




“Light-Path Diagnostics gives system engineers and system administrators the ability to locate and diagnose hardware problems on xSeries servers extremely quickly, avoiding or significantly reducing downtime.”

“IBM is currently the only major vendor to offer this innovative solution”

What is Light-Path Diagnostics?

Light-Path Diagnostics is IBM's unique innovation that allows system engineers and administrators to easily and quickly diagnose hardware problems on the IBM server xSeries range. Hardware failures that in the past may have taken hours to locate and diagnose can be detected in seconds, avoiding or significantly reducing costly downtime.

How does it actually work?



Light-Path Diagnostics constantly monitors selected components within the xSeries server. If a failure occurs a light is illuminated on the front facia of the server to alert the systems administrator that there is a problem. Removing the top-cover from the server will expose the main Light-Path Diagnostics panel, which will have a light against the failed subsystem. This will direct the engineer or administrator directly to the failed component, which will also be showing an illuminated LED.

For example, memory DIMM failures can be notoriously difficult to locate. Under normal conditions, once the error has been diagnosed as a memory chip failure, each individual DIMM needs to be isolated and tested. This is a very haphazard solution, and can take a great deal of time, as the memory error may not resurface immediately.

With Light-Path Diagnostics, the procedure of diagnosing the memory error is incredibly simple, as the defective DIMM is immediately highlighted by an LED adjacent to it. The memory can then be removed and replaced and the server restarted very quickly.

What component errors can Light-Path Diagnostics detect?

- Disk drives
- Memory
- Power Supplies
- CPU's
- Voltage Regulator Modules
- PCI Buses
- Service Processors
- Temperature Alerts
- Non Redundancy Alerts

Is it reliable?

The Light-Path Diagnostics function is written at a hardware level it does not require an operating system to function. This not only makes it reliable but also allows you to diagnose problems before an operating system is even installed. Rough shipping or handling during delivery and installation can cause hardware failures. Light-Path Diagnostics will immediately notify the installer of these problems.