

# DEER COMPUTER CONSULTING, Ltd.

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## An ounce of prevention can save your PC.



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The average home or office computer is often taken for granted. It is expected to run almost continuously with virtually no intervention from the user to maintain performance. But when the machine does fail, you are out of work, out of patience, and usually out of money! There are, however, steps you can take to help prevent many kinds of computer problems before they occur.

One of the most important measures you can take to keep your computer running smoothly and protected from internal damage is the installation of good anti-virus with spam guard and some type of anti-adware software. Be careful though.

Too often, people overload their computers with unnecessary maintenance software which can significantly limit the machine's performance. Instead, make sure that your version of Windows is current with all available updates. Allow the computer to monitor and perform updates as needed.

Finally, one of the most over-looked steps to keeping your computer working efficiently is a physical cleaning. The main reason this task is so often ignored is because the user is required to do something no one really wants to do: open the computer's case.

Computers depend on airflow through the machine to keep them cool. The small fans and vent holes in the computer's housing provide that airflow. If the computer becomes layered with dust then the air is restricted and the small heat-sensitive parts may overheat and finally fail.

Unfortunately, because of bad advice, most people use a can of compressed air to try to clean their computer. What this really does is force the dust and debris back through the computer's vents. The dust passes across many plastic and metal surfaces becoming statically charged and then drawn to oppositely-charged and often very sensitive electronic parts causing damage – either immediately or over time.

Proper cleaning of the interior of the PC includes shutting down and unplugging the computer, and opening the case. Use a vacuum with a hose and small nozzle to safely remove dust and debris from vents and fans as well as the expansion slots, and keyboard.

Other maintenance can be done as well that can prevent problems before they occur. If you don't want to do this kind of work yourself, contact an on-site computer support company, like Deer Computer Consulting, Ltd., that offers such a service. It's relatively inexpensive and can save you hundreds of dollars in follow-up repairs after a component failure.