

Odd power issue with Sun E-250

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To: sunmanagers@sunmanagers.org

I have a Sun E-250 that has suddenly decided to "go dead" on me. After so much time, it becomes unpingable. Local access shows all LEDs off. Turning the power switch does nothing. However, if I unplug the power cable, then plug it back in, then cycle power at the front key-switch, the machine comes back to life. It doesn't prompt for fsck, so it appears it is shutting down properly, not failing. I've checked the power supply for excess heat, and its not getting too hot, so I can rule out any sort of thermal shutdown. I have all power management disabled.

This server has been online for years. It has only had these issues the last month. No recent changes or patches were made or applied... it simply shut down one day with the behaviours described above, then has repeatedly done so sporadically. The server runs Oracle, but Oracle doesn't start with the system. If I reboot it and don't start Oracle, it will *die* within 24 hours. If I start Oracle up after reboot, it will chug along and never have this issue. Its as if its sleeping after too much idle time. But why start suddenly... after more than 3 years of flawless use?

Have any of you experienced this or something like it before? I am truly perplexed by this problem. It seems like a power management issue, yet I've accounted for all the PM stuff. The Oracle users are getting quite frustrated with me since it only seems to fail when they need it... like right now. :(

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