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Subject: Re: Strange behavior in PC/TV monitor

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 22 Dec 2022 16:39:29 GMT

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You know the drill - process of elimination. Gotta swap the CATV and the monitor with known good units 'til you find which of them is at fault.

Seems like pretty easy to find another monitor with HDMI. But for the CATV box, you might have to call the service provider.

You didn't say the spike was caused by a storm, but I have some interesting experiences with lightning damage. For a while in the 1980s, I was asked to design lightning protection systems. They always involved lightning rods as primary protection, so I could expect strikes at the rods and both air-gap and solid-state surge protectors (MOVs and surge-clamping diodes) as secondary protection.

One site had annual storms - mostly in the summertime - that would include lightning strikes with such intensity that they would destroy dozens of trees from direct strikes. They would literally bulldoze the trees to a central location and burn them after every storm. So naturally, electronics on this site were regularly damaged too.

Most systems' failures aren't from direct strikes. And frankly, many don't even come through the power lines. The power grid in America already has great surge protection. But the interconnections between devices - especially long cable runs - easily spike from inductive coupling. So I always put secondary surge protectors on those.

Use lightning rods placed some distance from protected buildings to draw the direct strikes there, and use surge clamping devices on each end of a signal interface cable run. That approach works very well. Storms still happen, trees still get struck, but the electronics survive.

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