, I hate you can't fix that one.

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [icedog90](#) on Sat, 31 Dec 2005 19:21:44 GMT
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Nineball wrote on Fri, 30 December 2005 20:14>Your video card is fine. Just replace the motherboard.

What he said. It can't be your video card. There are no display errors.

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.

Posted by [cmatt42](#) on Sun, 01 Jan 2006 03:59:19 GMT

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Your system can be finicky with your video card without display errors.

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.

Posted by [mision08](#) on Sun, 01 Jan 2006 05:50:24 GMT

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I don't think i have ever seen a display error. I have seen plenty of errors in the event viewer, and some on a total BSOD meltdown.

NYC!!! get a rope

Is this your board?

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.

Posted by [icedog90](#) on Sun, 01 Jan 2006 11:25:12 GMT

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cmatt42 wrote on Sat, 31 December 2005 19:59 Your system can be finicky with your video card without display errors.

All of his drivers are updated.

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.

Posted by [mision08](#) on Sun, 01 Jan 2006 12:36:31 GMT

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I sure hate reading shit like this, but I would try moving the modules

Don't you just love hardware

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.

Posted by [prox](#) on Sun, 01 Jan 2006 17:27:12 GMT

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That's...EXACTLY what i'm experiencing right now. It sucks though, that I don't have any spare motherboards to replace the BIOS chip

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.

Posted by [mision08](#) on Mon, 02 Jan 2006 13:16:01 GMT

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Are you using nTune?

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [prox](#) on Mon, 02 Jan 2006 17:12:01 GMT
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No. Should I be?

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [mision08](#) on Mon, 02 Jan 2006 23:31:43 GMT
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No, I had the same thing happen to me when I ran the tune up wizard. It was obvious what caused my problems though, It was difficult to kill the process. I would boot into safe mode and try an uninstall, but msinstall is not available in safe mode. I had to use msconfig, selective boot, then uninstall the POS.

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [prox](#) on Tue, 03 Jan 2006 00:17:10 GMT
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Actually... good news. It's fixed... i figured in the end it'd be something stupid. I just put my RAM sticks in different slots and pow, working like new... *bangs head into keyboard*

slfrgkn gsd;jmksq 3-0's; dfa

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [mision08](#) on Tue, 03 Jan 2006 02:18:42 GMT
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Well, that is certainly good news. I can't believe I didn't issue that in my first post. It's my default answer to hardware related issues. I think everyone now uses two modules or more. Test each one individually, in all the slots. Repeat with all the modules on the system. Anyway, good to know you got her fixed.

Subject: Re: My computer is in a comma.
Posted by [icedog90](#) on Tue, 03 Jan 2006 03:31:56 GMT
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That's the nature of a lot of problems. They usually turn out to be something extremely simple if the problem seems to be very complicated. That is, in the computer world.
