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# **Don't Lose Your Only Copy Of Acrobat Know The Warning Signs Of A Hard Drive Ready To Fail**

The number one cause of data loss on computers is hard drive failure. Knowing the signs ahead of time can allow you to prepare for and prevent the loss of your data before it happens by backing up your important files before it's too late. Some files, like pictures are just not replaceable and some programs like [Office 2003](#) are costly to replace.

First of all, we all should be backing up our data on a regular basis, but few of us actually do that. If you know some of the warning signs of an impending hard drive crash you can, hopefully, back up your data before it happens. The following is a list of the most common warning signs that one should look for :

**Computer Freeze:** Screen is stuck, you can't type, your mouse doesn't move, and even the blessed Ctrl-Alt-Del combination is useless. You've got to shut it down manually and restart, which of course makes the computer yell at you for not shutting down properly.

**The Missing File:** Every now and then, you might delete a file and not know you did it, but if files randomly start turning up missing, start worrying. The next file to go AWOL may be an essential system file that shuts down the whole operating system.

**Slow Motion:** When your computer is simply slow. Not just a little slower than normal, I mean ridiculously slow, and only when accessing the hard drive. This is a tell tale sign things are about to turn south quickly. Get thee some help.

**Stuck in the Mud:** When it seems like your computer just can't seem to remember what to do on startup. Sometimes it sticks for a little bit then continues, and sometimes it just freezes. This is a giant warning that you are headed for trouble.

A failed hard drive isn't actually that hard to spot. It's kind of like a dead car, it just doesn't work. Anyone who has worked on a PC long enough knows all about the blue screen of death. When you get the blue screen, game over, and you have lost.

Don't worry, even when your hard drive dies, you can still recover some of the data- most of the time. However, the process can be very expensive and there are no guarantees that you'll get all of your data back. In fact, in most cases you won't get 100% of it back.

It's best to take preventative measures such as using an online backup service or do it yourself using external hard drives. It's worth the cost, and will save you money and time in the long run. Don't wait for the signs of hard drive failure to turn into a full blown problem; implement a backup plan now! Don't be left without your pictures of dear Aunt Sara or without your important software like [Office 2003](#)

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