

## Advice on Taming Unruly Computers

### Smart Computing Begins With Backing UP Your Computer! Beep, Beep, Beep...

I'm glad you decided to read this article especially if you use a computer. The hard drive is where your important information, pictures and data are stored. Consider this: It is not, IF your hard drive will fail, it is WHEN!

The information in this article is important and if practiced can ensure many years of happy computing.

Some hard drives last for years and can out live the rest of the computer's parts, while others fail after a week of operation and even the first few hours of operation. It is not uncommon for a new computer to have its hard drive crash within days or weeks of using it. It doesn't seem to matter whether the computer is used a lot or sparingly; *the hard drive is always a gamble.*

A hard drive has moving parts that can wear out and break up and get "out of sync." It is always spinning, reading and writing. Hard drives in laptops take a beating just being moved around while they are working.

You need to be aware that you can lose your valuable information, music, pictures, and data in a split second.

It is possible to recover data from a failed hard drive. We Computer Tamers can often recover the data from a failed hard drive providing the entire mechanical assembly hasn't broken up. If that happens, there are services that will rebuild the drive. We Computer Tamers can refer you to companies that "work miracles" in recovering data. Of course these services cost thousands of dollars. Our technicians use a device that connects to the failed hard drive and a sophisticated collection of programs that intelligently recover the data and stores it on one of our servers. This process costs hundreds instead of thousands.

To avoid the costs of recovering data from a failed hard drive we recommend that you backup your important data on a regular basis; this includes your music and pictures. You can do this with a USB thumb drive, CD-R, DVD, an external USB hard drive, or an online service. You can investigate an economical service for backing up data by visiting our website – [TheComputerTamers.com](http://TheComputerTamers.com). Businesses need to pay close attention and check out the options for backing up their data. I've seen grown businessmen and businesswomen breakdown and cry when they've learned that their important business data cannot be recovered from a failed hard drive.

To avoid a nervous breakdown or the cost of reconstituting your information, begin the habit of backing up your data. Everyone should do it so that they don't lose valuable and irreplaceable pictures, your music collection, and documents.

A local computer service center can help you understand how to backup your computer and offer suggestions for media, frequency and what to backup. Storing your backup files is as important as backing up regularly. You must protect the backed-up data by storing it in a safe and fireproof location; preferably offsite, at a friend's house for example.

You don't have a "time machine" to use to go back in time to get your data back, but you can think ahead and institute a routine to backup your data. **REMEMBER IT IS NOT IF YOUR COMPUTER'S HARD DRIVE WILL FAIL, BUT WHEN IT WILL FAIL.**

Consider yourself warned! Backing up your computer makes good sense and takes only a few minutes. So form a habit of doing it. Anything else is taking unnecessary chances.

Visit a local computer service center and learn more about safe computing. I know our technicians are ready and willing to help you understand how to enjoy happy computing through safe computing and regular maintenance.

Allen is one of the Computer Tamers heard every Wednesday after the 5 o'clock news on WILI AM 14. You can learn more about getting your unruly computer under control by visiting [TheComputerTamers.com](http://TheComputerTamers.com) and explore the free information compiled there for you. Be sure to visit the Computer Tamers' sales and service center at 75 Bridge Street Willimantic to learn more about computers and how to use them intelligently.