11 Tips on How to Prevent a Computer Crash

Home computer users typically do a lot with their computer; playing games, surfing the Internet, sending email, some word processing. But one thing they rarely do is think about the care and maintenance of their computer. Most probably don't think of it at all until it crashes, which is unfortunate because there are some things that can be done and should be done routinely that will prevent the computer from crashing.

Neglecting to maintain your computer can lead to the loss of critical files, folders and system components, and this loss very often is irreversible.

The maintenance tasks required for your computer's health are, for the most part, easy and quick, but best to be done routinely.

1. Delete all unused and unnecessary files regularly. This will allow your computer to operate more quickly and efficiently. Unused files can accumulate and clutter up the memory and ultimately lead to malfunction.

2. Delete cookie files regularly. Most computers are cookies enabled, so this is a task that falls to most computer users. For those who have disabled cookies, it is not an issue. Cookie files, just like unused files, can clutter up the memory. To learn how to delete cookies from your computer, go to http://www.aboutcookies.org/Default.aspx?page=2.

3. Defragment your system regularly. Once or twice a week would suffice. Defragmentation, when done often, does not take long, but if you have avoided this process for an extended period, be prepared for it to take hours. How do you defragment your drive? Go to the desktop and double-click 'My Computer'. Right click the drive you want to defragment, (C:) in most cases. In the drop down menu that appears, click 'Properties'. Click the 'Tools' Tab in the dialog box that appears. In the Tools section, select 'Defragment Now' and defragmentation begins.

4. Don't run too many programs at the same time. Close any program that you aren't using to prevent overloading your system.

5. Check your disk space to make sure you have plenty. Keep at least 500 megabytes of storage space available. If you are running low, delete any unused files and programs you aren't using. To check your disk space, select "My Computer" from your desktop, right click on the C drive and select "Properties."

6. Keep your virus protection software up-to-date, even if you have to pay the subscription fee. You should set your virus protection software to automatically update every day in order to ward off new viruses.

7. Upgrade your operating system as soon as the new versions and patches are available. Old software tends to crash more, so look for updated versions.

8. Keep your computer dust-free and clean.

9. Keep your computer in a good location. Air needs to circulate around your computer to keep it cool, so clear away clutter. And definitely keep your computer someplace where it will stay dry. Moisture is bad for it. Keep it where it won't be bumped or kicked because even small bumps can damage the hard drive.

10. Always use a surge protector. Even a small power surge can fry your computer's motherboard.

11. Do not ever open emails and/or files from strangers. These may carry viruses.

Following these maintenance steps will prolong the life of your computer, but it is important for you to keep alert for any changes that may point to an impending crash. Watch for your screen freezing -- it may be a sign that your computer is running out of space. Listen for buzzing or clicking -- if you hear it, back up your files immediately.

Whether your computer is healthy or not, saving your work about every ten minutes as you work is a good idea. That way, in the event of a crash you will not have lost hours of work.

The best suggestion we can make is to back up your computer files. Whether you choose disks, an external hard drive or online data backup software, backing up your data will save you a great deal of angst and agony if and when something goes wrong with your computer.

CollectionMine's offsite data backup software is easy to use, extremely affordable and available with a free 30-day trial offer! Check us out at www.collectionmine.com!