



## PC 'SLOWDOWNS' OVERHEATING

A common complaint of PC users is "My computer is slowing down!" Programs start up quickly when you first buy your computer, but over time your system can slow down and become frustrating. One of these causes can be overheating. Central Processing Units generate lots of heat and require cooling; if the CPU temperature goes over specs then the system can run erratically or slow down. Most home computers have a cooling fan installed somewhere inside the box, pointing directly at the CPU. Listed below are some of the most common causes of fan failure and their solutions; be careful to check the warranty conditions on your computer before you go ahead and open the box, as doing so can void warranty. If this is the case, you should seek help from a professional.

**Cause:** Dust prevents the fan from spinning properly.

**Solution:** Open the box and spray the fan with compressed air to remove the dust, making sure you are careful around the interface cards and mother board. (They are expensive to replace!)

**Cause:** The fan bearings are loose.

**Solution:** You will be able to hear vibrations in the case and the fan will need to be replaced. It is fairly simple to replace a CPU fan, but get some help if you are unsure.

**Cause:** The fan motor has failed.

**Solution:** In this instance, the fan will simply stop working and needs to be replaced.

It is a good idea to always have a spare CPU fan in reserve. Fan failure is a common problem and a spare will ensure you spend more time enjoying your computer rather than cursing it!

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