

Re: Somrthing altered my BIOS settings

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- *From:* "Lil' Dave" <spamyourself@xxxxxxxxxx>
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Bios settings are held in the cmos, a form of RAM. The cmos battery maintains life of the RAM while the PC is physically off. Its on the motherboard.

The bios is held in a chip on the motherboard. The cmos is NOT located there.

2 different animals.

Like the PC's RAM, cmos can marginally fail. The cmos battery can be on the verge of failing as well. The voltage regulator on the motherboard feeding the cmos can be iffy as well.

Yes, 3rd party software could alter some cmos settings. Unlikely. More unlikely as you had it installed before...

Strictly flashing the bios chip does not alter the cmos.

—

Dave

"Sleepless in New Jersey" <SleeplessinNewJersey@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in message news:1B1DF921-59F6-4215-BF8F-2E21EDBF18A9@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Can applications alter BIOS settings?

After reinstalling Windows XP Home I ran into a phenomenon that I have never encountered before. I reinstalled a frequently-used application. After a subsequent reboot I found myself looking at a gray screen with a blinking cursor in the upper left of the screen. Windows failed to boot. I restarted, got into the BIOS setup, restored the default settings and rebooted. This time everything was normal. I deleted the application. A few days later I reinstalled a game and ran into the same phenomenon. Restoring the BIOS defaults again cured the problem.

Neither program has ever given me a problem in the past.

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I would seem that the applications somehow managed to alter the BIOS settings. If so, this is something I had considered impossible. This is read-only memory. I know that the BIOS can be flashed by special software.

I did not attempt any such action.

I am mystified, hence my question.

If my working hypothesis is incorrect, what else could be going on?