

Re: buzzing–clicking noises

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- *From:* Paul <nospam@xxxxxxxxxxx>
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Jo–Anne wrote:

On my 5–year–old WinXP SP3 desktop computer, I sometimes get a clicking noise when files or folders are opening and a buzzing noise when I'm scrolling. It used to happen occasionally and would go away after a day or two, but now it's that way all the time—and is driving me crazy.

Any suggestions for getting rid of this noise? (I've tried setting the volume to Mute, but it makes no difference at all.)

Thank you!

Jo–Anne

The first thing I'd check, is whether there is an audio cable stretching from the back of the CD player, to a four pin header on the sound (whatever kind of sound the computer uses, either motherboard or a sound card). You can play CD audio without the sound cable, via digital audio extraction (DAE) – that cable is no longer needed for music playback.

Right–click My Computer, and then click Properties.
Click the Hardware tab, and then click Device Manager.
Locate the CD–ROM, and then click the plus sign (+) in front of the device.
Right–click the CD–ROM drive, and then click Properties.
Click the Properties tab.
Look for "Enable digital CD–ROM audio for this CD–ROM device"

The old CD audio cable, works like an antenna and picks up electrical noise inside the computer. So that is a good reason to disconnect it, and switch to using DAE.

There are other options for making noises in the computer, and there have been bad motherboard designs, where the Ethernet wires are placed too close to some audio signals.

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For something like that, the only solution is to get a sound card, rather than use the motherboard audio. Motherboard designers don't typically care whether the onboard sound is clean or not (they're more worried about the computer working, than about sound quality).

The Mixer control panel for the sound, will have a record and a playback section. You should check to see whether the unused recording inputs are muted, and try and eliminate any paths there that could inject noise.

On a motherboard Soundmax (Analog Devices) AC'97 chip, I used to get random clicks every once in a while. I tried several different drivers, and the latest drivers reduced the clicking to about once every twenty minutes or so. I put a cheap sound card in its place, and that one works great. No more clicks.

Paul

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