

My Baby Died

Saturday, March 4th 2006

Yes, my computer seems to have completely died last night. It looks like bad RAM but I'm not sure. Here's what happens.

I start up, everything goes good. I log in to the machine, and KDE starts fine. But after running for about 5 minutes, apps start crashing then the whole system freezes. The screen just stops and halts right there. Sometimes all that's left on screen the desktop background; other times the whole desktop is there, frozen; other times a blank screen.

So I tried to do a hard reset, but it just keeps restarting and restarting without even showing the POST stuff to me. So I'm thinking it's a RAM problem, or maybe a PSU problem. I'm hoping it's not a CPU issue.

So I turn off and restart. Sometimes restarts fine and again runs for about 5 mins. Other times I get errors while trying to load kernel modules. Other times Linux and/or Windows just doesn't get past the loading stage. So I have to turn off, wait a few seconds then start up again.

I have tried messing the RAM BIOS settings, playing with CAS Latency, even cranking up the voltage a bit. But nothing seems to work. I've tried disconnecting the Linux drive, running only the Windows drive, and vice versa. I've tried turning off (in BIOS) and disconnecting all USB devices. I even tried cleaning the dust out. Nothing works, not even kicking it.

I should also note that the case has good cooling and the CPU runs at a cool 47C and the system at 42C, on average.

So, do you guys have any ideas on what it might be? I have another PSU to test with, but no more DDR RAM or Athlon CPU to test with. So if you have any advice, please let me know.

So now I sit here on this 1GHz, 128MB SDRAM scrapped together system, running an Ubuntu Live CD, writing about my poor little computer. I guess I'll start with a MEMTEST.