

What is BIOS?

2 May 2016

In the first part of our BIOS-series we explain the terms BIOS and UEFI. We also talk about the tasks of the BIOS and we answer the important question of how to actually get into the BIOS.

What is BIOS?

The abbreviation BIOS means "Basic Input/Output System". It is the firmware of a PC – A software which is built integrated into the hardware. The BIOS is stored on a small chip in the mainboard of the computer and is always preinstalled. There are motherboards, which also have a second chip, that acts as backup. The BIOS is the link between the software (OS) and hardware components such as hard drives, keyboard, mouse and printer. The navigation in BIOS is only possible with a keyboard.

And what is this UEFI?

The new version of BIOS is called UEFI, which means unified extensible firmware interface. UEFI looks like an operating system, can be controlled by mouse and is capable of executing programs.

What is BIOS responsible for?

The main tasks of the BIOS are a self-test and the initialization of the hardware as well as the communication between the operating system and other components. When a computer is turned on, the BIOS starts and prepares the PC for booting. First it performs the power-on self-test (POST). The computer checks one by one whether the basic hardware components such as CPU and RAM are working properly. If errors are found, the BIOS displays them by specific sounds or on screen, if the graphics have already been tested successfully.

Following this self-test, the booting process starts. For this, the hardware must know from which component it should boot the operating system. The BIOS searches the operating system in the available devices (hard drives, USB, DVD) following a specific order. As soon as it finds software, the PC is booting automatically. The order of the drives, on which to search for the operating system, can be set in the BIOS. For instance if you want to delete the existing OS and install a new one via DVD, it is necessary to set "CDROM" as first boot device. Other tasks of the BIOS are managing date and time as well as the temperature

This website uses cookies, which are necessary for the technical operation of the website and are always set. Other cookies, which increase the usability of this website, serve for direct advertising or simplify interaction with other websites and social networks, will only be used with your consent.

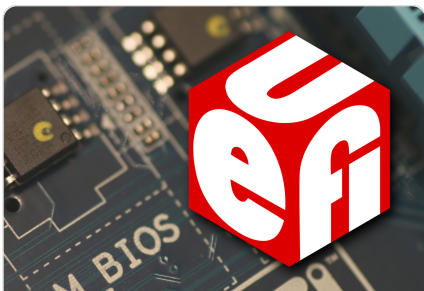
[Decline](#)[Configure](#)

To enter the BIOS, a certain key must be pressed (multiple times!) right after turning on the PC and even before the operating system is booted. It depends on the manufacturer which key: usually - and also at all spo-books - the BIOS is accessed by pressing the key "F2" or "Del".



Write a comment >

Related products



23 APR 2019

KNOW-HOW

WHAT IS UEFI?

The well-known BIOS is more and more being replaced by its successor UEFI. So it's time to tak...

READ MORE >



17 MAY 2016

KNOW-HOW

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HDD AND SSD?

All spo-books can be configured as desired and can be ordered with an HDD or SSD. This brings many...

READ MORE >



14 JUN 2016

KNOW-HOW

SHOULD I TAKE AN ACTIVELY COOLED OR PASSIVELY COOLED...

It's underestimated quite often how important it is to make the right choice regarding the cooling...

READ MORE >

Stay up-to-date with the spo-comm newsletter.

e-mail address

Free subscription >

I have read the [data protection information](#).

This website uses cookies, which are necessary for the technical operation of the website and are always set. Other cookies, which increase the usability of this website, serve for direct advertising or simplify interaction with other websites and social networks, will only be used with your consent.

Decline Configure

