

Why does my hard drive light flash every few second?

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Back in Windows 95, people would notice that their hard drive light would blink every few seconds. What's that all about? Actually, it wasn't the hard drive light after all. Windows 95 was polling your CD-ROM drive to see whether you had inserted a new CD. Some computers wired up the "hard drive light" not to the hard drive but rather to the SCSI and/or IDE bus. So the light didn't indicate hard drive activity necessarily. It turned on for any bus activity. Fortunately, motherboard manufacturers discovered their mistake and nowadays you don't find any of them that miswire the hard drive access light.

Or do you? I keep my computer under my desk so I never see the hard drive light anyway. I'm just surmising that in the past seven years, motherboard manufacturers have gotten their act together.

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