

## **Come Thunder! Come Lightning!**

I love that Bugs Bunny cartoon where Elmer Fudd is standing on top of a jagged cliff wearing a Viking hat with horns on it yelling "Come Thunder! Come Lightning!" and then runs down the cliff singing "Kill the Wabbit, Kill the Wabbit!" I kind of feel that way when a thunderstorm draws near because lightning makes me money. If I was going to sing it would be "Kill the modem! Kill the modem!" But I digress...

Yes, lightning is good for my business. However I don't like to make money off of other people's misfortune so today I'm going to talk about how you can avoid a costly trip to the repair shop. Most people are smart enough to have a really good surge protector on their computer equipment. Some will even unplug it during a bad storm. However, few people will protect or unplug their phone line during a storm. Most computers that get damaged by lightning don't get damaged through the power line, but rather through the phone line. The best thing to do to protect against this is buy a good surge protector that has a place to plug in your phone line - and then plug it in. I've replaced several blown modems in homes where the owner had a surge protector with phone line protection, but had the line going straight from the wall to the back of PC. Hello, McFly! They don't work unless you actually plug them in.

After every storm I usually have 3 or 4 calls from people who claim "their computer is dead". This is a pretty common problem and can usually be fixed fairly easily. If your PC won't power on simply pull the power cord out of the back, wait 10 seconds, hit the power button once, plug the power back in and then hit the power button again. Most times this will reset the power supply and allow the unit to start up again. If it doesn't start then your power supply is probably damaged and you should immediately unplug the unit and take it in to a repair shop.