Subject: No signal being sent to monitor

Hi all,

If you guys cant fix this problem then its time to go to a shop.

My son is building a new PC from scratch. Everything is brand new and just out the box. The only exception being the hard drive. The HD has came out the older PC.

Everything has power, the Dual (bridged) LSI Graphics cards whirr away. Alas the monitor displays the error message "no signal being sent to monitor".

Everything appears to be connected in the right place using the plan drawing that came with the Mother-board. All components are in the right place and connected.

Now, for questions, then answers. Bear with me if my questions appear stupid.

1) If a PC starts up with the BIOS, then how does the old HD know what the new MoBo settings are?

2) If the Bios are correct, then how does the HD recognise the new Graphics cards. LSI (latest GCs) are supposed to be plug and play, but we have the CD with brand new drivers.

3) Is it possible that the CD/DVD writer is on slave as opposed to primary and how do I know which is which?

No doubt there will be other questions and answers that you need. Below is whats been installed.

1 x Akasa AK-860SF AMD COOLER Socket 754, 939, 940 & AM2
1 x ThermalTake Soprano VB1000BWS Black c/w 2x case fans +USB2 + +window NO PSU
1 x AMD CPU AM2 Athlon 64 Dual Core 6400 Retail Box NO Fan BLACK EDITION Socket AM2 940 PIN ADX6400CZWOF (3yr Manufacturer's Warranty)
2 x BFG GeForce 8600 GTS OC 256MB DDR3 PCI-E Dual DVI
1 x 650W Silent ATX PSU +SATA cable 12cm fan 24 pin
1 x Foxconn C51XEM2AA-8EKRS2H Motherboard Skt AM2 AMD Sempron/ Athlon nForce 590 SLI GbLAN ATX
1 x OCZ 4GB Kit (2x2048) Reaper HPC Edition DDR2 PC2 6400 800MHz CL4 Dual Channel Patent-Pending Reaper HPC Heatsink

Hopefully gives you all some understanding of the PC.

In anticipation.

Puddle.

Subject: Re: No signal being sent to monitor
Posted by Caveman on Tue, 18 Dec 2007 08:26:38 GMT

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puddle_splasher wrote on Tue, 18 December 2007 04:11Hi all,

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Being as I have just opened my eyes, my typing may be sloppy but i'll try and answer what I can.

Firstly tell Cam that he owes me £20 lol.

The hard drive doesn't know the new BIOS settings and it would have no busishess knowing.

As I have never tried to setup SLI before I don't know whether this is true but id think that windows would have to be installed before setting up the SLI. That includes the drivers aswell. (If you already have windows installed, just pop the disk in, install the drivers and you're set, please note I haven't setup SLI before so I don't know if you need to install something special)

Im not too sure what the problem with be if the CD/DVD writer was on primary. But anyways to check take it out of the case and on the back next to where the IDE plugs in you should have 6-8 pins with a jumper covering 2 of them. Check on the side/front of the drive to see what setting the jumper is on. The only time you'd have a problem with the CD/DVD on primary is if it was on the same IDE as the HDD. But generally you put the HDD on IDE 0 set for primary and the CD/DVD on IDE 1 set for primary.

Subject: Re: No signal being sent to monitor
Posted by puddle_splasher on Tue, 18 Dec 2007 11:14:43 GMT
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That was a lovely reply but it does not take note that there is nothing on the screen to see.

XP is installed on the hard drive so it should work but again, "No signal being sent to monitor"

I have to find out why thats the case.

Seems LSI is the cutting edge in Gaming technology but has its faults.

Subject: Re: No signal being sent to monitor
Posted by Caveman on Tue, 18 Dec 2007 12:08:22 GMT
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Yes you might already have windows installed but you can't just use your old windows in your new system. Unless times have changed and you can hotswap OS's now.

Take out the secondary 8600GT, remove the SLI Bridge and try to boot, if it says no os found then you must reinstall. This should atleast fix the no signal problem.

Subject: Re: No signal being sent to monitor
Posted by CarrierII on Tue, 18 Dec 2007 13:50:28 GMT
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Coveman wrote on Tue, 18 December 2007 12:08Yes you might already have windows installed but you can't just use your old windows in your new system. Unless times have changed and you can hotswap OS's now.

Take out the secondary 8600GT, remove the SLI Bridge and try to boot, if it says no os found then you must reinstall. This should atleast fix the no signal problem.

You can move XP from Intel chipset PC to Intel chipset PC with not very many issues (It finds about 15-20 new bits of hardware and demands a restart, but will boot first time) The same might be true of any other chipset manufacturer (provided they don't change their PnP enumerations, which is what I understand to be the problem with hotswaping OS's)

TBH, you should get a new hard drive, or back that one up, and then reformat and reinstall XP.

Subject: Re: No signal being sent to monitor
Posted by reborn on Tue, 18 Dec 2007 15:41:32 GMT
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SLi is not cutting edge, it's nVidia's way of remarketing and copying what voodoo was doing years ago.
I really dislike SLi and wish I hadn't bothered, but then again, I went nVidia because I hated the catalyst suite with ATI.

I really wish there was more competition.

Subject: Re: No signal being sent to monitor
Posted by Caveman on Tue, 18 Dec 2007 16:22:52 GMT
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CarrierII wrote on Tue, 18 December 2007 13:50Coveman wrote on Tue, 18 December 2007 12:08Yes you might already have windows installed but you can't just use your old windows in your new system. Unless times have changed and you can hotswap OS's now.

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TBH, you should get a new hard drive, or back that one up, and then reformat and reinstall XP.

I believe he is moving from nForce 3 to nForce 590. {I don't know whether it would allow him to hotswap OS's)

Subject: Re: No signal being sent to monitor
Posted by puddle_splasher on Tue, 18 Dec 2007 18:03:22 GMT
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Coveman wrote on Tue, 18 December 2007 06:08Yes you might already have windows installed but you can't just use your old windows in your new system. Unless times have changed and you can hotswap OS's now.

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Sorry for EMPHASISING this.

The screen says "NO SIGNAL" therefore without seeing other than those words on the screen, then I cannot reinstall. Blank, black screens dont show anything.

The PC should reboot from the Bios on the MoBo. A lot of work has been done and it seems it may be one of 2 things.

The MoBo has only a single IDE slot. Now if the HD becomes master then both Optical Drives need to be on the same line and become, slaves.

Other than that, it seems like defective hardware.

The Mobo is most certainly compatible with the enhanced Graphics cards and Ram so that only leaves defects.

Its in the shop for one of the guys to have alook at it. he reckons he will be able to get it to boot up.

Once that happens then I can reformat and reinstall XP if required.

Subject: Re: No signal being sent to monitor
Posted by AmunRa on Tue, 18 Dec 2007 19:43:26 GMT
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question 1 and 2 are so ludicrous, i shouldnt even be replying to this, but

just return it to the shop.

Subject: Re: No signal being sent to monitor
Posted by Caveman on Tue, 18 Dec 2007 20:13:13 GMT
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puddle_splasher wrote on Tue, 18 December 2007 18:03Coveman wrote on Tue, 18 December 2007 06:08Yes you might already have windows installed but you can't just use your old windows in your new system. Unless times have changed and you can hotswap OS's now.

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Please re-read what I posted. Take out the second 8600GTS leaving just one card plugged into the motherboard. (Make sure you leave the card thats closet to the CPU plugged in.) Remove the SLI bridge from the card(s) as well. This should fix the problem with NO SIGNAL.

Once you've done that go into your BIOS settings (Keep pressing F2 and/or DEL as soon as you turn the computer on) Select Adv chipset features and make sure the PRIMARY display has been set for PCI-Exress/PCI-X.

So to recap;

Take out the SECOND graphics card, remove the bridge from the first card, configure the BIOS.

If after you've removed the second card and the bridge connecting them you still get no signal, remove one of the memory modules, leaving you with 1x2GB. Make sure its pushed in correctly. Take out any other devices that are not required at the moment like sound card, wifi cards, etc...

Subject: Re: No signal being sent to monitor
Posted by cmatt42 on Tue, 18 Dec 2007 21:27:35 GMT
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Yeah, try the single card, but in the meanwhile, does the machine beep when it's booted up?

Subject: Re: No signal being sent to monitor
Posted by Ryu on Wed, 19 Dec 2007 02:04:44 GMT
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Put in one card, Install OS, Install the SLI Drivers/firmware, then add the second card.

I'm pretty sure that would work.

if not, The HDD Might not be compatible (lol) and you might need to buy a new one.

Subject: Re: No signal being sent to monitor
Posted by Caveman on Wed, 19 Dec 2007 13:48:27 GMT
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Ryu wrote on Wed, 19 December 2007 02:04Put in one card, Install OS, Install the SLI Drivers/firmware, then add the second card.

I'm pretty sure that would work.

Thats what im trying to say.

Subject: Re: No signal being sent to monitor
Posted by Caveman on Thu, 20 Dec 2007 12:11:20 GMT
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So any update on this? Did you do as I suggested? Does it work? Feedback please.

Subject: Re: No signal being sent to monitor
Posted by danpaul88 on Thu, 20 Dec 2007 16:04:02 GMT
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I should point out that the hard drive has nothing to do with the screen working at all, you can load into the BIOS and fiddle around with settings without even installing a hard drive onto the system, and with a Linux boot cd you can actually load the Linux operating system without installing a hard drive, but you wouldn't be able to create / save files as there would be nowhere to put them.

The graphics card does not need the CD drivers for the most basic stuff, which is what the BIOS uses to show bootup logos and whatnot, those run in VGA mode which does not require the drivers off the CD. If there is no signal on the screen it means one of a few things;

A) The motherboard is simply not working
B) The graphics card is broken
C) Both are working fine, but the monitor cannot display the signal being sent (but this would usually show a 'signal out of range' message, not a 'No Signal' message).

Another thing to bear in mind: If the graphics card has multiple connections for the monitor, try swapping it to a different connection. By default only ONE of the connections will actually show a picture, and if it has both DVI and VGA connections it's likely that (by default) only one of them is actually enabled.

Also, as mentioned before, do not try and setup an SLI rig first time. Get it setup and installed in single card mode, and then try to add the second card in SLI mode. Usually it requires BIOS settings to be enabled to actually work in SLI mode.

EDIT: When the system boots, does it beep once to indicate the POST was OK, or does it beep multiple times / not at all? If it beeps multiple times or not at all that could indicate the problem is something else entirely.