

Re: Computer clock is slow

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.newusers/2006-08/msg00500.html>

- *From:* "Ken Blake, MVP" <kblake@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 7 Aug 2006 09:46:07 -0700
-

Bill Ridgeway wrote:

Ken Blake wrote <<These are setting that are kept in a special memory chip on the motherboard. They are the basic hardware settings on the system, and contain the time and date, among other things. The battery we've been talking about keeps all of those settings correct, as well as the time and date.>>

Perhaps this needs fleshing out a bit. When a computer is off it is nothing more than a collection of metal, plastic etc.

Well, I tried to avoid too many details for someone who appears to be a computer novice, but I guess your additions don't hurt.

—

Ken Blake – Microsoft MVP Windows: Shell/User
Please reply to the newsgroup

It doesn't 'know' anything about anything. except the CMOS (complementary metal oxide semiconductor). This chip stores the very basic parameters of the computer. These include the date, time and a technical description of the such things as the hard disk drive – and many others. Obviously when the computer is not connected to the mains it needs something to maintain this information and that is the job of the CMOS battery. Now CMOS batteries like any other have a life. If the computer is stored unused (in a shop or whilst you are on a long holiday) the power is being drained from the battery. A charge in a CMOS battery can last for, say, 3 or 4 years. When you turn on you computer it first looks to information in the CMOS to tell itself what it is before looking to the BIOS and then the hard disk to load the operating system (Windows) and other software. Think of it as a bit like you waking up on the first morning of a holiday and having

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to work out why the sun is now coming in from the opposite direction
etc before you try to work out what you will be doing that day.
Regards.

Bill Ridgeway
Computer Solutions

"Ken Blake, MVP" <kblake@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:%23yEco9iuGHA.428@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Jyeshta wrote:

On Sun, 6 Aug 2006 17:03:47 -0700, "Ken Blake, MVP"
<kblake@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

You're welcome. If the clock is losing time
while turned off, just
replace the battery. It's cheap and easy.

If you don't, sooner or later you'll lose all the
CMOS settings.

By the way you usually have at last 15
minutes to replace the
battery before losing the settings, but it's
prudent to have a hard
copy of what they are before beginning, just
in case you have to
put them back manually.

Thank you, Ken. What are the CMOS settings? Sorry for
being so
ignorant.

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motherboard. They are the basic hardware settings on the system, and
contain the time and date, among other things. The battery we've been
talking about keeps all of those settings correct, as well as the
time and date.

—
Ken Blake – Microsoft MVP Windows: Shell/User
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