Dell Vostro 3550 Fan Replacement
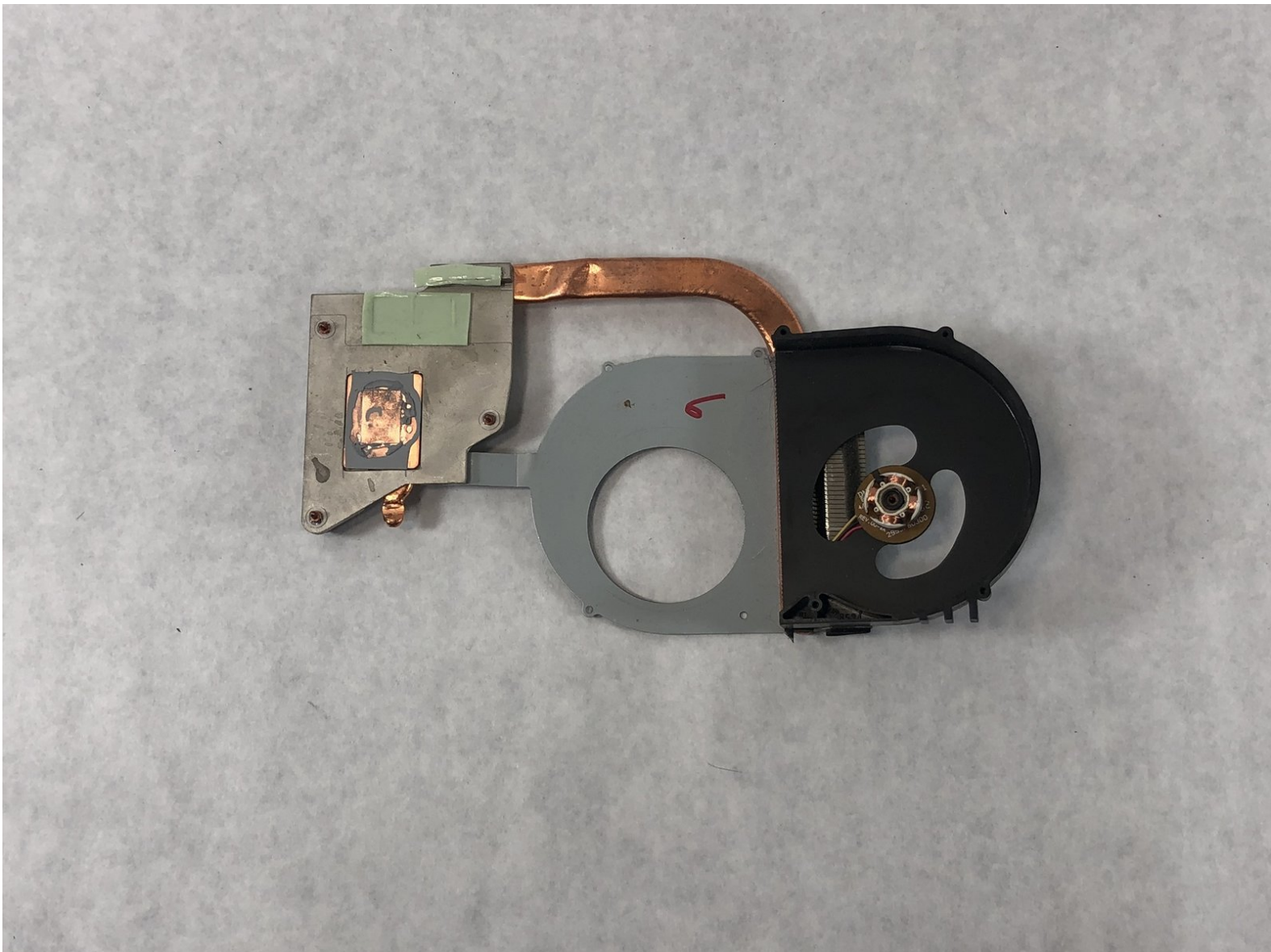
This guide will demonstrate how to replace the fan attached to the motherboard.

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INTRODUCTION

This guide will walk through all the necessary steps in order to replace the fan for the Dell Vostro 3550. A common problem that would require the device owner to replace their fan is if a fan blade breaks due to a piece of debris that entered the fan mechanism. This can often be determined if the fan is making loud and unusual noises as the computer is running.

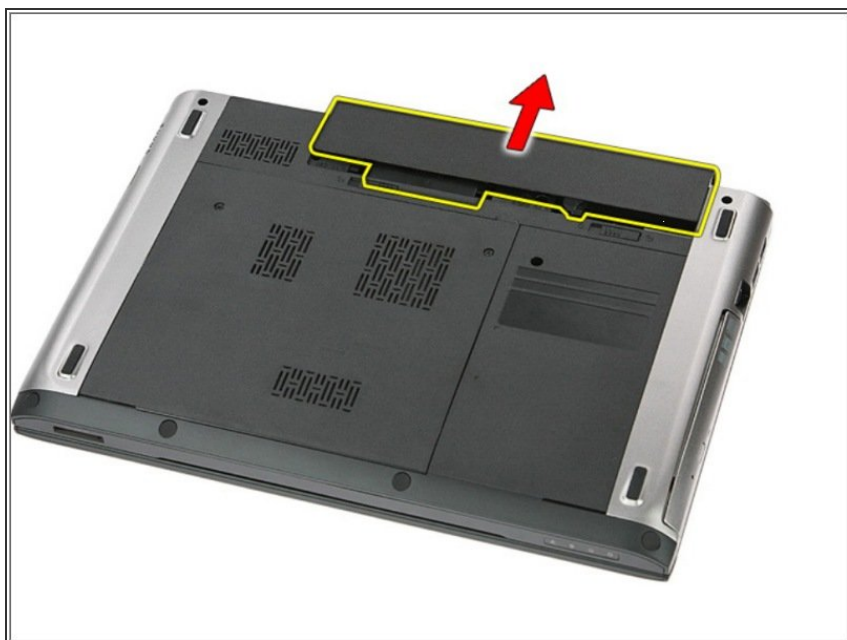## ⚲ TOOLS:

- Metal Spudger (1)
- Phillips #0 Screwdriver (1)
- Pro Tech Toolkit (1)

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Step 1 — Unlocking the Battery
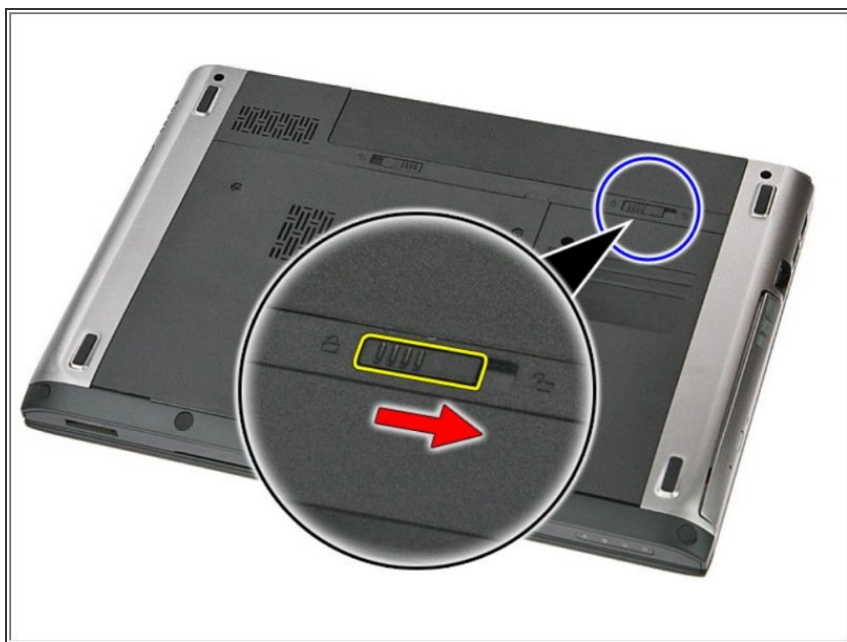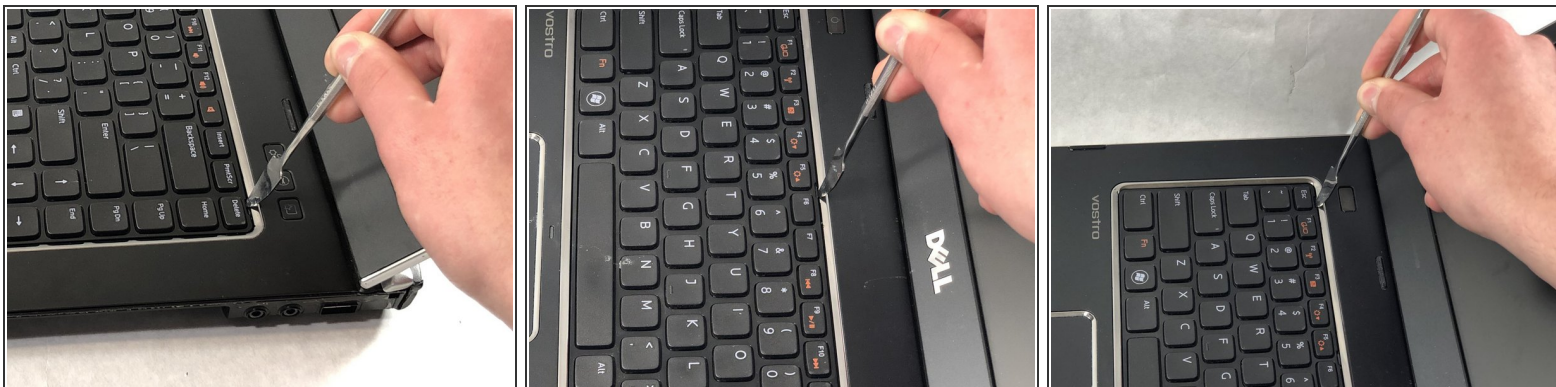

- Slide the release latches to unlock the battery.

Step 2 — Sliding the Battery

- Slide the battery and remove it from the computer.

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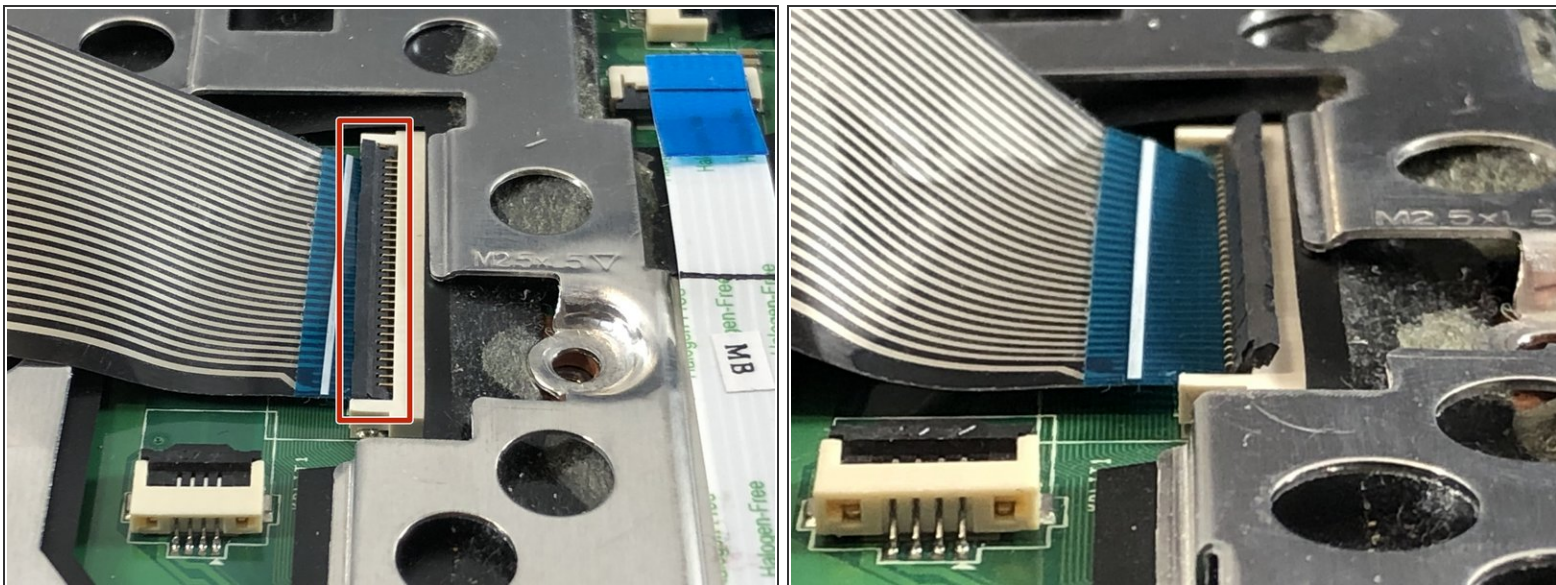
Step 3 — Keyboard

- Turn the laptop right side up. Open the display to reveal the keyboard.

- Use the metal spudger to pry the keyboard upward from the base. Make sure to pop each of the three clips keeping the keyboard in place.
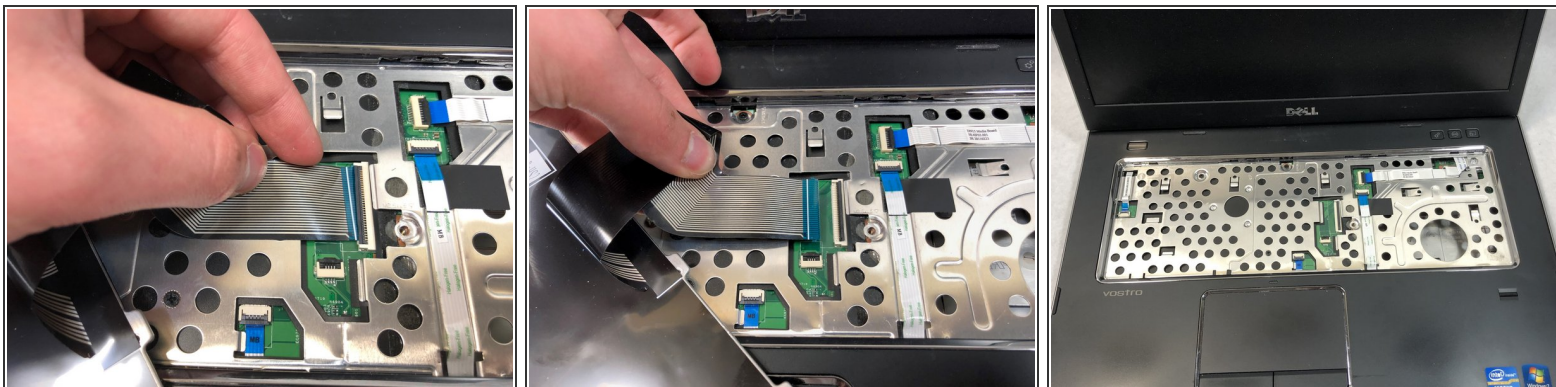
Step 4
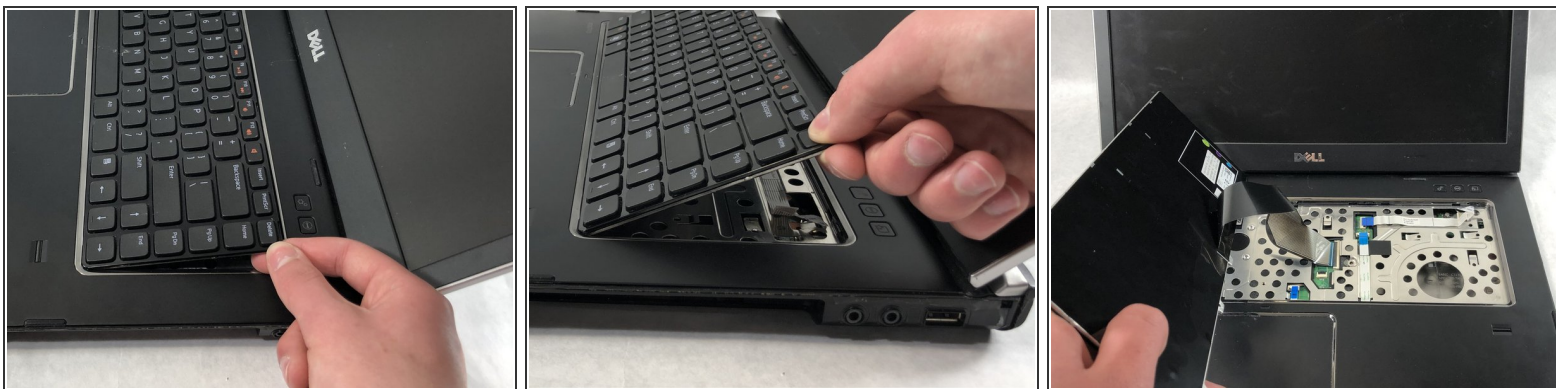
- Carefully lift the keyboard upward to reveal the keyboard ribbon cable.

Step 5

- Lift the black tab on the keyboard cable connector upwards to release the cable.

Step 6

- Pull the ribbon cable away from the connector.

- Remove the keyboard.

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Step 7 — Remove the Screws

- Remove the three 7mm Phillips #0 screws that secure the access panel to the base of the computer.

Step 8 — Lifting the Access Panel

- Lift the access panel up at an angle and remove it from the computer.

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Step 9 — Remove the Screws

- Remove the two 5mm Phillips #0 screws that secure the hard drive to the system.
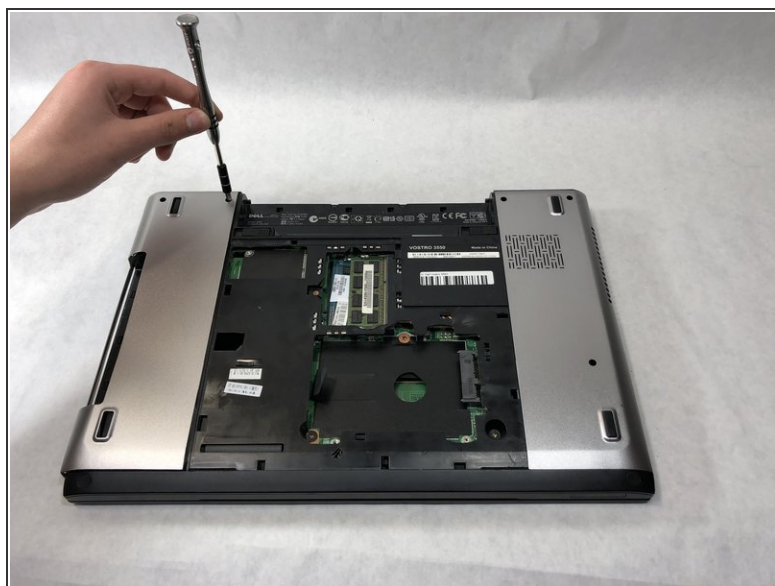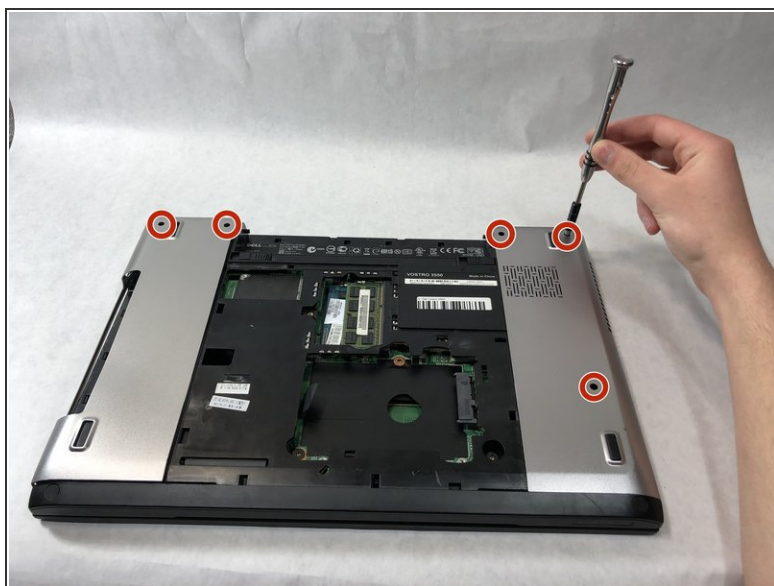
Step 10 — Removing the Hard Drive

- Lift up the hard drive at an angle from the system and remove.

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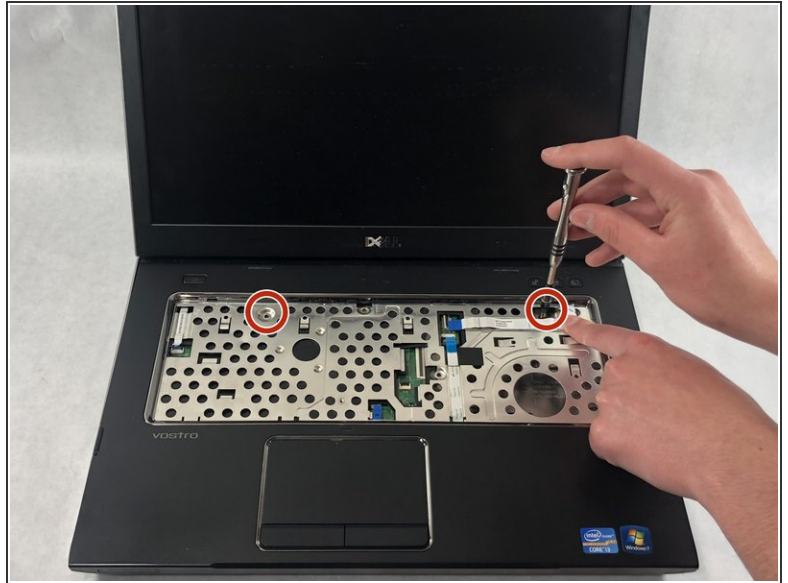
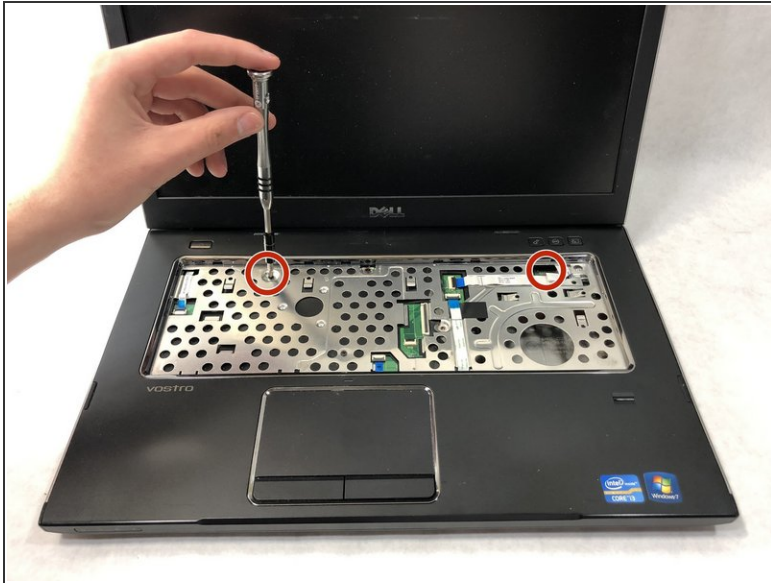## Step 11 — Remove the Screws

- Remove the four 5mm Phillips #0 screws that secure the hard drive bracket to the hard drive.
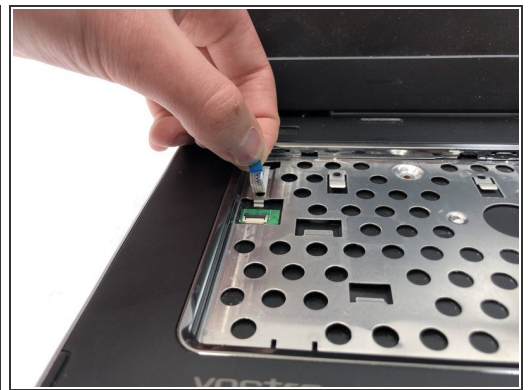
Step 12 — Motherboard

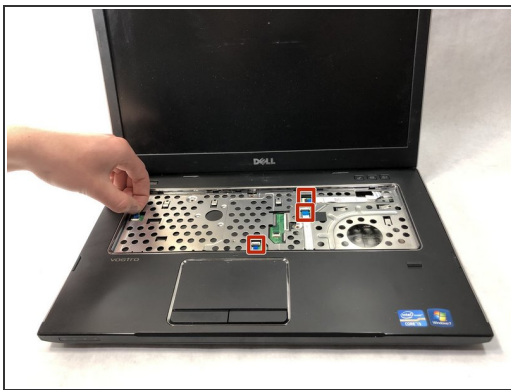- Remove the five 7mm Phillips #0 screws fastening the aluminum side panels to the laptop.

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Step 13

- Turn the computer over and open the screen.

- Remove the two 5mm Phillips #0 screws to the far right and far left of the motherboard casing.

Step 14

- Remove the small ribbon cable connected to the left side of the casing.

- Repeat this step for the three remaining ribbon cables on the casing.

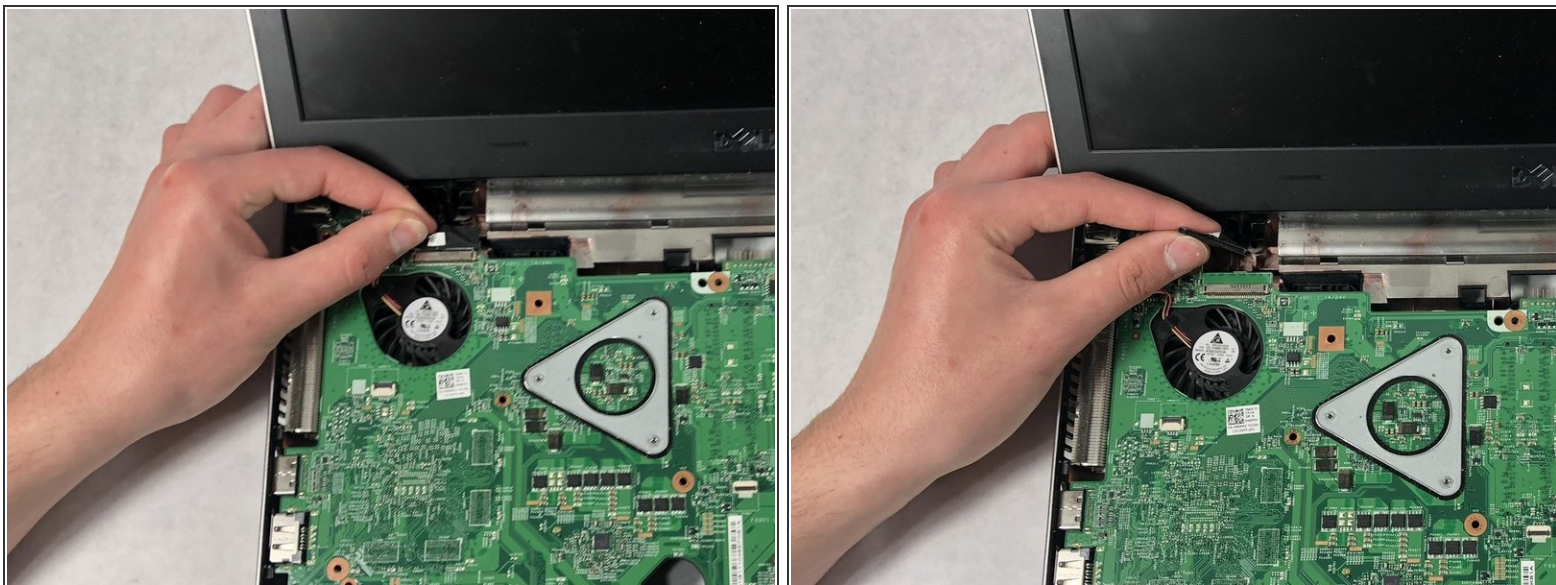This document was generated on 2020-01-23 06:52:45 AM (MST).

Step 15

- Use the metal spudger to release the palmrest assembly from the rest of the laptop.

- Lift off the palmrest assembly to reveal the motherboard.

Step 16

- Remove the small cable connecting the motherboard to the rest of the computer.

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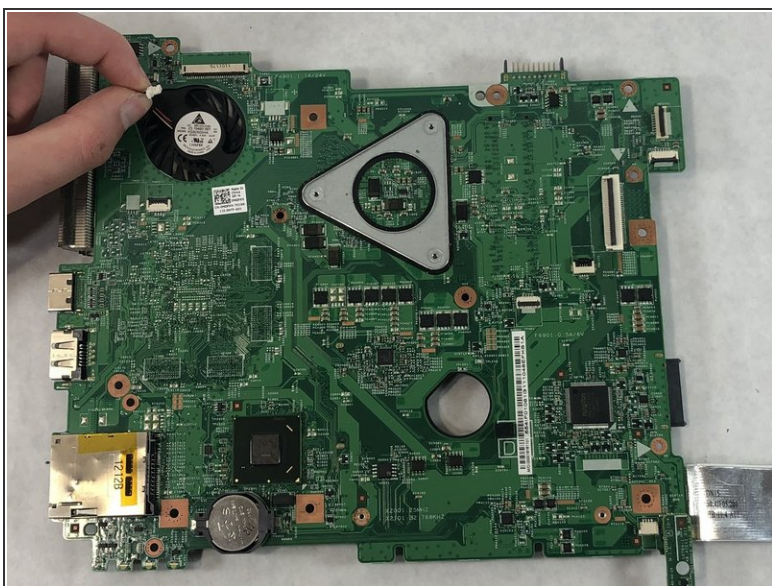
Step 17

- Remove the ribbon cable at the far left that is connecting the motherboard to the screen.
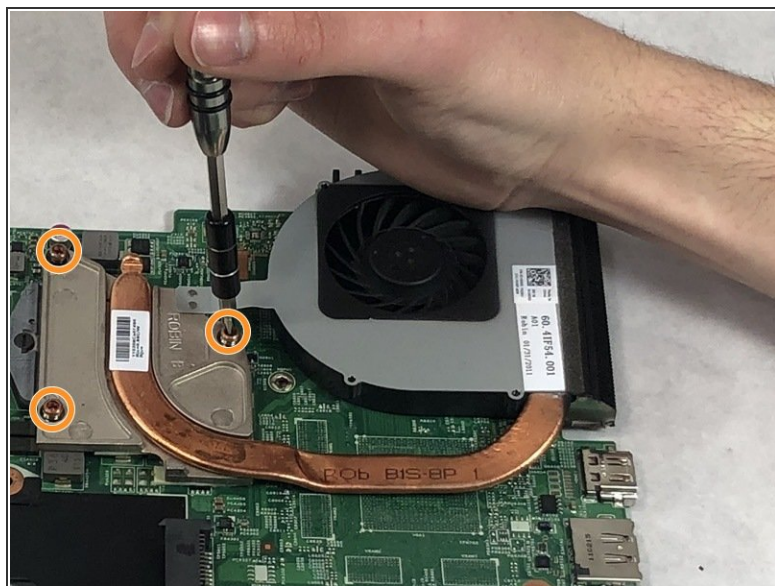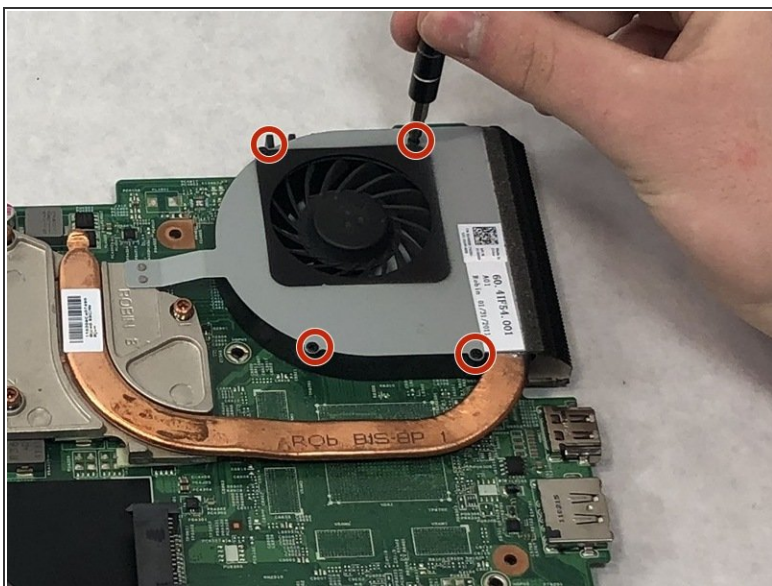
Step 18

- Remove the seven 5mm Phillips #0 screws that are fastening the motherboard to the casing.

- Lift upwards on the motherboard to remove it from the laptop casing.
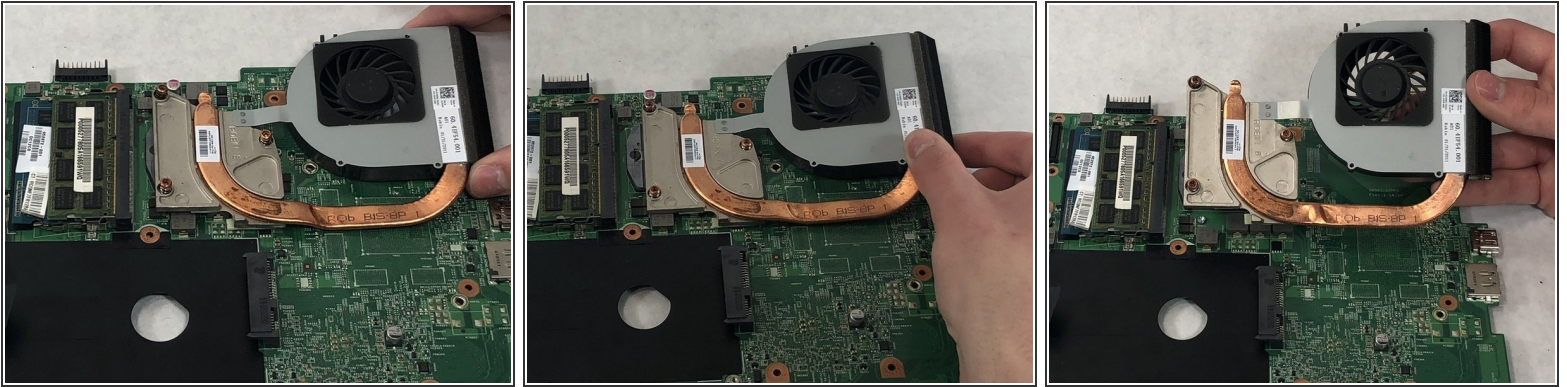
Step 19 — Fan
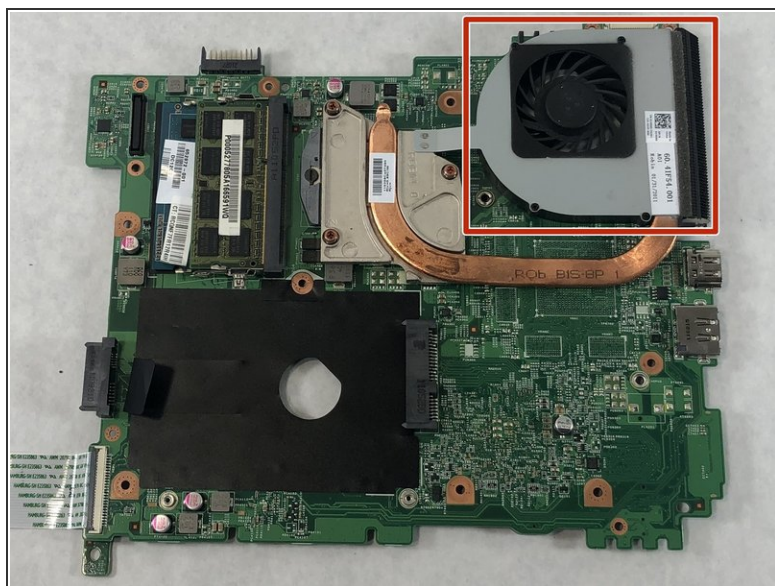
- Flip over the motherboard to access the fan assembly.
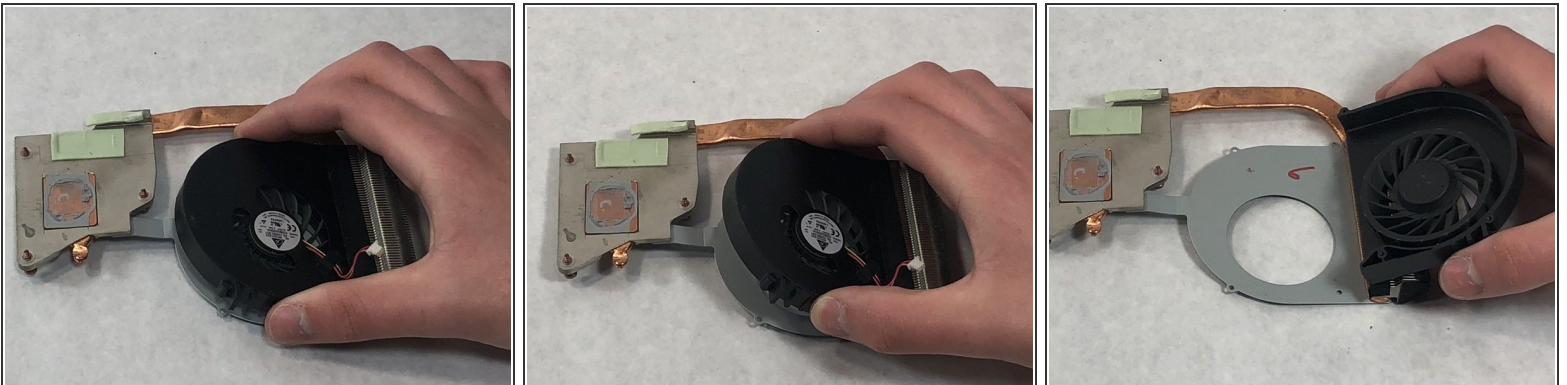
Step 20

- Remove the four 5mm Phillips #0 screws that are holding the fan down onto the motherboard.

- Remove the three brass 8mm Phillips #0 screws fastening the heatsink to the motherboard.
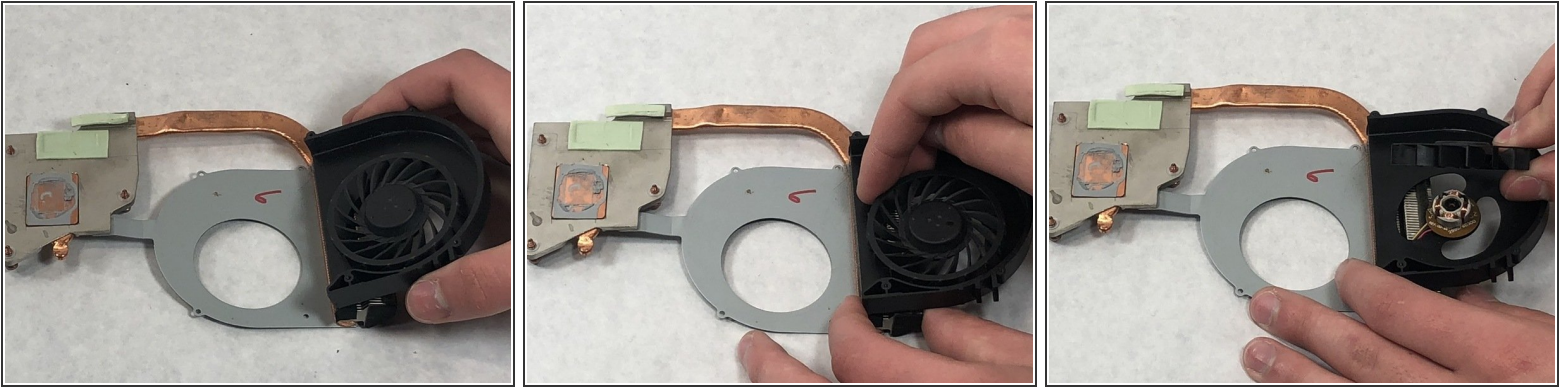
Step 21

- Gently lift the fan assembly and heatsink away from the motherboard, and put it down onto a flat surface.
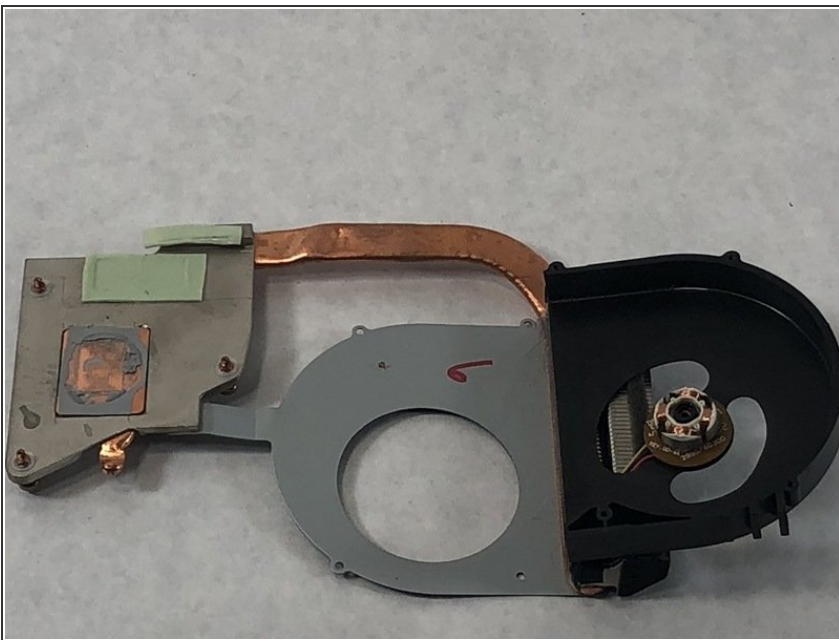
Step 22

- Once placed down, flip the fan casing upside down to expose the bottom shell of the fan.

- Grab the shell of the fan and pull upwards.

- Rest the shell of the fan on its hinge to reveal the blades of the fan.

Step 23

- Gently pull upwards on the fan to separate the fan from the motor.

Step 24

- Once the fan is removed, gently push the new one onto the motor.

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