Subject: Intermittent shutdowns/restarts whilst gaming
Posted by Tupolev TU-95 Bear on Fri, 28 Dec 2012 03:04:54 GMT
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This issue has been an on-going problem since the end of November, start of December.

Whilst gaming, my computer has been shutting down and restarting, no errors, no notifications of it doing so, just sudden restart. When the computer restarts it comes up with the message (what you would usually get if the computer didn't shut down successfully), but doing mundane tasks such as browsing, playing Slender or Minecraft = no issues.

I've checked the inside of my computer and cleared any dust, checked for faulty RAM chips and it still happens.

I'm not sure if the trouble causer is my PSU, as I happened to of forgotten what the watts is and what power requirements my graphics card needs.

My PC specs
Motherboard: ASUS M4A77TD
OS: Windows 7 Ultimate
Graphics: EVGA GTX460
RAM: 8GB DDR3 RAM
Processor: AMD Phenom X4 B55 @ 3.30GHz

Subject: Re: Intermittent shutdowns/restarts whilst gaming
Posted by EvilWhiteDragon on Fri, 28 Dec 2012 11:22:49 GMT
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Ran memtest or similar for at least 12 hours?

Subject: Re: Intermittent shutdowns/restarts whilst gaming
Posted by Tupolev TU-95 Bear on Fri, 28 Dec 2012 19:06:26 GMT
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Thanks for the feedback with doing a RAM test
I done the RAM test with WinDiag + Memtest (just so the results are the same) few days after it occurred and it came up with no issues. I did replace the RAM back in September (originally 4GB but I purchased 2x4GB from crucial).
Shall I do another test in case the new RAM is faulty?

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RAM & CPU
Your OS may be panicking & triggering a power reset. The simplest thing you can do is re-seat your memory (ie take it out and put it back in again) but this won't fix chip faults.

If you try running your computer with one stick at a time you may be able to pinpoint the issue to a faulty DIMM, and hopefully get a refund for the faulty product (if it's newish). I'm assuming you are using two 4GB sticks at the moment.

Have you OC'ed your CPU, changed RAM timings, etc?

Power Supply
This smells more like a PSU going flaky than anything else. Is it a generic or branded unit, what is its name/model and approximately how old is it?

Power supplies generally lose efficiency as they heat up, so after several hours of use/gaming yours might believe the load upon it is too high and decide to reset.

How you treat the wattage figure printed as your power supply's specs depends on how much you believe the manufacturer. Generic PSUs commonly give up at half their rated figure (and contain regulator chips not designed to provide as much current as they advertise) whilst more expensive units don't add up the total wattages of all their output rails (5v, 12v, etc) but instead just advertise the 12v figure as the unit's wattage (which is the only rail capacity that matters to most people).

Overheating
Overheating any monitored component (graphics card, CPU, some harddrives and some PSUs) will cause a reset. Have a feel around inside the unit while running a game or immediately after browsing the web & downloading files - is your harddrive too hot to touch, and/or are your CPU/g-card fans going crazy?

If you cannot identify any particular item overheating easily, put your case on your desk, take the cover off and run it with a desk fan pointed at it. Keep the fan a good distance away however, as they output as much EM as they do everything else (which can cause errors when computer components are not completely shielded by a metal case connected to earth).

If I'm using obscure terminology or you want more help, feel free to ask.

Regards, William