

How hard is it to swap HD electronics boards

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.repair/2004-10/0758.html>

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Date: 10/09/04

Date: Sat, 09 Oct 2004 17:00:39 GMT

I have two "identical" 1.2GB Western Digital HDs and one has just died. I've talked to one professional data recovery company and they quoted me \$1100-\$1500 for the 1.2GB MS-DOS HD -- I think my data was valuable -- but I also think that I've got most of the source code stored on it distributed around a half-dozen other computers around here and at work so I'm going to pass on that route.

I could possibly do a board transplant to see if the drive died because of the electronics or not and if it did, I could recover the data.

I'm an aerospace engineer with EE & CS degrees with 30+ years experience so electronics and repairing equipment is no real scary prospect, but I've never done this kind of work before and I was looking for some guidance as to whether it's

- a) unscrew + unplug, then reverse the procedure
- b) (a) + some minor unsoldering
- c) You'd better have your own factory and clean room

TIA

Norm