**LINUX OPERATING SYSTEM BOASTING PROCESS**

1. **BIOS (Basic Input/Output System)**

The BIOS loads and executes the Master Boot Record (MBR) boot loader. When the computer is turned on, the BIOS first perform some integrity checks of the HDD or SSD. Then searches for, loads, and executes the boot loader program, which can be found in the Master Boot Record (MBR). The MBR is sometimes on a USB stick or CD-ROM such as with a live installation of Linux. Once the boot loader program is detected, it is then loaded into memory and the BIOS gives control of the system to it.

### ****MBR (Master Boot Record)****

### This is responsible for loading and executing the GRUB boot loader. The MBR is located in the 1st sector of the bootable disk, which is typically /dev/hda, or /dev/sda, depending on your hardware. The MBR is less than 512 bytes in size. This has three components 1) primary boot loader info in 1st 446 bytes 2) partition table info in next 64 bytes 3) mbr validation check in last 2 bytes. It also contains information about GRUB, or LILO in very old systems.

### ****GRUB (GRand Unified Bootloader)****

Sometimes called GNU is the typical boot loader for most modern Linux systems. The GRUB splash screen is often the first thing you see when you boot your computer. It has a simple menu where you can select some options. If you have multiple kernel images installed, you can use your keyboard to select the one you want your system to boot with. By default, the latest kernel image is selected.

The splash screen will wait a few seconds for you to select and option. If you don't, it will load the default kernel image. In many systems you can find the GRUB configuration file at

/boot/grub/grub.conf or /etc/grub.conf. Here is an example of a simple grub.conf file:

#boot=/dev/sda

default=0

timeout=5

splashimage=(hd0,0)/boot/grub/splash.xpm.gz

hiddenmenu

title CentOS (2.6.18-194.el5PAE)

root (hd0,0)

kernel/boot/vmlinuz-2.6.18-194.el5PAE ro root=LABEL=/

initrd/boot/initrd-2.6.18-194.el5PAE.img

### ****Kernel****

The kernel is often referred to as the core of any operating system, Linux included. It has complete control over everything in your system. In this stage of the boot process, the kernel that was selected by GRUB first mounts the root file system that's specified in the grub.conf file. Then it executes the /sbin/init program, which is always the first program to be executed. You can confirm this with its process id (PID), which should always be 1.

The kernel then establishes a temporary root file system which also contains necessary drivers compiled inside using Initial RAM Disk (initrd) until the real file system is mounted.

1. **Init**

At this point, your system executes runlevel programs. At one point it would look for an init file, usually found at /etc/inittab to decide the Linux run level.

Modern Linux systems use systemd to choose a run level instead. According to [TecMint](https://www.tecmint.com/change-runlevels-targets-in-systemd/), these are the available run levels:

**Run level 0** is matched by **poweroff.target** (and

**runlevel0.target** is a symbolic link to **poweroff.target**). **Run level 1** is matched by **rescue.target** (and

**runlevel1.target**is a symbolic link to **rescue.target**).

**Run level** 3 is emulated by **multi-user.target** (and

**runlevel3.target** is a symbolic link to **multi-user.target**).

**Run level 5** is emulated by **graphical.target** (and

**runlevel5.target** is a symbolic link to **graphical.target**).

**Run level 6** is emulated by **reboot.target** (and

**runlevel6.target** is a symbolic link to **reboot.target**).

**Emergency** is matched by **emergency.target**.

systemd will then begin executing runlevel programs.

### ****6. Runlevel programs****

Depending on which Linux distribution you have installed, you may be able to see different services getting started. For example, you might catch starting sendmail …. OK.

These are known as runlevel programs, and are executed from different directories depending on your run level. Each of the 6 runlevels described above has its own directory:

* Run level 0 – /etc/rc0.d/
* Run level 1 – /etc/rc1.d/
* Run level 2  – /etc/rc2.d/
* Run level 3  – /etc/rc3.d/
* Run level 4 – /etc/rc4.d/
* Run level 5 – /etc/rc5.d/
* Run level 6 – /etc/rc6.d/

*Note that the exact location of these directories varies from distribution to distribution. If you look in the different run level directories, you'll find programs that start with either an "S" or "K" for startup and kill, respectively. Startup programs are executed during system startup, and kill programs during shutdown.*