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Testing your Power Protection

From time to time it is good practice to ensure your power protection is functioning correctly. This can be done simply by turning off the power at the power point and making sure things don't drop out.

However, before you reach over to turn off the power check the following.

Obviously, if you are checking the power protection, you want to see if its actually working. The safest way is to assume its not. Before you turn of the power make sure you do the following;

- Make sure you have a current back
- Make sure you have closed out of all programs
- Make sure everyone else is out including remote users
- Have the computer at the login screen (in other words log off)
- Check the power cable running into the back of the computer. Follow it and make sure it actually goes to the UPS, and not directly to the power point.
- When you have completed all these tasks. Turn the power off at the power point.
- The UPS should start beeping but the computer should continue to work
- Wait 5 minutes before turning the power back on.
- The UPS should after a few seconds click and stop beeping.
- The lights on the UPS may continue to flash until the battery has had time to charge back up.

While this process tests that the UPS works it does not test how long the battery will support your system. To do this you will need to leave the power off until the UPS drops out and the computer turns off. This can be up to 60 minutes, but most UPS's are only designed to support the system for around 15-20 minutes.

The long test is not recommended, as it fully drains the batteries which can take up to 12 hours to recharge. This means if you were to suffer another power event in the next 12 hours the UPS would not be able to help. Rather than perform the long test. It's better to just check how old the UPS is. Under normal conditions a UPS battery has an average life expectancy of 3 years. If your UPS is older than this and has not had it's batteries replaced you can expect that you will not get 15-20 minutes of battery support and thus we recommend you consider arranging a battery replacement to maintain your power protection.

If you need help with this testing or would like to arrange battery replacement please don't hesitate to call us on 1300 736343 before the break.

Regards
Paul Adnett

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