

COMPUTER CLOCK WON'T KEEP TIME! A Sign of Bad Things to Come

If your computer clock is no longer keeping time, sometimes losing a few minutes, other times a couple hours, it may mean that your battery is on its last throes. So what's the big deal?

In addition to the clock, the battery powers the CMOS chip (Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor) and BIOS settings (Basic Input/Output System). You may see a reference to these settings when you boot up. It will say something like, "To enter Setup, press Delete."

The settings tell the computer what equipment is present, and how it interacts. When the battery conks out, the settings are lost and your computer is in trouble.

The battery is located on the motherboard. It will be about the size of a nickel, and be held in place by a small clip. You can easily replace it. Check your computer manual. Some people advocate changing the battery every five to seven years, just to be safe. Why five to seven years? That's the typical life span of the battery.