

Smart Failure Imminent, Back Up Your Data

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You may have received this error when booting up your computer along with an instruction to press the F1 key to continue. This error indicates that the hard drive is failing, which can be caused by different things. Sometimes the problem is excessive fragmentation and other times the problem is bad sectors on the hard drive.

S.M.A.R.T. stands for Self-Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Technology and is a built-in diagnostics utility which detects problems with the hard drive.

The solution is to purchase a new hard drive, re-install Windows and all of your programs. Sometimes the damaged drive can be installed as a slave drive (secondary) if you know how or can bring the computer to someone who does. If this cannot be done it is imperative to back up all of the data so you can move files over to the new drive. Hard drive cloning is possible, but doing so copies many of the problems from the old drive to the new one because it makes a bit-by-bit copy.