SMART HARD DISK MONITORING

S.M.A.R.T. stands for Self-Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Technology System. Using S.M.A.R.T. technology, virtually any intelligent component or device within a computer can communicate its predicted reliability status to its user and system administrator to provide comprehensive protection that can prevent system downtime, productivity loss, and even the loss of valuable data. Quantum disk drives incorporate a suite of advanced diagnostics that monitor the internal operations of a drive and provide an early warning for many types of potential problems. Assuming that SMART is working properly on your drive it sounds like you should replace the drive ASAP. There's a program called Drive Copy that will allow you to copy the contents of your hard drive to a new one.

The things that SMART checks:
(Running SCANDISK will not show some of these types of problems.)

Disk Drive Reliability Predictors
Type of Failure Symptom/Cause Predictor
Excessive bad sectors Grown defect list, media defects, handling damage
Number of defects, growth rate
Excessive run-out Noisy bearings, motor, handling damage Run-out, bias force diagnostics
Excessive soft errors Crack/broken head, contamination High retries, ECC involves
Motor failure, bearings Drive not ready, no platter spin, handling damage
Spin-up retries, spin-up time
Drive not responding, no connect Bad electronics module None, typically catastrophic
Bad servo positioning High servo errors, handling damage Seek errors, calibration retries
Head failure, resonance High soft errors, servo retries, handling damage
Read error rate, servo error rate

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