

A Quick Fix For When Your Computer Freezes

Beginners' Kaffee Klatch
Presented by Bill Wilkinson
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We have all had the frustrating experience of having our computer “freeze” just when we are in the middle of something important. Is there anything we can do short of shutting down manually and starting all over again?

There are occasions when Windows will get itself all tied up and there is no choice but to cut the power to your computer and restart it. (There are two things to remember about the process of cutting power to your computer when it is locked up: 1) Hold down on the power button until there is a disconnect; this may take several seconds. 2) Once your system powers down, wait at least 10 seconds before rebooting).

Before you take the drastic action of cutting power to your computer, however, try pressing the **Ctrl + Alt + Del** buttons first. Just hold down the Ctrl key on your keyboard, the Alt key and the Del key, all at the same time. If you use this key combination, you'll see a dialogue box (Task Manager) appear that will allow you to choose the offending program (the one that made your computer freeze up) from a list and force it to shut down. In fact, it may even have the words "Not Responding" next to it on this list. Just click the **End Task** button to shut the individual program down. If you get another box a few seconds later, asking you to wait or end the task, just choose End Task. By using this approach, you should be able to close the offending program without having to reboot your computer and starting over.

If you notice that your computer just freezes after awhile, especially if it takes about the same amount of time to freeze each time you use it, you may have a problem with overheating. Make sure the computer has plenty of room to breathe. Place it in a spot where it will have several inches of open space all the way around. This is the minimum, so if you have a place where you can set it that will allow for more space, use that one. If you are blocking your computer's vents, you're asking for trouble.

If you do suspect that overheating is the problem (and the machine has plenty of ventilation room), check the tower's fans. That may be a good indication of what's going on as well.