

## Stupid Computer Cooling Tricks

Every computer generates heat. Every computer has fans built in to dispel this heat. Overheating can cause your computer to act in an unpredictable manner. Both your desktop computer and your laptop computer are susceptible to issues that can be directly related to overheating.

I recently had a client whose computer was a “lemon”, it was in our service centre often for issues such as bad hard drive, defective ram, and we even replaced the motherboard in the computer. The last time the customer came in the problem was the laptop would do a “surprise restart” while multitasking with the computer, and then it would be difficult to get the computer to start again. It would also crash with the Blue Screen Of Death or BSOD. The customer was not very happy with the quality of the laptop and in the end we replaced the laptop for the client. We then had our technicians investigate the problems with this laptop. Ultimately the biggest problem with this laptop was dust and dirt had clogged the fan(s) and caused overheating, causing the symptoms of restarting and BSOD’s. The computer stabilized right after performing a basic cleaning of the fans of this computer.

If the overheating problem is not dealt with early, it will eventually overheat and destroy components inside the computer, requiring expensive replacement or repair.

Feel around the outside of your laptop, you should be able to feel heat being expelled via a fan of some sort. The fan could be on the side, the rear or even on the bottom of your laptop. Keep this area free of any obstructions. When using your laptop “on your lap”, be very attentive of where that exhaust fan is. When using your laptop in bed, on your lap, nestled in the very soft bedcovers....it WILL overheat and cause you problems.

Invest in a COOLING PAD for your laptop. These are lightweight “stands” for your laptop with built in fans to expel heat from the bottom of your laptop. Cooling pads are generally USB powered, so you don’t need to plug them into the wall socket. I was recently told of a house fire in the region caused by a laptop left in the wrong place until it started a fire. A cooling pad would have prevented this fire.

The next time your computer starts to act funny, like restarting itself or presenting you with a BSOD, take a look at your cooling fans, it might be just dirty causing many kinds of mysterious overheating problems. A typical computer fan can easily be cleaned of dust bunnies with a small can of compressed air.

The moral of the story is KEEP YOUR COMPUTER CLEAN. Watch for where your cooling fans are in your laptop and keep that area free of obstructions, especially soft barriers like fabric, which not only can block the fans, but can also create dust bunnies in your fans. Oh, and if you want to use your laptop in bed or on the couch, use a cooling pad. They’re a lot cheaper than a house fire.