Take Time to Take Inventory

Introduction
This article is a companion to a previous article entitled, "All about Backups". In that article, mention was made in reference to "other costs" – in particular, to the costs associated with the repairing of a "crashed" computer system. And though a crashed system is not always attributed to a failed HDD, these other costs *should be* of some concern. What these other costs are – will be explained here in this article.

The Question
A question, "*If your computer were to crash due to a HDD failure, and that system was repaired, would you know what operating system and software applications would need to be installed on the repaired system?*" If you are like most the answer to that question would be "No, I would not." Not having such information available, will make the repairing of the crashed system much more difficult – or even impossible. Knowing what operating system and software applications are installed on your computer can save you both time and money.

Servicing
Generally, if a computer were to crash due to software corruption or a virus attack, a conscientious service tech may be able determine what operating system and software applications were installed on your computer prior to the crash. However, other important information, such as license keys and passwords will not be able to be recovered. Gathering such information will not be possible with a completely failed HDD however.

As a result, if such information *is simply not available*, then extras costs will be incurred in obtaining this necessary information in order to repair the computer. In some cases, these extra costs *might even exceed the original cost of the computer itself!*

Take Inventory
To save yourself both time and money – it will be very advantageous for you to take inventory of your computer. Accompanying this article is a two-page document that can be used to accomplish this task.

Inventory Disclaimer
Please understand that this inventory listing is by no means "exhaustive" – but this listing should provide enough information to get a crashed system up-and-running with as little inconvenience and costs as is possible.

In closing...
I sincerely hope that the information provided in this article has been of some assistance in helping you create an inventory listing of your computer. More importantly, I sincerely hope that you will come to see the importance of doing so.

I thank you for your time, attention, and interest in the above.

Sincerely,

Dell Krauchi