

Re: Great Mystery Compaq Presario 1200XL Laptop

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.repair/2009-03/msg00141.html>

- *From:* PeterD <peter2@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 05 Mar 2009 20:29:25 -0500
-

On Thu, 05 Mar 2009 11:47:44 -0800, David Nebenzahl <nobody@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On 3/5/2009 5:46 AM PeterD spake thus:

On Wed, 04 Mar 2009 17:09:10 -0800, David Nebenzahl <nobody@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On 3/4/2009 4:46 AM Ken spake thus:

Brad wrote:

I have a Compaq Presario 1200XL laptop computer that one day, would not power up. I tried another power supply, replaced a dead RTC/cmos battery, etc. I removed the RTC battery, main battery, and put it away. A month later, I decided to try it again. It powered up! Everything seemed just fine, but it only lasted for a couple days before it happened again. Again, I put it away. A month or so later, it powered up and again everything seemed just fine. I

Re: Great Mystery Compaq Presario 1200XL Laptop

downloaded ROM Paq
SP15611 and I "flashed" the
bios. About a day
and 1/2 later, the laptop
"died". Now it won't boot
up. Again after
a long rest period, it came
back to "life", but for how
long? Note:
It won't power up after a
week's "rest", but it will
power up after
a longer rest such as a
month!

If it were my computer the first thing I
would do is clean the
contacts of the RAM. It sounds a lot like a
bad connection and the
RAM is essential to it booting to even a bios
screen for most
computers.

True, but it's hard to see how that would explain the bizarre
behavior
the O.P. reported (what, do the memory chips magically
unseat
themselves, then reseat themselves in the interval?).

Easy to explain: the notebook has a (large) capacitor that is across
the backup battery so that when that battery is replaced, the settings
are not lost. He removes the backup battery, then in the (couple of
weeks) time the capacitor finally discharges and the configuration
settings are lost, and the computer can reboot.

I don't get it; how would the settings not being lost lead to the
computer not being bootable? This would seem to defeat the whole purpose
of nonvolatile configuration settings, unless I'm missing something
obvious in your reply.

Corrupted hard drive data... I've seen it happen where it would only
boot if the computer NVRAM data was set to factory specs (telling the
BIOS to find out what the drive is). Very rare... But then again, the
OP's problem seems a bit unusual, too! <g>