



Why is my computer so noisy?

This article runs through why computers can sometimes be really noisy and makes some suggestions to get them running quietly.

Computers make noise because they are filled with cooling fans which stop the computer from overheating. Computer components like the Central Processing Unit (CPU) run at very high temperatures and without cooling your CPU would fizzle and die within seconds of turning it on.

Like house fans, computer fans can be noisy and when they become old or worn they can get worse. This sometimes leads to a groaning noise not unlike that made by your neighborhood zombie. Don't despair. This can be fixed!

By upgrading or replacing the fans which cool your components you can dramatically reduce the amount of noise your computer makes.

Fans are usually found on your CPU, Graphics Card (if you have one), North Bridge and Power Supply. Most of these fans can be replaced by what is known as a heat-sink, which is designed to dissipate heat away from these devices either by using special metal lattices or a quiet and more efficient fan.

As well as fans, you can make your computer quieter by getting a better case. Most computer stores will sell you cheaper cases which are badly designed and do not get rid of heat efficiently. This puts pressure onto the fans as they have to work harder to keep your parts cool.

Quiet computing can be achieved, it just depends on how much noise you are willing to put up with and how much you are willing to spend to get noise reduced. For most people, a new Antec case (with a quiet power supply) and a quiet CPU heat sink will reduce noise to a much more bearable level.

Keep in mind that these items are fairly specific to each computer and so it would be best to get a Gizmotech around to check out your setup before going out and buying anything.



Above: An Antec Case



Above: A Zalman CPU Fan



Above: A metal lattice heatsink

This article applies to:



Windows Vista

