A form of electrical voltage and current generated in usually an accidental action. This is not electricity from a battery or the normal house of office electrical supply. It is more like lightning in that it is a quick but substantial discharge that can do great damage. It is the same type of charge that happens when clothes have been dried in a dryer and they cling to themselves upon removal. It occurs more frequently in cold weather, often while walking on carpet. It can destroy electrical components, disks, diskettes, tapes and other forms of magnetic storage media. It usually does this by demagnetizing the data and formatting markers on the media, and by over-charging electrical components capabilities.

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