

Tech Medics Tech Notes

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My computer won't turn on!

It can be a little scary when you push the button on your computer and it doesn't turn on or it doesn't boot properly. Every situation is different, but here are some common reasons for your computer not turning on.

- Computer won't turn on at all (or turns on and immediately shuts off)

This is typically caused by a broken power supply. Power outages and brown-outs can wreak havoc on your electronics and your power supply is usually the first thing to go. However, this is good news! A power supply is a fairly inexpensive component and chances are your data won't have been affected.

- Computer turns on, but you don't see anything on the screen

This usually points to a monitor or video card problem. The easiest thing to do in this situation is test your computer using a different monitor and cable that you know works properly. If there is still no display, chances are that your video card has gone bad. There are several models of video cards, but basic models are inexpensive.

- Computer turns on, but doesn't boot to Windows.

If your computer is turning on, but it won't boot to Windows or you are seeing error screens, this typically means there is damage to your operating system. This can be caused by several reasons, but the most common reasons are improper shut down (usually from a power outage), improper installation of a Windows Update, a virus or possibly a failing hard drive.

- As long as your hard drive isn't failing, a repair to your operating system will typically correct the startup problems.
- It may be necessary to reformat and reinstall your operating system, if it is too badly damaged. Even if this is the case, your data can usually be backed-up using another computer.
- If your hard drive is failing, a skilled Technician may be able to recover your data, but your hard drive will need to be replaced, and Windows installed, before your computer will be operational again.

As you can see, power outages and brown-outs are a big cause of computers failing. It is important to have proper power protection; something better than just a standard power strip surge protector.

Want more information or have questions? Contact TechMedics@socen.com or call (888) 826-4211