

- **Remove offending applications.** If you've updated the motherboard BIOS and still find that certain applications are locking up, then you should try removing the offending applications where these lock-ups still occur.

If they continue to happen, then you might have to look at replacing the motherboard. Yes, this is usually something I don't recommend, but motherboard problems ARE in fact one of the more serious issues you can have in your PC.

2.4 Memory Problems

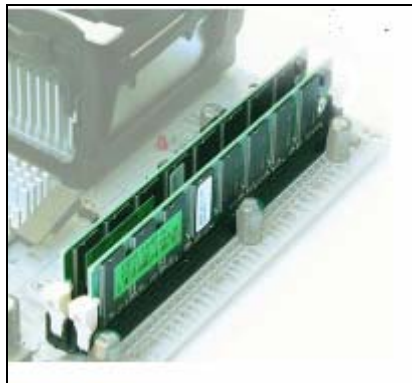
Are you having memory problems in your PC? Computer memory problems are more common than you think. The usual issues have to do with incompatibility of memory modules with the motherboard (and with one another), as well as faulty chips.

Let's take a look at these problems and understand what you can do to troubleshoot them.

Problem: *You find that your computer hangs or locks up during the computer POST.*

Here are some things you should check as part of the troubleshooting process.

- **Incompatibility between RAM modules.** One likely reason is due to incompatibility of these RAM modules you've inserted in the PC. Now, memory modules sold by the likes of Corsair, Kingston, Hitachi, etc. come in all shapes and sizes. RAM modules come in sizes of 256 MB, 512 MB, 1 GB, 2 GB and even 4 GB. But these sizes are not always compatible with one another.



For example, some motherboard manufacturers state explicitly in their manual that you cannot slot in 512 MB modules with 1 GB modules - you can only use 1 GB modules with 1 GB modules. If you think you have a RAM incompatibility issue, then the first thing to check is the motherboard manual. Make sure you have the correct sizes of RAM inserted into the motherboard and they are all compatible with one another.

- **Incompatibility with your motherboard.** Sometimes, RAM modules can also be incompatible with the motherboard. This means that the motherboard brand does not even like the brand of memory you're using. In this case, try to get hold of a similar piece of RAM from a compatible brand and see if your memory issues persist. Again, check your motherboard manual to see which are the compatible brands of RAM you can use.
- **Check that the RAM modules are inserted firmly.** Another kind of memory related problem has to do with how secure the memory modules are inserted into your motherboard. I've come across cases where RAM modules are not inserted into the motherboard slots securely. This certainly causes problems when you're trying to boot up the computer and can cause memory problems when you run applications.

This kind of thing also tends to happen more with new computers you've just built - so when building your own computer, be sure you snap those RAM modules in place very firmly and securely.

2.5 Video Card Problems

Ok, next up - video card problems. The computer video card is a very important and often expensive piece of hardware. Usually, if you have a display problem, or certain graphics applications are not running as they should - it could point to a problem with your video card.



Let's look at some of these scenarios now and learn how you can troubleshoot them.

Problem: *The computer locks up when you're running a 3D graphics game or application.*

Read on to find out about some solutions you can try.

- **Update the video card drivers.** This is very often due to a video card problem. When you encounter this, try to update the video card drivers first. Go to the manufacturer's website and download the latest driver. Sometimes you can also try to install "generic" video card updates from nVidia and ATI. Once you install