Most people take good care of their computer and before using the internet make sure that they install antivirus lest anything happens to it. However, they ignore the dust that accumulates on their desktop over months and think that spring cleaning is something that their computers do not need.
This however is not correct. You need to understand that dust is actually quite bad for your desktop. Accumulated dust can lead to overheating of your desktop if it clogs the cooling system of the computer.
**Dust destroys data!**

As with smoke, dust can collect on the heads of magnetic disks, tape drives, and optical drives. Dust is abrasive and will slowly destroy both the recording head and the media.

Most dust is electrically conductive. Invariably, a layer of dust will accumulate on a computer's circuit boards, covering every surface, exposed and otherwise. Eventually, the dust will cause circuits to short and fail.
Here are some guidelines for dust control:

- Keep your computer room as dust free as possible.

- Avoid placing your computer on the floor or under a desk.

- Wipe down your computer on a regular basis. Be sure to dust behind your computer. You may also wish to clean your keyboards.

A computer desktop’s placement is crucial, housing it at an elevated, open space with good airflow helps prevent dust buildup.
General tips and notes to protect your computer devices from Heat and Dust:

- Placing your computer on the floor causes an increase in dust accumulation, because airflow at that level has a lot of dust. It is a lot healthier for your computer if it is sitting upon a desk.

- Leave enough space around your computer. The metal case used the principles of conduction to transfer heat into the surrounding area and having a clutter of objects around your computer and sticking notes and pictures on your computer’s case can also hinder this process causing your computer to heat up.

- Similarly it is advisable to have computers in open areas with good airflow to cool the case down.
• We also want to avoid placing computers in closets due to lack of airflow, a computer needs good airflow to keep it cool.

• Placing your computer away from a window or AC helps protect it from elements of nature like sunlight and rain.
• For computers located in a podium, due to lack of airflow in the closet, users have to keep the podium doors open whenever the computer is in use.

• In this section, we would like to introduce Sheila as one of our valuable users in the college of education who works as staff at the Rehabilitation Institute. Sheila always takes great care of her computer, she knows that having her computer on the desk protects it from dust and increases her computer’s life. She cleans her computer and monitor regularly, turns her monitor and computer off at the end of day to save energy which also protects her computer from hackers and potential power surges at night.
The following pictures showcase an ideal computer setup, Sheila never puts up sticky notes, photos or other decorative items on or around of her computer case. She understands that a large portion of computer generated heat radiates through its metal body and having objects on the case blocks the escape of heat from inside the computer that reduces the computer’s life and can cause problems in the future.

Sheila Dingrando – Staff – Rehabilitation Institute