Windows Can Crash in an Instant

Crashes are caused by:

- Viruses
- Overheating of CPU caused by clogged fans with dust, causing lockup
- Installing software from a scratched CD
- Power glitch or interruption
- Improper Shutdown of Windows
- Interruption caused by power savings features on computers
- Interruption of computer action by screen saver
- Removing Software
- Installing software with programs running that you didn't know about
- Software that conflicts with other software
- Drivers that conflict with other device drivers
- Installing wrong drivers
- Interrupting software installation
- Installing drivers/software for devices in the wrong order
- Too many programs running
- Badly fragmented Hard Drive
- Failing hard drive (usually caused by bump, vibration, movement while on) or memory
- Hardware failure of Modem, NIC, Motherboard, Display interface (surge or static electricity)

Fixing Windows

- Evaluate Hardware
- What were last things you or computer were doing?
- Do the Basics: Disk Cleanup, Scandisk, Defrag, Restore last known good configuration
- Replace missing files if known
- Run MSCONFIG and stop everything and reboot
- Try Safe Mode
- Virus Removal, then repair Windows
- Professional Hardware Diagnostics
- Uninstall and reinstall software if that was last task before failure
- Hack registry (requires special skills)
- Run Setup on top of present installation
- Wipe Hard Drive and Install Windows clean

Special Notes:

- Original Windows CD and Driver disks usually required (including Windows COA-serial #)
- Is data backed up?
- Programs must be loaded from original CDs. Programs do not transfer.
- If Windows is installed clean, the critical updates must be downloaded.
- Windows repair can take hours to attempt to fix, backup data, or reload.

Understanding Windows

- BIOS is first set of instructions
- CMOS is Configuration
- Operating System loads (BOOTS): 1000's of files makes up Windows, with various device drivers for Hardware
- Programs are installed into Windows with files installed to its own folder as well as files installed into the Window's folder and sub-folders and hundreds of entries are made into the Windows database (registry) for that program.
- Device Drivers: Software required to make certain hardware work with Windows: Display, Modem, Sound, Mouse, CDROM, NIC, and multitude of Motherboard components.
- Data is information you create: Documents, Pictures, Spreadsheets, Checkbook, Presentation, Music, etc that needs to be backed up regularly.