

Re: Can a computer virus kill the CPU?

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- *From:* comphelp@xxxxxxxxxx (Todd H.)
 - *Date:* 05 Nov 2006 23:13:22 -0600
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mike4ty4@xxxxxxxxxx writes:

Hi.

Consider a hypothetical computer virus that would cause a CPU to overheat and burn up. Is this possible?

It'd be awfully hard to prove that such a thing would be impossible.

I'd instead pose the question of "has such a thing been reported on any known platform/processor/OS combination." I know I haven't heard of anything. As someone who's been on chip design teams and done microsequencer design, I will say that it would be quite conceivable for a microprocessor to have a design flaw whereby software could put the microsequencer into a state that would lead to hardware failure. And as you suggest, a flaw that allowed access to the BIOS could be catastrophic that way, but with the plurality of BIOS implementations out there, it'd be exceedingly difficult to create an attack that'd take down a large number of targets.

Is it possible that we may see such a virus or worm in the future?

Certainly possible. Likely? I have my doubts, and I'm not going to worry about it a whole lot.

Should BIOS overclocking be removed from computers?

No. And even if it "should" we won't see it happen because the enthusiast market has too many \$'s in it such that mobo manufacturers won't go back to the days of jumpered clock configs and such.

It's an interesting question though.

Re: Can a computer virus kill the CPU?

Best Regards,

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Todd H.

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