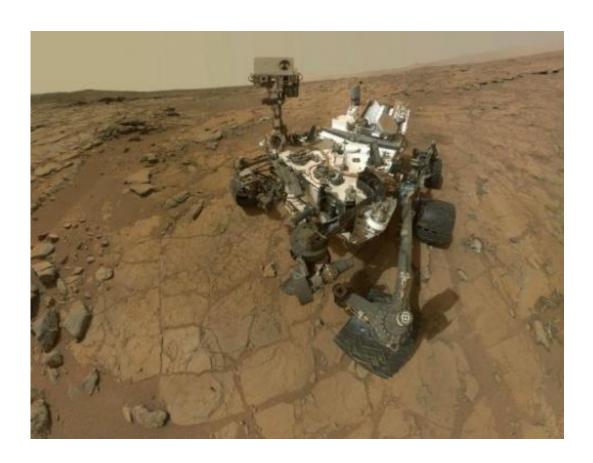# NASA fixing computer glitch on Mars Curiosity rover

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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 [switched to a backup computer](#) 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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