

- Removing the hard drive from a desktop computer

Before removing the current hard drive, copy the information onto an external hard drive in case of breaking it during the process. If the hard drive has failed and the data has already been lost, skip this part. The first step is to turn the computer off and unplug all the cables connected to it. Now the side panel needs to be removed, by pulling out the 4 screws located in all 4 corners of the panel. The hard drive is a rectangular metal box, placed on a set of rails within the computer. Located right next to the hard drive is a lever, pushing it enables the easy removal of the hard drive. After pushing it gently pull on the hard drive until it is removed from the rails. If there is any resistance whilst removing it there is something wrong, and the participant should see if something is stuck. The next step is to remove the IDE ribbon cable, which is the broad, thin ribbon running from the motherboard to the hard drive. Following this the power connector needs to be removed, which is the plastic, rectangular connector with two latches attached to it. Before gently pulling on the connector itself the latches need to be disengaged. The participant should be careful not to bend any of the thin metal pins located inside of the plug. Finally the hard drive can be removed and preferably placed inside an anti-static bag. If the hard drive is to be thrown out, or recycled, there is no need for the safe storage of the hard drive.