Hard drives crash at one point in time; this is a cardinal rule of computing known better to the techs. In the event that your drive crashes and you have no any back up it’s common to panic but there are various ways you can recover the data in the drive.

Drives crash into major ways: mechanical failure and logical failure. The components of the drive are physically damaged when it is a mechanical failure and as result of either a corrupt file system or accidental formatting, the hard drive cannot find and navigate the stored data. The data in the drive still exist unless it has been overwritten. If the hard drive makes some clicking, grinding or whirring noise it means there is a high chance that you data is intact and accessible.

A logical failure of the hard drive occurs when the drive is healthy but one cannot boot into the operating system. This can be caused by various factors including system drive conflict, human error, virus or a software malfunction making the drive to crash.

The following are steps to take to recover the data from a crashed drive:

Connect the crushed drive to a different computer

Before doing any work on the drive, remove it from the current machine and connect it to another different computer as a secondary drive. The best way to do this is by the use of USB to an SATA/IDE adapter. If you don’t have any of these you can alternatively use a desktop computer with which you can internally install the drive as a secondary drive. Make sure the drive is detected in the BIOS so that it can be detected upon the machine’s start up.

Copy your data to another hard drive

After you have connected the drive into another machine and you can access the files from here, copy the data you want to recover into a different drive. This would work if it’s only the operating system that is corrupt but your data is still fine.

Use data recovery software\

If the above fails, the other alternative is to try and recover the data using data recovery software. However, it’s advisable not to install the software in the crashed hard drive from which you want to recover data. This could overwrite the files that you are after recovering. These are some of the recovery software that you could use to recover your data:

1. Recuva- this is a free drive recovery tool that can scan and discover more deeply-hidden data from your drive.
2. PC Inspector file recovery-this gives you the option to recover either deleted or the lost data as a result of a system crash.
3. Disk drill-this is another utility that you can use to recover a number of your files. To ensure that it will work on your drive, download the free version then purchase a full version when you have ascertained that it will recover the files you need.

Consult data recovery experts

Should the above discussed option fail to have your data recovered, the ultimate option would be to send the drive to date recovery experts. This would however be under a fee that varies from one recovery service provider to the other.