
Subject: Re: NaN Magic or Why Me?!

Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Wed, 14 Nov 2007 17:45:02 GMT

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Mort Canty wrote:

> Rick Towler schrieb:

>>

>>

>> Mort Canty wrote:

>>

>>> I'd like to post the code so you, too, can amaze your friends,
>>> but unfortunately the trick only works on my bloody computer.

>>>

>>> Seriously, can someone, anyone, tell me might be going on?

>>

>> How many other computers have you tried this on? Make/Model/Processor?

>>

>> Just a guess, but MS released "A microcode reliability update that
>> improves the reliability of systems that use Intel processors".
>> They're talking the Core 2 architecture (Core 2 variants and Xeon 3x
>> and 5x). I believe that this was delivered as a critical update via
>> the automagic update system so you may already have it installed but
>> it would be worth checking.

>>

>> More info is here: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/936357>

>>

>> -Rick

>

> The errors occur on an ACER Veriton 7800 with intel P4 650, and
> Lakeport-G i945G chipset running XP Professional SP2. So I guess it has
> nothing to do with the MS update. I get no errors on my ASUS core-duo
> laptop with the same OS (it's not here just now, so I don't know the
> details). Ditto on an older P4 no-name with same software. I'll try a
> few more, though, thanks.

Since your code runs fine on 2 out of 3 computers the problem most likely is hardware based. Since you've swapped your SO-DIMM, and this is a laptop, you don't have many options left.

RAM->BIOS->Heat->Power

Even late in a processor's life cycle, there are a number of "errata" that exist. Generally workarounds are implemented either in the BIOS or in the OS. I would get the latest BIOS available for your laptop. Also, try disabling hyperthreading in the BIOS. You never know...

If your processor has active cooling ensure that the fan and heatsink are clean and that the fan spins freely. If this is an actual P4 650

"Prescott", aka Pres-Hot, heat is a real issue. Stick it in the refrigerator while you test it.

Power issues are tricky to diagnose in laptops but if the above steps don't help, and you tend to get errors while the system is loaded, there could be components in your AC/DC adapter or the regulators on the mainboard that are marginal. All you really can do is look for obvious defects like bulging or leaking capacitors or swap the adapter if you can.

HTH,

-r
