

Computer Shooters, Take Note

The next time your computer locks up, it might not be a good time for you to lock and load. That was the lesson George Doughty learned last month when his laptop froze for what turned out to be the last time.

According to the Associated Press, Doughty was himself locked up after plugging his laptop four times. The computer ended up hanging on the wall of Doughty's Sportsman's Bar and Restaurant, and George spent the night in jail. Lt. Rick

Bashor said the charges were "felony menacing, reckless endangerment, and the prohibited use of weapons." Apparently, your computer has rights, too. As the lieutenant explained all this to the AP reporter, his own computer froze.

This isn't the only felonius cyberassault on record. Six years ago, Michael Case of Passaic Township, N.J., fired eight shots at his IBM personal computer. Lt. Donald Van Tassel was impressed by the perpetrator's firepower, a .44 magnum handgun loaded with hollow-points (dum-dums), but the officer did note that Case

missed with four of the shots. When he arrested Case, Van Tassel said, "He couldn't understand why he couldn't shoot his own computer in his own home." Case wasn't held overnight, but he did spend the morning at Morris County Jail and was released later in the day on \$2,500 bail.

So the next time you're tempted to slip one into the chamber rather than reboot, just remember George and Michael. Maybe you could just go out with a stack of CDs and shoot some skeet or dial up www.howstuffworks.com/what-if-shoot-tv.htm where you can watch a video of a guy shooting up his monitor. That is, if you can unlock your computer. ■

