

Data stored on PCs can disappear in a nanosecond, bringing workflow to a screeching halt. Along with regularly scheduled backups, stay alert to a few signals which may indicate a hard drive failure is imminent.

7 Signals to an impending Hard Drive Failure

1. A **clicking hard drive** can indicate a head crash, corrupt firmware on the drive's ROM chip, an electrical problem, blown heads, a bad pcb controller, overwritten servo's, damage to the hard drive's platters, alignment issues or a power surge.
2. When your system **blue screens** during a boot or during the middle of an operation, it could indicate the operating system has been damaged, there may be bad sectors on the hard drive that the system is unable to read, the hard drive could be failing, a virus or Trojan may have polluted the system, system files, may have been deleted or the partition or file structure may have become corrupted or damaged.
3. An error message which signals **drive not formatted** can indicate a hard drive's partition has been damaged, deleted or corrupted. This can result from a virus, a hard re-boot, a power outage or surge, disc partitioning utilities and sometimes updating software, anti-virus programs or simply installing new software.
4. When a **computer continues to re-boot** it may be an indication that the boot sector has been hijacked by a virus which creates a continuous loop and tells the system to go back to the boot sector thus perpetuating a continuous re-boot cycle.
5. When a **system freezes or hangs** while trying to boot or while accessing a file or program the system is unable to access the information it needs to open a file or load a program. This can be the result of a corrupt file or shared program files that have conflicting call procedures, or, too many system resources are being used and system memory may be full or overloaded.
6. The message, "**hard drive or device not found**" can indicate the drive is bad, the boot priority in bios has been changed, the partition structure is damaged, or a virus has infected your system.
7. An "**operating system not found**" message typically means that the operating system files are damaged, the boot device priority has been changed, the partition table is damaged or the hard drive has been formatted.

If your computer is experiencing any of the above indicators, it is extremely important to back up your data and visit your IT professional!