

Re: OT (most likely) strange modem disconnection when using USB drives

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- *From:* Tim <ignored_mailbox@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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Tim:

Isolated PC (grounded), with monitor (grounded), keyboard, mouse, USB enclosure, no other connections. Nothing to tie it to the any other equipment, anywhere. I can't see how this would cause an earth loop to the something in the other room.

Frank Cox:

I don't know enough electrical theory to explain this stuff. I have seen an electric meter still running at a closed-down building with all of the power shut off at the main breaker box --- we discovered the problem when we got the next power bill.

My field's more electronics engineering than electrician, the two don't quite cover each other. I've seen similar issues when I tried to get the meter to stop spinning on our house, one day. I went around unplugging everything, turning off switches in the meter box, pulling fuses. Eventually worked out that the air conditioner controller always drew some small amount of current, but enough to make the disc spin around. Now we have one of them new-fangled digital meters, without any wheels to watch. :-)

I suspect one of the neighbours was doing something dodgy with the mains the other week. We heard this huge bang, then the lights dimmed for a moment. Probably someone trying to set up another drugs house, bypassing the meter box for their hydroponics. I hope they hurt their fingers. Never thought I'd see that where I live, but there's already been one removed from our street. The next tenants had a hell of a cleaning up job to do.

The phone lines a twisted pair of copper to the exchange, all the way, still, as far as I'm aware. I don't think they've updated the wiring around here in 40 years. Grounded at their end, but not at this end.

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