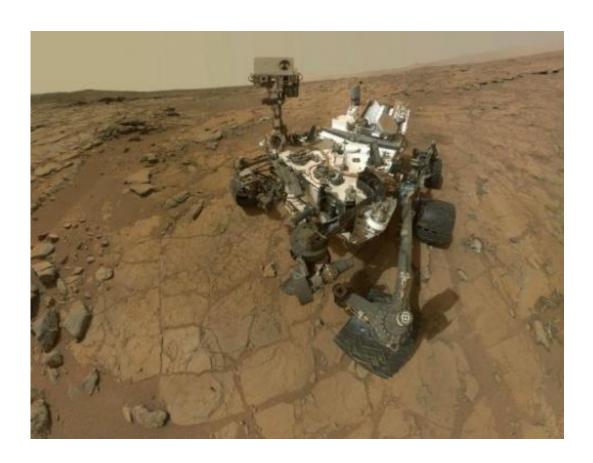


NASA fixing computer glitch on Mars Curiosity rover

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A self-portrait of NASA's Mars rover Curiosity taken by the rover's Mars Hand Lens Imager and released by NASA on February 7, 2013. Scientisits are currently working on a computer glitch, putting the rover in "safe mode."

NASA's Mars rover Curiosity has been temporarily put into "safe mode," as scientists monitoring from Earth try to fix a computer glitch, the US space agency said.



Scientists <u>switched to a backup computer</u> Thursday so that they could troubleshoot the problem, said to be linked to a glitch in the original computer's flash memory.

"We switched computers to get to a standard state from which to begin restoring routine operations," said Richard Cook of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the project manager for the Mars Science Laboratory Project, which built and operates Curiosity.

A NASA statement said scientists expect to shift the powered-down computer on Curiosity back to full operation in the coming days.

The \$2.5 billion Curiosity mission, which is set to last at least two years, aims to study the Martian environment and to hunt for evidence of water in preparation for a possible future manned mission.

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