



# Dell Optiplex SX280 Motherboard Replacement

Motherboard

Written By: Tom



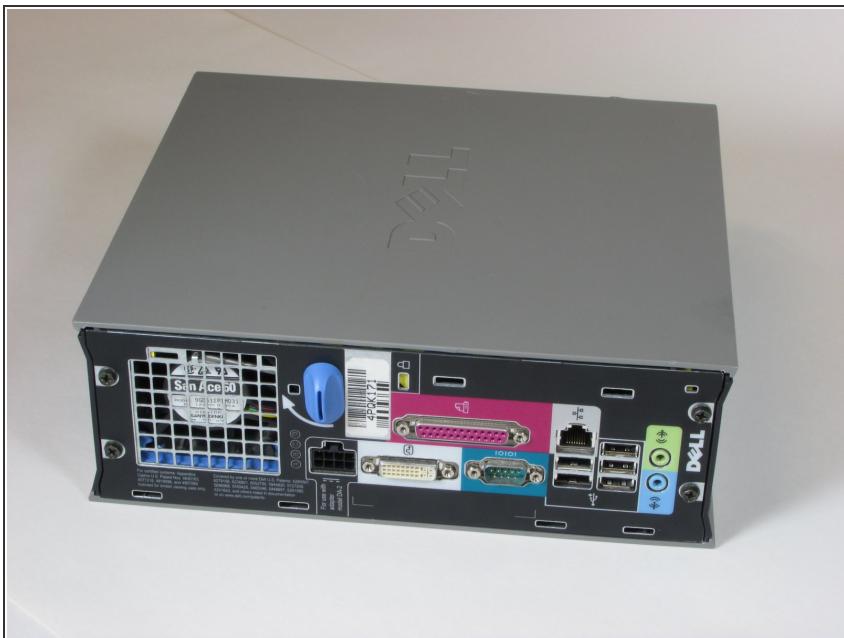
## INTRODUCTION

Remove the Motherboard from the computer.

### TOOLS:

- Phillips #2 Screwdriver (1)

## Step 1 — Panel Cover



⚠ Make sure the computer is turned off, by selecting the start menu and choosing “Shut Down”.

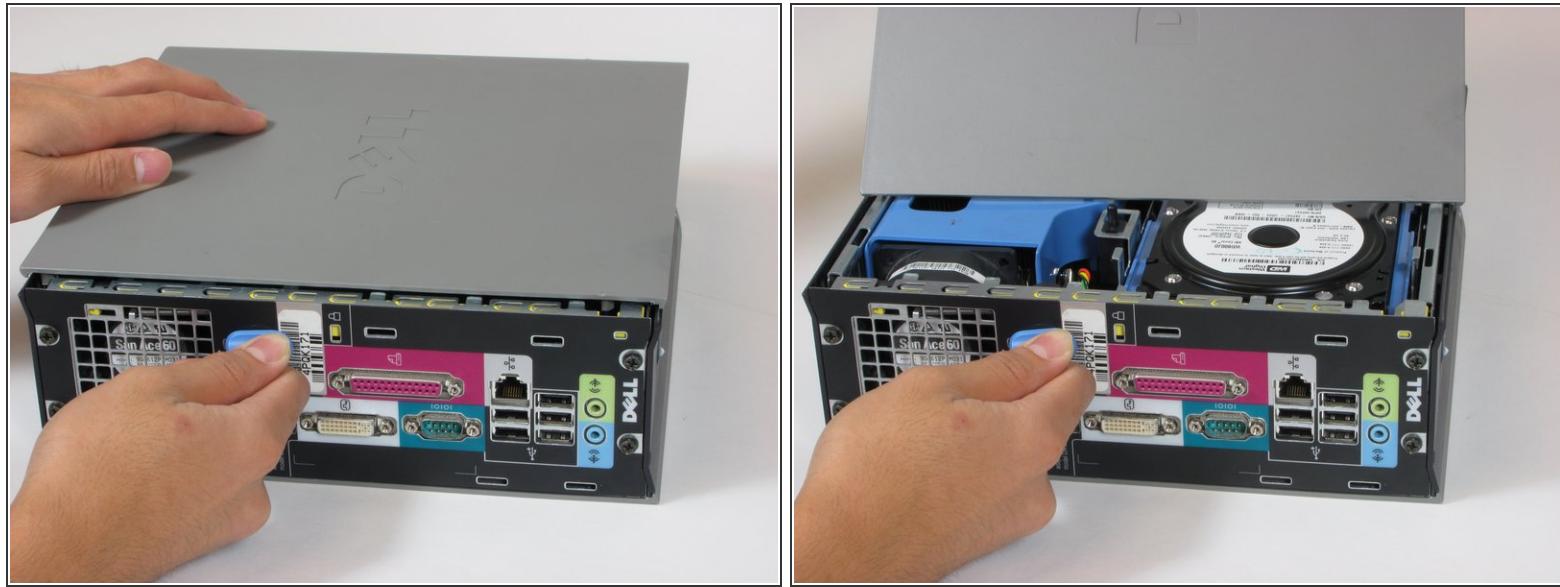
⚠ Ensure all cables, speakers and other devices are unplugged and turned off before opening the computer case.

## Step 2



- Lay the computer on its side; you will see a blue knob.
- Turn this knob 90 deg clockwise.

## Step 3



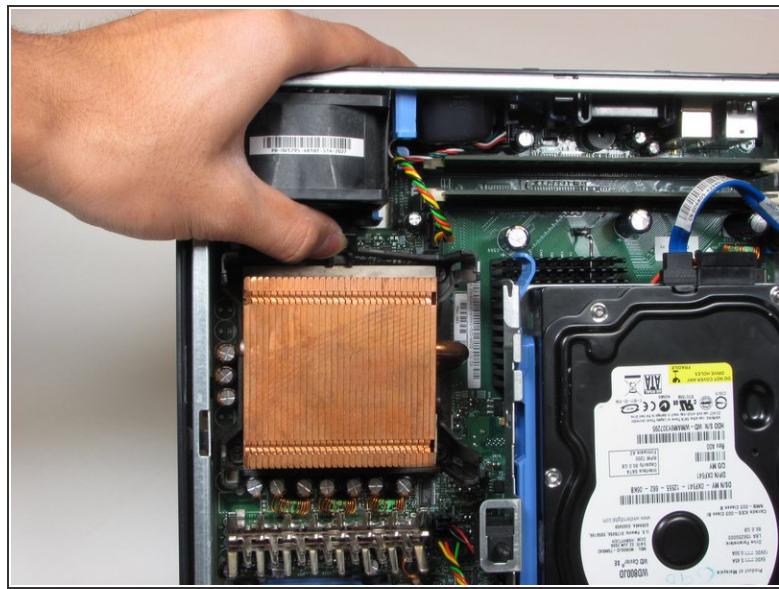
- Slide the panel case forward about 1/2 inch while knob is turned.
- Lift panel case off computer.

## Step 4 — Heat Sink



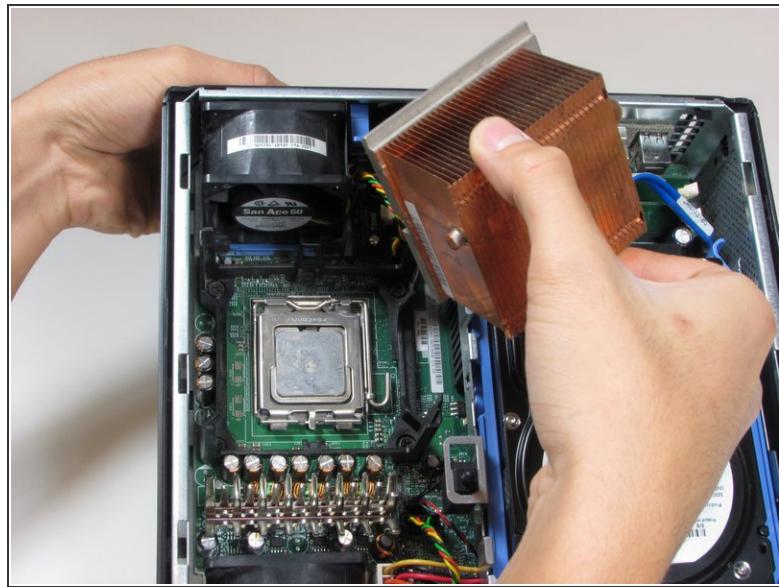
- Remove the large blue cover from the computer, there are no screws or tabs keeping it in place.

## Step 5



- Press down on the release tab above the heat sink.

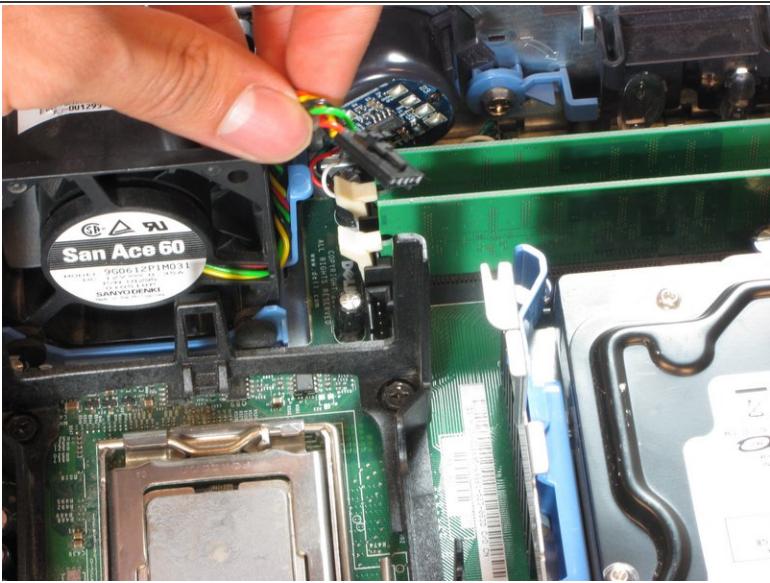
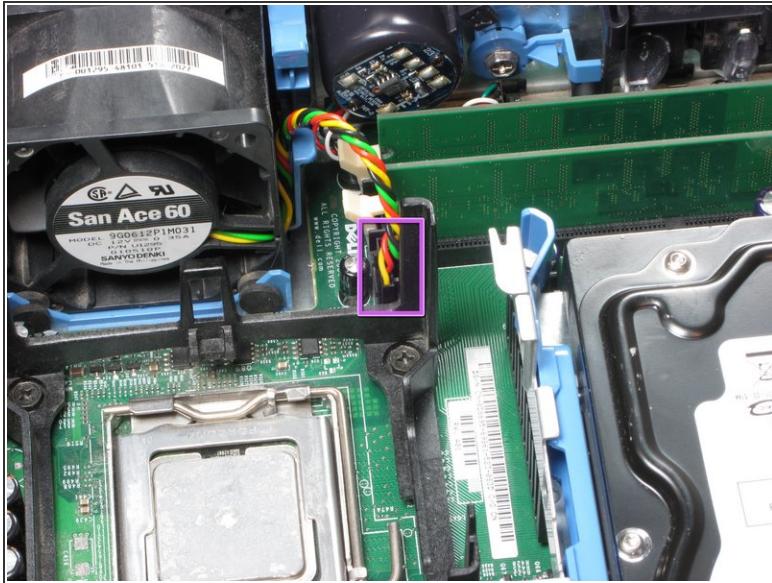
## Step 6



- Pull the heat sink out of the computer while pressing on the release tab.

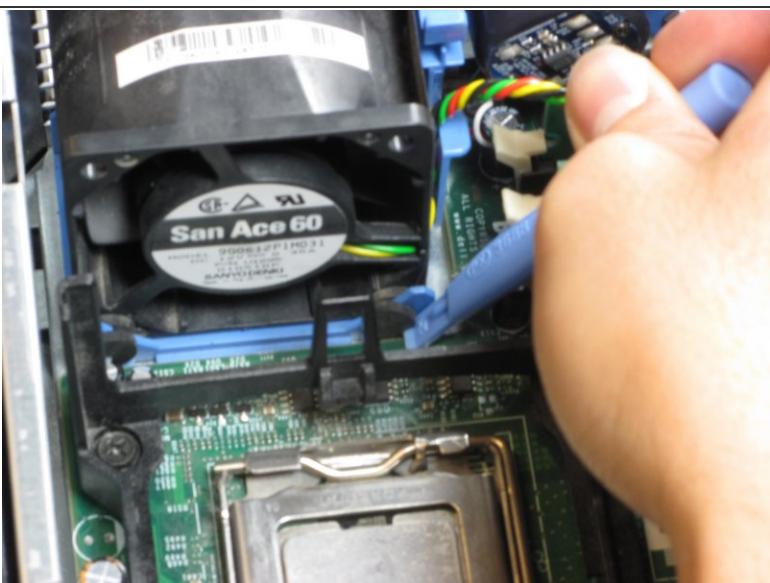
**⚠** When reassembling make sure to clean the processor and heat sink of all old thermal paste and apply new paste to the processor

## Step 7 — Upper Fan



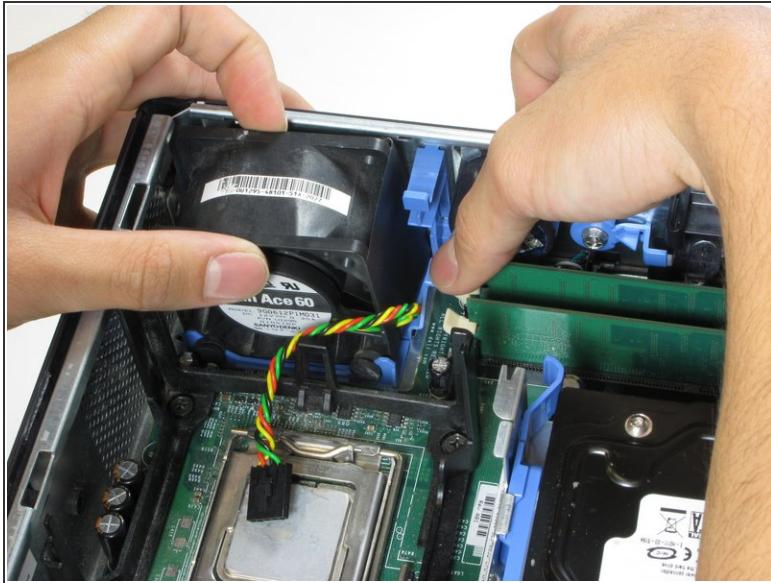
- Remove the power supply that connects the upper fan to the motherboard. The power supply has black, red, green and yellow wires.

## Step 8



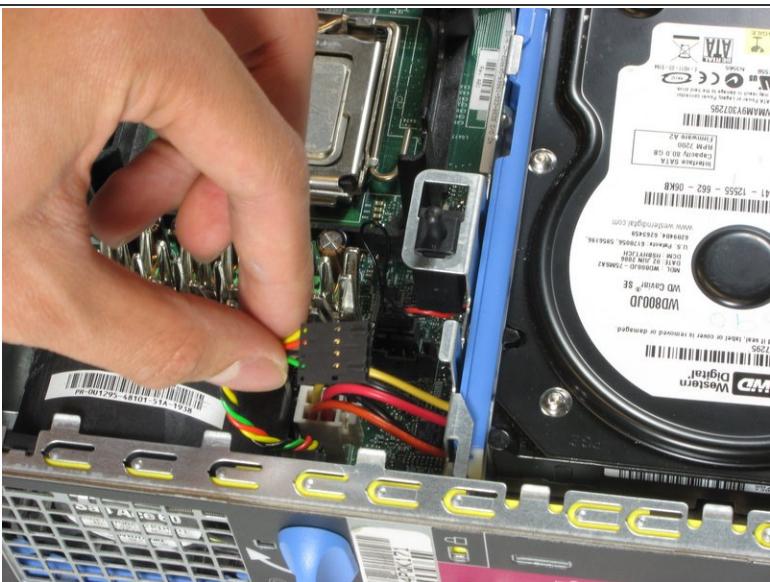
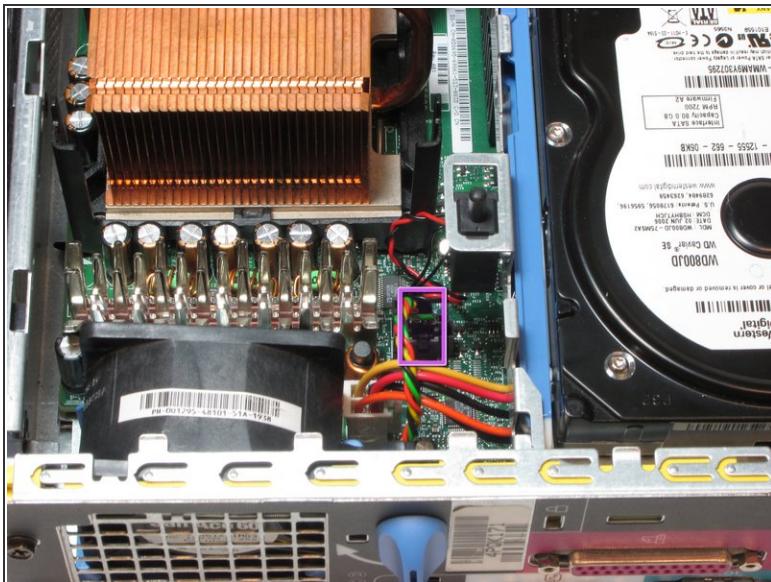
- Remove the rubber grommets from the base of the fan. A spudger may be useful.

## Step 9



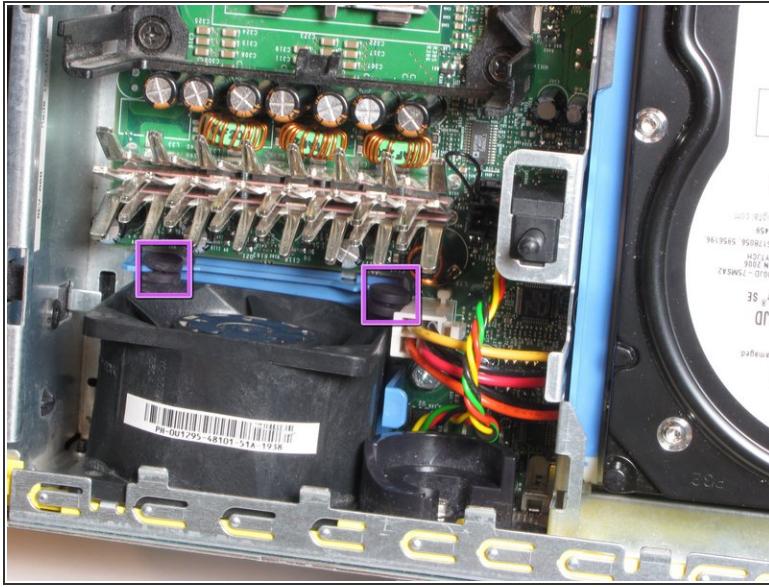
- Press on the blue release tab and pull the upper fan out of the computer.

## Step 10 — Lower Fan



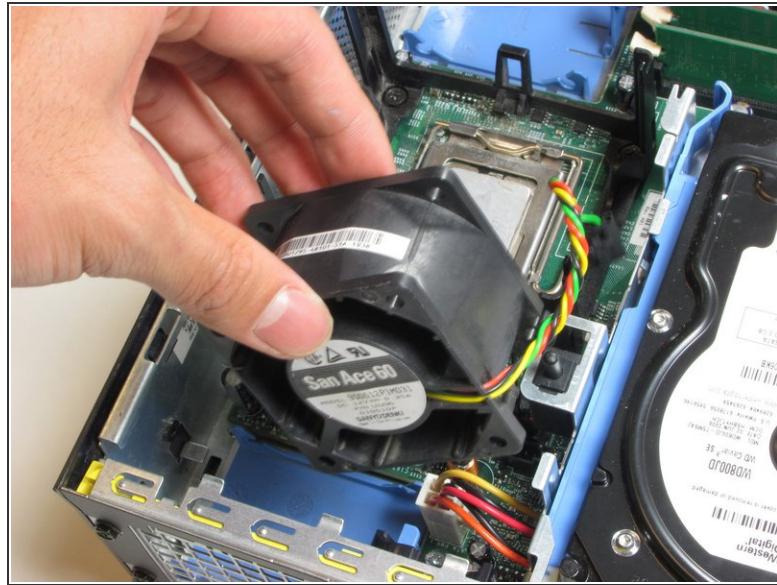
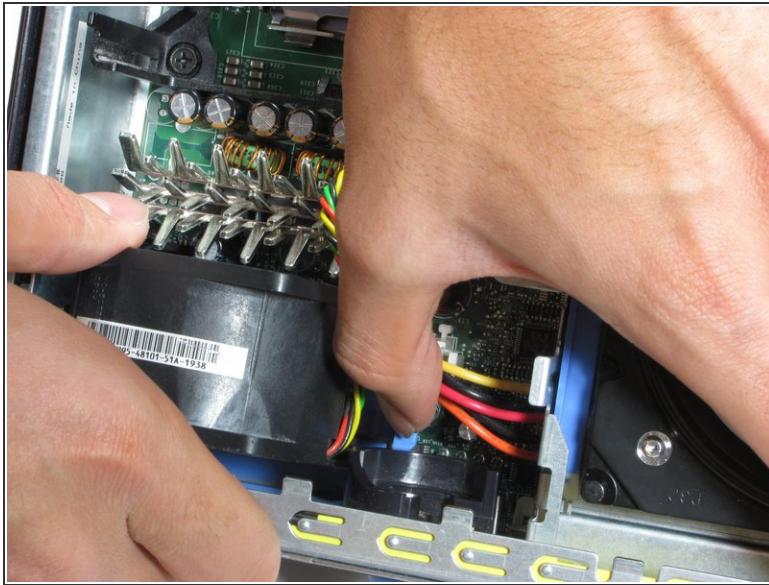
- Remove the power supply that connects the lower fan to the motherboard, distinguished by its black, red, green and yellow wires.
- Make sure to press on the release tab while removing the power connector.

## Step 11



- Remove the rubber grommets from the base of the fan. A spudger may be useful.

## Step 12



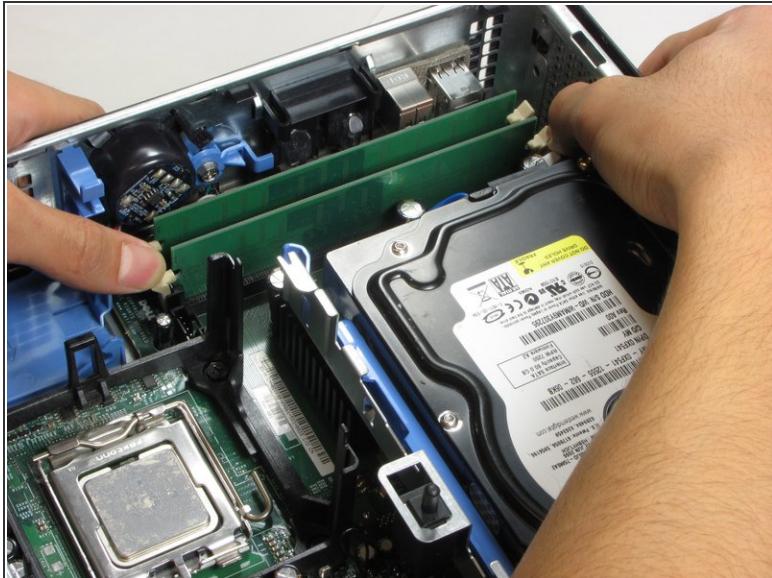
- Press on the blue release tab and remove the fan.

## Step 13 — RAM



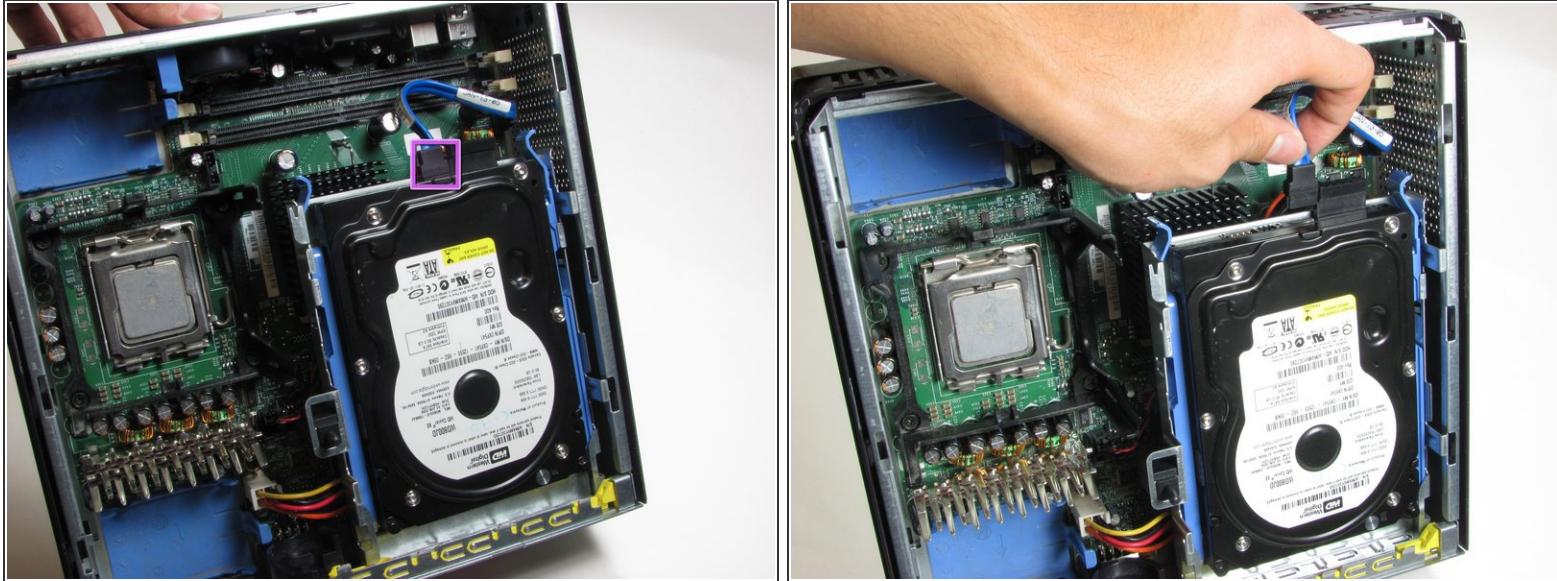
- The RAM are the two green cards in the corner of the computer.
- At each end of the card, there are two white clips securing the RAM to the Motherboard.

## Step 14



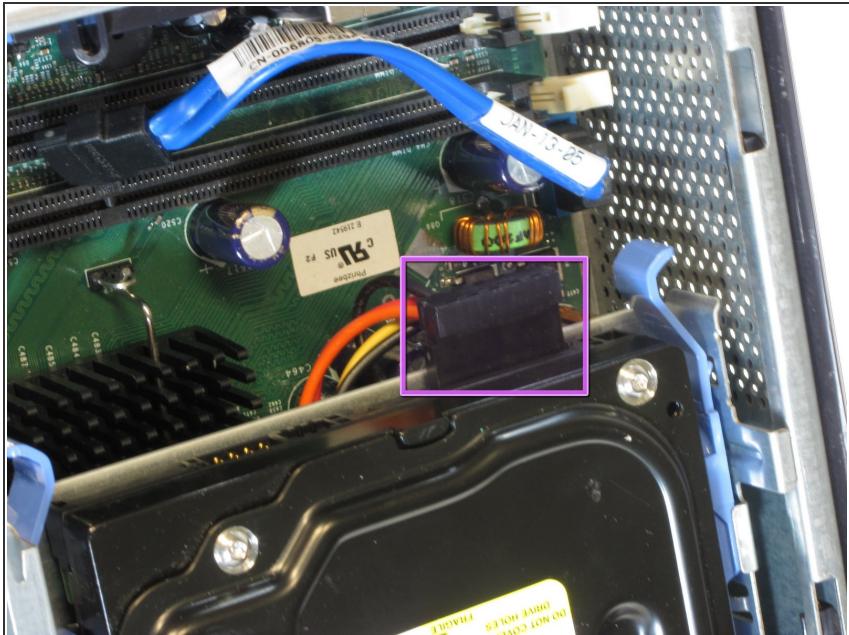
- Push down both white clips with your thumbs until you hear a click.
- The RAM cards can now be removed.

## Step 15 — Hard Drive



- Unplug the blue cable that connects the hard drive to the motherboard.

## Step 16



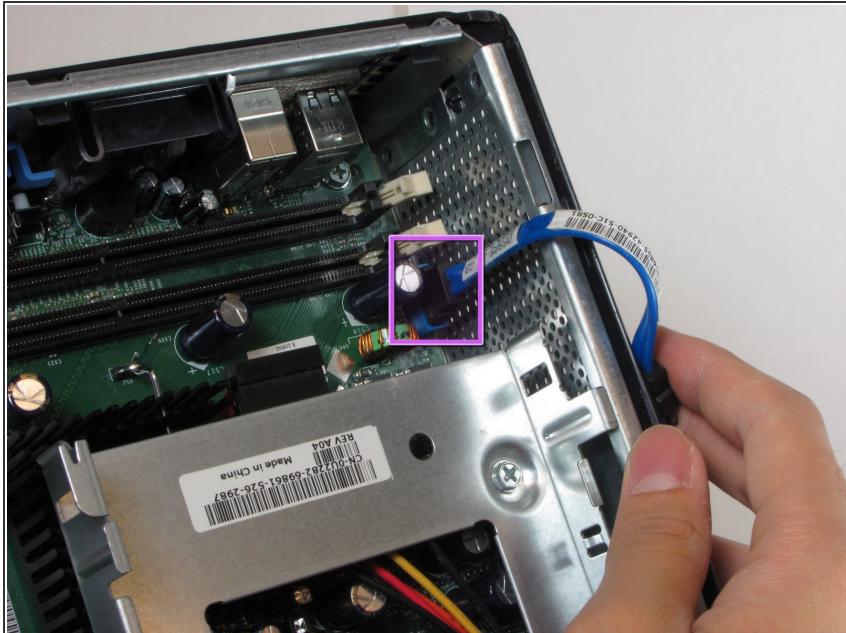
- Unplug the power supply, distinguished by its red and yellow wires.

## Step 17



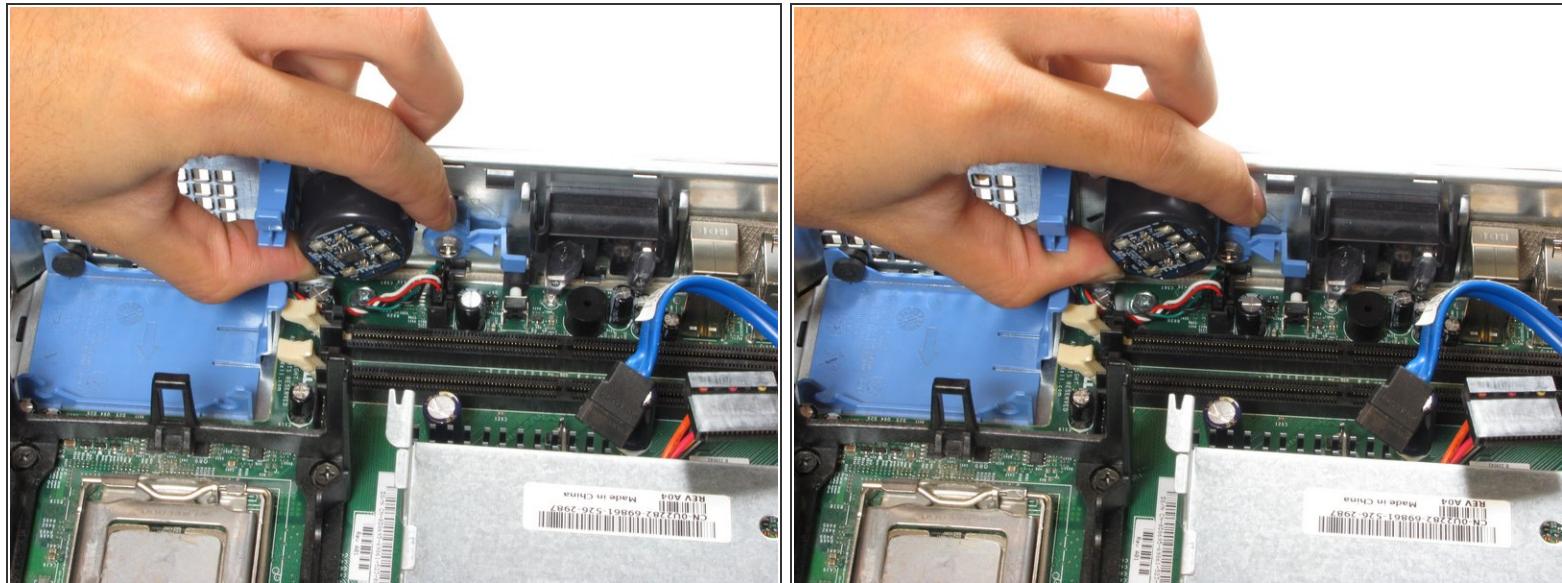
- Squeeze the release tabs on either side of the hard drive.
- Then slide the hard drive out of the computer while squeezing the tabs.

## Step 18 — Motherboard



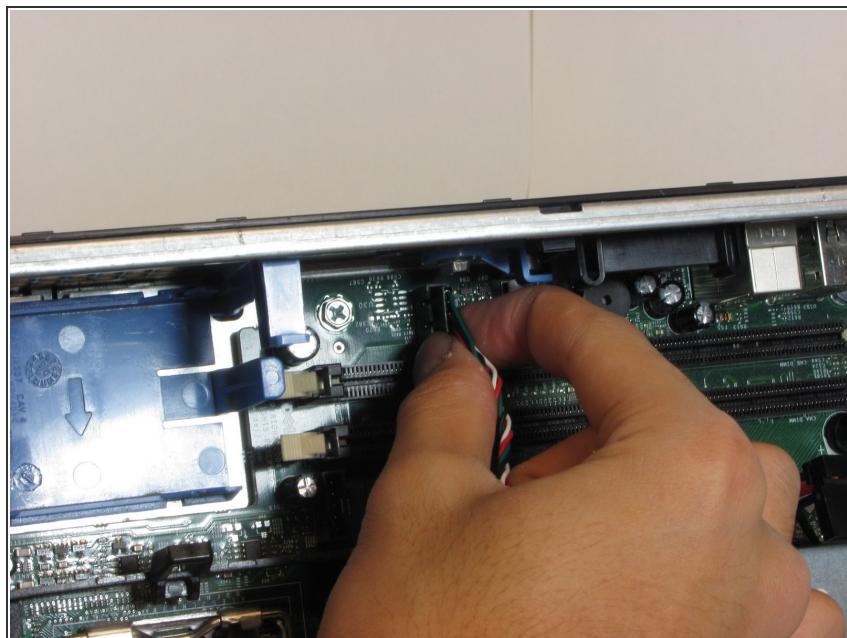
- Unplug the cable that connects the hard drive to the Motherboard.

## Step 19



- Press on the release tab and remove the motherboard speaker which is attached to the side of the tower.

## Step 20



- Unplug the power cable attached to the motherboard speaker.
- *i* Make sure to press on the release tab while removing the power cable.

## Step 21



- Remove four screws located at the back of the computer tower.

## Step 22



- Carefully detach the motherboard from the computer case.

## Step 23



- Lift the motherboard from the rest of the computer case.

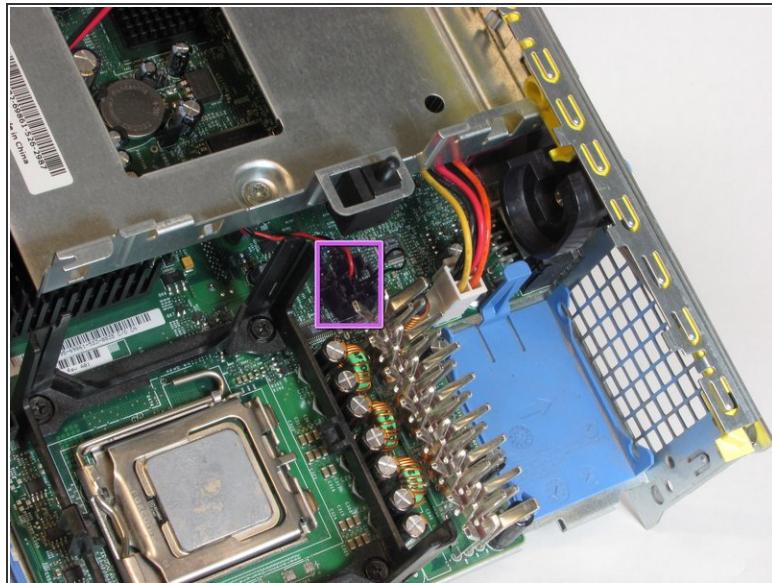
## Step 24



- Unplug the cable that powers the hard drive, which has orange, red and yellow wires.

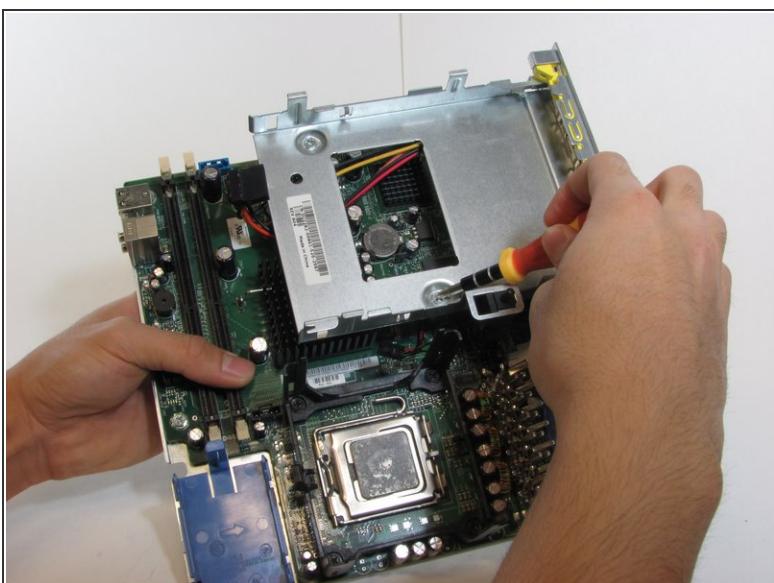
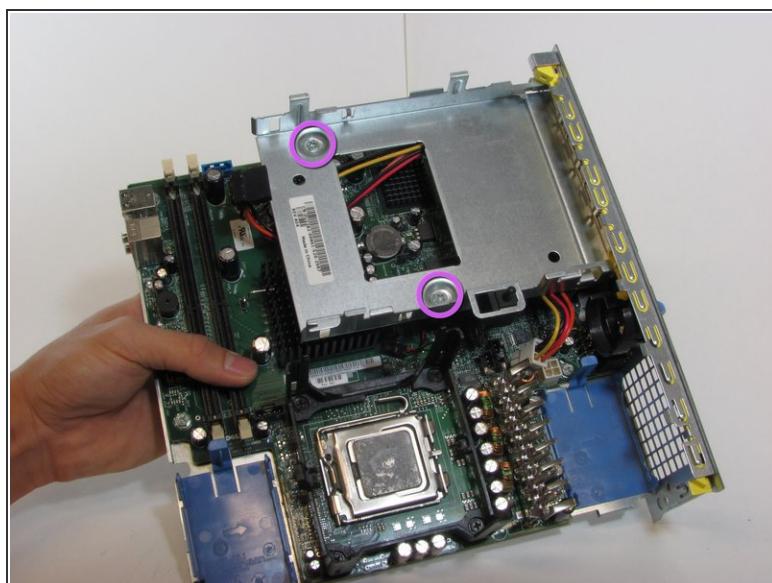
● Make sure to press the release tab while removing the cable.

## Step 25



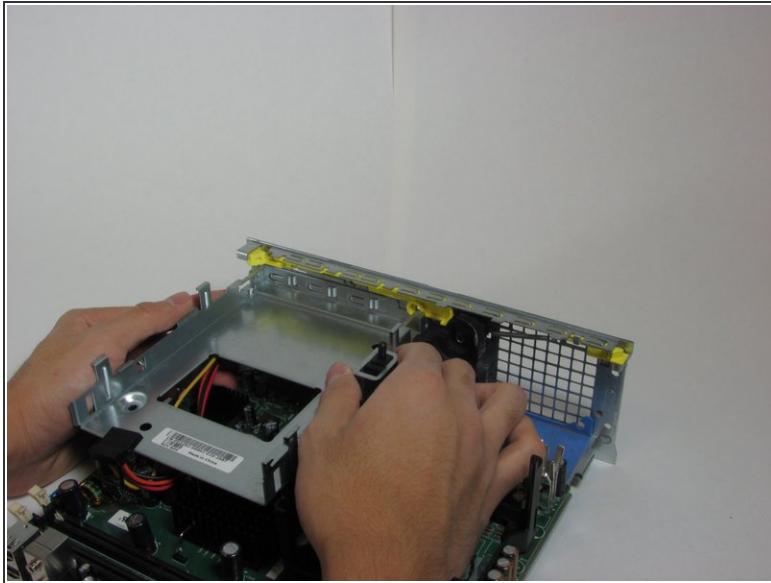
- Unplug the cable that powers the emergency shut off, distinguished by its red wires.
- Make sure to press on the release tab while removing the emergency shut off.

## Step 26



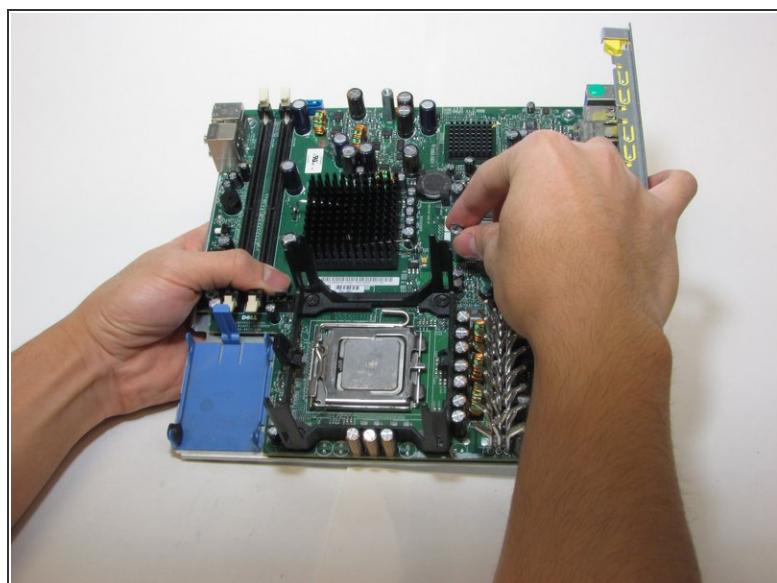
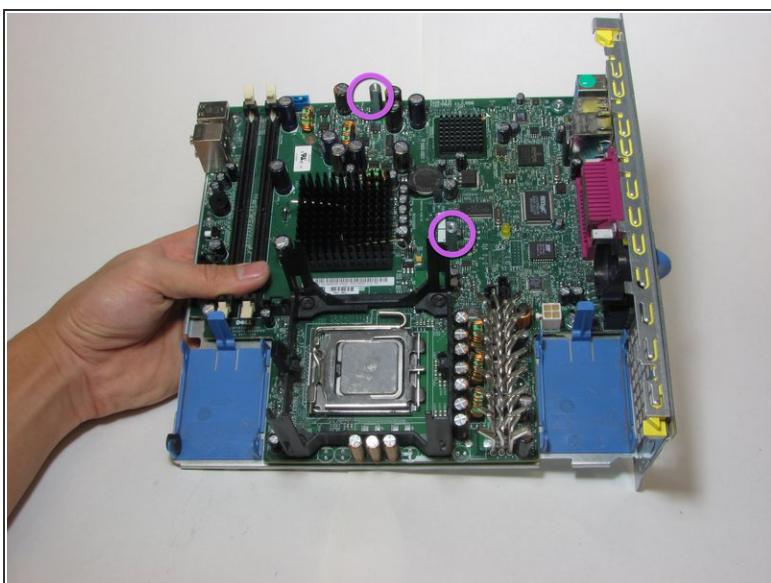
- Remove two screws from the Hard Drive Stand.

## Step 27



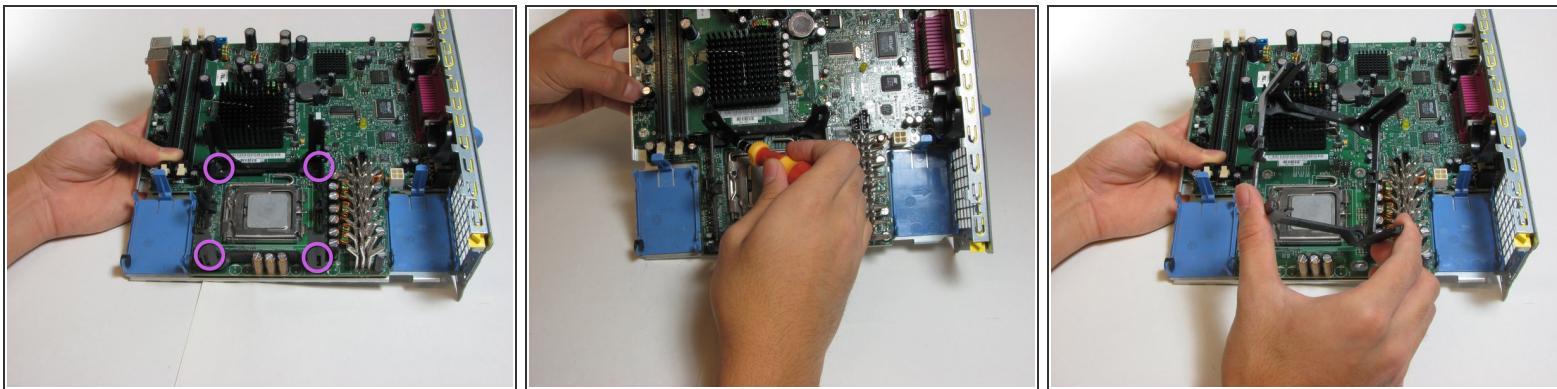
- Slide the Hard Drive Stand to left side.
- Remove the stand from the rest of the rear panel.

## Step 28



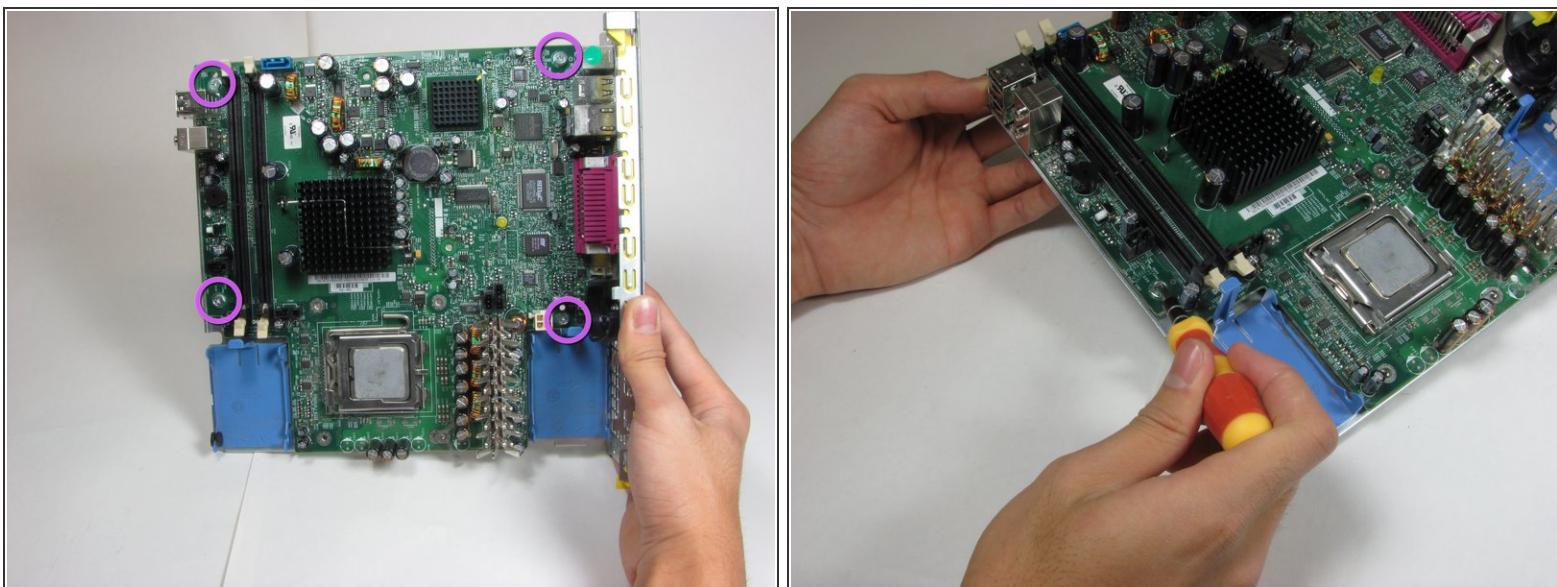
- Remove the studs that support the Hard Drive Stand from the motherboard.
- The studs can be removed by hand.

## Step 29



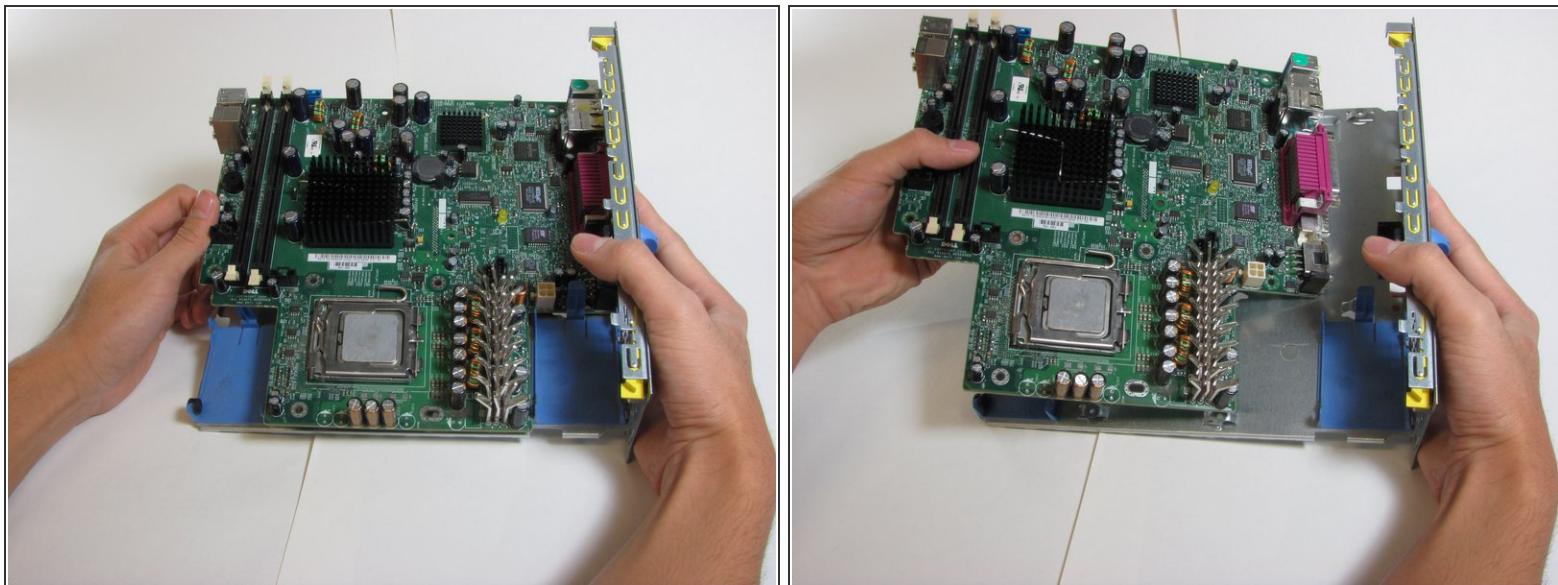
- Remove the four screws located on heat sink stand.
- The heat sink stand can now be lifted from the motherboard.

## Step 30



- Remove the four screws holding the motherboard to the rear computer panel.

## Step 31



- The motherboard can now be removed from the remaining panel.

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