

Re: PC Power supply

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- *From:* Tim <tim@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 27 Apr 2008 20:48:07 -0300
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In article <icGdneEbWMyC2InVnZ2dnUVZ_vCdnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxx>, Mikek400@remthis.comcast.net says...

"Charlie Bress" <left@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:puidnUXeRNor0I_VnZ2dnUVZ_judnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxx

"Tim" <tim@xxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:MPG.227bfabd7a5f7379896f4@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

In article <2FoQj.7\$1m3.5@trndny02>,
jamessweet@xxxxxxxxxxxx says...

"Charlie Bress" <left@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in message
news:LaWdnZ7oG-3cjo_VnZ2dnUVZ_tWtnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxx

My son has an E-Machine
T3828 that will not power
up. Unfortunately
he is
around 100 miles away so I
do not have more
information. There were no
changes made to the PC that
might have caused this.
At first glance it is easy to
blame the P/S itself, but a
new
replacement
did not help.

A detail: He reports that
with either supply there is a
single LED on
the

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M/B that lights up. What controls this light?
On either P/S there is no other sign of life. No fans turn on.

What are the likely causes?

I have considered some. The power switch may have failed. Or the mechanical link from the front panel to the switch.

IIRC there is a pin on the M/B-P/S connector that provides an input to the supply so that the supply turns on.. Is that a set level? What controls it?

I am considering having him drive down with it. I can repair electronic devices, but I have never come across this situation.

Is there a likelihood that the fault is in the M/B?

Thanks,

Charlie

The light is simply wired to the standby output of the PSU.

I've seen bad motherboards cause this, could also be the power button or the wiring between that and the motherboard. The other time I saw this the

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graphics card was not fully inserted in the slot.

I have seen that symptom caused by bad RAM, overclocking the CPU, corrupt BIOS. Sometimes a bad PSU will pop the MB's regulation system too. You will find that most E-machines are considered disposable due to their low cost. Make sure the replacement PSU is pin compatible with the old one. Just because the connectors are the same, doesn't mean the pins are carrying the same voltages.

I would remove all cards (not RAM) so the system is bare bones, and see if it generates a no video card error. At least you know the system is doing POST (Pre Operating System Tests) at that point. You can also try to move the RAM to a different slot, as failure with ram in the first 64 megs or so will cause the system to refuse to do POST. Sometimes moving it will clean flaky contacts. The ram should run in any slot, providing it meets the specs for that slot. Some MBs have 2 different kinds of slots on the same board. Of course if the ram is bad, then it may not boot at all.

I had one guy complain that the system he built would come on then immediately go off, so it *had* to be defective cpu or the like. It turned out that he had not mounted the CPU heatsink and fan properly, and it was up on one side. The cpu heated up very quickly, and shut the system down to protect itself. Gotta love those AMD CPU safeguards. Once the problem was rectified, the computer ran like a charm, and he is still using it today.

– Tim –

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Sounds like a plan. Thanks.

BTW when I was growing up with the PC-AT, POST was Power On Self Test.

Charlie

To the best of my knowledge it is still Power On Self Test.

Mike

To avoid any more remarks, let me say that I looked up POST in my Winn Rosch Hardware Manual, (circa 1989), which was a key reference book for many techs. It states that the term POST is indeed "Power On Self Test".

My POST description came from years of talking to newbies about when the system checked it's status. They could not comprehend that it happened right after the power on, but they could understand that it happened before the operating system loaded, hence the phrase "Pre Operating System Test".

I guess I just got too used to using it.

- Tim -

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