

I solved a strange case today involving dust bunnies on a machine I picked up yesterday.

When I first bring a client's computer to my shop, I pause at the garage door, remove the computer's cover and blow out accumulated dust. Heat and constantly running fans collect dust inside a computer.

This time after blowing out a big cloud of dirt and moving the machine inside my computer room, the PC would not start with the switch, but fans and disk activity started when the PC's power cord was disconnected and then plugged back in. Nothing came to the monitor screen. I checked and unplugged and plugged in various connections, but no joy. I called the client and she said it was working just before I took it away. Had I destroyed the machine in transit?

While drifting off to sleep last night, I wondered if moved dirt might be shorting out the mother board. This morning, I dismantled the whole machine even to the point of removing the mother board from the case. Ah, ha! Between the bottom of the mother board and the steel case was this rolled dust bunny about an inch long and about the diameter of a pencil. I was hopeful, but not real optimistic.

After all was reassembled, the machine fired up and worked all day while I cleaned up its file system. Tomorrow, I'll double the PC's speed by adding about \$50 worth of memory. The client will be happy at not losing email addresses and bookmarks and personal files and having to spend money and grief on buying and configuring a new machine. I'll be happy that she is happy.