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Subject: I'm stuck... REALLY stuck...

Posted by [icedog90](#) on Sun, 18 Mar 2007 09:42:41 GMT

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My 200GB hard drive failed (at least, I think it's my hard drive), to the point where I can't even boot windows anymore. It first began by spontaneous BSODs that had no pattern whatsoever and were impossible to predict. Now I get a blue screen of death before Windows even finishes booting. So I tried installing windows XP on my old 80GB and it would just randomly freeze while copying the system files. It almost never went past drivers.cab and never made it over 80%. The CD-ROM would also stop spinning when the copying halted. At first I thought it was the CD, so I tried burning a new CD from the same image (yes, it is legit), and it still did the same thing. Then I tried isolating the problem by installing Windows on the same hard drive with the same CD-ROM, but in a different computer. It copied the system files fine, but it never made it to the actual Windows installation because it kept trying to boot from the CD... even though I made the hard disk the first boot device. I'm pretty sure that this is some random issue with the bios, but it still makes things iffy. I'm quite certain it's my processor though. I've heard [true] stories about Windows XP never being able to copy the files all the way because of a faulty processor. You'd think that once a processor is faulty, it just won't post, but that isn't necessarily true, even in my own experiences.

So, assuming it's my processor, I could get a new motherboard and processor to hold me out until the summer, when I would just build a whole new computer. Well, there is still a big problem. My processor is an Athlon XP, which makes my motherboard socket A. Socket A is completely wiped out, so I would have to get an Athlon 64. But, I still have an AGP video card and standard DDR, and it's almost impossible to find a 754 or 939 motherboard that supports AGP and DDR400 these days. So, this is where I'm REALLY stuck. I totally cannot afford new memory (DDR2) and a new video card (PCI Express).

Can anyone give me ANY advice at all?

Thanks.

edit: The first paragraph is lacking a lot of information because I already did endless hours of troubleshooting and have mostly figured out the issue. It's the second paragraph that is asking for advice. You can still suggest something for my computer's issue, but I just wanted to make what I was asking for clearer.

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