

Re: Can a computer virus kill the CPU?

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- *From:* "w_tom" <w_tom1@xxxxxxx>
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The quote is direct from Intel. Shorting power supply outputs must not damage power supplies.

Either power supply provides power just fine – without damage – or power supply enters foldback current limiting. Standards even provide volt–current graphs for all currents – for all loads. If a power supply provides overcurrent, then it does so without damage or it protects itself – enters foldback current limiting. But again, nothing new. This required operation has been standard for 30+ years. Where overcurrent causes overheating and power supply damage, start with the most likely reason for failure: human who is a 'bean counter'; not technically knowledgeable. Market is ripe with power supplies missing essential features because so many computer assemblers do not even know about foldback current limiting. They buy on dollars; don't ask for spec sheets. Power supplies dumped into a market of computer assemblers who don't even know how electricity works.

If a power supply provides too much current, then it does so without damage or it enters foldback current limiting. Furthermore, circuits don't care where that current is going – to ground or where ever. Current is measured. If current is too high, then foldback current limiting takes over. But then this is simple fundamental stuff made obvious even with simple power supply design knowledge – stuff I was doing even as a teenager.

A short from any one voltage to any other voltage must not cause damage: is required by industry standards, as is required by Intel specs, and as was defacto standard 30 years ago.

A quote is direct from Intel:

The power supply shall be capable of withstanding a continuous short–circuit to the output without any damage or overstress to the unit ...

Could not be any clearer and blunter.

BTW, when I designed power supplies, that requirement was easily met. Those requirements are basic stuff. If one cannot understand defacto

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power supply standards of 30 years ago, then how can that person an