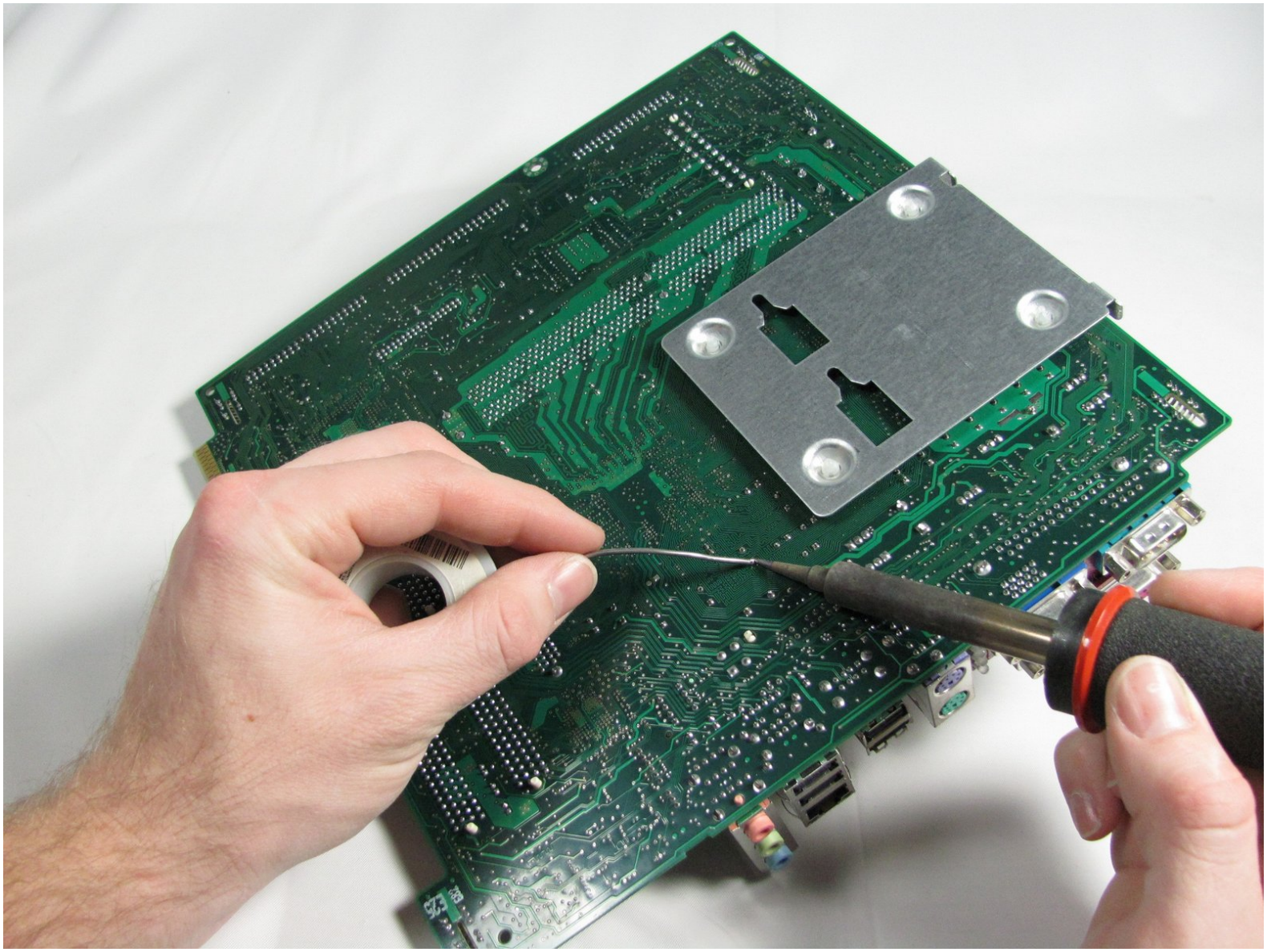
Dell OptiPlex GX260 Power Capacitor Replacement

This guide will show how to de-solder and replace a power capacitor on the Dell OptiPlex GX260 motherboard.

Written By: Kevin Schapansky



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TOOLS:

- Phillips #2 Screwdriver (1)
- Soldering Iron (1)
- Solder (1)
- Desoldering Braid (1)

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Step 1 — Case

- Lay the Dell Optiplex GX260 down on a clean flat surface with the rear towards you.
- Push the oval shaped buttons located on the top and bottom of the PC simultaneously and lift the case straight up.

Note: Some force may be required to push in the oval buttons open the PC case.

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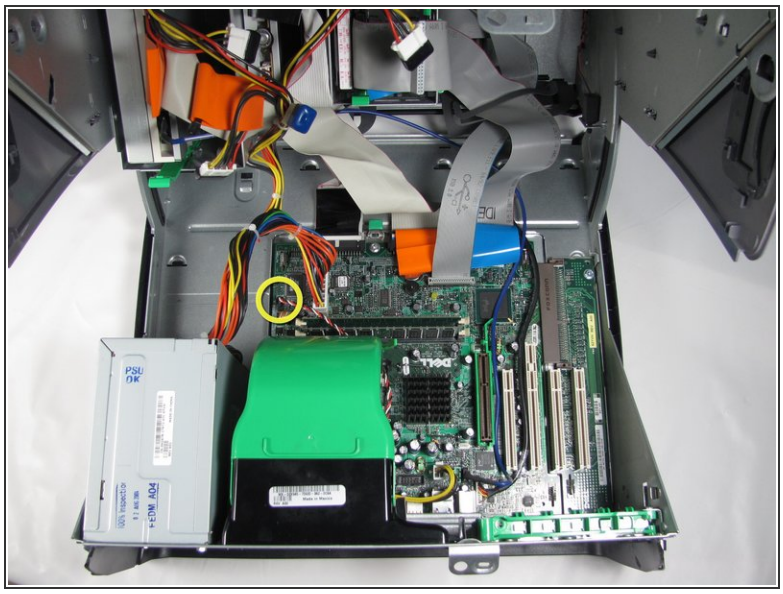
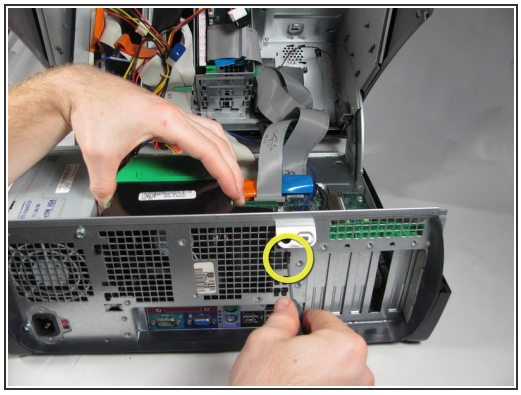
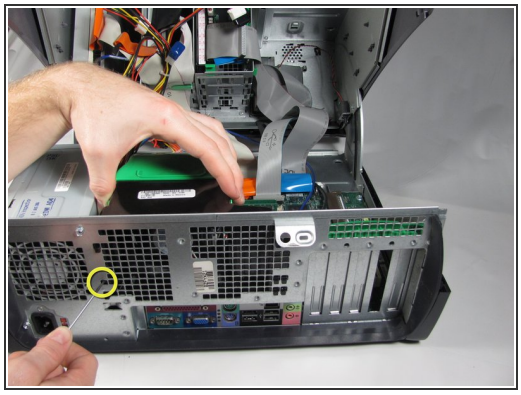
Step 2 — Main Fan

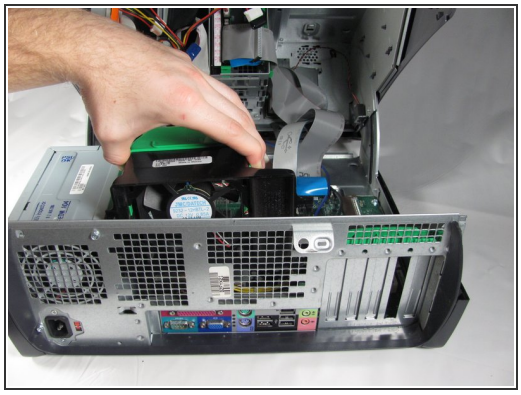


- Disconnect the fan cable from the motherboard.

Step 3







- On the rear of the desktop, push the two circled black buttons straight in with a small pointed object while pulling up on the fan.
- Once the fan is released, lift it straight up and out of the case.

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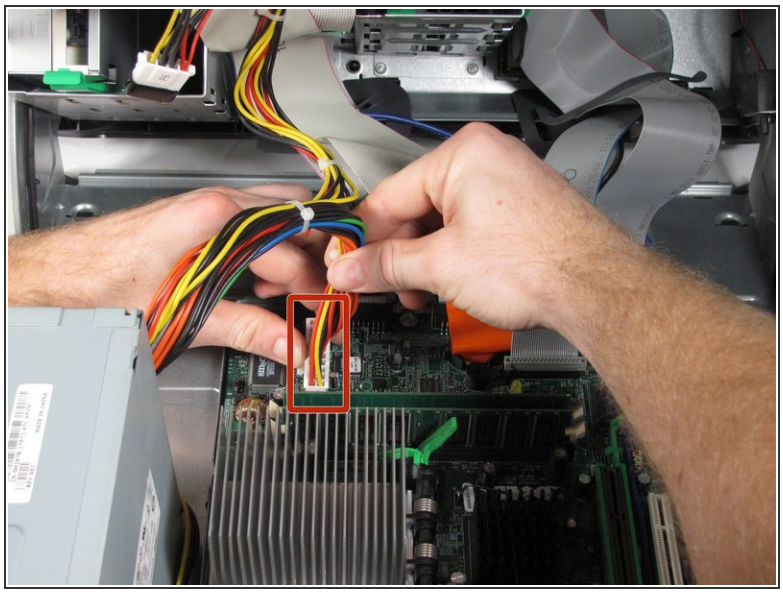
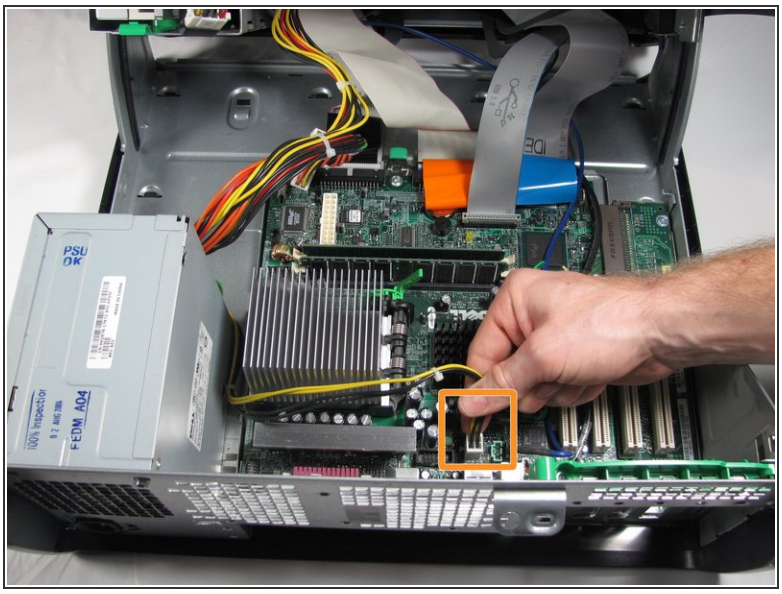
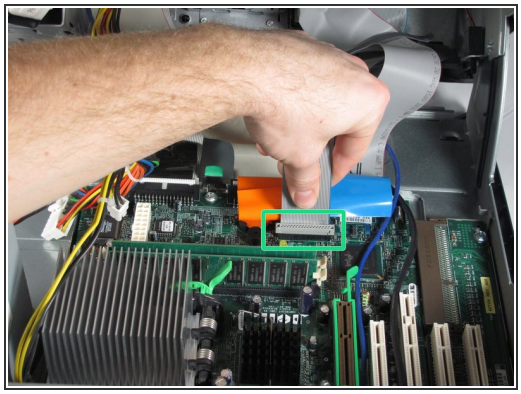
Step 4 — Motherboard

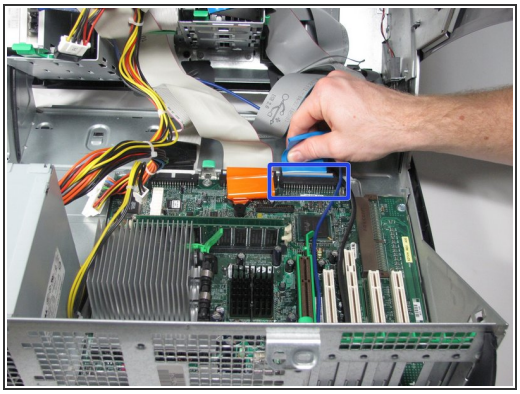


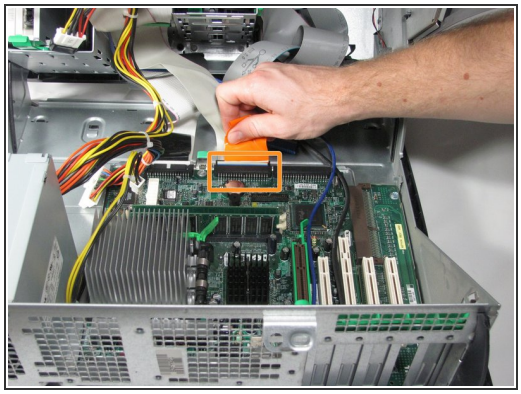


- Disconnect the ATX power cable to the motherboard.
- Disconnect the P4 12V(4x2) power cable from the motherboard.

Step 5







- Disconnect the front panel ribbon cable by gently pulling it straight up.
- Disconnect the hard drive ribbon cable by gently pulling the blue tab away from the motherboard.
- Disconnect the optical drive ribbon cable by gently pulling the orange tab away from the motherboard.

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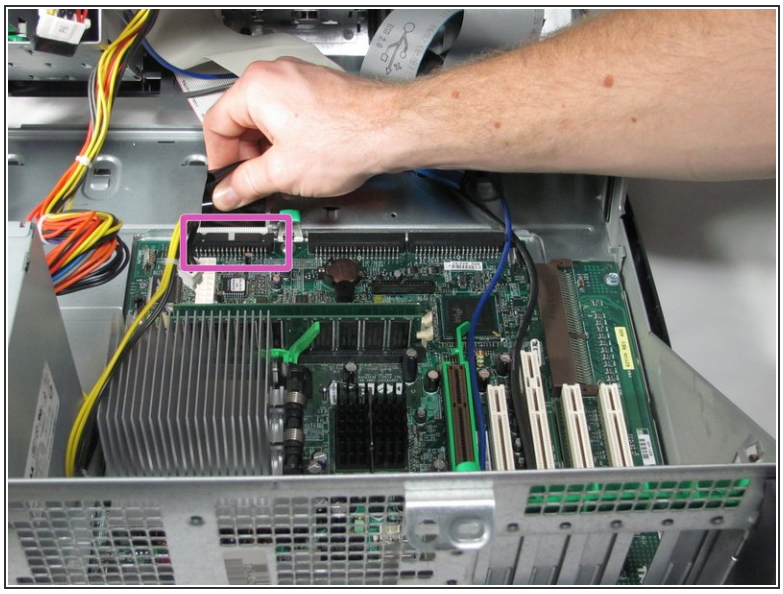
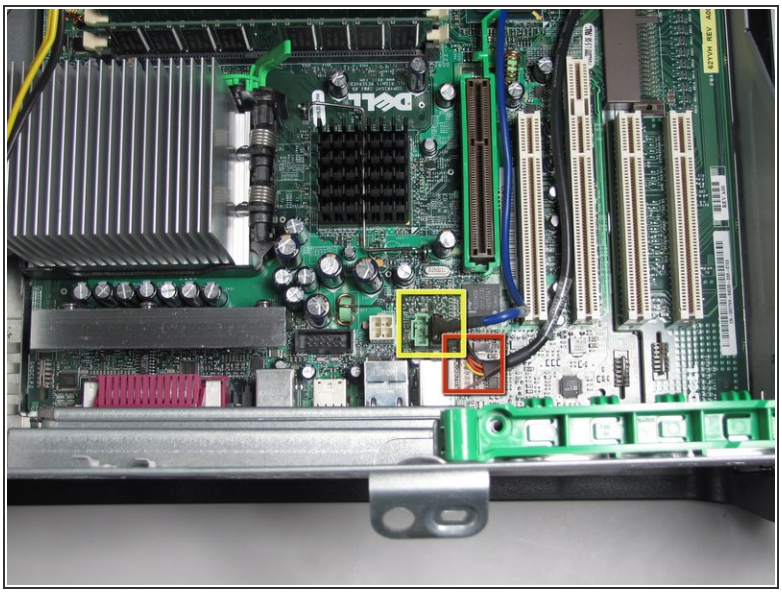
Step 6





- Disconnect the floppy drive drive ribbon cable by gently pulling the black tab away from the motherboard.
- Disconnect the optical drive audio cable connector from the motherboard.
- Disconnect the audio input/output cable from the motherboard.

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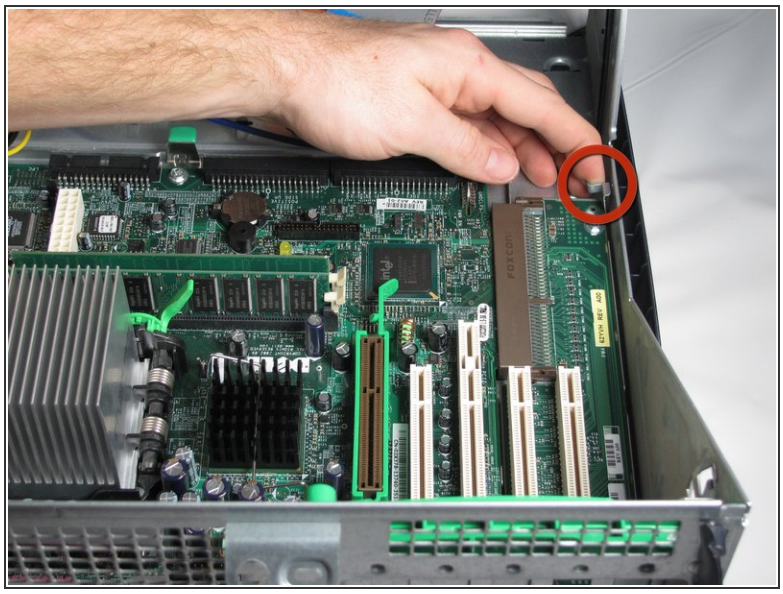
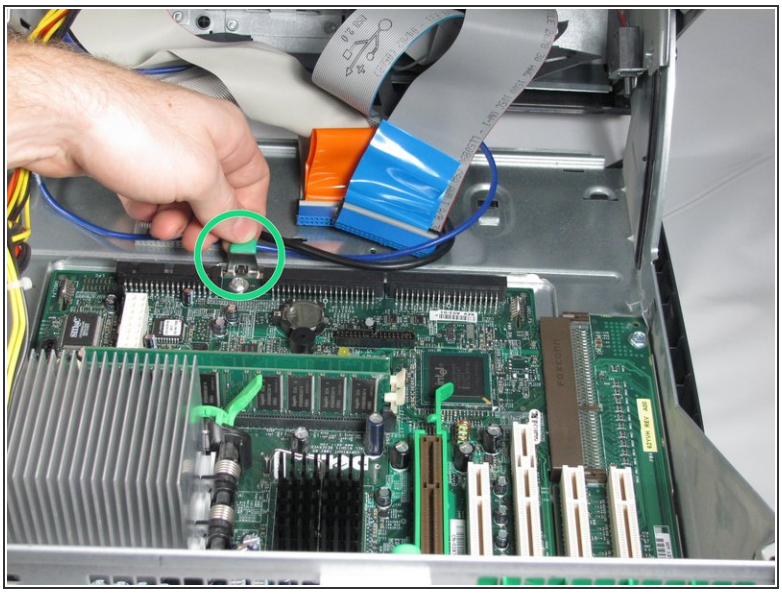
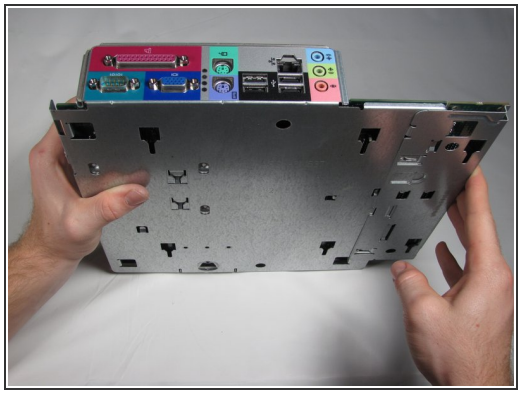
Step 7

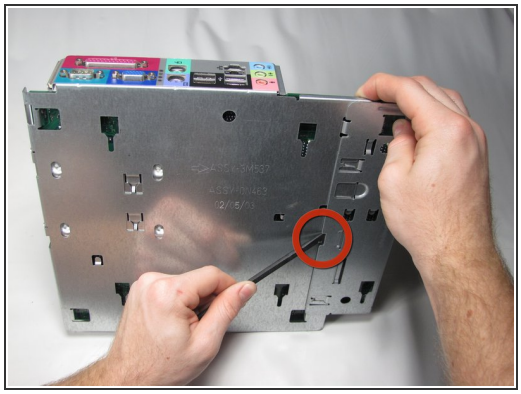


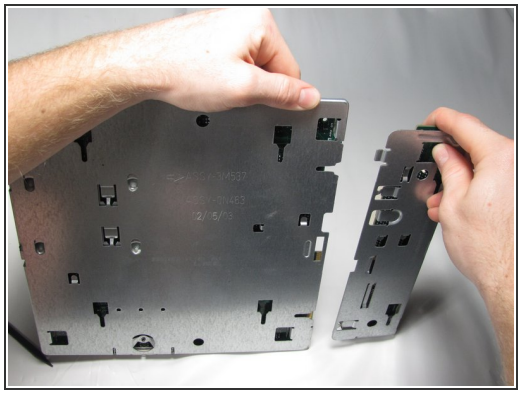


- Lift the metal tab near the right corner of the motherboard.
- Pull the green tab toward the front of the PC to release the motherboard.
- From the rear of the PC, push the ports in while lifting the motherboard up and flipping it away from you.

Step 8







- Stand the motherboard up as shown.
- Insert the flat end of a spudger into the slot in the motherboard mounting plate and press the release tab while pushing the extension plate to the right with your thumbs until it comes off..

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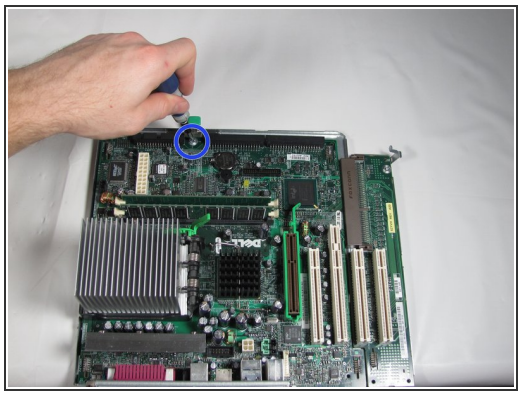
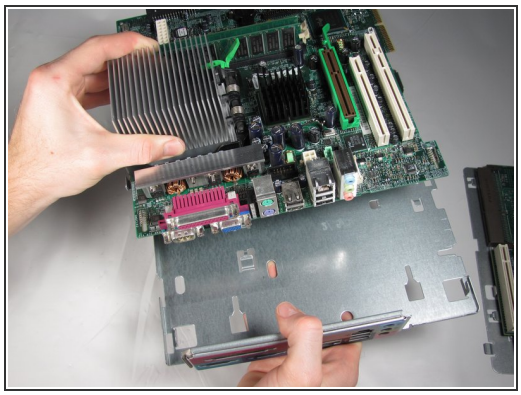
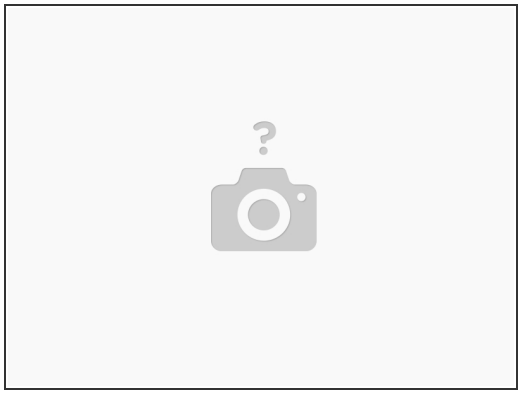
Step 9

- Remove the screw at the rear of the motherboard.
- Grasp the heat sink with your left hand and the I/O port panel with your right hand and pull to separate motherboard from the metal base.

ⓘ If you are replacing the motherboard refer to the great iFixit guide for removing the CPU.

Step 10 — Power Capacitor



- With the motherboard out of the tray, let your soldering gear warm up and get a desoldering braid.

ⓘ Since this isn't a Optiplex GX260 motherboard, I have removed the heatsink to get rid of any confusion.

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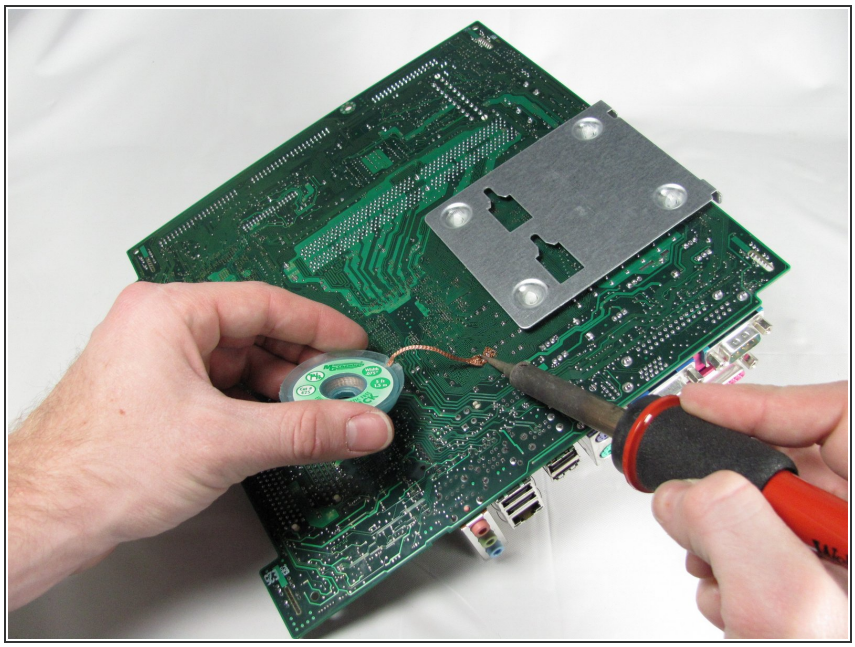
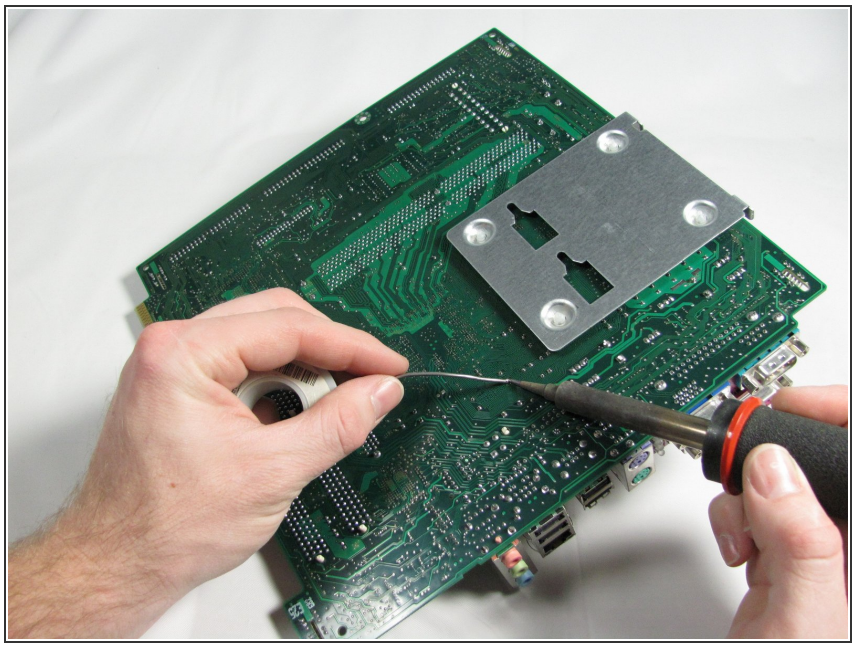
Step 11



Take note of which way the positive lead marker on the capacitor is facing before removing it. You will need to know for the next step.

- Desoldering can damage motherboards, so first practice on a board you don't need. Use a 40-50W soldering iron with a chisel tip and 0.080" wide desoldering braid. Also helpful are rosin flux and 60/40 tin/lead solder, in case all the solder doesn't come out. Wiggle desoldered leads to verify they're free, and never pull on any that aren't.

Step 12



- Install the new capacitor in the holes left by the old one, then solder it into place.

Caution: Ensure that the new capacitor is inserted with the positive lead mark facing the same direction as the old capacitor. If the direction is switched, the new capacitor will fail.

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

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