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Subject: Computer trouble

Posted by [Kanezor](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 2006 13:17:46 GMT

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I am posting this from my old Mac, with Mac OS 9 and Internet Explorer 4.5, I'm sure you all agree that this is a rather last-choice computer to use.

I woke up yesterday afternoon after a nap to find that my computer had apparently frozen. I shut it off and then turned it back on, and nothing appeared on the screen. I unplugged all of my extra hard drives thinking maybe one of them went bad, but that did not help. I then took out all of my add-in cards except for my graphics card, that also did not help. I do not have a restore CD to try to boot off of, if it will even boot at all.

The screens do not activate at all, even for the POST messages. Before I turn it in for warranty (eg, processor/memory/motherboard went bad -- glad I got the extended warranty, as the manufacturer's warranty just ran out two weeks ago), do any of you know anything I can do to try to get it working again?

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble

Posted by [Sir Phoenixx](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 2006 13:54:09 GMT

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Can you try another monitor or graphics card? Maybe one of those died.

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble

Posted by [Aprime](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 2006 14:12:30 GMT

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Overheating? Cat hair?

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble

Posted by [Mindtzar](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 2006 14:35:29 GMT

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Kanezor, I'm almost positive it's your motherboard.

What you described happened to me, my motherboard just went dead (I only found this out after I tested every component I had on another computer)

My motherboard must just have gotten knackered. Buy a new motherboard or get a replacement one with your warranty.

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [SCOTT9](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 2006 15:05:50 GMT  
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i would recommend get a baseball bat and destroy ya pc then take it back and say it fell out the window

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [Kanezor](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 2006 16:27:50 GMT  
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Sir Phoenixx wrote on Thu, 05 January 2006 08:54Can you try another monitor or graphics card? Maybe one of those died.  
I just tried swapping the monitor configuration, which did not work. I then tried swapping out my new video card for the one which it was shipped with, and that one also did not come up, on either monitor.

Also, I did not mention this before, but the hard drive access LED never turns off, even after 5-10 minutes of being left on (which should be plenty of time for my copy of Windows XP Pro to boot in "headless" mode, eg without a monitor). Could that possibly be an indication of hardware failure?

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [PaRaDoX](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 2006 18:25:37 GMT  
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don't bother with it, jest send it back and get a new one if it broke and you get it working again it will jest happen again

---

Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [icedog90](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 2006 18:30:58 GMT  
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The last thing I suggest doing before you send it out is to leave it alone for half of the day and then try turning it on. I've seen two cases of this where after crashing it won't boot at all until left for a long while. For me to have a better understanding, does your computer beep at all when you turn it on?

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [Kanezor](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 2006 19:12:08 GMT  
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icedog90 wrote on Thu, 05 January 2006 12:30The last thing I suggest doing before you send it out is to leave it alone for half of the day and then try turning it on. I've seen two cases of this where after crashing it won't boot at all until left for a long while. For me to have a better understanding, does your computer beep at all when you turn it on? After taking out all of the add-in cards yesterday evening, I let it sit overnight. This morning (about 10 hours later), before swapping video cards, I tried booting it again. It still did not work.

It does not beep at all. The screens do not activate at all. The screens are good, I've tried them on other computers. The hard drive activity LED never turns off. I'll call tech support later today. This sucks.

---

Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [icedog90](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 2006 19:22:16 GMT  
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Yeah, call tech support.

---

Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [trooprm02](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 2006 20:57:17 GMT  
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Try running it in safe mode, if then the desktops shown, then you either have a faulty registry or video driver

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [icedog90](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 2006 22:52:59 GMT  
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trooprm02 wrote on Thu, 05 January 2006 12:57Try running it in safe mode, if then the desktops shown, then you either have a faulty registry or video driver

He can't boot, period. That means that when he turns on his computer, nothing happens and there is no display.

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [bigwig992](#) on Fri, 06 Jan 2006 04:09:25 GMT  
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I OC'd my processor once way too much, and nothing would turn on, maybe try taking the little mobo battery out for like 5 minutes (as well as unplugging everything) then putting it back in to reset bio's will work. Nothing to really lose at this point.

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [light](#) on Fri, 06 Jan 2006 06:03:33 GMT  
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Only other thing I can suggest is removing the CMOS battery.

But it does sound like your mobo needs replacing.

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [spsptweek](#) on Fri, 06 Jan 2006 07:29:57 GMT  
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Power supply?

Is your computer turning on at all? If not, than check to see if your power supply is working, if not, easy 30 dallor fix.

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [Scythar](#) on Fri, 06 Jan 2006 12:09:39 GMT  
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1. Make sure the power switch wire is attached to motherboard.
  2. Have you unplugged the powercord at any time? Try it if not.
  3. Since it crashed before this, it really does sound like it overheated or something just plain broke. Take it to techies if you can't test it yourself with spare parts.
- 

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [mision08](#) on Fri, 06 Jan 2006 13:39:01 GMT  
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Pull all of your memory modules out, along with the CMOS battery. Let it sit for 24 hours to make damn sure it clears. Try to POST with one module at a time. If it fails to POST, move the module to another slot. Repeat this through all the slots, then through all the modules. What MOBO, memory, video card, PSU, HDD and HDD setup is it? Take a close look at the MOBO for burn marks on mosfets, around the chip, or anything with a heatsink on it, memory slots and so on.

Quote:I then tried swapping out my new video card for the one which it was shipped with, and that one also did not come up, on either monitor.

What new video card? Also, what was the computer doing when you laid down to take a nap?  
Why are you taking a nap? Are you sick?  
This retailer is in Houston, not that you need to buy anything

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble

Posted by [Kanezor](#) on Fri, 06 Jan 2006 19:37:00 GMT

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I have in fact unplugged it, every time I removed anything internal. It would be rather silly to leave it plugged in while adding/removing hardware, don't you think?

My computer shipped with a GeForce 5300 FX. I purchased a Radeon X800XL about 4-6 months ago.

I am in fact coming down sick, which is why I took the nap. The computer was relatively idle when I took the nap; it had a number of dormant programs as well as mIRC, MSN Messenger, and three copies of SphtBotv3 running.

I did briefly look for scorch marks, and did not find anything. It is dual-channel RAM, which if I remember correctly means that RAM must be inserted in pairs, of which I only have one pair. I have not tried swapping out the RAM into different slots.

I called tech support, and they said that it's probably a dead motherboard. But, unfortunately they cannot fix the machine until I've faxed in a correction to a mistake that the retailer made when I purchased the machine (& warranty) a little over a year ago, which I just completed. It will take them three business days to make the changes necessary, and then however long it takes to fix the machine. I'm looking at it being down for probably another week.

sux to be me

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble

Posted by [icedog90](#) on Fri, 06 Jan 2006 19:53:22 GMT

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Dual channel isn't a certain type of memory, it's two sticks of DDR that are both exactly the same and are being effectively doubled in bandwidth from the RAM to the CPU.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dual\\_channel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dual_channel)

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble

Posted by [Scythar](#) on Fri, 06 Jan 2006 20:25:48 GMT

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icedog90 wrote on Fri, 06 January 2006 14:53 Dual channel isn't a certain type of memory, it's two sticks of DDR that are both exactly the same and are being effectively doubled in bandwidth from the RAM to the CPU.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dual\\_channel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dual_channel)

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Actually, the bandwidth is only doubled between the RAM and memory controller. There's still only one frontside bus (between CPU and chipset), which is exactly why dual channel doesn't bring such a huge performance increase in AMD chips than Intel, since AMD doesn't have as fast FSB and it creates a bottleneck. Intel's fast 800 Mhz(= 2x DDR400 speed) is great for dual channel arcitechture.

kanezor, do the fans start to spin when you boot it up? Or if not, can you check externally if the CPU fan works? (with battery or something).

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble

Posted by [icedog90](#) on Fri, 06 Jan 2006 20:56:36 GMT

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Scythar wrote on Fri, 06 January 2006 12:25icedog90 wrote on Fri, 06 January 2006 14:53Dual channel isn't a certain type of memory, it's two sticks of DDR that are both exactly the same and are being effectively doubled in bandwidth from the RAM to the CPU.

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I knew someone would jump in and attempt to correct me because I said "bandwidth". I was talking about the bits, not the actual bandwidth. Utilizing two 64-bit channels, it results in a total bandwidth of 128 bits for moving from the RAM to the CPU.

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble

Posted by [Scythar](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 02:32:53 GMT

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icedog90 wrote on Fri, 06 January 2006 15:56Scythar wrote on Fri, 06 January 2006 12:25icedog90 wrote on Fri, 06 January 2006 14:53Dual channel isn't a certain type of memory, it's two sticks of DDR that are both exactly the same and are being effectively doubled in bandwidth from the RAM to the CPU.

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There isn't a straight databus between RAM and CPU, it all goes through the chipset.

The problem is that the FSB(CPU<->chipset) is only 64-bit, so the uber1337 2x64-bit dual channel memory(Chipset<->RAM) bus can't fit through the FSB, causing a bottleneck, and nowhere near 2x transfer rates.

This is becoming obsolete info when 128-bit FSB is becoming more common or there's some other new tech stuff involved, but anyone with Athlon XP-family CPU, for example, will not benefit all that much from dual channel.

---

Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [mision08](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 08:09:46 GMT  
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Sorry, I was just joking about the nap. Dual channel DIMM will work with only one stick just fine. I would test each module individually, in each slot. It still does nothing more than run the HDD to no end?

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [Aprime](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 09:56:06 GMT  
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Looks like I ran out of luck too, I think my graphics card has been running without a working fan during the last day, which explains why I was hearing my PC beeping while I was playing RA:APB.

And this new BIOS update isn't helping either, it underclocks my RAM and there's nothing I can do about it.

---

Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [Kanezor](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 10:16:03 GMT  
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My mistake about dual channel RAM. Yes, the fans still work when powered, without any changes

by me.

I figure that by now, there probably is something fucked up about the processor/RAM/motherboard/something else. Since I don't have any extra parts lying around like some people keep suggesting, that really limits my opportunities for troubleshooting, especially since I'm not going to spend the extra buck (that I don't have) to try to troubleshoot it myself when it's still under warranty, let alone the fact that I don't really feel comfortable swapping a lot of stuff in & out besides the add-in cards -- I'm afraid of breaking something which would void the warranty.

Thanks for all of your help, there's not much else to do now but wait.

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble

Posted by [PackHunter](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 12:15:41 GMT

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I'm curious, what brand motherboard do you have? I heard and in fact found out myself Asus is making really shitty motherboards these days. I have got 2 fried Asus motherboards that do the exact same thing yours does, \*nothing\*.

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble

Posted by [Aprime](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 14:51:46 GMT

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I was able to get my fan working, but my RAM's still underclocked no matter what I do.

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble

Posted by [Renx](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 17:14:36 GMT

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Clear the CMOS. Turn off the power supply and unplug it, then there should be a little two-pinned jumper sitting on a set of three pins(somewhere on the mobo). Move the jumper so it is sitting on one of the pins it wasn't before, but still on two pins. Leave it for 15s, move it back, plug in and turn on the power supply. It should post fine then.

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble

Posted by [SCOTT9](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 18:55:13 GMT

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i would suggest have a look at every critical component and see if ones got fried

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [PaRaDoX](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 19:46:12 GMT  
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jest return it if it jest stopped working then its a peace of shit

---

Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [mision08](#) on Sat, 07 Jan 2006 21:46:39 GMT  
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Bummer, I would let you borrow my spare MOBO, CPU, and RAM if I made the daily commute to Houston. Hell, last year I went from N.Dallas to S.Houston, I-45@ Almeda RD. 4 to 6 times a week. I know every inch of I-45, and a few inches of Hwy75.

Howdy Comrade,  
Why did you flash the BIOS? What MOBO, chipset, RAM, video card are you working with? What did you do to fix the fan? Is the RAM set to a 1:1 ratio in the BIOS DRAM configuration?

---

Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [icedog90](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 02:52:16 GMT  
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Scythar wrote on Fri, 06 January 2006 18:32  
icedog90 wrote on Fri, 06 January 2006 15:56  
Scythar wrote on Fri, 06 January 2006 12:25  
icedog90 wrote on Fri, 06 January 2006 14:53  
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[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dual\\_channel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dual_channel)

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The problem is that the FSB(CPU<->chipset) is only 64-bit, so the uber1337 2x64-bit dual channel memory(Chipset<->RAM) bus can't fit through the FSB, causing a bottleneck, and nowhere near 2x transfer rates.

This is becoming obsolete info when 128-bit FSB is becoming more common or there's some other new tech stuff involved, but anyone with Athlon XP-family CPU, for example, will not benefit all that much from dual channel.

Now you're going into another topic...

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble

Posted by [Aprime](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 04:59:02 GMT

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mision08 wrote on Sat, 07 January 2006 16:46Bummer, I would let you borrow my spare MOBO, CPU, and RAM if I made the daily commute to Houston. Hell, last year I went from N.Dallas to S.Houston, I-45@ Almeda RD. 4 to 6 times a week. I know every inch of I-45, and a few inches of Hwy75.

Howdy Comrade,  
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It's an ATi X800XT (AGP). I nscrewed the entire heatsink, cleaned it a bit, gave it a run in one of our other six computers and it was working again, if it ever occurs again I'll just buy another heatsink for it.

It's Kingston value RAM (one of them has Samsung memory while the other one has Kingston memory, I bought both sticks at the same place last year), it does the job and I can overclock my CPU without any problems. As for the motherboard it's an Asus K8N-E Deluxe, a socket 754 motherboard to be exact, my RAM has always been clocked to 400MHz before, but now it's downclocked to 333MHz, but when I remove a stick and leave one in (no matter which one it is) it's clocked to 400MHz again. I checked all the DIMMs. I flashed the BIOS because there was a new version out.

The RAM is indeed set to a 1:1 ratio.

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble

Posted by [Scythar](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 11:29:52 GMT

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icedog90 wrote on Sat, 07 January 2006 21:52Scythar wrote on Fri, 06 January 2006 18:32icedog90 wrote on Fri, 06 January 2006 15:56Scythar wrote on Fri, 06 January 2006 12:25icedog90 wrote on Fri, 06 January 2006 14:53Dual channel isn't a certain type of memory, it's two sticks of DDR that are both exactly the same and are being effectively doubled in bandwidth from the RAM to the CPU.

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Now you're going into another topic...

No I'm not I just made it clear that dual channel architecture doesn't automatically double the bits to 128 between RAM and CPU, just RAM and memory contrtoller, as I've said about three times now

Whether there's actually a FSB fast enough to take advantage of that, shouldn't be taken for granted. (Ahtlon XP)

But hey, we're hijacking this...

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [trooprm02](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 19:36:36 GMT  
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icedog90 wrote on Thu, 05 January 2006 16:52trooprm02 wrote on Thu, 05 January 2006 12:57Try running it in safe mode, if then the desktops shown, then you either have a faulty registry or video driver

He can't boot, period. That means that when he turns on his computer, nothing happens and there is no display.

Ok then during the boot, boot your computer with the "last know good/working config" that is a selection in the setup section, try that

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [Nineball](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 20:55:12 GMT  
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Can you not read?  
He cannot boot, PERIOD. Nothing at all comes up. Is that hard to understand?

Anyway...  
Have you tried a different PSU? That seems to be the most likely culprit; that, or something shorted out, and completely fucked up.

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [mision08](#) on Sun, 08 Jan 2006 22:31:04 GMT  
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He has an extended warranty and is content to let the manufacturer deal with it. Although, I think he should get another extension to his warranty courteous of the manufacturer.

Comrade, you broke rule number one of BIOS flashing. BIOS updates are usually for known issues like voltage setting that kill RAM modules, or maybe an issue with underclocking RAM. There is an element of risk involved, AWDFLASH.EXE is a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Yes, I know the first thing to do when installing a new MOBO is update the BIOS. That is a desire of the manufacturer to have the MOBO on the shelf ASAP. Hell, BIOS flahing is most likely the product of a marketing circle jerk, not research and development at all. Anyway, im not saying you did the wrong thing, just that you should have a better reason for doing it. If you find a BIOS that works well with the memory sticks, you should probably stay with it.

The heatsink screws to the PCB on the ATI X800XT? Did you clean the mating surface with acetone, and apply a tiny bit of thermal paste before reseating it?

Is that Kingston value with Samsung TCCD memory? A BIOS usually favors RAM due to the chip it uses.

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [Renx](#) on Mon, 09 Jan 2006 03:54:01 GMT  
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Clear. The. CMOS.

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [Aprime](#) on Mon, 09 Jan 2006 04:54:45 GMT  
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It's TCCC memory.  
RenX: Will tomorrow when I get back from school.

---

Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [Nineball](#) on Mon, 09 Jan 2006 10:47:32 GMT  
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BIOS updates will (sometimes) add new settings, and add compatibility for new CPUs, as well.

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [mision08](#) on Mon, 09 Jan 2006 15:27:41 GMT  
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Yes, and I would know exactly what new settings are added, and what hardware is being updated. If you don't have a dual processor, no need in getting a BIOS that fixes issues for that hardware.

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Subject: Re: Computer trouble  
Posted by [Nineball](#) on Wed, 11 Jan 2006 06:42:01 GMT  
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Unless AMD or Intel releases a new core.

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