

A+ Core 1 and Core 2 CertMaster Perform 15.0

4.3.5 Troubleshoot Inaccurate System Date/Time

Accurate timekeeping is crucial for computers, as incorrect date and time settings can disrupt network authentication and make scheduled tasks like backups unreliable. The **real-time clock (RTC)** tracks the date and time, powered by a coin-cell lithium battery (usually CR2032) when the computer is off.

RTC coin cell battery on the motherboard

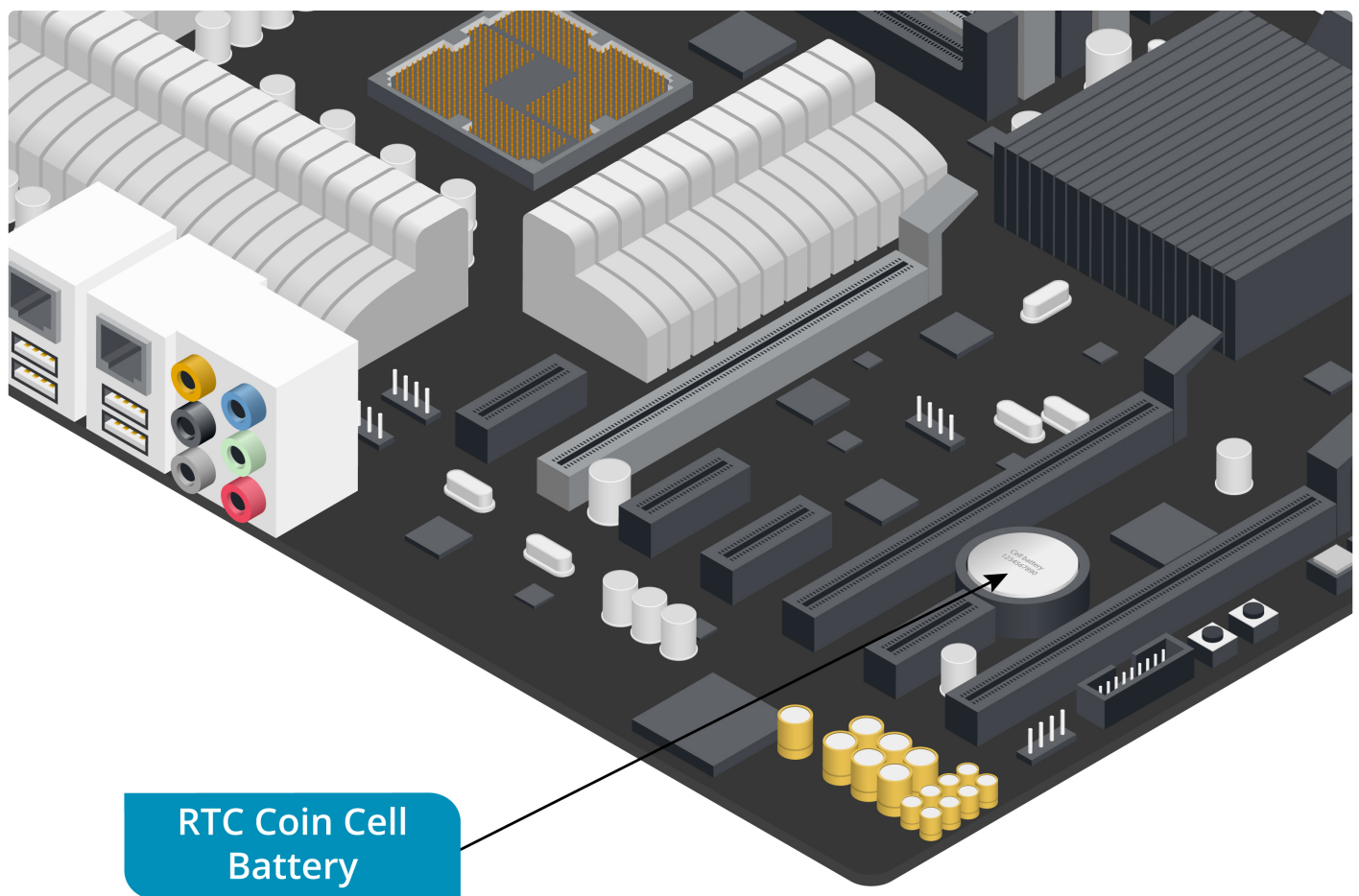


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If the time in the system setup is incorrect, it may signal a failing RTC battery, which should be replaced with the same type. This battery is often called the "CMOS battery" because older systems stored settings in **CMOS (complementary metal-oxide semiconductor)** RAM. However, modern systems use **NVRAM (non-volatile random-access memory)** or flash memory for configuration data, so the battery mainly supports the RTC.



Modern systems frequently use **Network Time Protocol (NTP)** to sync time with network clocks.

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