

CMOS Checksum error

This article explains what to do if you encounter the machine start-up error known as "Warn-ing!! CMOS Checksum Error."



Picture of the error:

Here's why:

- The CMOS battery (usually a small coin-cell battery like CR2032) powers the BIOS memory so it can remember settings when the computer is turned off.
- If the battery is dying, those settings get lost, and the checksum check fails.
- When you turn the PC back on, the BIOS defaults load, and you see the error.

How to Replace the CMOS Battery Tools & Items You'll Need

- New CMOS battery (most PCs use CR2032 coin-cell but check your old one first).
- Small screwdriver (for desktop case screws).
- Anti-static precautions (touch metal before handling components).





Step 1 - Power Down & Unplug

- 1. Shut down your PC completely.
- 2. Unplug the power cable from the wall.

Step 2 - Discharge Static

• Touch a metal part of the case before touching internal components. (This prevents static electricity damage.)

Step 3 - Open the Case

• **Desktop:** Remove side panel screws and slide off the panel.

Step 4 - Locate the CMOS Battery

- Look for a silver coin-shaped battery on the motherboard about the size of a small coin.
- It will be lying flat in a circular.

Step 5 - Remove the Old Battery

- Push the small retaining clip gently away from the battery.
- The battery should pop up slightly remove it carefully.

Step 6 - Insert the New Battery

- Place the new battery in the slot with the **positive (+) side facing up**.
- Press gently until it clicks into place.

Step 7 - Reassemble & Power On

- 1. Close the case and reconnect cables.
- 2. Power on the PC.