
Subject: Re: Liquids on circuit boards?

Posted by [Mauler](#) on Fri, 19 Sep 2008 07:22:51 GMT

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Quote:

Where is the hard drive and CDROM?

Answer: We didn't submerge the hard drive, but rather hid it inside the plastic molding on top of the aquarium. There is no CDROM drive -- we plug in a USB drive when needed.

Why didn't you submerge the hard drive?

Answer: There is a good amount of debate as to whether we could have submerged the hard drive. We still think it is right that we did not. While the oil is not conductive, it is viscous. We were not confident that the hard drive was entirely water-tight (in fact, some cite that there is a hole in the hard drive casing, designed to allow pressure differences to equalize). If oil were to get into the hard drive, that would be the end of the drive -- the platters wouldn't be able to spin at full speed, and the read heads would be restricted from free motion. So, we opted to be safe and keep it out of the oil. However, SSD drives would definitely be no problem.
