

January: Upgraded PC. Replaced CPU, motherboard, RAM, GPU, added new storage, new case fans.

The GPU later turned out to be defective, causing repeated crashes. Exchanged it in store for the same model of GPU.

February: Replacement GPU was *a/so* defective, with its heatsink being mounted incorrectly and hanging *off* of the PCB. Exchanged in store again, this time for a different model of GPU.

April: Computer would abruptly shut off while playing certain games, while other games would crash, no matter what drivers are installed. Downgraded the GPU to my old GTX 1060, as I assumed that this new GPU was also defective. Was unable to RMA due to MSI's website being broken at the time.

June: Boot drive died. Bought a new SSD to use as the system drive. Windows reinstall via USB failed and I was forced to use my installation DVD from 2016. Updates installed and apps reinstalled over the course of 3-4 hours.

July: [Monitor would display strange scanlines and blurry, coloured jailbars when initially turned on.](#) These would disappear after about 10 minutes.

August: Front panel mic port suddenly stopped working properly, instead producing loud static whenever something was plugged in. Assuming the front panel was broken, I bought a new case, disassembled the entire PC, and reassembled it in the new case, only to find out that the front panel mic port was still broken and that something had apparently broken in the motherboard's connection between it and the front mic panel. Gave up, kept the new case, and switched to a USB audio adapter as a temporary fix, with a DAC as a more permanent solution.

The DisplayPort cable also broke and was replaced, but not before I took the entire PC to Memory Express for diagnostics--assuming the GPU was dying--that turned up negative.

September: Finally was able to RMA the GPU. Before doing so however, I decided to turn it in at Canada Computers for diagnostics; no issues were found after 3 days. Turned in the entire PC for diagnostics; again, no issues were found after 2 weeks; the technician said the GPU ran hot, but was still within spec; this was when I realized the GPU was just overheating way back in April. Upgraded the case fans and tried to reorient the CPU cooler so that it would exhaust vertically, only to learn that I needed a different mounting bracket sold separately. Waited an additional three days for this mounting bracket to arrive, and finally installed it, the newer GPU, and finally got the computer up and running again.

Also got a new monitor, as the scanlines and jailbars on the older one were starting to become unbearable.

December: Computer was exhibiting BIOS times of 30 seconds with fast boot on, and 300 seconds with fast boot off. Despite the Windows install in question being only six months old, a fresh install was necessary to bring it back up to speed.