Computer Crash

Sooner or later, your computer is going to crash - when you least expect it, and probably when you need it most.

While your system is working properly turn it on and prepare a boot disk

`Win XP & Vista`
Creating an XP or Vista boot disk is much more involved and so it is recommended that you have the RECOVERY Disks that came with your computer, or that you create a set of the disks while setting up the new computer and keep those in a safe place just in case a crash occurs and you have to reinstall the applications or do a full format and recovery. IF your XP will not power up so you can get to the Recovery disks stored in a partition of your C:\drive, you're going to need something to power up.
Click here: How to obtain Windows XP Setup disks for a floppy boot installation (www.microsoft.com/kb/310994). IF your computer has no floppy drive, use a flash drive or cd-rom disk.

`Win 98`
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Create a Windows Startup Disk.
        A. At control panel, click the Add/remove Programs icon.
        B. Click the Windows Startup Disk tab
        C. Follow instructions given to create disk.
        D. Date, name and store in a safe place.

        Creating a Boot Disk
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1. An emergency **boot disk**.
       a. Select START (Win95/98) and then RUN

       b. At the prompt, enter **FORMAT A: /S**

       c. When prompted, insert a *high density* disk in the A: drive and press ENTER.

       d. When the formatting and installing is complete, a prompt will appear asking you to enter a "Volume Label", enter something meaningful such as "Boot Disk: - limit is 11 alphnumeric characters.

In *Windows Explorer(Win95/98)* scroll through the file lists until you find the following files(or use the search feature). Copy them to the Floppy A: drive.
  CHKDSK.EXE   EDIT.COM   FDISK.EXE   FORMAT.COM and SCANDISK.EXE. Other files that might be helpful may also be copied to the floppy disk.
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Attrib.exe
Deltree.exe
Himem.sys
Mscdex.exe
Smartdrv.exe
Sys.com
Xcopy.exe
Xcopy32.exe
Xcopy32.mod
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Also save to the floppy a **System Information Report: Click Start…Programs…Accessories…System Tools and System Information.**

   e. Now remove the new boot disk from the A: drive, label it clearly "Boot Disk" and place it inside a closable clean dust wrapper (ziplock bags work well).

   f. Win95 users, take one additional step. Click on *MY COMPUTER* on your desktop and select *Properties.* Copy down the multi-digit number listed underneath your name on the "Registered To" box. Write this on the boot disk label

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It makes no difference to a boot sector virus whether a floppy disk is
Bootable(has on it the necessary system info to start your  computer.)
or not, contains only data files, or even has no files. To
this type of virus, the boot sector is what's important. Here's how
they work. At boot, if a virus infected floppy is in drive A:, the PC's
BIOS reads the boot sector (or a virus written there) into memory
first, even before the operating system (or an antivirus program)
loads into memory.

At that point, a virus can spread from an infected floppy disk to the
hard disk. The process is almost instantaneous: The virus program in
the floppy's boot sector gets read, then it takes control of
memory--and most boot-sector viruses infect the hard disk immediately.
If the floppy is not bootable, the boot process may halt, usually with
a Non-System Disk message, but the virus is in memory nevertheless and
can spread, usually by copying to the hard disk's boot sector or to
its MBR (master boot record).

By infecting those areas of the hard disk, this type of virus loads
into memory every time you turn the PC on, even before the operating
system loads. This gives the virus an opportunity to restart the cycle
by copying to more floppy disks as they pass from user to user.
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