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Unexplained Computer Crashes

- **SYSTEM "CRASHES"**.
- **UNEXPLAINED SYSTEM LOCK UPS.**
- **BSOD ERRORS - "THE BLUE SCREEN OF DEATH."**

Is your system crashing or locking up (mysterious system lockups) for no explainable reason, when it had recently been working fine? Are you getting the dreaded "blue screen of death" unexplainable system crashes? Does your system reboot itself right in the middle of some "innocent" operation?

THINGS TO CHECK

- You might have a **Virus**. Many kinds of erratic system behavior can be caused by computer viruses.
- You may have **Spyware**. These are insidious pieces of software that install themselves on your computer and do things like redirectiong your browser to a porn website or forwarding spam without your knowledge. They will wreak havoc and they will slow down your machine
- You might have a **faulty power supply**. Even if the fan is working okay, if the voltages coming from the power supply are erratic or inaccurate you'll have major problems. This will usually involve a service call.
- If the problems are pretty consistent, and have regularly occurred since system installation, you might need a **UPS** (Uninterruptible Power Supply.) If the electric supply in your area is deficient, brownouts, etc., then a UPS might help.
- Your **hard disk might be failing**. Run a standard scandisk Or use a diagnostic CD on your hard drive and check for errors. Then run a thorough scandisk. It's a good idea to do a thorough scandisk at least every few months, depending on how much use your system gets. Hard disks that start to develop bad sectors are usually "not long for this world". Plan on replacing it as soon as you can.
- Check your **TEMP** directory. Usually this folder/directory is named C:\WINDOWS\TEMP or simply C:\TEMP. If it is full of garbage files, close all running programs, delete the files in the TEMP folder and restart your system.

A good rule of thumb is that at least 10% of the hard disk should be unused as data storage. This will allow the OS (operating system) some room to operate. Today's bloated Windows OS's need plenty of room for their temp (.tmp) files. Printers require a tremendous amount of free space for their TEMP files created during printing operations.

If all of this help doesn't stop your problems, try uninstalling that last Windows program you installed on your system. ALWAYS use the ADD/REMOVE PROGRAMS icon in the Windows Control Panel (create a shortcut to that

icon and put it on your desktop so you don't forget) to add or remove programs from your system. Sometimes you get a bad program that can cause all kinds of system errors. Garbage programs do exist.

Heat

Today's systems run **HOT!!!**

I have found that system overheating causes many of these strange system lockups, and blue screen of death errors.

Check your power supply fan. It is the major culprit for these kinds of problems. Is the fan working? Is it thick with dirt and dust? Clean it, and make sure the fan is working properly.

Cheap computers and other consumer product computers frequently don't provide for proper cooling. A good, modern system will have an intake fan, a quality CPU fan and a quality power supply with its own good fan. Air should be moved into the case from the intake fan, be drawn across all of the internal components, and then vented from the system by the power supply fan.

Without this airflow in the system case, it's possible that even the best CPU fan will not be able to cool the microprocessor sufficiently. Keep the system cover on your computer. It will stay cleaner inside too. Less dirt equals more cooling for the electronic components.

Open the case about once a year and use "canned" air to blow the accumulated dust from the system components. Blow out the power supply too. Check to make sure the fan is free of accumulated dirt. If you're a smoker, or the system is located in an area where there is excessive dirt / dust, do this twice a year.