

XECUTER 3 TROUBLESHOOTER

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1 - 1ST THINGS FIRST

The best thing you can do for yourself is join the Xecuter forums and the Xbox-Scene forums and ASK FOR HELP. Just make sure you read the faqs, and board descriptions. Check the miscellaneous section for links.

Before you go any further in this tutorial, check and confirm the version of your XBOX, which you can do here: <http://xbox-scene.com/versions.php>.

Now NOTE the version of your XBOX, and make sure you used the CORRECT installation method. Remember, if you have a version 1.6 OR 1.6b you need to rebuild the LPC of the XBOX (you should have received the rebuild PCB with your X3 chip to do this, if not you can use the wire method, no biggie).

Here is the LPC Rebuild Tutorial:

<http://www.teamxecuter.com/forums/showthread.php?t=6682>

This is how the LPC should look when you're done (Remember, the grey d0 wire is to be soldered ON to the silver patch that says d0 right next to it. Not that hard ☺!)



The 1.0-1.5 installation guide: <http://www.teamxecuter.com/x3/tutorials/x3pin1015.htm>

The 1.6 installation guide: <http://www.teamxecuter.com/x3/tutorials/x3pin16.htm>

ONCE YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY INSTALLED YOUR CHIP AND GET TO THE FLASHBIOS SCREEN MAKE SURE YOU FLASH THE CORRECT BIOS. IF YOU HAVE A 1.6 FLASH THE 1.6 BIOS VERSION! IF NOT USE THE BIOS THAT ISN'T MARKED WITH A 16 NEXT TO IT! IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR BIOS USE THIS GUIDE:

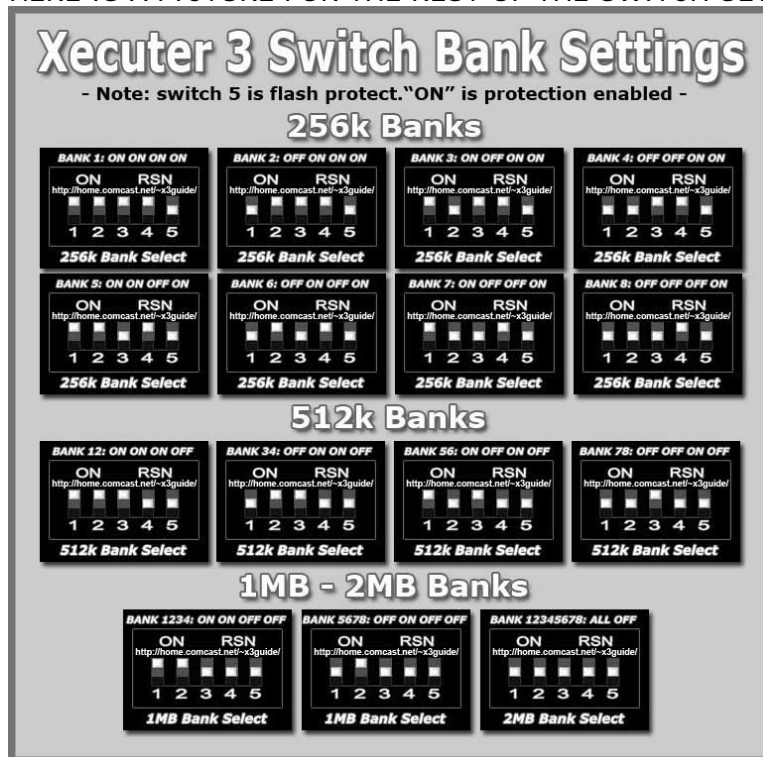
<http://xbox-scene.com/articles/xbins.php>

Flash Bios tutorial: <http://www.teamxecuter.com/flashbios/>

THE ONLY BIOS YOU SHOULD BE USING ARE THE X3 BIOS! THROW THE EVOX BIOS OUT THE WINDOW.

REMEMBER TO FLASH THE 1 MB BIOS BANK AS WELL, THE SWITCH SETTING FOR THE 1 MB BIOS BANK WOULD BE ON ON OFF OFF OFF OR OFF ON OFF OFF OFF.

HERE IS A PICTURE FOR THE REST OF THE SWITCH SETTINGS



If you made a mistake on flashing the bios Xecuter has added a great feature to the X3 which basically saves your ass in these situations. Press the Eject+Power buttons on the X3 simultaneously. The external switch should light up PURPLE, and your screen should show the flashbios screen. Now set the correct switch settings, and re-flash with the correct bios.



Now that you've confirmed your XBOX version, made sure that you have used the correct installation method, and flashed the correct bios, let's move onto the specifics of your problem.

2 - XBOX ERROR CODES

If you are receiving error codes after successful flash and installation of your X3 modchip, here is a description of each error code and a solution to the most common errors.

Tutorial written by : Superfro, additions by: Lunchbox

Description:

When you attempt to boot, a 'you need service' message comes up, and has a LED style number on the top left hand corner. Here is what they mean.

Disclaimer:

This information is believed to be correct, should be as close as it gets;

Also: Bootloader stuff you should never see, since if it fails kernel doesn't boot. (thus you see no message)

Code - Who sets it - Description

0 - any - No error

1 - bootldr - Unknown exactly, something to do with checking the motherboard

2 - bootldr - Eeprom check failed

3 - bootldr - ??/not used

4 - bootldr - Ram check failed

5 - kernel - HDD not locked (retail bioses require the hd to be locked, you can lock your HD in the X3 Config Live screen, if you disabled X3CL, hold the white button on your Xbox controller while booting up the XBOX, lockability options are in sub menu "Disk Tools")

6 - kernel - Cannot unlock HDD

7 - kernel - HDD timeout (HDD unplugged, or bad HDD)

8 - kernel - No HDD found (HDD unplugged, or bad hdd)

9 - kernel - HDD parameters (PIO/DMA/or size {debug}, certain size minimum is required for debug)

10 - kernel - DVD timeout (DVD unplugged, IDE controllers unplugged on motherboard)

11 - kernel - No DVD Found (DVD unplugged)

12 - kernel - DVD parameters (PIO/DMA)

For all dashboard problems, make sure you have backed up your original xbox dash and have it on your HDD.

13 - kernel - Dashboard launch fail (due to missing/bad key, or anything else that would prevent it from running) and the dashboard didn't specify why it failed.

14 - dashboard - Error loading dashboard (dashboard generic error)

15 - - ??/not used

16 - dashboard - Other files to do with dashboard / dashboard settings (specific dashboard error)

I get Error 16! What do I do?

Error 16... EXPLAINED...

Yes, it is a DASH ERROR, but it is due to the TIME

NORMAL BOOT PROCESS:

- 1.Xbox turns on
2. several checks are done for hardware, including RAM, HD, and DVD-DRIVE, just to test if they are present
- 3.Xbox checks SYSTEM TIME -> if no time is found -> boot dash off hard drive to set time
4. Xbox looks for default.xbe on DISC, if it is not found, goto 5
5. Xbox boots dash off of Hard drive

What is happening in your case:

- 1.Xbox turns on
2. several checks are done for hardware, including RAM, HD, and DVD-DRIVE, just to test if they are present
- 3.Xbox checks SYSTEM TIME ->TIME NOT FOUND -> Xbox tries to launch dash off of hard drive -> DASH NOT FOUND-> ERROR 16 - DASH ERROR

The fix:

Put back in your OLD drive (the one with the dash's still on it)

Set the time

Swap the drives without physically unplugging the xbox.

(thanks heinrich)

17 - - ??/not used

18 - - ??/not used

19 - - ??/not used

20 - kernel - The dashboard was attempted to load and failed; It was a cold boot, and the dashboard didn't specify why it failed, but it (for some reason) needed to be noted that the dvd passed the challenge/response authentication

21 - anywhere - This error says that the machine was booted to display a error, basically someone told the machine to reboot (or launch a xbe) with this flag, and the error code just means its been rebooted by the flag.

3 - LED LIGHTS EXPLAINED

Meanings of Red/Orange/Green flashing leds on Xbox (v0.5)

Tutorial written by : XanTium, additions by Lunchbox

GREEN/RED Flashing:

Probably a bad chip install (CHECK YOUR SOLDERING!!!!!!), bad bios image(MAKE SURE YOU FLASHED THE CORRECT BIOS!!!) - unlikely to be faulty chip but possible.

SOLID GREEN/No EJECT/No AUDIO/No VIDEO:

Probably a bad solder point. Check all your points again. (ESPECIALLY CHECK PINS 13 AND 14 ON THE LPC!!!!)

It could also be a heat problem, make sure your fan is connected and don't put your xbox near heat sources. You can also try to open the top of the xbox and check if it goes better.

SOLID GREEN/No AUDIO/No VIDEO:

This is probably a problems with your audio/video settings. Try to boot your xbox with a standard a/v pack instead of a HD pack.

ORANGE/GREEN Flashing:

No AUDIO/VIDEO (A/V) pack.

This may also be due to a solder splash on the board or a damaged track.

ORANGE Flashing:

This may also be due to a solder splash on the board or a damaged track. May also be due overheating.

GREEN for half a sec then RED Flashing:

Bad/Corrupted or Empty Eeprom.

SOLID RED:

System overheated , hardware failure , ...

FLASHING RED:

Dead, broken or empty eeprom.

4 - SPECIFIC PROBLEMS

Generally a lot of problems are caused by bad soldering, bad connections, and everything not being plugged back into the motherboard. SO...

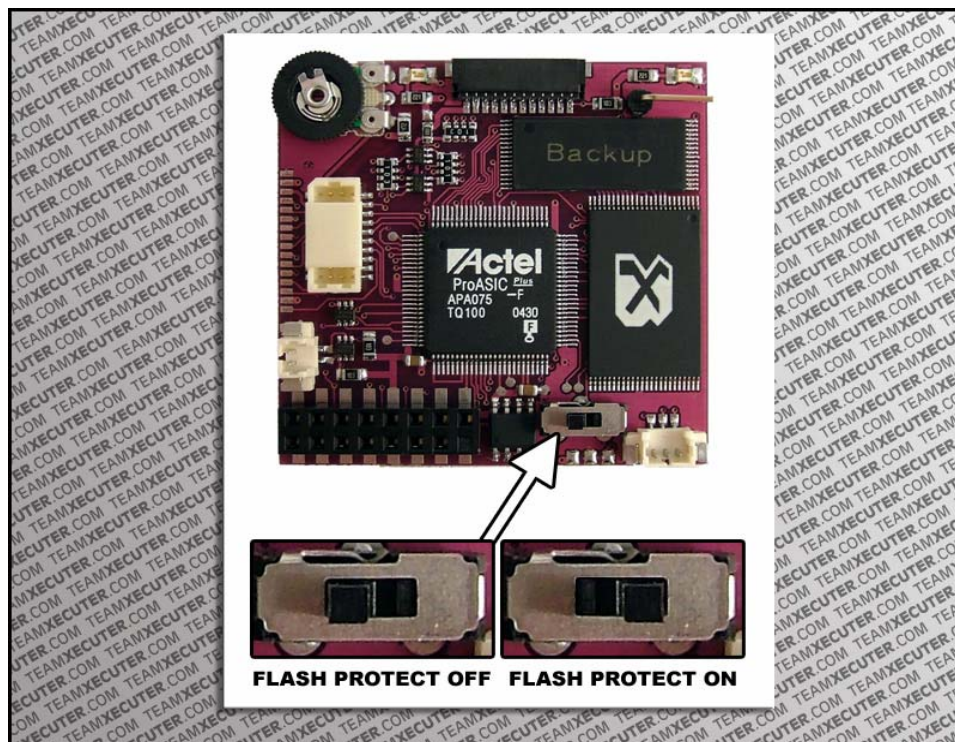
CHECK YOUR SOLDERING AND MAKE SURE YOU PLUG EVERYTHING BACK INTO THE MOTHERBOARD! EVERYTHING!!!! THE X3 AND THE XBOX MOTHERBOARD DOES NOT CARE IF YOU ARE AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER. CHECK YOUR SOLDERING!!!

Q: My XBOX won't boot the X3 FlashBios screen, the switch on the outside doesn't light up, but the original Microsoft Dash loads up fine, what's the deal?

Check your soldering, look for solder splashes and lifted traces on the motherboard. If you have a version 1.6 or 1.6b XBOX make sure you rebuilt the LPC correctly.

Make sure the chip is on the pin header securely and is making a flush connection.

Make sure the flash protect switch on the X3 chip is set to the OFF position.

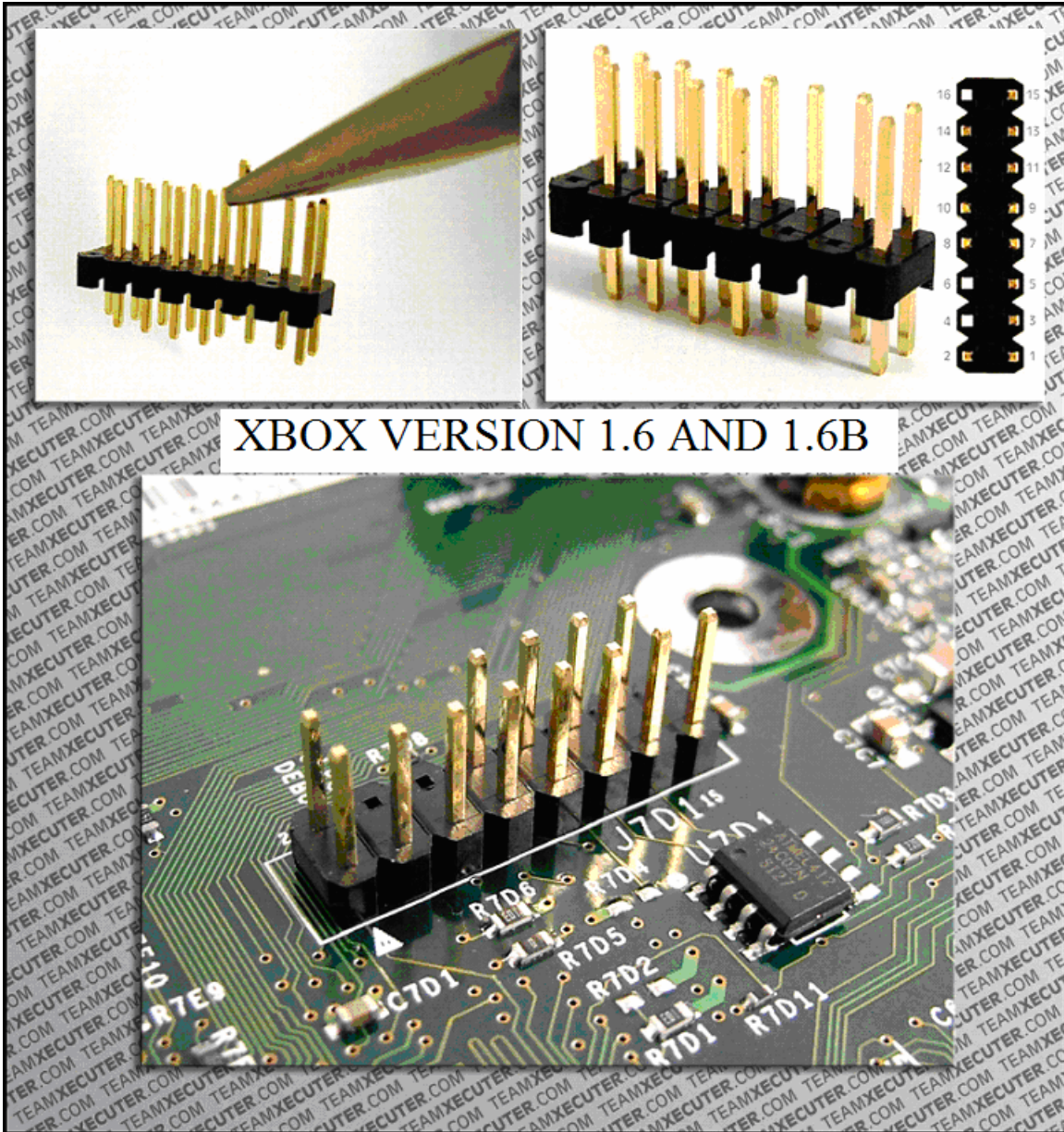


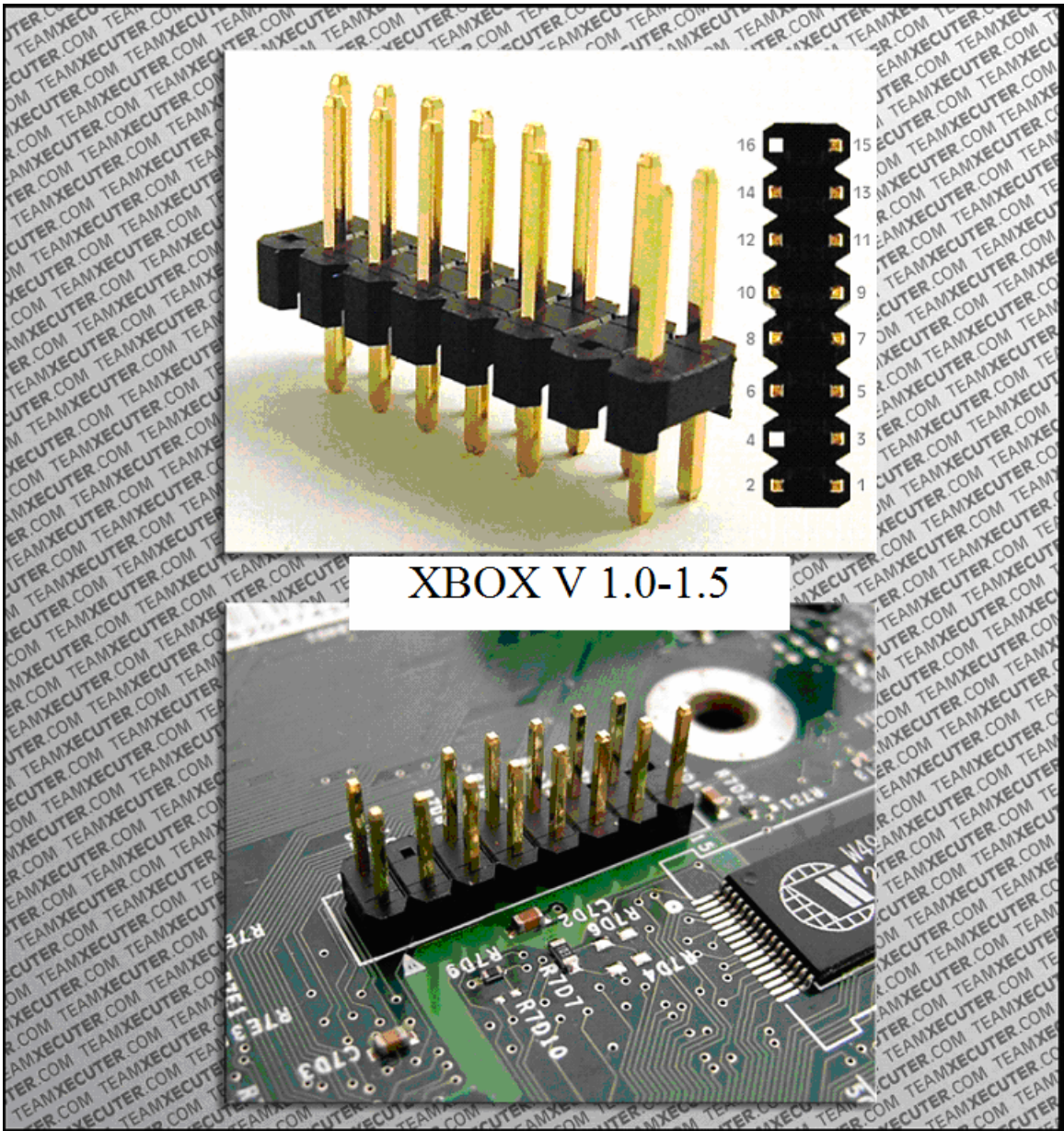
I CAN NOT STRESS ENOUGH TO CHECK YOUR SOLDERING POINTS. JUST ONE BAD CONNECTION WILL CAUSE A PROBLEM. MAKE SURE YOUR PINS HAVE SOLDER ALL AROUND THEM, AND THAT THE SOLDER IS MAKING CONTACT WITH THE LPC.

Q: My external LED works, and I get a blue light, meaning the chip is working. But I get no picture, what's going on?

Make sure you are using the regular A/V cables and not the S-Video or Component cables.

Check your SOLDERING!!! Pay close attention to the connection on pins 13 and 14!!!





XBOX V 1.0-1.5

Q: My dashboard (Avalaunch, XBMC, EVOX etc.) wont load! Help me!

Check where you have the dashboard boot up files installed (the .xbe, not the actual Application). Note where you have them on your XBOX (you can do this by FTP'ing to your XBOX through FlashFXP). Now enter the X3 Config Live menu and go to "configure x3 bios". Look for the option that allows you to change the dashboard boot drive. Then change that drive to match yours. DO NOT PUT YOUR XBE'S IN SUB DIRECTORIES. MAKE SURE THEY ARE IN A MAIN DIRECTORY SUCH A C, E, OR F AND NOT IN F:/APPS/.../.../...

Q: How do I get back to the X3 CONFIG LIVE menu to configure my settings?

By default the X3 will boot to the X3 Config Live menu when you first flash the X3 chip. After disabling it in the X3CL, the XBOX will boot directly to a dashboard. To get back to the X3CL menu, simply HOLD the white button on your XBOX controller when you power up the Xbox.

Q: My XBOX automatically turns on, what the hell is going on?

A few of the X3 chips have a bridged solder connection on the back of the reset/eject adapter. You have to take the sticky pad off of it to expose the connection. It is a simple fix, even if it is annoying. All you have to do is take your soldering iron and some de-soldering braid and fix the bridge. Then add some solder to make sure everything is back to normal. Here is a picture of what the bridged connection looks like thanks to FallsInc on the Xbox-Scene forums.



Q: I locked my hdd and still can't get to the MS BIOS. All it does is frag!

Check your d0 point. Soldering is fine you say? Make sure you haven't accidentally screwed through the grey wire while securing the motherboard back in.

5 - XBOX VERSION 1.6B PROBLEMS

Blank screen? Amber LED? 1.6B?

The main problem with 1.6b XBOXS is that they require flashbios 3.0.3, but some X3 chips come with Flashbios v3.0.1 or v3.0.0. Therein lays the problem of 1.6b XBOX's.

One solution I came across was to switch your chip to the second 1mb bank (OFF ON OFF OFF OFF) and try to boot the XBOX. This will most likely work only if you have purchased the chip recently, if you have had the chip for a while, then look at the other solutions. But, if you do boot it from OFF ON OFF OFF OFF sucessfully, switch the setting BACK to ON ON OFF OFF OFF (1st 1MB bios bank) and then flash it with the proper v16 X3 bios.

Also, some people have fixed this by taking their chip and flashing it in a different version XBOX.

Or if you don't have the resources to "hot-swap" your chip, you can contact the retailer you purchased your chip from and request that they reflash your chip with Flashbios v3.0.3

There is a forum dedicated to XBOX V1.6b problems on Team Xecuters forums:
<http://www.teamxecuter.com/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=8>

6 – PROBLEMS BACKING UP GAMES

Posted by Xecuter on the Team Xecuter Forum

Guide 1: Game Backup/Freeze Problems

A guide that explains the different reasons why game backups (and originals) freeze or reboot to the Dashboard and how to get rid of the problem.

Guide 2: Dirty Disk Errors

A technical explanation of the reasons why Dirty Disk Errors (or DDEs) occur both on the Xbox Hard Drive and off of original and backed up discs. Here you will read why the errors occur and how to fix them.

Guide 1

Game Backup/Freeze Problems

How to Fix 90% of Game Backup Problems

Every week when new games are released the Backup Forums (and Newbie Chat) are inundated with posts saying "Such and Such game locks up! What do I do?" A huge number of posts on the main page of the Backup Forum are about how someone is having a problems backing up a specific game (i.e. KOTOR, GTA, Crimson Skies, etc.).

These problems are hardly ever game specific. There are only a few games that have specific problems. For the most part game freezes happen for the same reasons on every game.

Follow these steps (one or more of them could be causing the problem) and chances are your game backup will play perfectly.

1.) Turn off IGR (Evolution X)

Problem:

The IGR in Evolution X has been known to have issues with some setups. Turning it off and using an IGR in your BIOS will alleviate any potential problems with games locking up on the "loading" screen.

Solution:

IGR (or In Game Reset) is toggled on/off through your evox.ini. It resides in three separate places: [Misc], [FTP] and [RDTOOLS]. Make sure each instance of IGR in the evox.ini file looks like the following:

```
CODE
IGR = No
```

You can either do this in Evolution X through System Utilities/Settings (remember to save and exit) or by editing your evox.ini file and uploading it to your Xbox via FTP.

2.) Patch the Game

Problem:

A media check (read: copy protection) in newer games causes the game to lockup during loading. This usually occurs later than an IGR game freeze. All games released after February 2003 contain this media checks and it has several variations. The media check has been put in place so that the Xbox can verify that the game disc is a legitimate copy.

Solution:

The game can be patched any number of ways.

Backup to DVD (PC)

You can use a patching program such as Craxtion, Qwix or ADR Patcher. These

programs are designed to go through the XBE files on your computer and actually patch them to remove the media checks.

Backup to Hard Drive (Xbox)

There are programs that will auto patch games while backing them up to the hard drive. These programs include dvd2xbox and Px-HDD Loader.

BIOS Upgrade

Newer BIOS versions (Xecutor 4977 or later, Evox M7 or later) can auto patch games on the fly. This allows you to play backed up games on your modded Xbox even if they contain the media check.

3.) Set Your System Clock

Problem:

Games tend to freeze during game play. This will often happen when games are auto saving and run into errors (i.e. the Xbox reporting a date of 11-15-2001).

Solution:

Set your system clock through MS Dashboard/settings. If you leave your Xbox unplugged for 4 hours or longer the clock will need to be reset when you boot it back up.

4.) Clear Your Cache

Problem:

When you load games, the loads are temporarily stored in "cache" to speed up load times. This works on the same principle as web browsing. HTML files and images are temporarily stored in a cache or temporary directory so that the sites you visit the most often don't have to load the same graphics and text again and again, increasing the speed of your web browsing. Games do the same thing so that your load times speed up.

Occasionally these cache files will get corrupted or will not erase properly. This and causes a game to freeze or not load properly.

Solution:

Delete your cache files. The following directories can be emptied (delete all the files inside, not the directories themselves).

E: CACHE

X:

Y:

Z:

5.) Game Specific Patches

Problem:

Some games have long file names that work fine with the DVD file structure but don't work on the Xbox hard drive's "Fat-X" file system. There are only a few games that have this problem (most notably: Enter the Matrix).

Solution:

In order to run these games on the Xbox hard drive, the filenames have to be changed and the game has to be patched to look for the new, shorter, file names.

6.) Delete Save Game Files (Last Resort)

Problem:

A corrupted save game file makes it impossible for a game to launch properly or the game freezes when trying to load a game.

Solution:

Delete the save game files for that game. Obviously this is a last resort because no one wants to lose all the progress they've made in a given game. Your game saves are located in the following directories:

E: TDATA

E: UDATA

These directories are pretty hard to decipher on their own. You would be best served to download XBox-Saves Manager. This program, if you are not familiar with it, will FTP into your Xbox and allow you to read the save game files to see what games they represent. You can then delete the offending file from the game giving you trouble.

Make sure to make a backup of any data on your Xbox before you try removing any files. Not only could you use a save game file but you could possibly delete important system files and prevent your Xbox from functioning properly. With your C and E drive backed up you should be able to safely remove save game files.

To the best of my knowledge those are the causes of and solutions to the majority of game freezing and backup problems. I am by no means an expert but hopefully this will serve as a useful guide to those of you having problems.

If anyone has anything to add to this list (or sees anything wrong with my technical explanations of the problems) please PM me and I will change it to keep this guide up to date. As I said, I'm not an expert so my technical explanations could be flawed or just plain wrong. That doesn't change the fact that the solutions to these problems are the same and usually solve the problems.

I may not be an expert but my game backups never freeze so that's got to count for something.

Guide 2

Dirty Disk Errors Explained

How they Happen and How to Fix Them

I've noticed an increasing number of posts regarding the Dirty Disk Error (or DDE). I thought I'd write a brief description of why they happen and how to fix them.

A lot of people suspect that they need a patch or it is a new form of copy protection but the plain truth is that it is basically one thing that causes this: the Xbox cannot properly read a file. There are a number of ways that this could happen.

Here are the main reasons that a DDE will occur. I've noted after the reasons whether they affect the DVD (DVD), HDD (Hard Disk Drive) or both.

1.) The Obvious Reason: A Damaged Disc. (DVD)

Problem: A scratch or blemish on the disc causes it to be unreadable.

Solution:

Sometimes simply wiping the disc down can make the disc become unreadable. If the disc is damaged beyond repair (deep scratch or chip) then there isn't much you can do. You can try contacting the manufacturer. Some manufacturers will exchange scratched discs for new one. If the game/movie is brand new you should be able to exchange it for the identical disc at the place of purchase, depending on store policy.

2.) A File is Missing or Corrupted (DVD/HDD)

Problem:

This can happen if a file fails to transfer properly via FTP, or copy to the HDD properly.

Solution:

Check your FTP log after you transfer and make sure that all the files transferred properly. If files fail to transfer it could be one of two reasons:

The disc is scratched or dirty (see problem #1).

The file has a long filename and cannot be written to the HDD's Fat-X file system which will only accept 42 character long file names.

You ran out of HDD space during the backup.

The filemanager you used to backup the game missed a file.

This can be caused for three reasons:

The disc is scratched or dirty (see problem #1).

The file has a long filename and cannot be written to the HDD's Fat-X file system which will only accept 42 character long file names.

The filemanager you use skips files when it encounters errors rather than alerting you. I would suggest using a good, reliable filemanager. IMHO the best backup tool/filemanager by far is WiSo's dvd2xbox. Make sure you're using the latest version. He comes out with new releases very frequently. You ran out of HDD space during the backup.

3.) Bad ISO Image (DVD)

Problem:

The ISO you have created is not a valid Xbox ISO file.

Solution:

Use a proven reliable ISO maker (i.e. Craxtion, Qwix or SimpleX). DO NOT USE xISO.

4.) Faulty DVD Drive (DVD)

Problem:

The DVD drive in your Xbox is no longer reading games properly.

Solution:

Some drives (particularly the v1.0 Thomsons series) can reach a point where they have trouble reading discs (retail or backup). This, of course, isn't a problem exclusive to Thomson drives. Any drive can stop functioning properly at any time but the Thomsons have the reputation as the drive that causes the most problems.

Here are a couple of solutions to this:

There are ways to tweak the DVD drive to make it do a better job of reading discs. It can be a risky proposition as you could do further damage to your DVD drive in the process. It is also possible that this will only work as a temporary solution. To find out more about "pot tweaking", click [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). Getting a new DVD drive. This can be costly but is probably the most effective way to fix the problem. Sadly it often isn't too much less expensive than buying a new Xbox. You can order replacement drives [here](#) or [here](#) amongst other places. Not sure which DVD drive you have? Look [here](#).

5.) Faulty Hard Drive (HDD)

Problem:

The Xbox HDD has failed and can no longer access data properly. This is not common but it does happen.

Solution:

Sorry to say but just about the only fix is to get a new hard drive. It's a good idea to stay in the habit of backing up your Xbox HDD data frequently just like you would on your computer. The most important directories are C (system files) and E (save game data). You wouldn't want to have to play those first four levels of Aquaman all over again, would you?

To the best of my knowledge these are the main reasons for dirty disk errors. If anyone has anything to add to this list (or sees anything wrong with my technical explanations of the problems) please PM me and I will change it to keep this guide up to date.

7 – XBOX LIVE

So you want to know if you're going to be able to get on XBOX Live once you get your X3 Box up and running. The answer is YES.

There are a few exceptions to this though. If you have logged into XBOX Live with this specific XBOX before, and plan to put a large HDD in to replace the stock MS hdd, you will most likely be banned. This is because of a little something called the "marriage theory". This basically means that your stock hdd and eeprom have been married through a logging system on Xbox Live, and stored for future reference. When you change the hdd, your hdd info changes, and once you log into XBL the logging system notices the hdd info is not the same as before and you are banned.

So how do you get around being banned if you have logged onto Live before you modified your Xbox?

- 1 - You can flash a new eeprom to your XBOX before you log in with your new, upgraded HDD.
- 2 – There are a couple products on the market that allow you to switch between 2 hard drives. This is if you don't feel like flashing a new eeprom.
- 3 – Don't upgrade the HDD. (I would not recommend this ☺)
- 4 – Turn your damn chip OFF by holding the power button when you power the Xbox on.
- 5 – Use original games!!!!

Damnit! You've already been banned? Read further . . .

- 1 – Obtain a new eeprom, and an unbanned hdd. DO NOT USE YOUR FLAGGED GAMERTAG (the gamertag that you were using when you got banned) ON A NEW/UNBANNED/UPGRADED HDD. If you do you will be banned again.
- 2 – Keep your old hdd, flash a new eeprom, and use a switch or manually switch between hard drives.
- 3 – I heard talk of some people attempting to edit their hdd info and trying to get back on Live with that and a new eeprom and GT. If you do not want to do any of the above 2 steps, try looking up some info on the on Xbox-Scene forums.

8 - MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

HOW TO REPAIR A LIFTED/BURNT TRACE:

<http://www.teamxecuter.com/forums/showthread.php?t=9334>

X3 N00b GUIDE: <http://home.comcast.net/~x3guide/>

BIOS TUTORIALS:

<http://www.developingwebs.net/submissions/fileupload/store/biosmanual.html>

X3 Config Live Tutorial:

<http://www.tza.me.uk/ILTB/X3CLManual/>

XECUTER (REGISTER AND JOIN THE FORUMS): www.teamxecuter.com

XBOX SCENE: www.xbox-scene.com

XECUTER FORUMS AT XBOX SCENE:

<http://forums.xbox-scene.com/index.php?showforum=50>

AS A FINAL NOTE! CHECK YOUR SOLDERING AND MAKE SURE YOU PLUG EVERYTHING BACK INTO THE MOTHERBOARD! EVERYTHING!!!!