Kenneth Bowman wrote:
> In article <eig68d$4im$1@news.nems.noaa.gov>,

[snip]

First off, Ken, thankyouthankyouthankyou for the X11 update tip. I updated X11 over the
weekend and IDL magically started working again! Yay!

> Is your laptop simply shutting itself off, is the whole system crashing with a kernel panic,
> or is an individual application crashing? The shutdowns are common enough to have been
> labeled "Random Shutdown Syndrome". That problem is heat related, and Apple will fix it.

The problem I have is it simply goes into a coma during sleep mode (not always, but very
frequently). I call that a crash since I have to power cycle to get it working again. I've
never had the laptop, or applications, crash while I was actively using it (hmm... maybe
Word coughed up once, but I can't really recall).

As for Apple fixing it, well, I think there's even more online invective directed towards
Apple about their attempts to fix the problem than there is about the problem itself.
Anecdotal evidence to be sure, but there's a lot of pq'd folks out there. "Class action"
is a word that is getting bandied about a lot (like now :o) And, in my limited experience,
that's unusual for Apple users (who, typically, think the sun shines out of Apple's rear end)

> If it is crashing, rather than shutting down, that sounds like a software issue.

Well, it's not shutting down (I should ask what you mean by "shutting down") in that power
is on (i.e. the little lid light is steady on but the external display is a blank blue (a
nice robin's egg blue, not a Windows screen-of-death blue :o)

> There have been some reports of laptops inadvertently switching on inside carrying bags due
> to motion that might case the case to open slightly. There is a tip on Tidbits
>
>   http://db.tidbits.com/article/8702
>
> that shows how to turn off automatic startup when the lid is opened. I did this to
> my G4 Powerbook to prevent it from coming on accidentally. Now I simply open the
> computer and touch the shift key to wake it.

That's excellent, thanks. I have to admit that the level of documentation that comes with
Apples is woeful - is there some "I am not an idiot" switch that one can set on their
apple so that the online docs reveal this useful information? If I search "power
management" on my macbook pro, I get nothing that tells me about pmset. Googling works,
but you'd have to know to search for "pmset" or "lidwake". I had the same problem with the
"hibernate" mode to pmset.

Anyway..... using hibernate rather than sleep has made my mbp perform as I think it should. I haven't needed to cycle power for about a week and a bit now so I can leave my working-again IDL sessions up and running even if I sleep the laptop.

cheers,

paulv

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