

THE BIOS (Basic input and output system)

The Different Types of BIOS

- Award
- Phoenix
- AMI-Pro

Flash Bios

Newer motherboards include flashable Bios chips. These are not exactly ROM but EEPROM chips which can be electronically reprogrammed.

If your motherboard has a Flash ROM BIOS and the manufacturers release an update then you can download and update your BIOS chip.

How to Flash

1. Download the BIOS update from the internet. Make sure the download matches your motherboard exactly.
2. Download the flash utility from the manufactures.
3. Then run update in windows and update the BIOS.

Precautions when Flashing the BIOS

- Flash only as a last resort

The POST

- One of the most critical tasks performed by the BIOS is the **Power On Self Test**. Strangely enough this test is performed when you switch the power on.

The BIOS checks that there is memory and a video display device among them.

Accessing the BIOS

- The Delete Key
- The F1 Key
- The F2 Key
- The Escape Key

Protecting the BIOS

You can set a **user** and a **supervisor** password. A **user** can still use the computer as normal how ever a **supervisor** has access to the BIOS as well as the computer.

If you forget the supervisor password you can remove the battery from the motherboard and allow the CMOS memory to drain away.