

## Re: DTV antennas?

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- *From:* [dplatt@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:dplatt@xxxxxxxxxxxx) (Dave Platt)
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In article <kI9fk.252982\$fB7.239429@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Joel Koltner <zapwireDASHgroups@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Do you have a memory tester? Or something more heuristic like running Doom in a loop or whatever overnight on a "tester PC?"

I recently used a bootable program called MEMTEST86+ which runs quite a selection of pattern and offset tests on the memory. It can show the specific conditions under which a bad-data error occurs.

It saved me a good deal of grief, I think. It became clear within an hour or so that my motherboard was unable to run with four DDR memory sticks, in a dual-channel mode, with good reliability. The DDR would run OK in single-channel mode, but would start occasionally dropping a bit or two in dual-channel mode.

Some searching on Google led me to conclude that it's actually a motherboard problem (the memory-controller line drivers don't seem to have enough current capacity to drive the capacitance of four DIMMs at the same time). I returned the four DIMMS, bought two larger-capacity ones, and have successfully run these in dual-channel mode at the highest speeds that the motherboard configuration supports... so I'm now a happy camper and probably avoided a whole bunch of occasional nasty intermittent errors and crashes by doing the tests.

It turns out that MEMTEST86+ is available as a standard accessory to the Debian distribution of Linux, so I've started installing it on each new Debian system I set up (using GRUB as the boot manager). Definitely adds peace of mind!

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Dave Platt <dplatt@xxxxxxxxxxxx> AE6EO

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