

# Computer Tips

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## Michael's Computer Services

### As Quiet As A Mouse!

We all know the saying, As quiet as a mouse, and it usually goes as an innocent comparison to something in conversation. But this saying has a real life partner that can be a very serious problem. As many of our readers know, mice have been gathering around our gardens, sheds, garages, and even our homes recently in greater numbers. We go away for a weekend or even a week, and we come home to find mice have taken up residence in the most personal and unusual of places—refrigerator spaces, washing machine panels, television cabinets, lounge cushions and most disturbing of all—the computer.

We all have heard of computer viruses, spyware and "hackers" getting into our computer and running amuck with our software. But there are also real creeping crawlies that can get into your computer and damage the components. Lets look at one of these crawlies, and also ways on how to prevent them getting in.

The case of your computer is designed to do several things for your computer, and it generally does its job remarkably well. Your computer case not only provides a secure frame to screw the components to, but it also provides ventilation in various ways for the components inside. The case also provides a "pretty face" for your PC, giving it some "character" and identity as well.

But probably the most important function your computer case provides is protection from dust, water, and little crawlies like spiders, frogs, and the subject of our article — mice.

A good manufactured case has spaces sufficient and large enough to allow wires or drives to be inserted or used. All unused spaces have inserts, or expansion plates as they are called, in place to prevent any foreign objects from getting inside the computer.

This is all fine, as long as you or someone else has not left out any of these blank expansion plates when working on the computer. If any of these plates are missing, spiders, frogs, and especially mice, can get in and potentially damage the fragile components inside.

Recently we have a customer bring their computer in because for some reason it would not start up. Upon investigation, we found mice had gotten into the computer case, and had done their business all over the components. Mice excrement is extremely acid, and when it comes in contact with circuits and computer boards, it eats into the boards and shorts them out. We had to replace nearly every component in our customer's computer, at the cost of quite a bit of money. On talking with the customer, we learned they had removed one of the expansion cards from the computer, which left a gap at the back of the case, allowing the mice to get in.

So be sure to check your computer, and make sure there is no expansion panels missing from the computer case.

If you require any assistance with your PC, you can call us on 4171 0981, or email us at [info@mcsit.com.au](mailto:info@mcsit.com.au)

Computers



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