

# Ground Loops

*(Difference in ground potential in computer systems)*

**Ground Loop:** An errant galvanic path within a system or instrument caused by unwanted circuit connections provided by the earth or chassis ground.

**Ground:** Common reference point having a potential that does not change as a function of current supplied to or withdrawn from it.

Ground loops are not stopped by TVSS (transient voltage surge suppressor) in fact some surge suppressors can introduce a ground loop to an already isolated circuit. Take the computer installation shown below as an example. Do you see the ground loop this installation would create.

*The Figure below shows an installation with two different ground references. There is a ground loop or difference in potential between the grounds.*

