

## DARN BLEEPING, BEEPING COMPUTER

By Frank, *Your Computer Tutor*

There are several reasons your Mac or PC computer beeps, bleeps and breeps-beep.

One reason is the RAM (memory) chips or motherboard are going bad; another is that your computer is overheating.

Overheating is caused mostly by dirty computer innards (it's just plain dirty inside it), or the Power Supply or CPU (computer processing unit) fans are no longer working properly. To replace a Power Supply or a CPU fan is pricey because these are not repairable items.

So, why not try to clean the unit to see if that resolves the bleeping, beeping issue? Cleaning your computer is relatively uncomplicated and can save you some bucks by not hiring a computer tech to do it for you. However, if your Mac or PC computer beeps after a very short period of use, or on start-up, ***you need to call a computer tech immediately - 303-575-1774*** - fan failure has the potential to cause hard drive or motherboard damage or even a fire.

On the other hand, if your Mac or PC computer beeps after extended use, chances are it's overheating and the beeps are a warning to turn the machine off. Again, the possible cause of the overheating is the computer's case is full of dust and crud including pet hair.

To resolve the issue you'll need the following things: a philips screwdriver, a can of compressed air, "Static Guard" anti-static spray, cotton swabs, DENATURED ALCOHOL, a mild solution of dish soap and cool water and a vacuum cleaner. Make sure you wear "all cotton" clothing.

Unplug EVERYTHING from the back of the computer. Take a moment to label all of your cables.

Spray yourself and the work area around the computer with the anti-static spray. Open the case; touch the power supply (the square box where the power plug goes in) to discharge any static electricity.

If your computer has foam filters, remove them; gently clean in a mild solution of dish soap and cool water, and dry for a long time before putting them back. A good thumb-rule would be to replace them when you do your heating/AC filters.

Vacuum large clots of dust from the fan vents with a nozzle tube. Don't touch the motherboard or any add-in cards. Just vacuum-away the dust that is lying on the bottom and the system's empty areas: **Don't use vacuum cleaner brushes on internal components.**

Carry the PC to your dry patio area and spray the computer's inside with the can of compressed air. Don't spray or spin the on any fan blades, especially the CPU's heat sink.

Hold the fan blades with your finger and then blow with canned air. Next, use a cotton swab with an alcohol solution to finish cleaning each blade. Carefully blow-out the dust from between the blades of the heat sink. Place the nozzle between the fan blades and along the open sides of the heat sink until no more dust flies out.

Close-up the computer and **wait one hour before replugging your cables into the back of the computer.**

Finally, raise your computer off the floor at least 12 inches to reduce the amount of dust that gets into your computer vents. In really dusty environments, cover your computer with a pair of old panty-hose for maximum filtration. Once covered, cut slits in the panty-hose for cables and other devices.

Happy Computing!!

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