



Dell Optiplex SX280 Motherboard Replacement

Motherboard

Written By: Tom



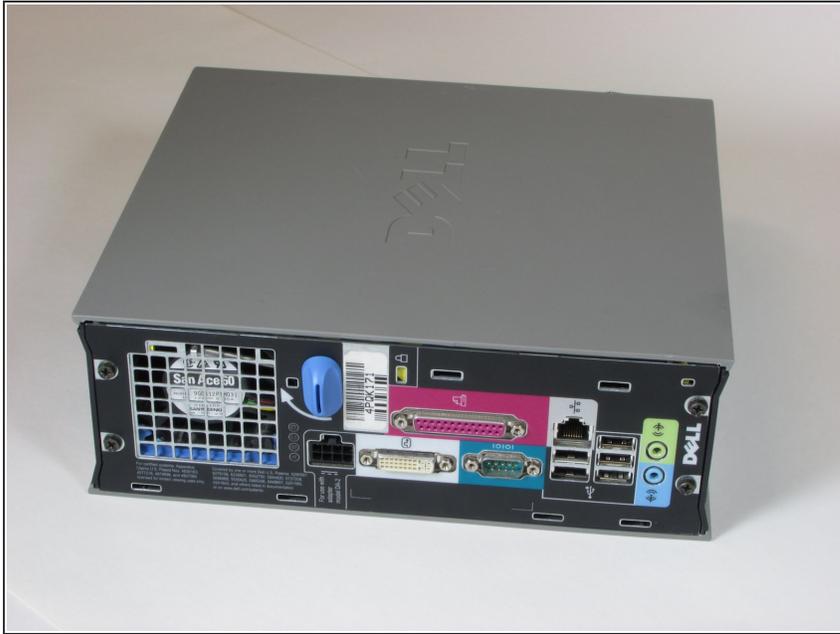
INTRODUCTION

Remove the Motherboard from the computer.

TOOLS:

- [Phillips #2 Screwdriver](#) (1)
-

Step 1 — Panel Cover



- ⚠ Make sure the computer is turned off, by selecting the start menu and choosing “Shut Down”.
- ⚠ Ensure all cables, speakers and other devices are unplugged and turned off before opening the computer case.

Step 2



- Lay the computer on its side; you will see a blue knob.
- Turn this knob 90 deg clockwise.

Step 3



- Slide the panel case forward about 1/2 inch while knob is turned.
- Lift panel case off computer.

Step 4 — Heat Sink



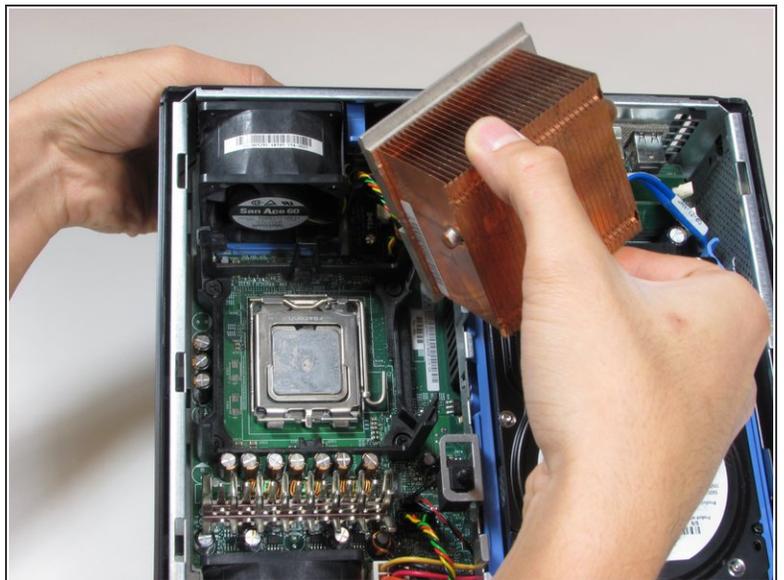
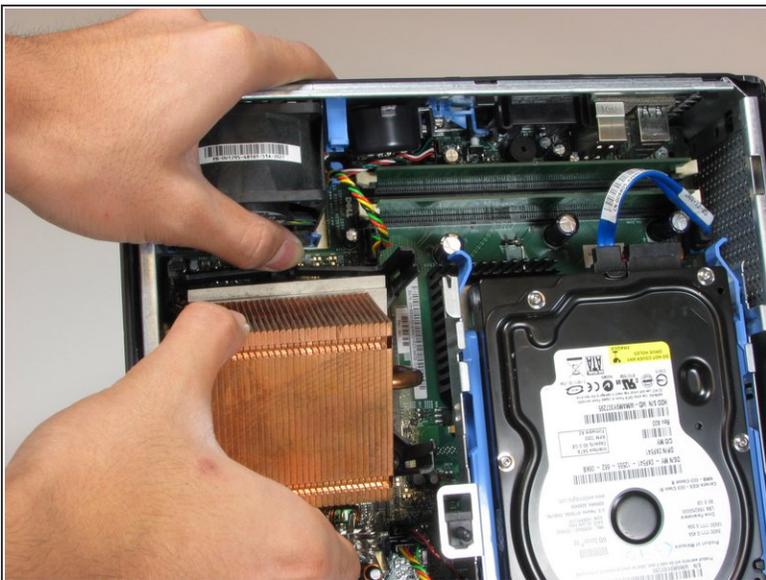
- Remove the large blue cover from the computer, there are no screws or tabs keeping it in place.

Step 5



- Press down on the release tab above the heat sink.

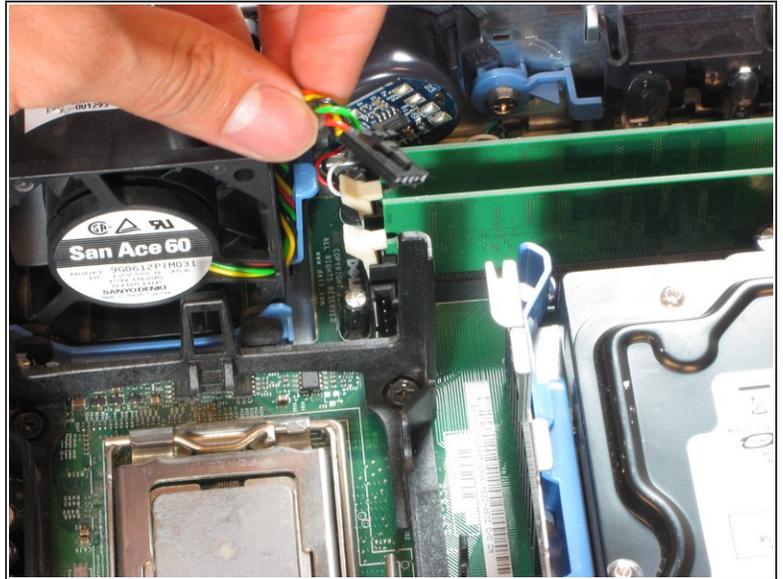
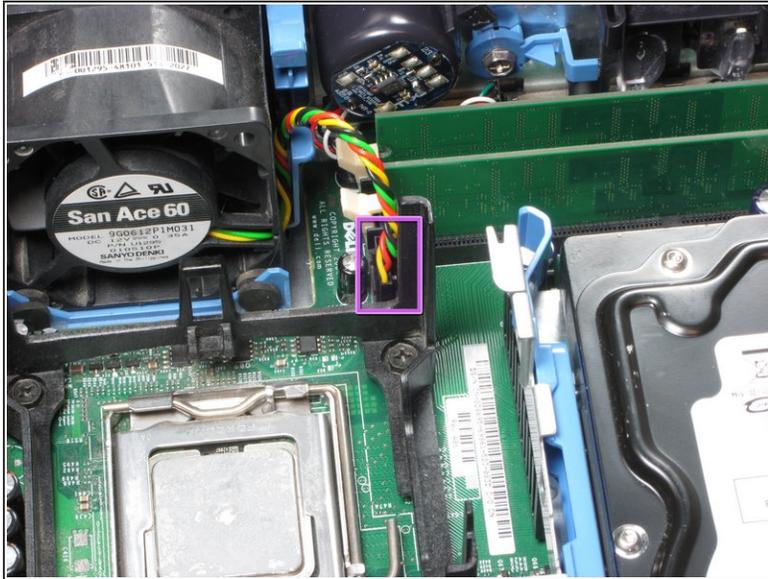
Step 6



- Pull the heat sink out of the computer while pressing on the release tab.

⚠ When reassembling make sure to clean the processor and heat sink of all old thermal paste and apply new paste to the processor

Step 7 — Upper Fan



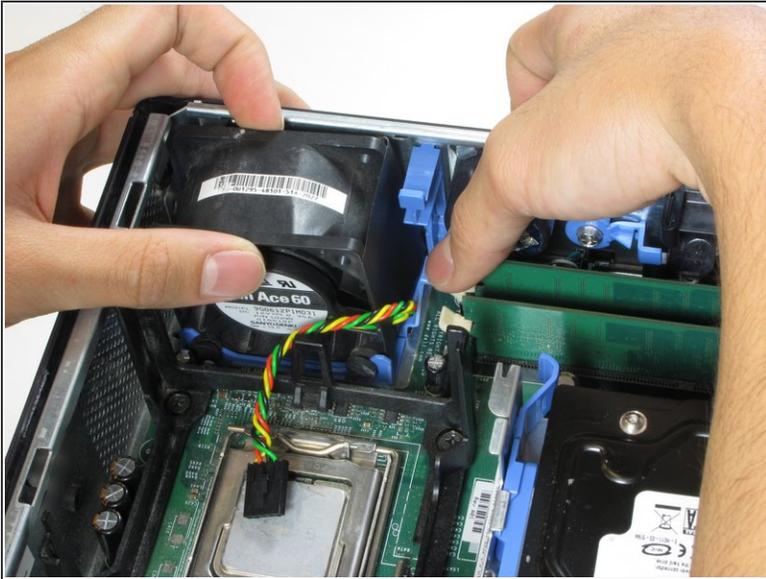
- Remove the power supply that connects the upper fan to the motherboard. The power supply has black, red, green and yellow wires.

Step 8



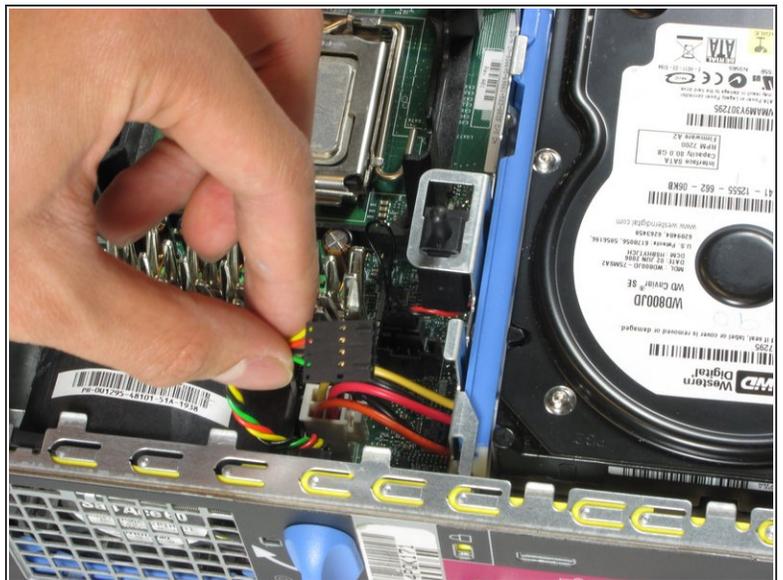
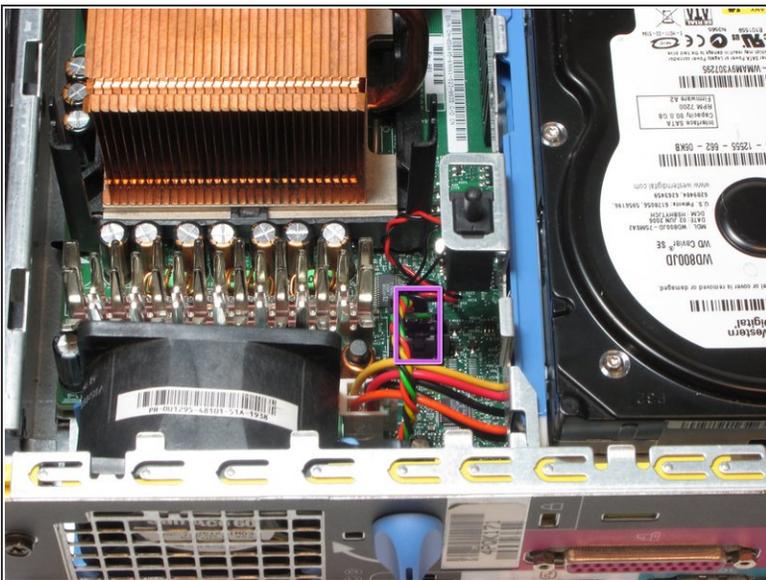
- Remove the rubber grommets from the base of the fan. A spudger may be useful.

Step 9



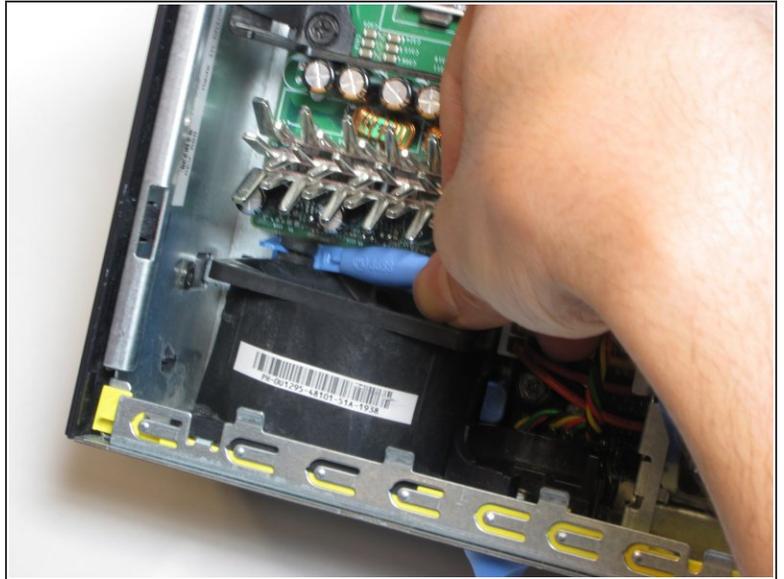
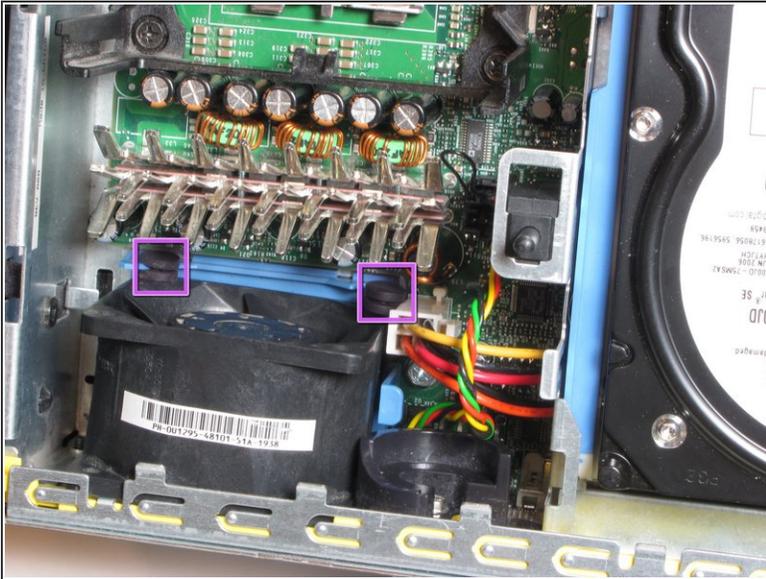
- Press on the blue release tab and pull the upper fan out of the computer.

Step 10 — Lower Fan



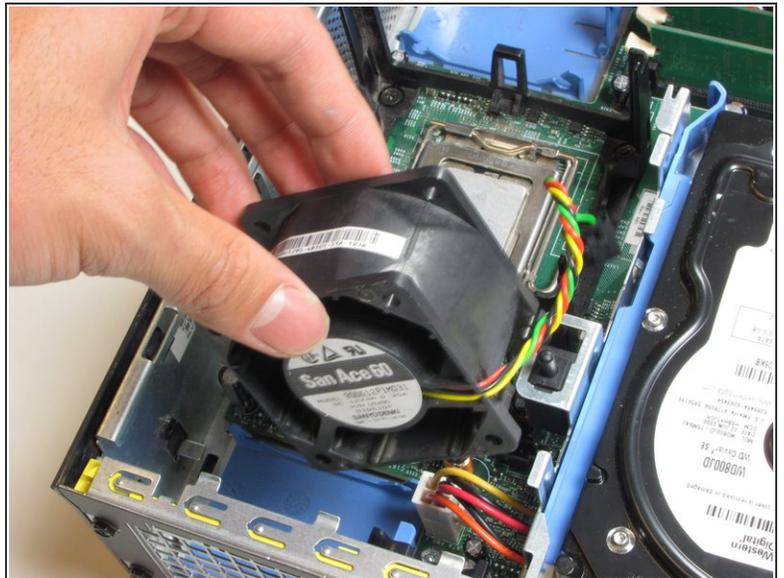
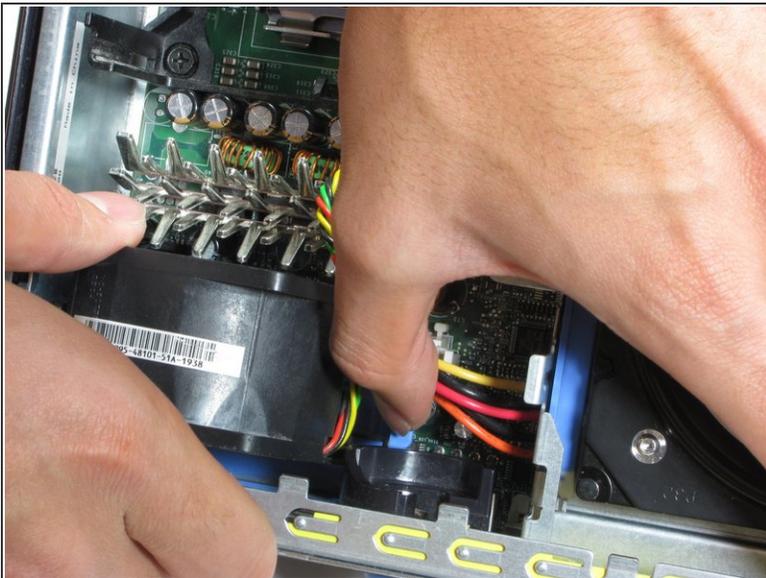
- Remove the power supply that connects the lower fan to the motherboard, distinguished by its black, red, green and yellow wires.
- ⓘ Make sure to press on the release tab while removing the power connector.

Step 11



- Remove the rubber grommets from the base of the fan. A spudger may be useful.

Step 12



- Press on the blue release tab and remove the fan.

Step 13 — RAM



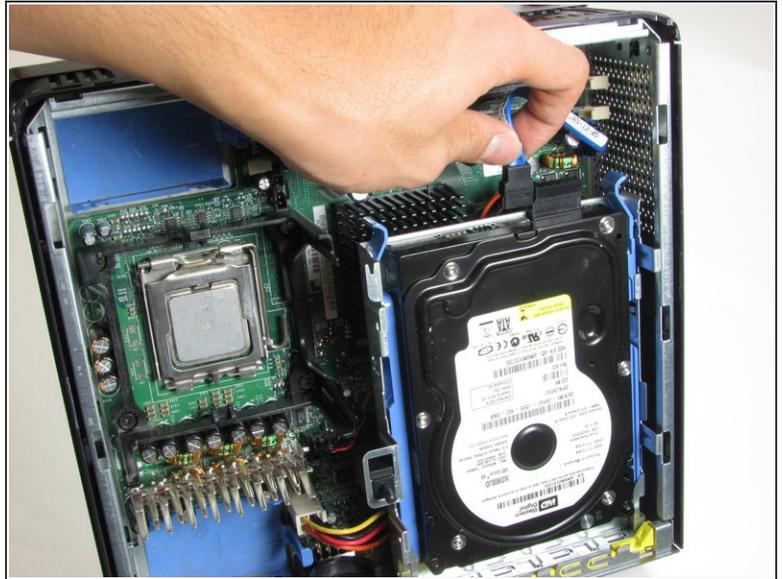
- The RAM are the two green cards in the corner of the computer.
- At each end of the card, there are two white clips securing the RAM to the Motherboard.

Step 14



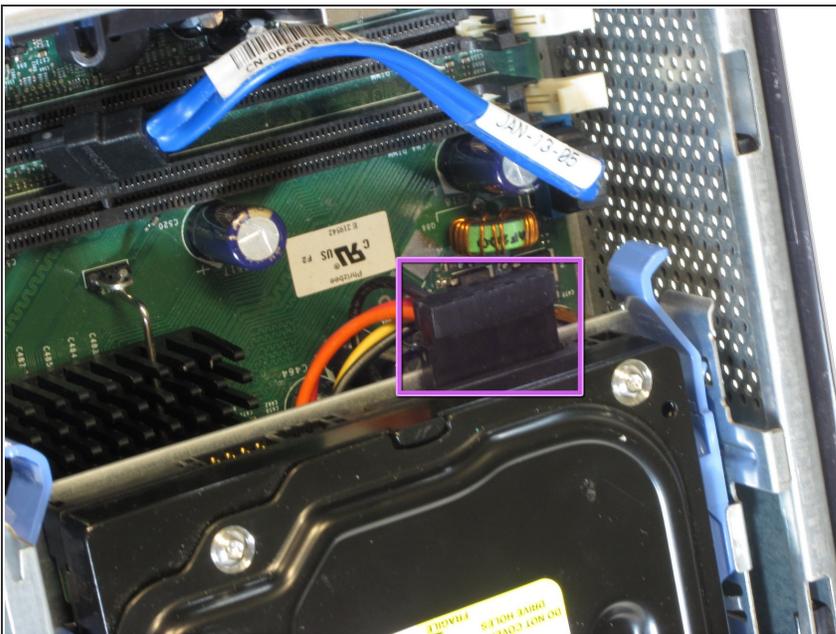
- Push down both white clips with your thumbs until you hear a click.
- The RAM cards can now be removed.

Step 15 — Hard Drive



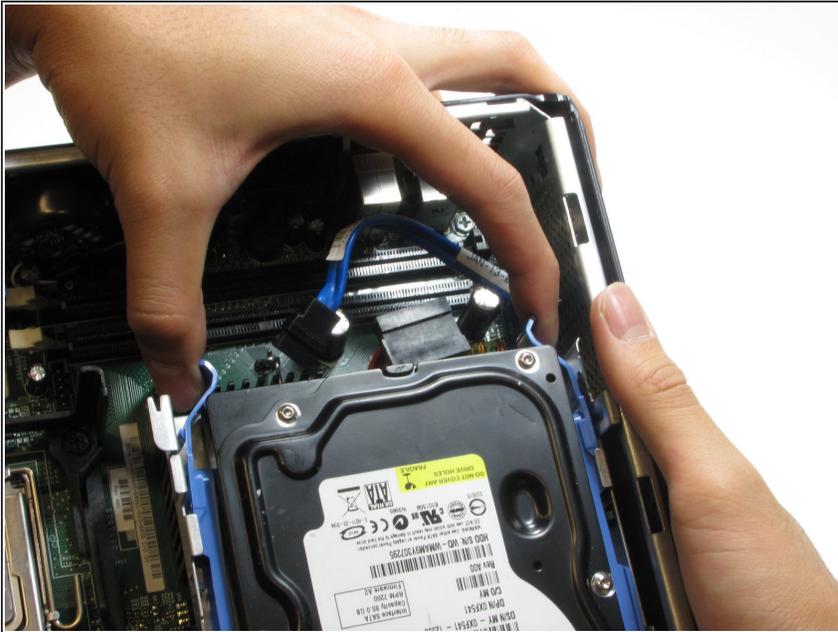
- Unplug the blue cable that connects the hard drive to the motherboard.

Step 16



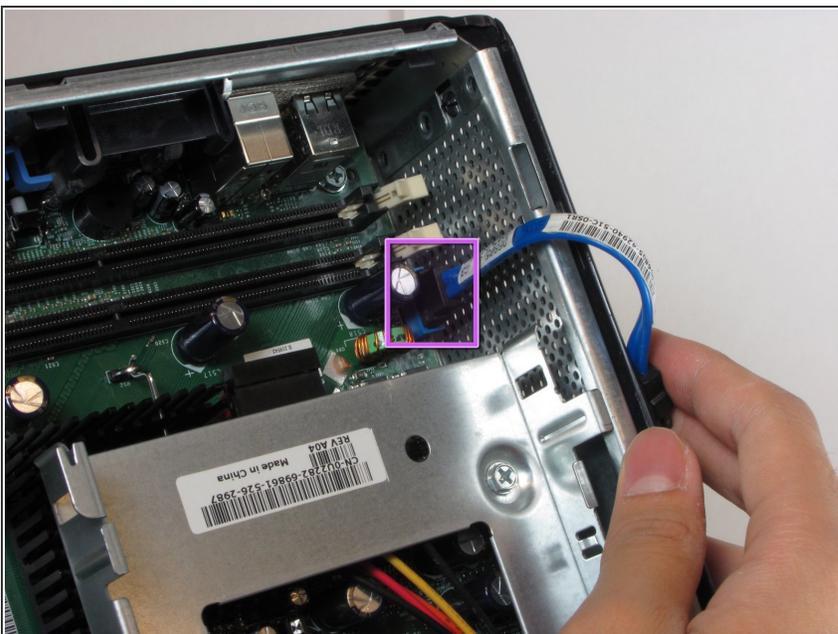
- Unplug the power supply, distinguished by its red and yellow wires.

Step 17



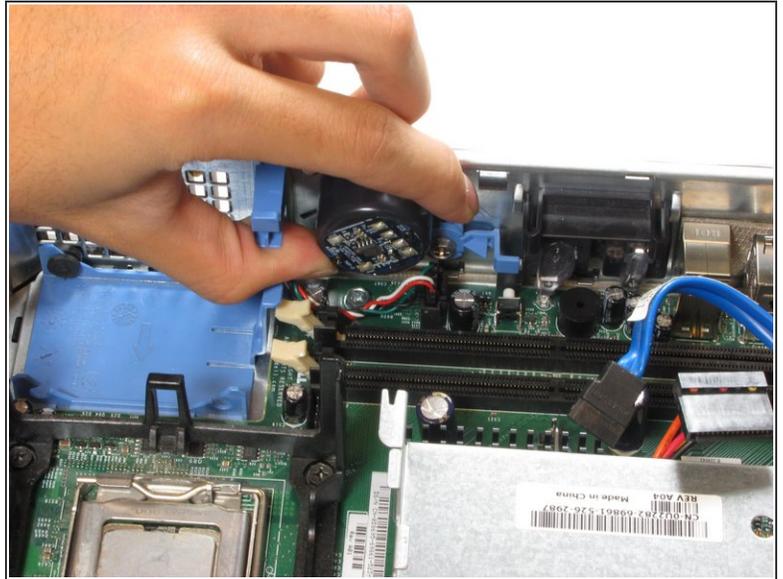
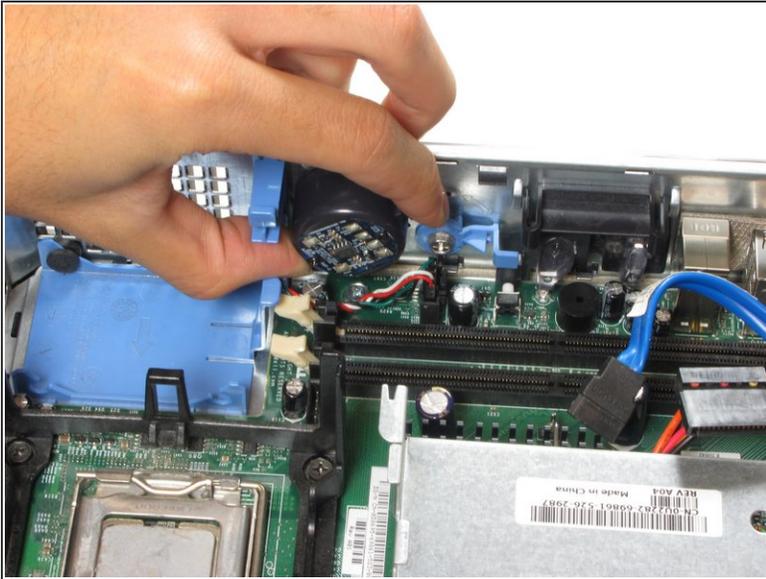
- Squeeze the release tabs on either side of the hard drive.
- Then slide the hard drive out of the computer while squeezing the tabs.

Step 18 — Motherboard



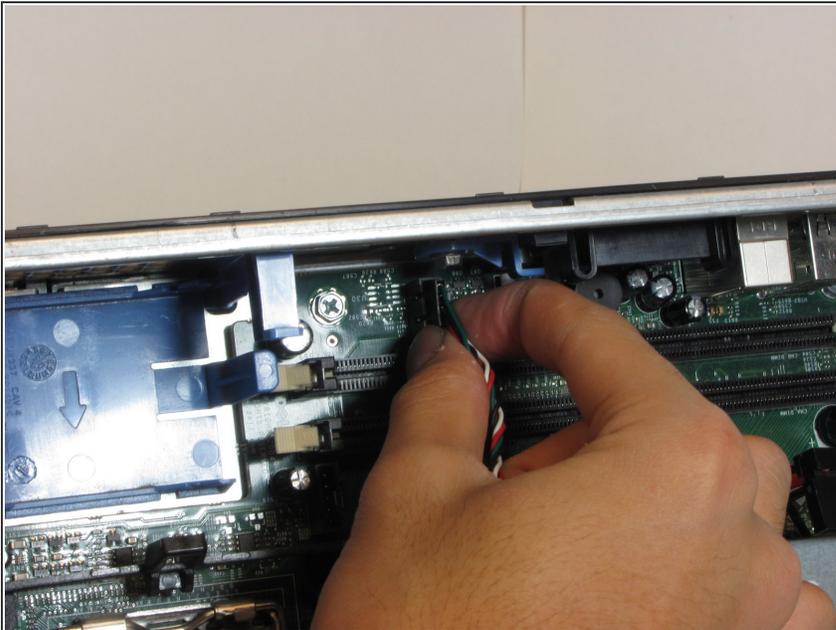
- Unplug the cable that connects the hard drive to the Motherboard.

Step 19



- Press on the release tab and remove the motherboard speaker which is attached to the side of the tower.

Step 20



- Unplug the power cable attached to the motherboard speaker.
- ⓘ Make sure to press on the release tab while removing the power cable.

Step 21



- Remove four screws located at the back of the computer tower.

Step 22



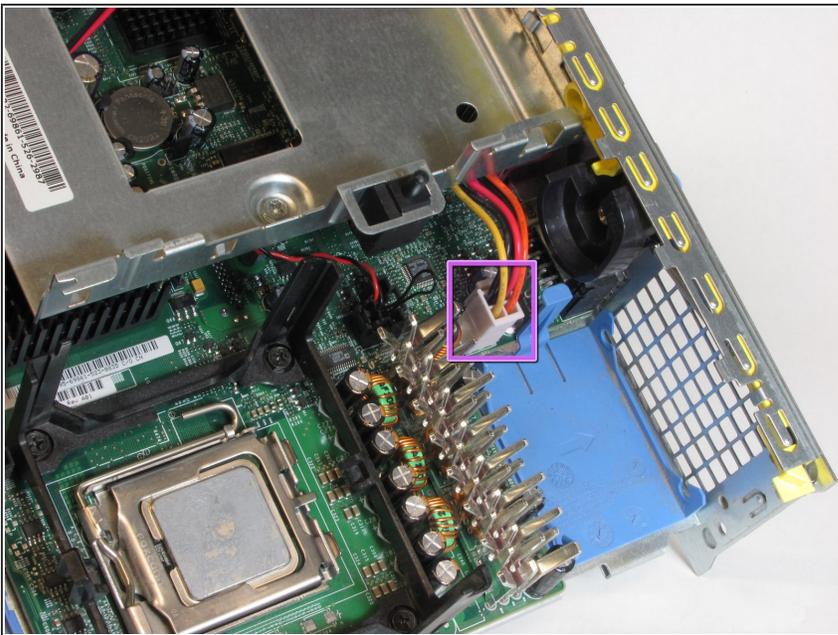
- Carefully detach the motherboard from the computer case.

Step 23



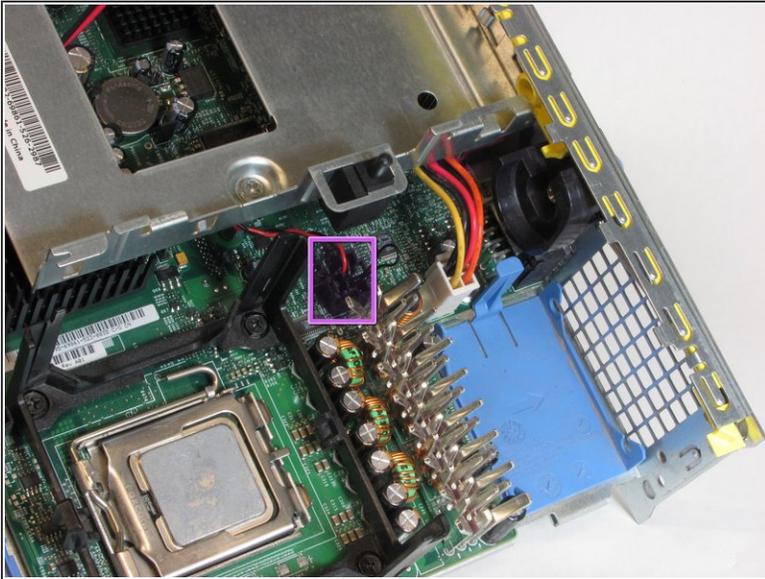
- Lift the motherboard from the rest of the computer case.

Step 24



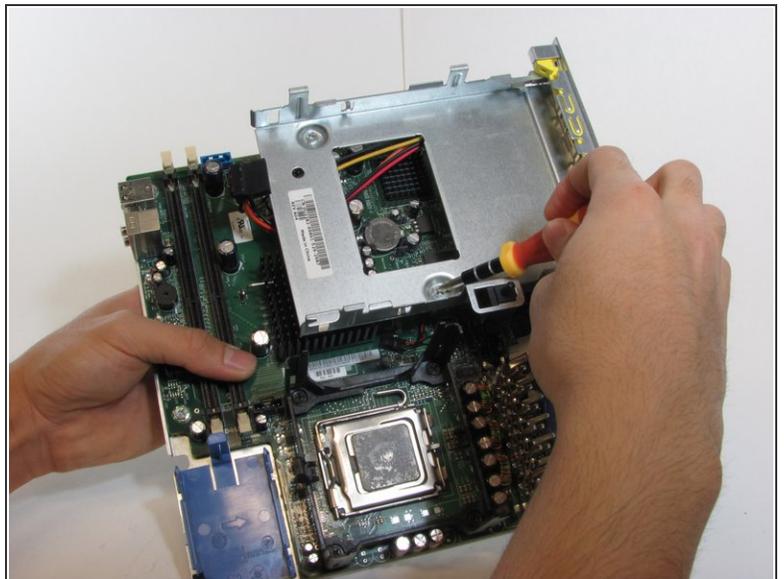
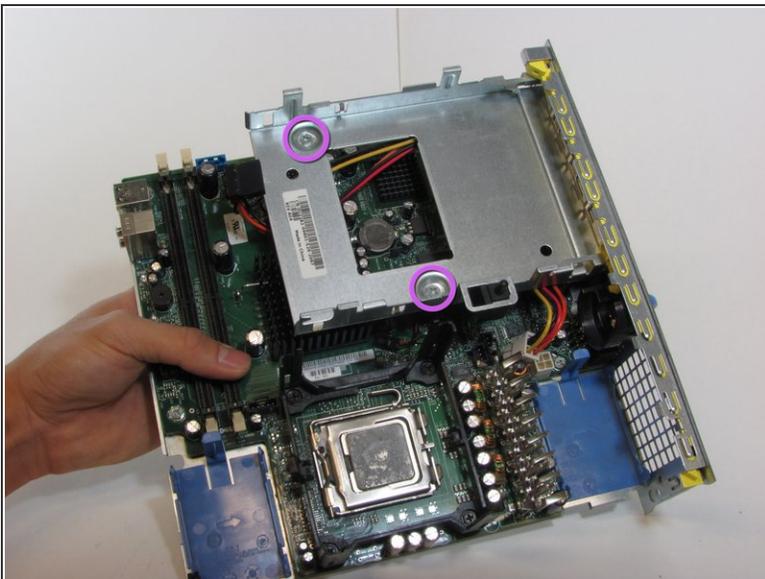
- Unplug the cable that powers the hard drive, which has orange, red and yellow wires.
- ⓘ Make sure to press the release tab while removing the cable.

Step 25



- Unplug the cable that powers the emergency shut off, distinguished by its red wires.
- ⓘ Make sure to press on the release tab while removing the emergency shut off.

Step 26



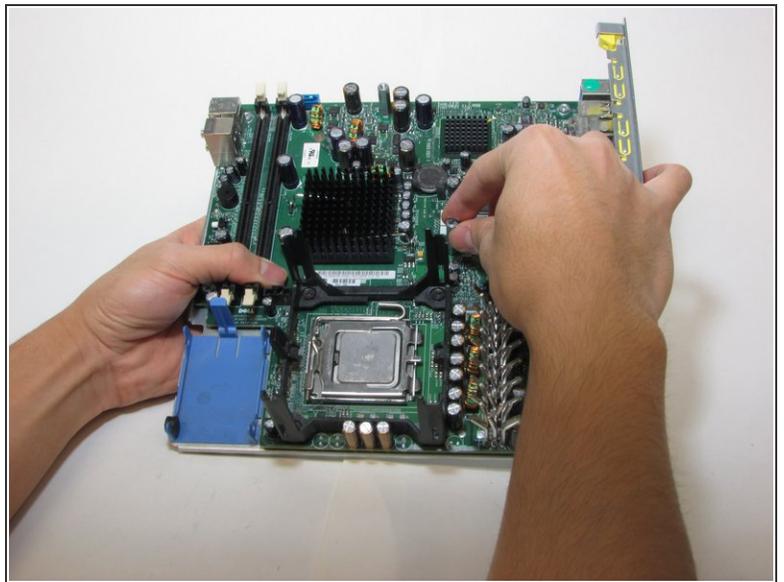
- Remove two screws from the Hard Drive Stand.

Step 27



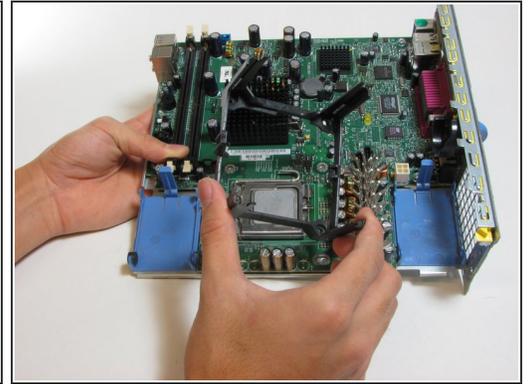
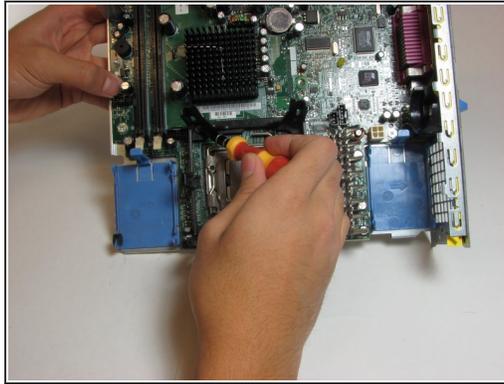
- Slide the Hard Drive Stand to left side.
- Remove the stand from the rest of the rear panel.

Step 28



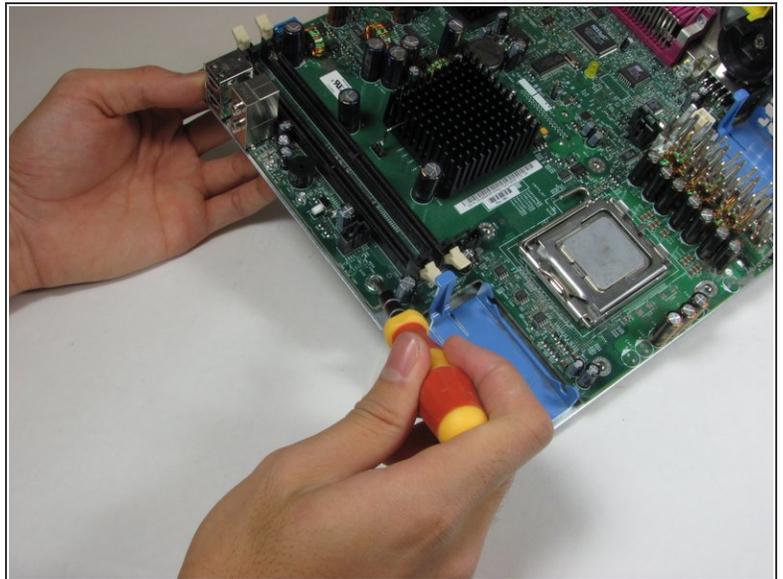
- Remove the studs that support the Hard Drive Stand from the motherboard.
-  The studs can be removed by hand.

Step 29



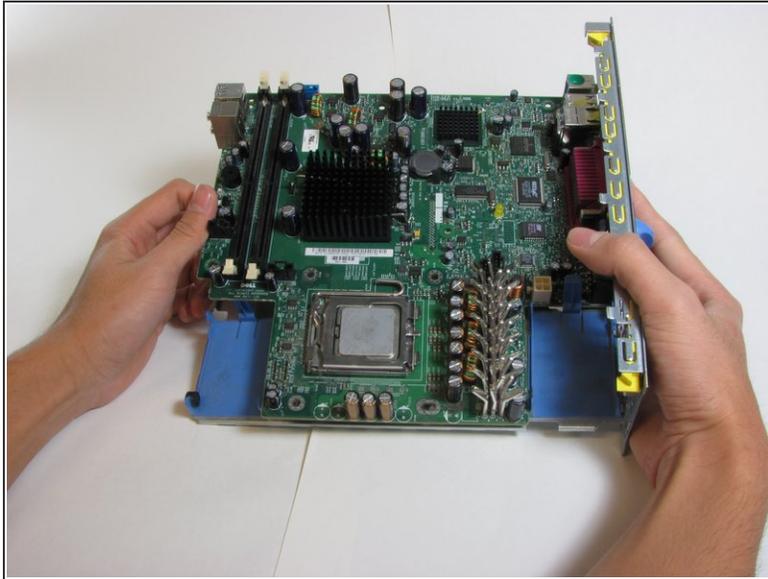
- Remove the four screws located on heat sink stand.
- The heat sink stand can now be lifted from the motherboard.

Step 30



- Remove the four screws holding the motherboard to the rear computer panel.

Step 31



- The motherboard can now be removed from the remaining panel.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.