

Does Your Motherboard Have Leaking Capacitors?

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My letter to The Inquirer is below dashed line.

The partial list of motherboard brands that have show capacitor failures:

<http://www.motherboardrepair.com/>

MotherBoardRepair.com :: Mother Board Repair At A Component Level.

"...This is a list of just some of the brands that have shown capacitor failures in large numbers:

Abit
A-Open
ECS
EPOX
Gateway
Hewlett Packard
Intel
MSI
Shuttle
Soyo
Tyan
Via

* This is not a complete list there are many other brands that will be added to the list later..."

<http://www.theinquirer.net/?article=18574>

Plague of dodgy capacitors starts to bite

"Plague of dodgy capacitors starts to bite
Letters All about everything

By The Letterman: Monday 20 September 2004, 09:32

Hi Mike,

sci.med.transcription: Does Your Motherboard Have Leaking Capacitors?

A friend brought her PC for me to see why it powered itself off and why the modem quit working.

Then the video adaptor quit working, prompting me to take it to the neighborhood clone shop.

As Dirty Harry said: "A man's got to know his limitations"

They noticed that some of the capacitors on the Gigabyte GA-7VKML motherboard were leaking, as described in your article:

Dodgy components threaten mobos, modems here.

<http://www.theinquirer.net/?article=5878>

I researched the problem so that my friend would know the clone shop wasn't just trying to sell her a new PC:

<http://www.golightspeed.com/basic.htm>

LIGHTSPEED 2004 BASIC PC

"Complete system only ...\$288.88...with Lifetime Warranty..."

I found several articles such as this one:

<http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/WEBONLY/resource/feb03/ncap.html>

Leaking Capacitors Muck up Motherboards

This site listed the symptoms and brand names:

<http://www.motherboardrepair.com/>

MotherBoardRepair.com :: Mother Board Repair At A Component Level.

"Most motherboard related failures are due to the "On-board" regulated supplies and component failure within those circuits"

This site lists capacitor failures on almost every brand and model of motherboard manufactured between 1998 to around 2001.

It says the most common symptoms of capacitor failure are: "1. Failure to boot; 2. Must attempt booting several times before machine will start; 3. Instability , especially when graphics are complex; 4. Machine boots with a pre-Coppermine Celeron but will not boot with a PIII Coppermine; 5. Bad odor wafts about the room and this time it wasn't you or the dog; 6. BIOS health alarm (hi-low siren) at boot but PC health screen shows no reason for the alarm; 7. Fans spin up, power indicator lights up and nothing else happens..."

I feel sorry that my friend has to buy a new PC because the repairs to her PC are too expensive. My soldering techniques aren't good enough to replace capacitors on a motherboard.

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Too bad these companies can't be "encouraged" to do the right thing for their customers, the way Intel finally did for the FDIV bug ~10 years ago.

Similar sentiments are expressed in the IEEE article:

"Carey Holzman, as a builder of custom PCs, has been trying to raise awareness about the defects since last spring. He thinks manufacturers should be more public about the problem and issue a recall. "Main board replacement is a big job. It's a huge amount of downtime for the user," he says. Failures can also occur after the warranty has expired, he points out. "The manufacturers should do the right thing."

Jerry Leslie"