

Re: Replace Hard Drive After 3.5 Years?

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From: James Sweet (jamessweet_at_hotmail.com)

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"Elle" <elle_navorski@earthlink.net> wrote in message
news:eM5%d.15965\$qf2.14393@newsread2.news.atl.earthlink.net...
> *I walked away from my computer for a couple of hours, tops, yesterday. I
> came back to it and the display and mouse were frozen.*
>
> *It's a 3.5 year old personal computer (Gateway, with a 20 Gigabyte, 5M
Ultra
> ATA hard drive). I ended up powering down, when starting up received error
> messages and then a failure to reach the Windows display. I ultimately
> struggled through a Scandisk from a Dos prompt and was able to recover
> most, but not all, my personal files, copying them to floppy diskettes
(3.5
> inch type). I shoulda been backing up at least once a month, but wasn't.
> Anyone else procrastinating: Man, don't do it. Stop now. Back up your
files.
>
> *A tech support person at Gateway said hard drives don't usually last
beyond
> five years. Some die at three years. I've found support on Usenet for
this.
>
> *My computer's running again, but to thwart another massive crash, is it
> worth putting in a new hard drive? I've got \$80 to spend, and I figure a
> nice one will run about that.*
>
> *I installed a new power supply (that is, transformer) last summer. It's
> power and so heat output aren't that different from the old one. It seems
to
> be working out fine. Otherwise, all else is original equipment.*
>
> *My last computer was a Hewlett Packard. It "died" irrecoverably after only
> thee years. The shop couldn't fix it, though maybe I took it to a lousy
> shop. So this is very discouraging. Throwing away \$800 every three years
> ain't gonna cut it anymore. So I've had it with these big brand names. I'm
> ready to build my own, and think at this point I have enough expertise to
do
> so. I'm certainly not going to throw money away on a shop trying to fix my***

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- > *computer again. It seems to me much of the expertise involved in a*
- > *successful computer repair involves simply patience and persistence.*
- >
- > *How about the CPU? Should I investigate replacing it, too?*
- >
- > *All suggestions about whether a new hard drive is worth the investment and*
- > *the CPU are welcome.*
- >
- > *TIA*
- >
- >

Hard drives are second only to optical drives in how often they tend to fail. The disk drives being fragile mechanical components are virtually always the first thing to go, 3–5 years is typical for one that's been heavily used.