

Re: help with ram question

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Rick Stevens wrote:

On Thu, 2007-05-31 at 11:51 -0700, Paula J. Lindsay wrote:

Hi,

I've just installed a fc5 machine. He needs this rev because it is compatible with his bruker software.

Anyway, he already had 1 gig of memory in the machine, but when we put another bank of memory (1 gig)

we could not boot up. We did a switch and they (both 1 gig dimms) and they both work apart, but not

together. Has anyone ran into this problem? I guess I could look on fedoraproject.org to see if fc5

supports 2 gigs of ram. Anyway, any suggestions/advice/opinions are appreciated. Thank you in advance.

Fedora supports up to 64GB of RAM. I have four machines running FC5 (yes, I know), each with 8GB. I even have (gasp!) RHEL 3.5 machines (2.4 kernels) running 16GB (hugemem kernel).

You didn't say where the boot fails. Is it right after power up and/or before the system tries to get to the hard drive? If so, then you really have a hardware issue!

If it fails before the grub "Loading linux xxxxxxxx..." screen, I'd suspect you still have hardware issues (grub doesn't need much RAM and it doesn't care how much there is above what it needs).

If it fails after the initial nash signon messages, you may still have hardware issues as NOW the Linux kernel is involved and memory will be flogged harder than Windows does. Remember, just because a system will run Windows doesn't mean it'll run Linux. I've seen many systems that run Windows OK but die quickly under Linux or memtest86. Boot off the first CD and at the "boot:" prompt, enter "memtest86" and test the RAM.

As far as fault isolation is concerned, verify that the memory modules are the same class. Check your hardware docs and see if they should be in adjoining or separate sockets (some systems require that). Check to

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make sure you're running the latest BIOS on your mobo. See if you can "slow" the machine down so the memory timing isn't as critical.

Another quick test if it is dieing when booting the kernel is to use the mem= option to specify 1M of memory when you have both installed. If it boots OK with that, then it may be the BIOS memory map. Sometimes updating the BIOS will fix the problem. One reason Windows will boot with a bad memory map is where they load.

Mikkel

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Do not meddle in the affairs of dragons,
for thou art crunchy and taste good with Ketchup!

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