Pixinsight was crashing my PC. If you have experienced similar issues, read on, you may be at risk.

The issue, I discovered, was NOT a bug in PI. My CPU was simply overheating at 100% load, with cores reaching the 100°C limit, causing potential damage to the CPU, and leading to a thermal shutdown/crash/bluescreen.

This cause wasn't obvious, or easy to diagnose (the only critical error in the system event viewer was a vague "power failure"). It only happened with PixInsight running. No other applications were stressing the computer anywhere close to this level, and long periods of intensive CPU load was unique to PI.

The fix was not difficult, just replacing the cheap and nasty CPU cooler with a better one (in this case a peerless asassin 120SE - still cheap). Now it never exceeds 75°C and is well and truly back in the safe zone.

If you see similar symptoms (even one crash), I would urge you to download CoreTemp and do a temperature check while running Local Normalization or Integration. If you just leave it to crash occasionally on large integrations, be aware it's more than just a nuisance, you will also reduce the life of your cpu, and could end up facing a large bill down the line.

I don't know if I missed the "health warning" or if Pix team havent seen fit to issue one. As I see it the system builder was the most negligent party here, but a warning from PI would still be helpful.