

Why Do Computers “DIE”?

The major cause of failure in any mechanical device is neglect. Sometimes when I walk up to a computer I will hear a chirping or a grinding noise that indicates a fan is about to quit. Or sometimes I won't hear a thing - which is sometimes worse. Usually that means that a cooling fan has completely quit spinning and the computer is in danger of overheating. When your PC is on you should be able to hear a fan blowing all the time.

Most people tend to ignore strange sound coming from their computers thinking they'll just go away. In the case of a failing fan, if the grumbling sound does go away it doesn't mean the problem fixed itself, but rather that the problem just got worse. An inexpensive cooling fan can lead to hundreds of dollars worth of damage if not replaced promptly.

Dust is just a fact of life in West Texas and computers tend to collect their fair share. A PC needs to “breathe” in order to stay cool. They do this by circulating air through the components via a fan located in the power supply usually located in the rear of the PC. Most computers will also have a smaller fan sitting directly on top of the processor to keep it cool. If these fans (and the entire PC) are not kept clean, then the PC can overheat and stop working. Also, keeping the “main box” inside a cabinet with poor airflow can cause it to overheat.

If your pc is over a year old you should consider cleaning it out. In most cases it is a simple process you can do yourself. You can purchase a can of pressurize air at Radio Shack or at a hardware store for about \$6. Then you simply turn off the PC, remove the cover and blow out any visible dust. If your fans are still noise afterwards, you should have them replaced as quickly as possible.

In conclusion, you should listen to your computer when it starts to tell you that its not feeling well. Take proper care of it and it will serve you well for many years.