

A PC question.

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This is something that seems to have defeated the best minds in the UK so I thought I'd try here...;-)

I have a home assembled PC – about 18 months old – using an Asus A8N5X MB and an Athlon 64 3000+ CPU. It's mainly used for semi-pro AV work.

After a year or so of faultless service, it started shutting down at random. Would usually boot up again ok and carry on. After a few occasions I took to having PCProbe loaded and noticed the CPU temp would shoot up just before it shut down. So naturally removed the heatsink/fan, cleaned and replaced with new thermal transfer compound.

All was well for a month or so, then the fault started happening earlier and earlier – sometimes before XP had loaded. The bios power management page again showed the CPU overheating – going from ambient to overheat in around a minute. But the heatsink was cool to the touch. ;-)

I was intending to use the shotgun approach and simply replace the MB – and possibly CPU – but it seems this design of MB is now obsolete so I'd have to change lots of other things too.

I've not been able to find any description of how the CPU temp sensing works let alone any clues on fixing what must be an intermittent fault – as I've stripped and re-assembled the entire computer, cleaned all connectors etc, and it's fine again once more. But for how long?...

Any informed guesses?

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To e-mail, change noise into sound.