

LEC-6: What happens when you turn on your computer?



- i. PC On
- ii. CPU initializes itself and looks for a firmware program (BIOS) stored in BIOS Chip (**Basic input-output system chip** is a ROM chip found on mother board that allows to access & setup computer system at most basic level.)
 1. In modern PCs, CPU loads UEFI (**Unified extensible firmware interface**)
- iii. **CPU** runs the BIOS which tests and initializes system hardware. Bios loads configuration settings. If something is not appropriate (like missing RAM) error is thrown and boot process is stopped.
This is called **POST** (Power on self-test) process.
(UEFI can do a lot more than just initialize hardware; it's really a tiny operating system. For example, Intel CPUs have the **Intel Management Engine**. This provides a variety of features, including powering Intel's Active Management Technology, which allows for remote management of business PCs.)
- iv. **BIOS** will handoff responsibility for booting your PC to your OS's bootloader.
 1. BIOS looked at the **MBR (master boot record)**, a special boot sector at the beginning of a disk. The MBR contains code that loads the rest of the operating system, known as a "bootloader." The BIOS executes the bootloader, which takes it from there and begins booting the actual operating system—Windows or Linux, for example.
In other words,
the BIOS or UEFI examines a storage device on your system to look for a small program, either in the MBR or on an EFI system partition, and runs it.
- v. The bootloader is a small program that has the large task of booting the rest of the operating system (Boots Kernel then, User Space). Windows uses a bootloader named Windows Boot Manager (Bootmgr.exe), most Linux systems use **GRUB**, and Macs use something called boot.efi