

Tip for April 2005  
Courtesy of Wyvern Technology  
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Ah, autumn – fresh mornings and evenings. I feel alive again.

Your tip for this month focuses on the solution to one problem and a warning.

Many people don't realise that when their emails are going out with the wrong date on them that this is due to the failure of the CMOS battery. They often blame their email program or viruses or think it is due to a sinister cause. The solution is an easy one and has nothing to do with the usual suspects. On the motherboard – which is the large circuit board into which is plugged the drives, the sound cards, the modems, the mouse, the keyboard and everything else that helps you use the computer - is a small silver battery like the ones you put in watches etc. This small battery keeps the computer ticking over in a certain rhythm which has everything to do with date and time. The first sign that this battery has failed is that your date and time are always wrong and even when corrected will revert to an incorrect setting. The battery costs only \$4 approx. and is relatively easy to insert. Just make sure that you have unplugged all cords and that there is no power running through your computer. A good tip once the computer has shut down and to remove the power cord and put it back last.

The other half of this tip is a warning which has already featured in my monthly tips:

Often you will get a pop up or an email which invites you to reply or to click on a link and this action will serve to remove you from their mailing list. These emails and pop ups are searching randomly without knowing if they are actually hitting on real addresses. Once your reply, they know that this is a real address and you will never get rid of them. Ignorance, in the way of paying no attention, will be, in this case, bliss