# DERECK LAM HON WAH

3rd Year BSc. Computer Science (System Engineering)

Student from Middlesex University Mauritius



Dereck Lam Hon Wah





# DISCLAIMER

# UNDERSTANDING THE BOOT PROCESS

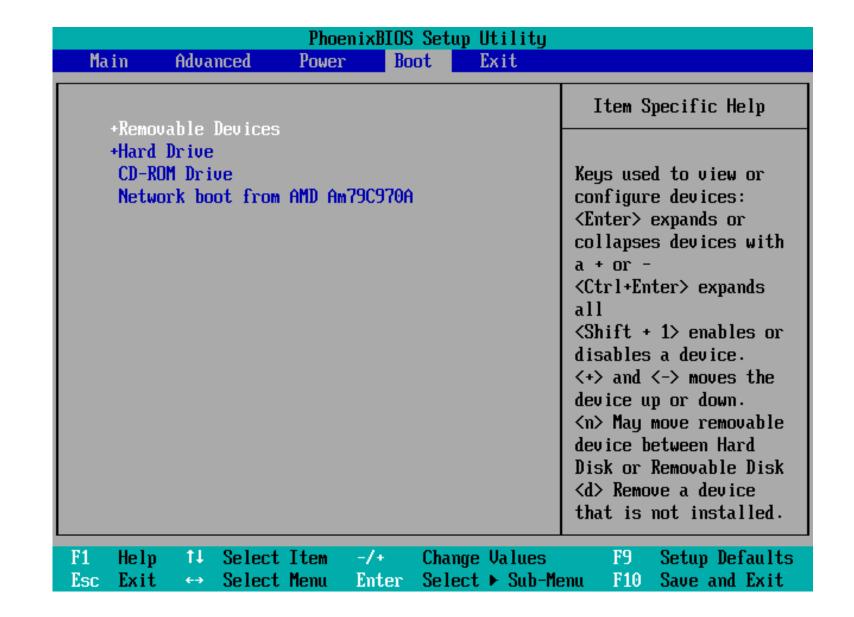
# OVERVIEW OF THE BOOT PROCESS

BIOS MBR GRUB KERNEL SYSTEMD RUNLEVEL

# **BIOS**

#### BASIC INPUT OUTPUT SYSTEM

- Perform the **POST** (Power-on self-test).
- Run from **ROM** and **INDEPENDENT** from the OS.
- Searches, loads, and executes the MBR to boot the OS.



# **MBR**

#### MASTER BOOT RECORD

- Responsible for loading and executing the GRUB boot loader.
- Located in the **1st** sector of the boot device.
- Is 512 bytes in size.
- Contains the **GRUB** program and informations about the disk partitions.

#### **Master Boot Record**

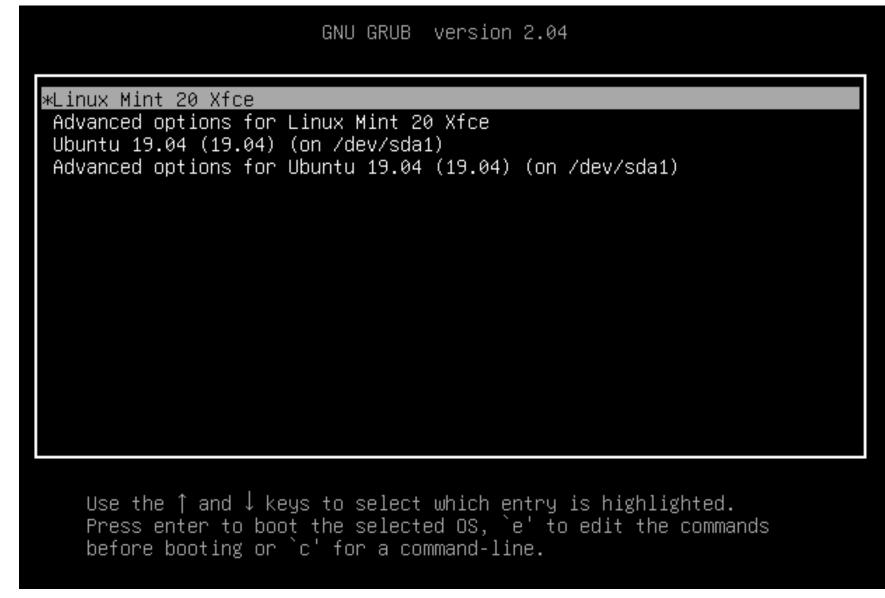
Master Boot Code 446 bytes Disk
Partition
Table
64 bytes

**Boot Signature**2 bytes

#### **GRUB**

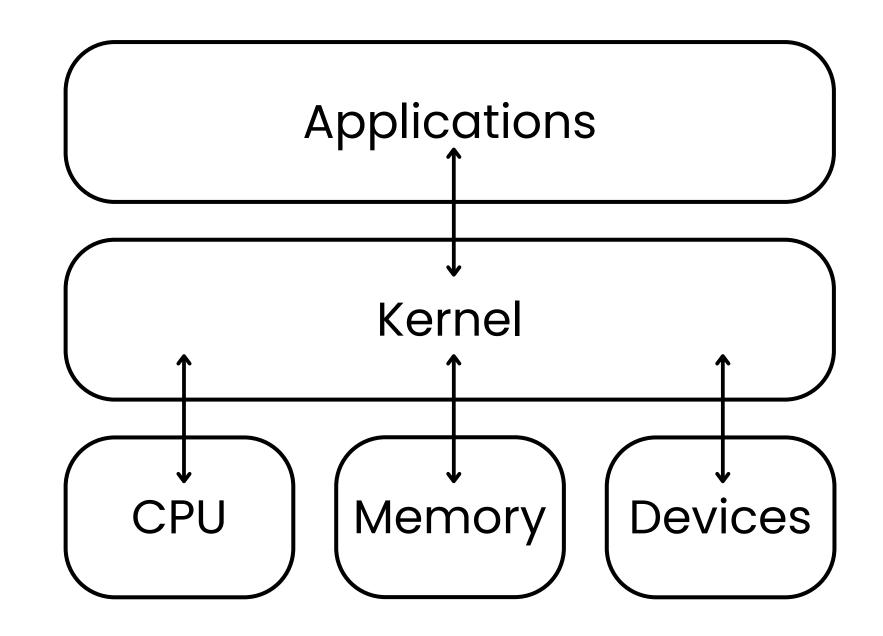
#### GRAND UNIFIED BOOTLOADER

- LILO (Linux Loader) in very old system.
- Displays a splash screen to choose which kernel image installed to be executed.
- GRUB configuration file is located:
  - /boot/grub/grub.conf
  - /etc/grub.conf
- Load kernel into memory.



# **KERNEL**

- **Core** of the OS and has total control over the OS.
- Mounts the root file system as specified in the **grub.conf**.
- Follow predefined procedures:
  - a.decompress itself in place (vmlinuz vs vmlinux).
  - b.perform hardware checks.
  - c.gain access to vital peripheral hardware.
  - d.run the init process.



# **SYSTEMD**

#### PID 1

- The parent process initiated by the kernel's init process.
- Previously known as SysVinit process.
- Performs a range of tasks:
  - a.probe all remaining hardware
  - b.mount filesystems
  - c.initiate and terminate services
  - d.manage essential system processes like user login
  - e.run a desktop environment
- Lastly, decide the target or state the linux system boots into.

# RUNLEVEL

#### CURRENT STATE OF THE OS

- Defining which system services are running.
- Previously, **SysVinit** identified run levels by number.
- .target files now replace run levels in Systemd.

Let's check our default target:

\$ sudo systemctl get-default

To change boot target:

\$ sudo systemctl set-default <target>

# RUNLEVEL

• You can change the target (run level) while the system runs.

For example, to switch to run level 3 from run level 5, we can run the following command:

#### \$ sudo systemctl isolate multi-user.target

Then, to take the system to run level 5, let's run the command:

\$ sudo systemctl isolate graphical.target

poweroff.target	run level 0	turn off (shut down) the computer
rescue.target	run level 1	initiate a rescue shell process
multi-user.target	run level 3	configure the system as a non- graphical (console) multi-user environment
graphical.target	run level 5	establish a graphical multi-user interface with network services
reboot.target	run level 6	restart the machine