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UNDERSTANDING THE BOOT PROCESS

OVERVIEW OF THE BOOT PROCESS

BIOS

MBR

GRUB

KERNEL

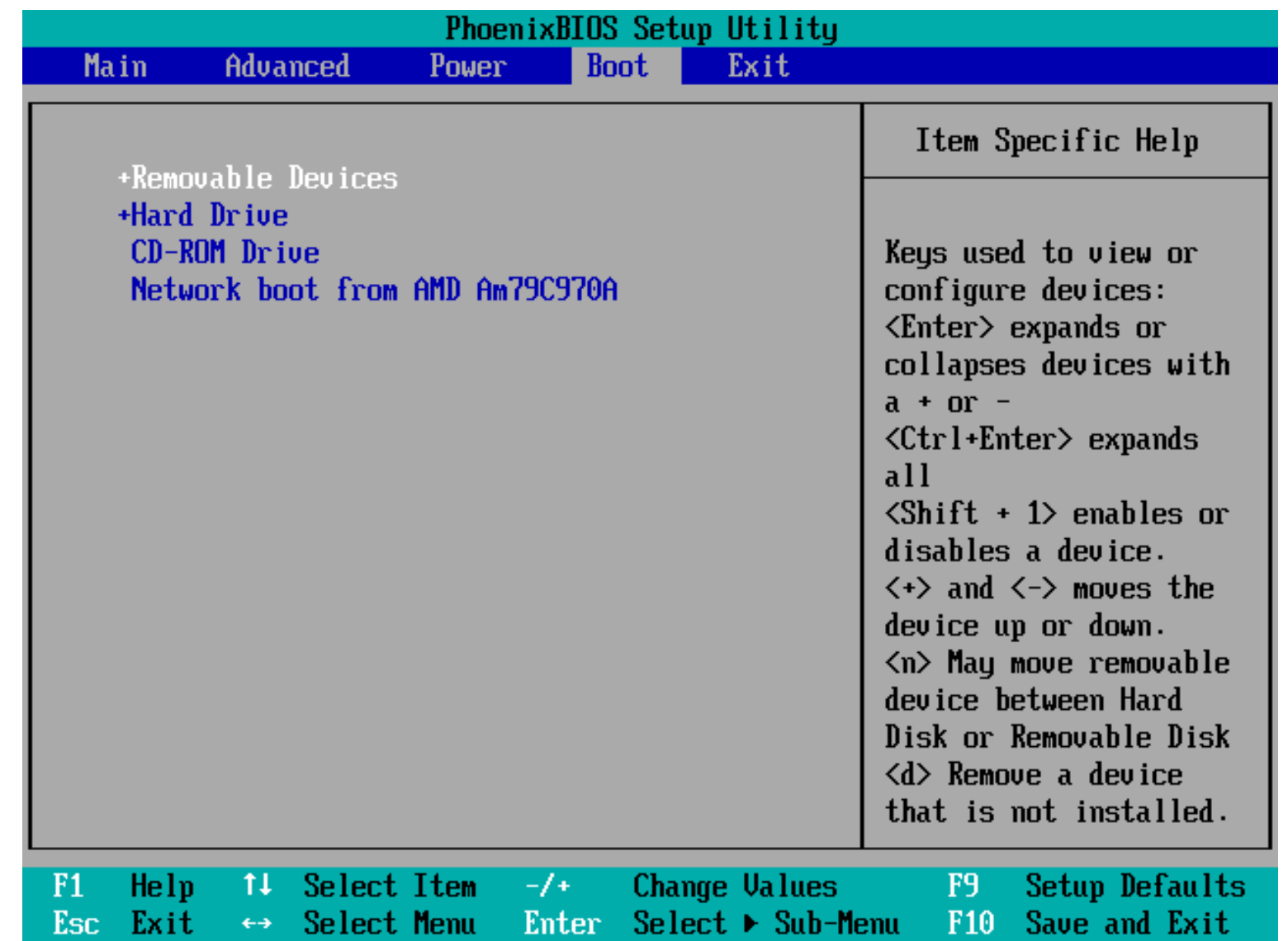
SYSTEMD

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 bootable disk.
- Is > **512 bytes** in size.
- Contains the **GRUB** program and informations about the disk partitions.

Master Boot Record

Master Boot Code
446 bytes

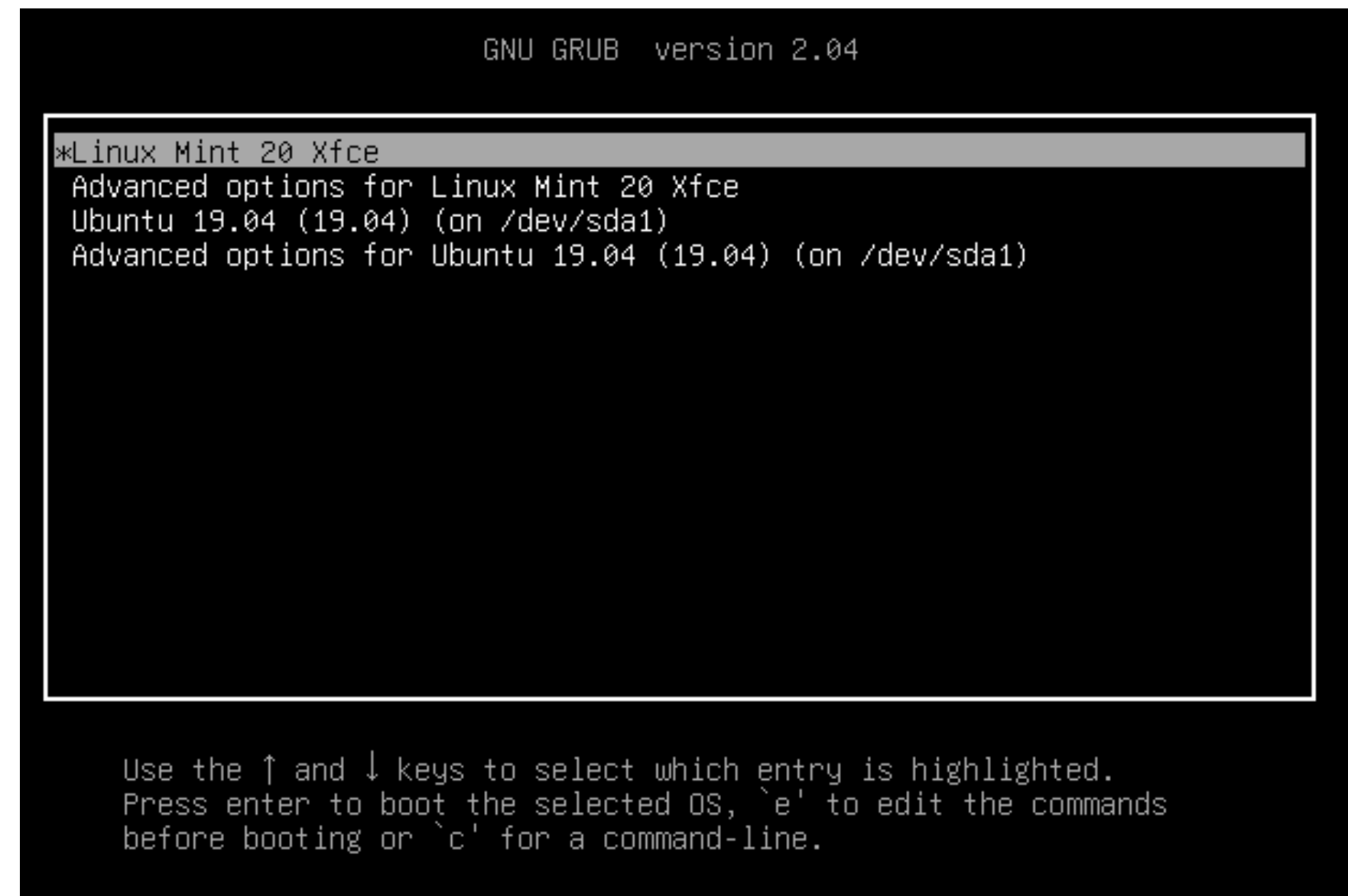
**Disk
Partition
Table**
64 bytes

**Boot
Signature**
2 bytes

GRUB

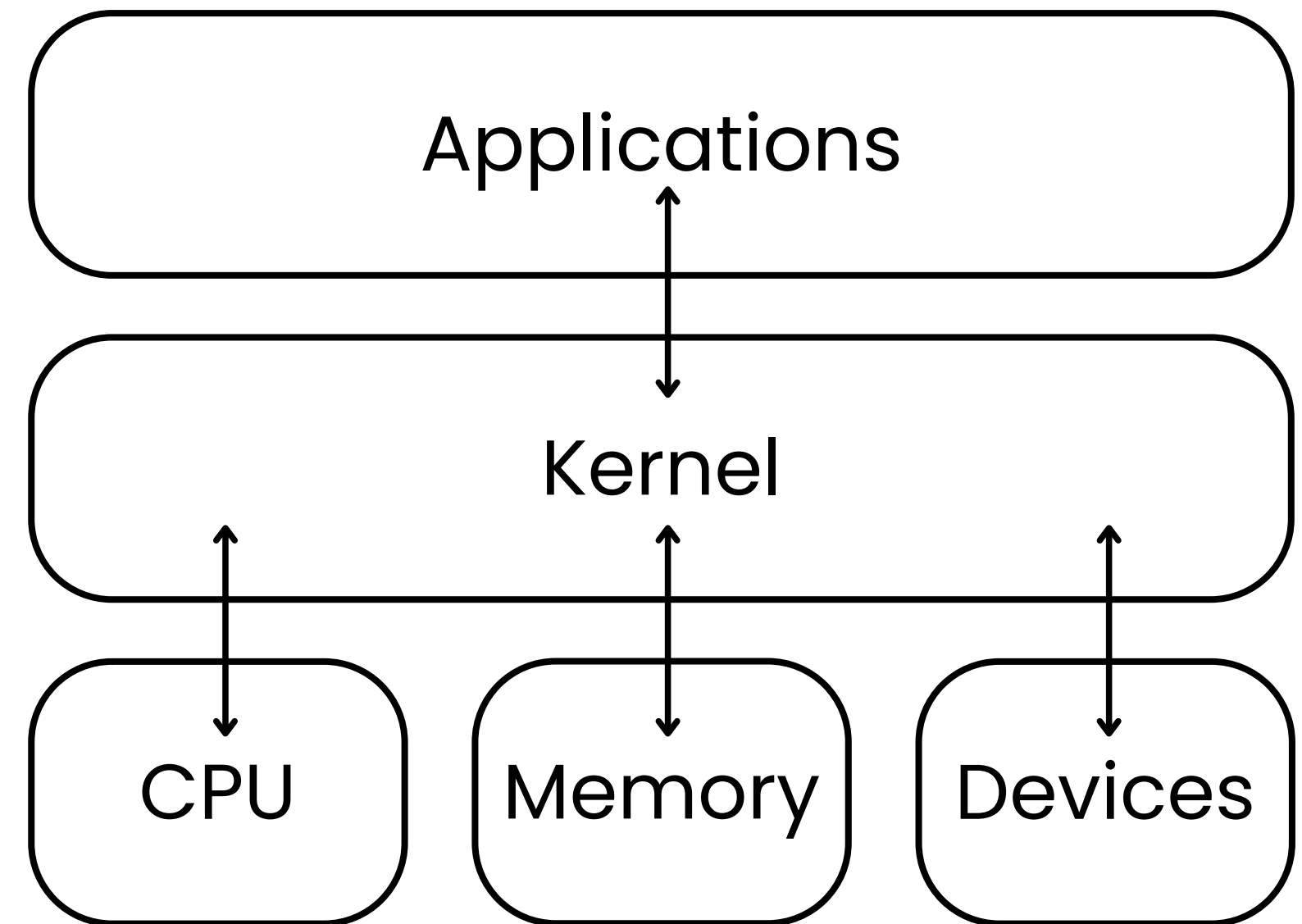
GNU GRAND UNIFIED BOOTLOADER

- **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 system.
- Mounts the root file system in **grub.conf**.
- Follow predefined procedures:
 - a. decompress itself in place (**vmlinux** 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