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Xecuter 3 Info

- Installation
- BIOS Flashing
- XBOX Disc Creation
- X3 External Switch
- Dashboard Installation

Xecuter 3 FAQs

- Installation FAQ
- Troubleshooting FAQ
- BIOS FAQ
- XBOX Disc/Image FAQ
- X3 Config Live FAQ
- Tips & Tricks

Home - x3guide@comcast.net

X3 Guide V.2.0 - Adobe PDF

Unofficial X3 Guide & FAQ - v.2.0

FAQ Update - v.2.0- _Rem_

11/1/2004

Alright guys and gals, here is a extremely updated version of the Unofficial X3 Guide. Check out what is new:

New in v.2.0

- Correction on wire gauge for LPC rebuild. Thanks BlackTitanium
- New solutions to FRAG problems
- Wire install tutorial for the 1.6
- Soldering links and tutorials
- BIOS Flashing customization
- FAQ Section is not seperate from 'help'
- and more... check it out!

I spend a lot time collecting, searching and answering email for this site, but one thing has been really getting on my nerves lately. What is it you ask? Basically the redundancy of the Team Xecuter forums trickling into my inbox.

I fail to see how the hours and hours I slave on this site could lead to people asking me questions that are answered in the fucking FAQ. Honestly people, if you can find the time to type out the question and click the send button, I am pretty sure you can be put out just a tad to click on the damn menu and find that answer to your question.

Any question I get that are answered in the FAQ are deleted upon receipt. Please make the pain stop.

Lastly, if any XBOX mod-chip resellers would like to link to the FAQ or extract different sections from the FAQ for use, please let me know. I will be really disappointed if you do not.

Thanks,

Rem

FAQ Update - v.1.1.3 - _Rem_

10/13/2004

Well, I didn't figure that the this site would have such and impact, but I have already received several emails about things to add and I really appreciate the help. I would also like to thank www.TeamXecuter.com for posting a link to this guide. Thanks guys.

I do however have one thing to mention. Just because I run this little site here does not make me superman on install problems. This is merely data I have collected and posted, if you feel the need to email me with troubleshooting questions, please don't. I spend too much time updating this site, browsing and **searching** the forums. So, please do not flood my inbox with emails that waste my time. Now that is taken care of. Let's get into the fun stuff.

I have several updates for you this evening covering everything from explaining the switch to the problems encountered when flashing your BIOS and more. Take a look!

New in V.1.1.3

- Added a index for each section. This will aid in finding the answer that you need quicker.
- Updated the BIOS flashing section with screenshots and more information on different methods of flashing in FlashBIOS 3.0.0
- Added much needed info about the switch on the X3. I will add more information and questions later.

I will try to update this FAQ everyday, but I do have other things to do. If you would like to help out more, email me with concise information that is detailed, and I will throw it up. Eventually I may need help maintaining this site. If you are willing, fire me off and email, and I'll keep you posted.

Lastly, here is what is on the list for tomorrows update.

- Complete guide on every feature of the most current BIOS
- More Tips & Tricks
- Information on alternate installs on XBOX 1.0-1.5 and wire-install
- More switch information and BIOS customization.
- Installation tutorial for THC Lite Dashboard
- Solder tutorials/links
- More troubleshooting on all topics

See ya tomorrow and enjoy!

- Rem

Unofficial X3 Guide & FAQ Info

Welcome to the Unofficial X3 Guide & FAQ!

The purpose of this website is to help those who are new to using the Xecuter 3, cannot seem to use the forum search function, and to ease the headache Xecuter must endure thanks to some people on the www.teamxecuter.com forums.

Most of the information gathered on this site is to help people find the information they need without having to go through thousands of posts and spend hours finding the right pictures and diagrams.

Any pictures, information and files are property of the people who created them and will be linked. If I happen to miss something or you would like me to add something, please email me at x3guide@comcast.net.

Enjoy!

- Rem

X3 Guide - Installation

X3 Guide - Installation Index

- Installation Information for X3
- XBOX 1.6 LPC Rebuild Information

Installation Information for X3

Before installing the Xecuter 3 you need to make sure you have the proper tools, all Xecuter 3 parts and which version of the XBOX you have. So, let's figure you which version of the XBOX you have.

First head over to http://www.xbox-scene.com/versions.php and follow the instructions on how to figure out which version of the XBOX you have. Once you have figured out which version you have, click the link below to view the tutorials that TeamXecuter has made for the Xecuter 3 installations. If you are interested in wire installs, please see the **Installation FAQ.**

Pin Header Tutorials

- **XBOX 1.0-1.5 - http://www.teamxecuter.com/x3/tutorials/x3pin1015.htm**
- **XBOX 1.6 - http://www.teamxecuter.com/x3/tutorials/x3pin16.htm**

Second, make sure you brush up on your soldering skills. Here are a couple links to check out and read over before you begin.

- http://www.electronics-tutorials.com/basics/soldering.htm
- http://www.kpsec.freeuk.com/solder.htm

Once you have read all the information provided above and on this site, take your time and you'll be enjoying the X3 in no time!

XBOX 1.6 LPC Rebuild Information

I have been successful in installing several X3 and X 2.6-lite modchips in 1.6 XBOXs, and once you have done that LPC rebuild, it is really easy. For people doing it the first time, here is some helpful things I learned along the way.

- **Make sure you soldering iron is clean**

  Well this is something that goes without saying, make sure the after each and every solder joint you clean the iron. This will ensure you are make good clean contacts.

- **D0, LAN & HDD Leads First**

  Get the easiest ones out of the way first.

- **Check, Double-Check, and Check again**

  After rebuilding the LPC my XBOX would FRAG (Flashes Red And Green) when I enabled the mod chip, but booted just find when not enabled. The problem arose because I had soldered to a incorrect point rebuilding the LPC. Make sure you check all of your LPC connections three times.

- **Use the wire from wire-loom for rebuild**

  In an effort to be efficient use the wire that came with the wire-loom install. This way you can keep all the colors that same and keep things consistent.

- **Cut wire to right length**

  "Measure twice. Cut once." comes to mind here. Learn it and live it.

- **Tape**

  As lame as it looks, electrical tape everything down that you can.

- **Check Pin Header**

  Make sure that all pins on the pin header are the correct length. When I got my pin header I was having boot problems after I moved my XBOX. Come to find out, one of the LPC contacts connected to the pin header was shorter than the others. Little bending later and life is good.

- **Wire Gauge?**

  While I previously said that wire gauge didn't matter, a fine gentlemen informed that I was incorrect. Take a look:

  "*When doing PCB rework, it is proper technique to use 30AWG Kynar. Sure, you can get away with using the wire that came in the install kit.*"

So, either use the install wire kit, or make sure you pickup 30AWG wire in order to make sure you have a cleanest connection.

- **Tin Wires**

  If you can I suggest you tin the wires, this helped me.

- **Do not re-assemble**

  While this can damage your XBOX, once you have the chip and everything installed, I simply mounted the motherboard, connected everything and left the DVD-ROM and HDD out and powered it up. Regardless of what happens onscreen you should either see the MS bios or the X3 Bios.

A lot of people out there are afraid of the LPC rebuild, but provided you follow all the instructions, read this tutorial, and brushed up on your soldering, you should have no problems.

X3 FAQ - Installation FAQ

X3 FAQ - Installation FAQ Index

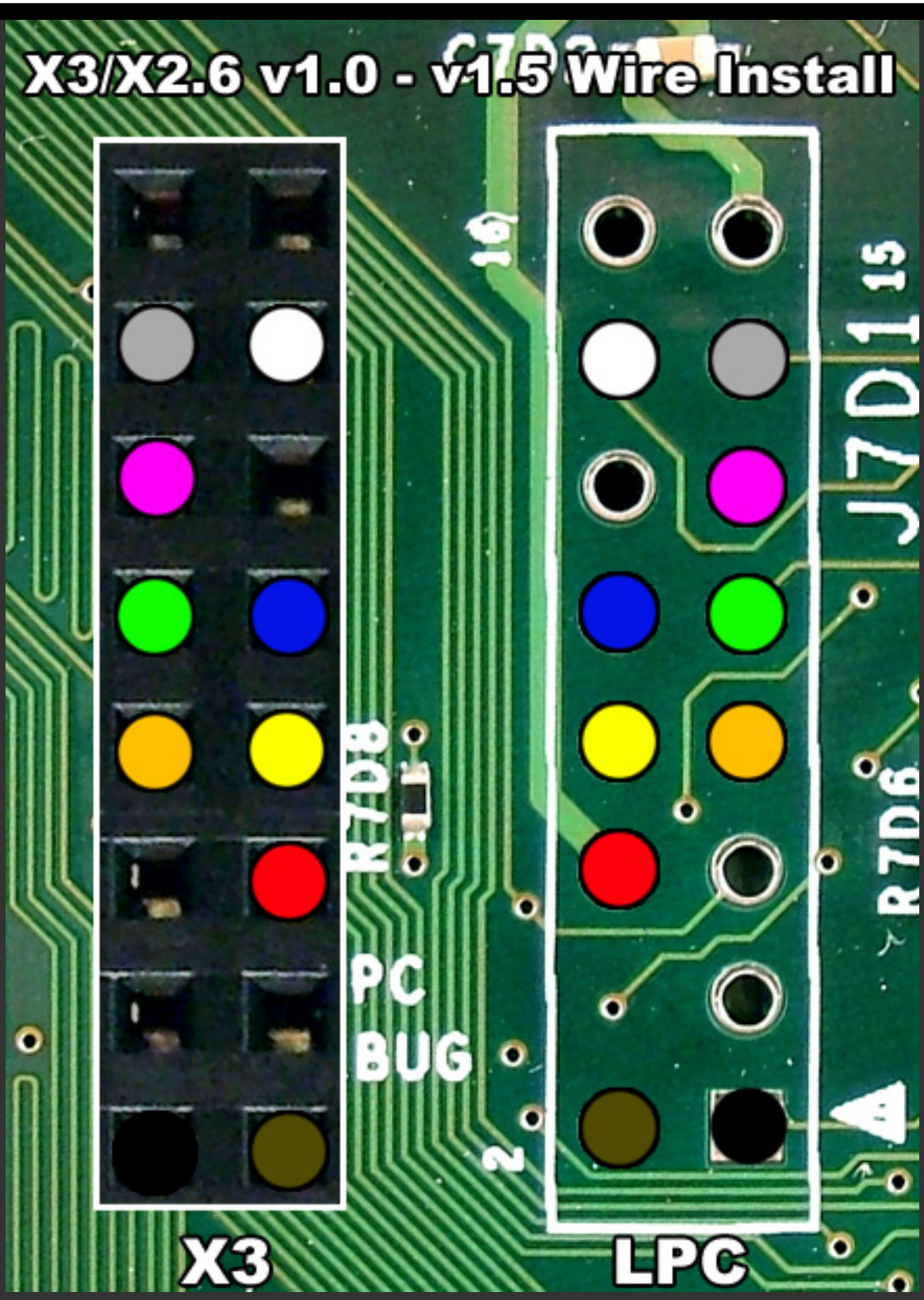
- I want to do the wire install with the X3. What do I need to do in order to do this?
- Which installation method should I choose?
- My X3 is installed and booting! What do I do next?

Question: I want to do the wire install with the X3. What do I need to do in order to do this.

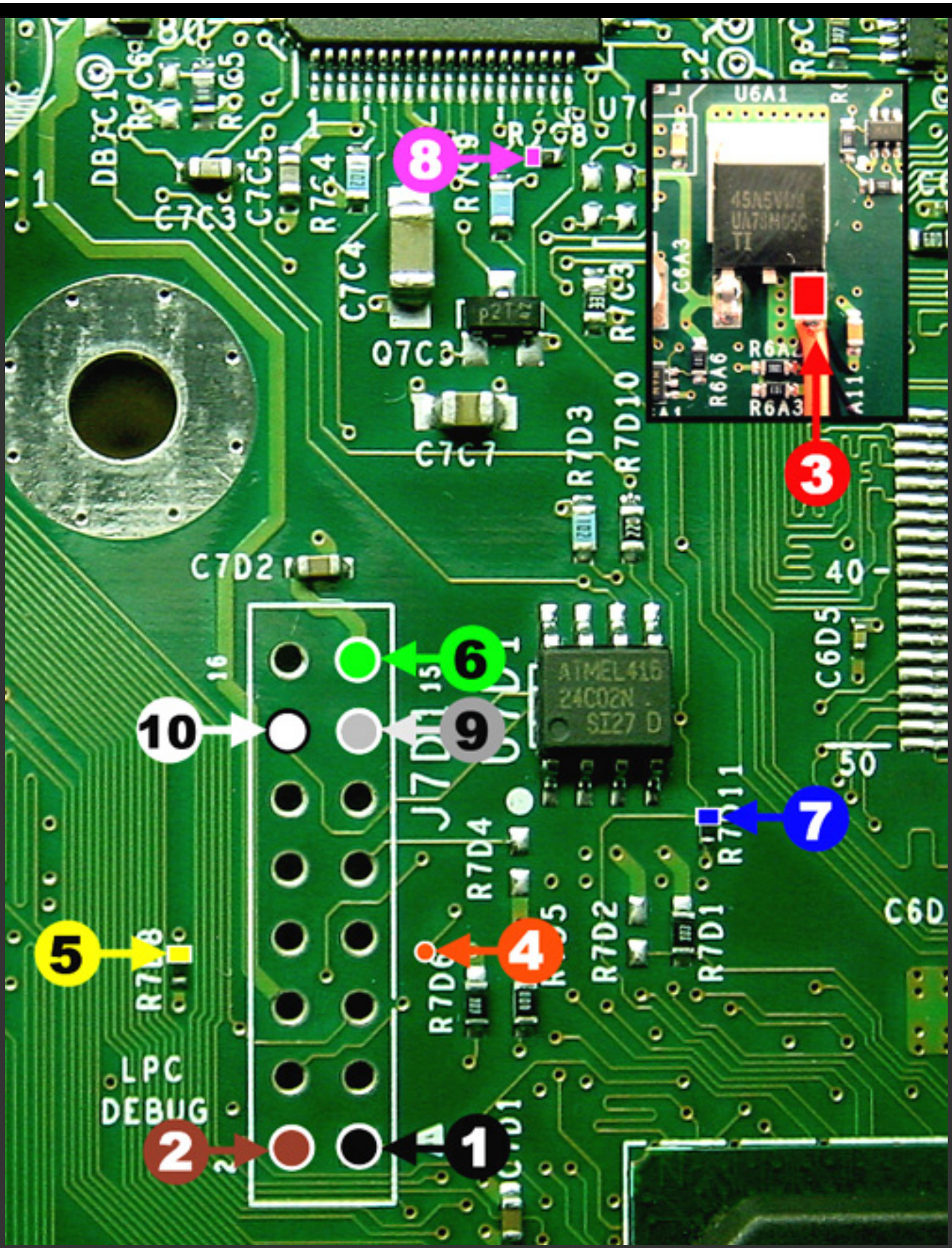
Answer:

If you want to do the wire install for some reason, Team Xecuter has provided us with several pictures that depict where to solder each colored wire. To be perfectly honest this install method is really moronic and should be only reserved for XBOX 1.0 owners who have solder in the LPC and those of you who either lost or busted the pin header. Nevertheless, here is your information:

XBOX 1.0 - 1.5



XBOX - Version 1.6



Follow these diagrams to solder all the wires to the LPC, but remember that you still need to solder the D0, HDD and LAN wires to the bottom of the motherboard on the 1.6 XBOX. Lastly you will need to make sure that you still use the alternate 5V wire.

If you have questions about where to solder the HDD, D0 and LAN wires please see the **Installation Guide.**

Question: Which installation method should I choose?

Answer:

To be perfectly honest the only installation method you should consider should be the pin header. The biggest reason for this is due to the fact that it is quicker, easier, and has a greater chance of success. However, there is one thing to take note on.

If you happen to be the owner of the **original** XBOX 1.0 that has the solder still in the LPC holes, the wire install is your quickest and safest bet. Otherwise do the pin header install on everything else.

If you really must do the wire install for some crazy reason, please check above for more information.

Question: My X3 is installed and booting! What do I do next?

Answer:

Great! Now in order to actually start using this beast, we need to get you flashed with a BIOS. Check the BIOS section to the left for help flashing and what to do when it goes wrong.

X3 Guide - BIOS Flashing

BIOS Flashing

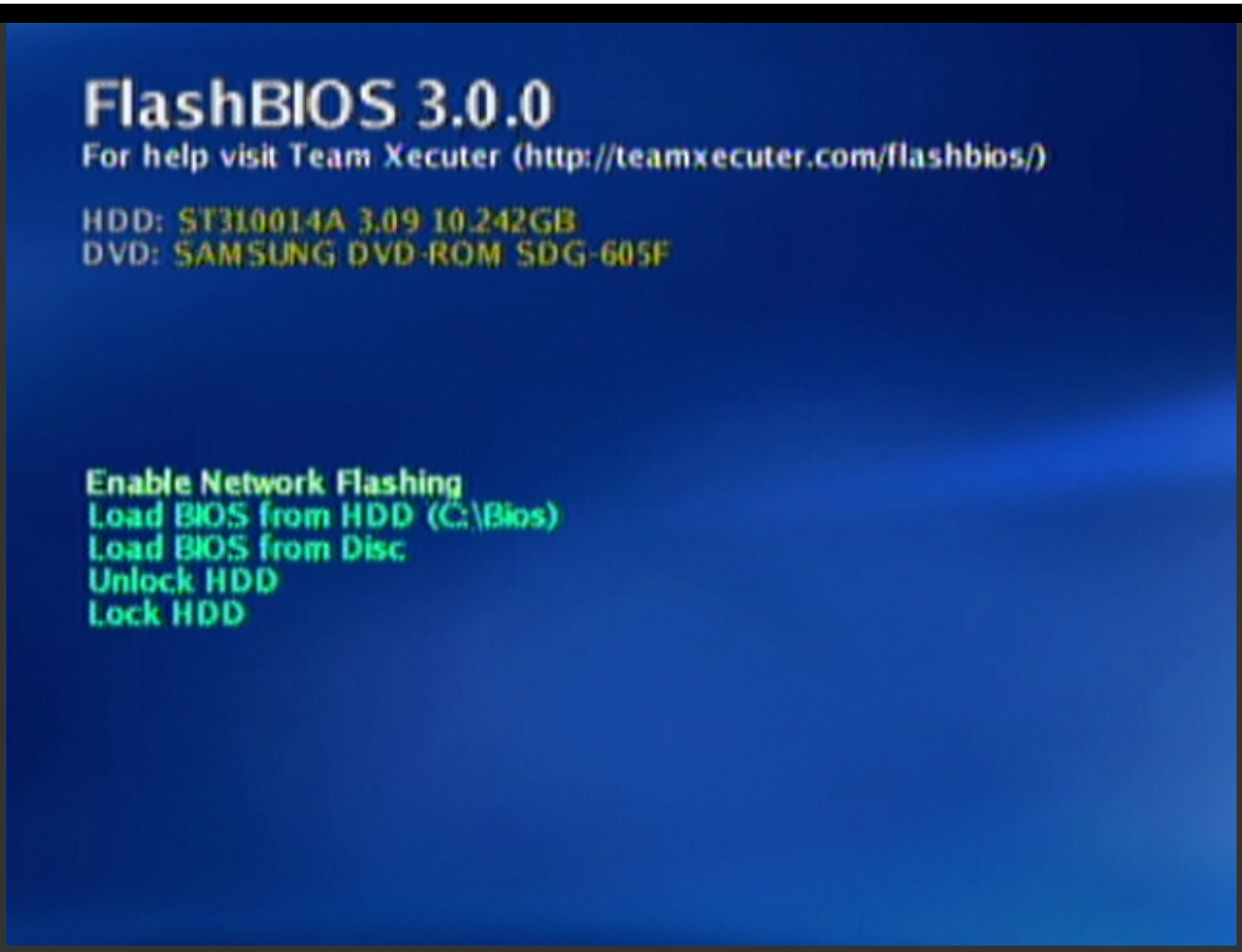
In order to take full advantage of the X3, we need to get the X3 BIOS onto the X3 chip. So, take a visit to XBINS and acquire the latest X3 BIOS.

Next, fire up the XBOX and get to the FlashBIOS screen.

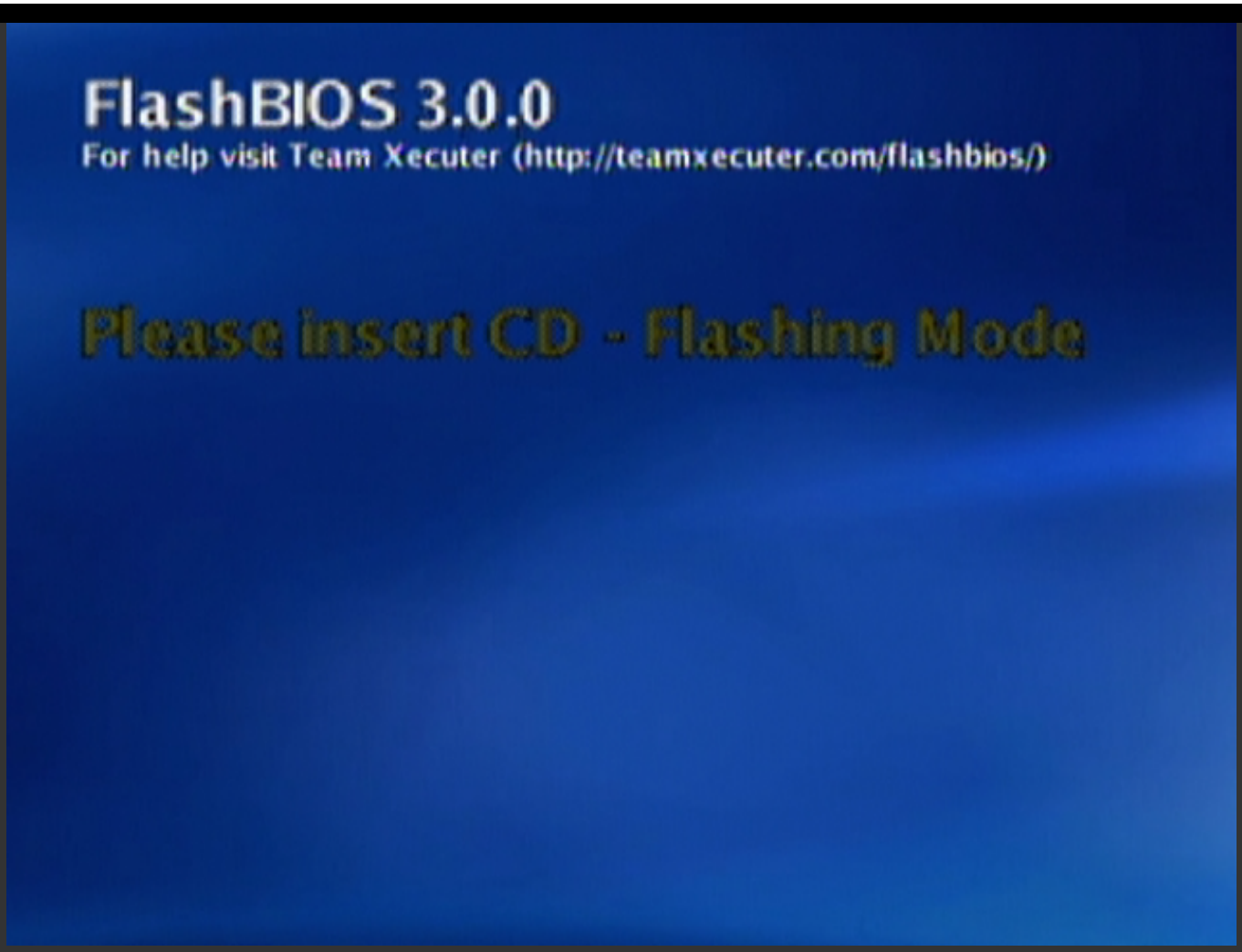
Note: If you've never burned a BIOS CD/DVD before, read this!

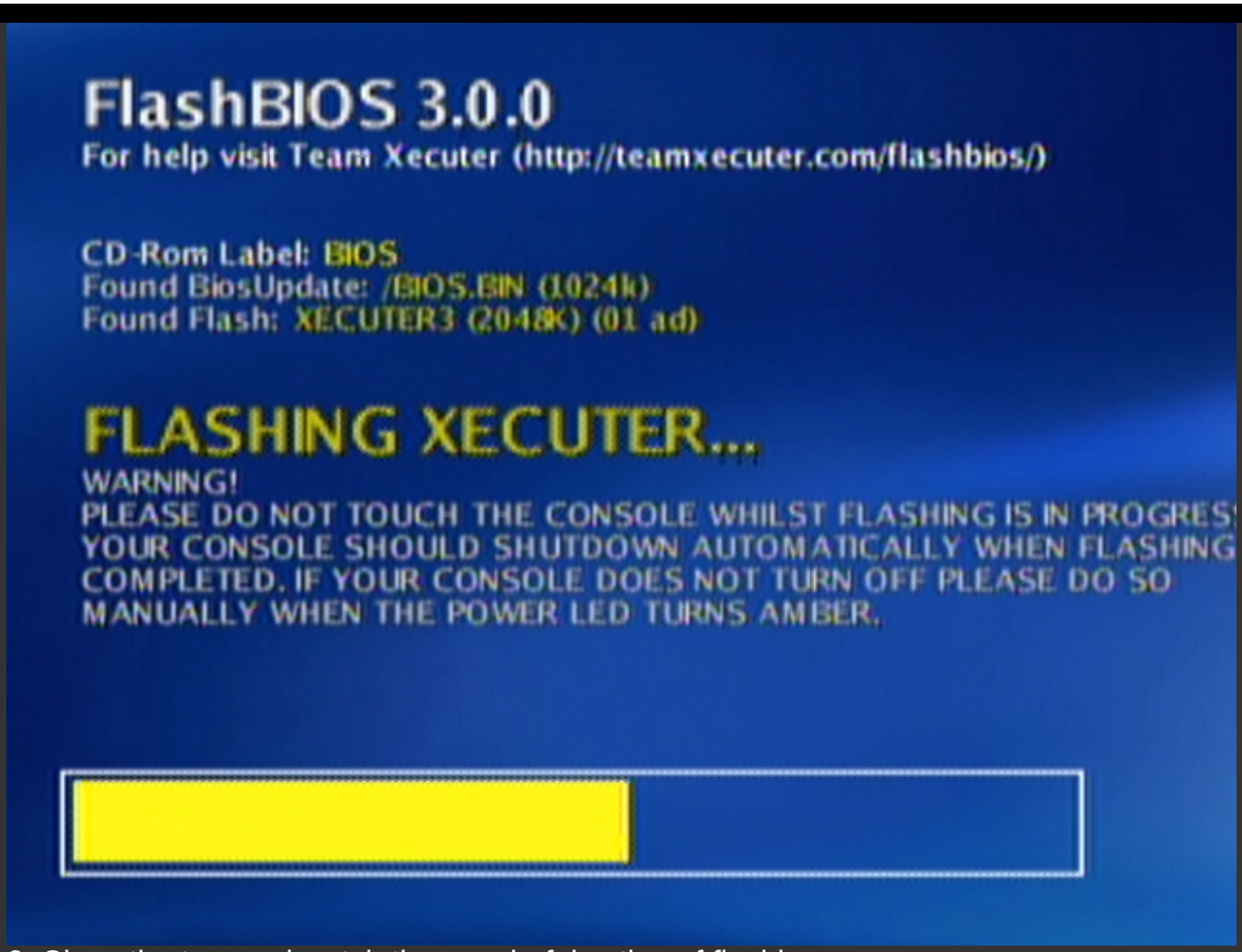
Flashing with CD/DVD

- **From FlashBIOS 3.0.0**



1. Acquire the X3 BIOS.
2. Rename the bios to "bios.bin" without quotes.
3. Load up Nero or your favorite burning program and copy a file 100mb+ and the bios bin to the CD/DVD. Burn on the slowest speed for CD-R/CD-RWs, and leave the DVD at normal speed. I suggest you burn DVD if you can.
4. Select 'Flash from CD/DVD' with your controller and your DVD tray will eject. Place the CD/DVD in the tray. **DO NOT CLOSE.**
5. Make sure you set the right settings for your dipswitch on the front. If you have no idea what I am talking about, check the menu and learn all about the X3 switch.


FlashBIOS 3.0.0
For help visit Team Xecuter (http://teamxecuter.com/flashbios/)
Please insert CD - Flashing Mode



6. Close the tray and watch the wonderful action of flashing.
7. Once done, the XBOX will turn off.
8. Turn on XBOX to ensure correct flashing.

Flashing via HTTP

- **From FlashBIOS 3.0.0**

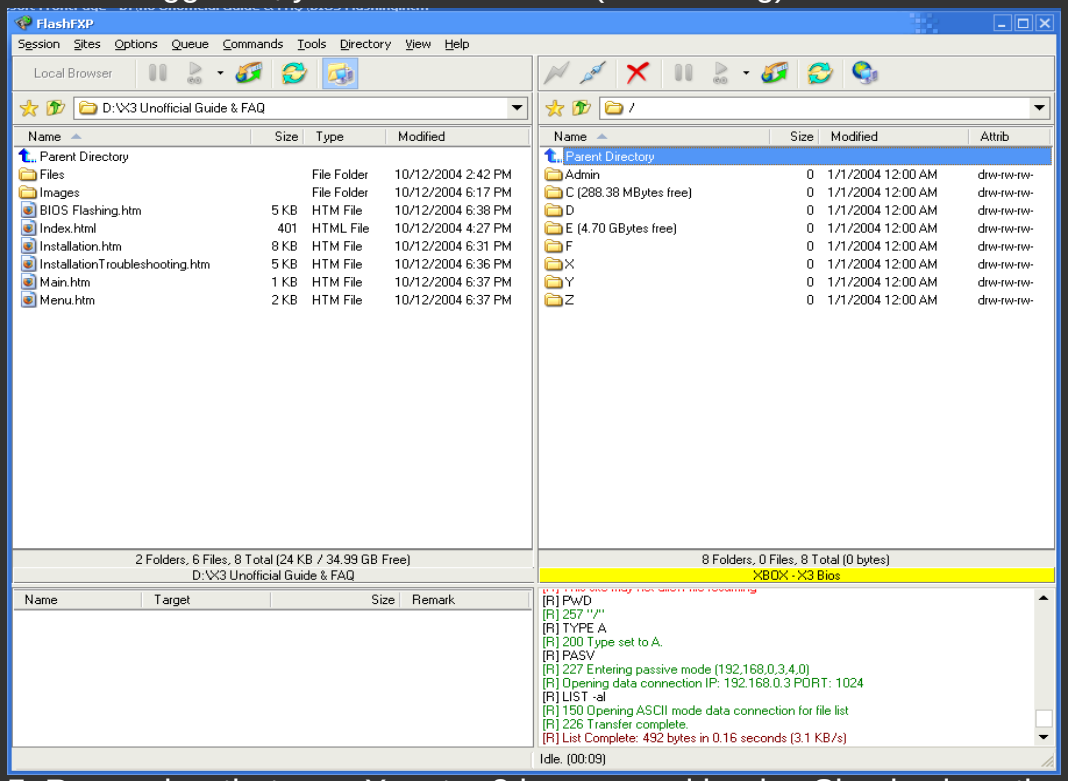
1. Acquire the X3 BIOS.
2. Once in FlashBIOS move the menu with the controller to the "Network Flash" menu option. Hit A.
3. Provided you have a DCHP enabled network you should see an IP on the screen. If not, learn you some networking.
4. Open your web browser and type in the address seen on screen.
5. You should see something like this:

6. Ensure that the correct banks are selected on your Xecuter 3. Hell, the damn instructions are right there. Then select the BIOS on your computer you wish to flash.
7. Once the uploading has begun your TV will show the flashing and the web browser window will reflect what has happen.

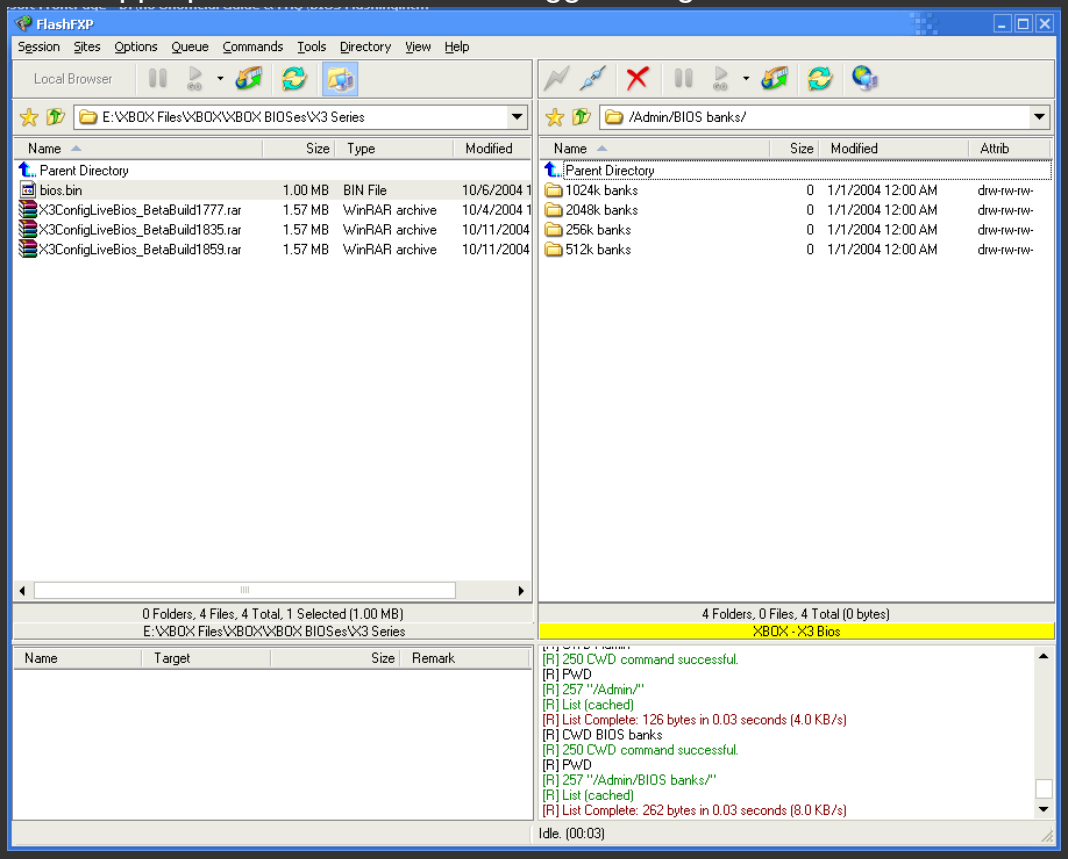
Flashing via FTP

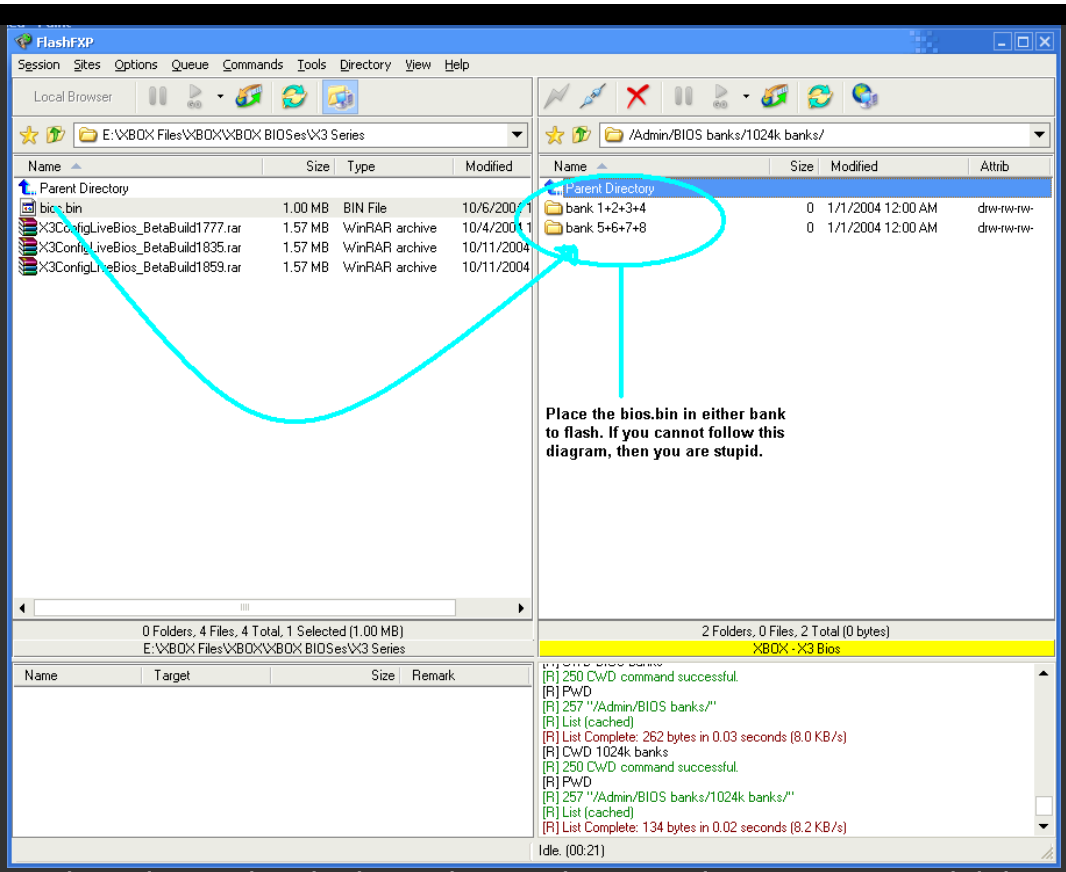
- **From X3 Live Config**

1. Acquire the X3 BIOS.
2. Load up your favorite FTP client. I suggest FlashFXP.
3. Enter the IP address seen onscreen with the username and password of "x3" without quotes.
4. Once logged in, you should see this (click for big):

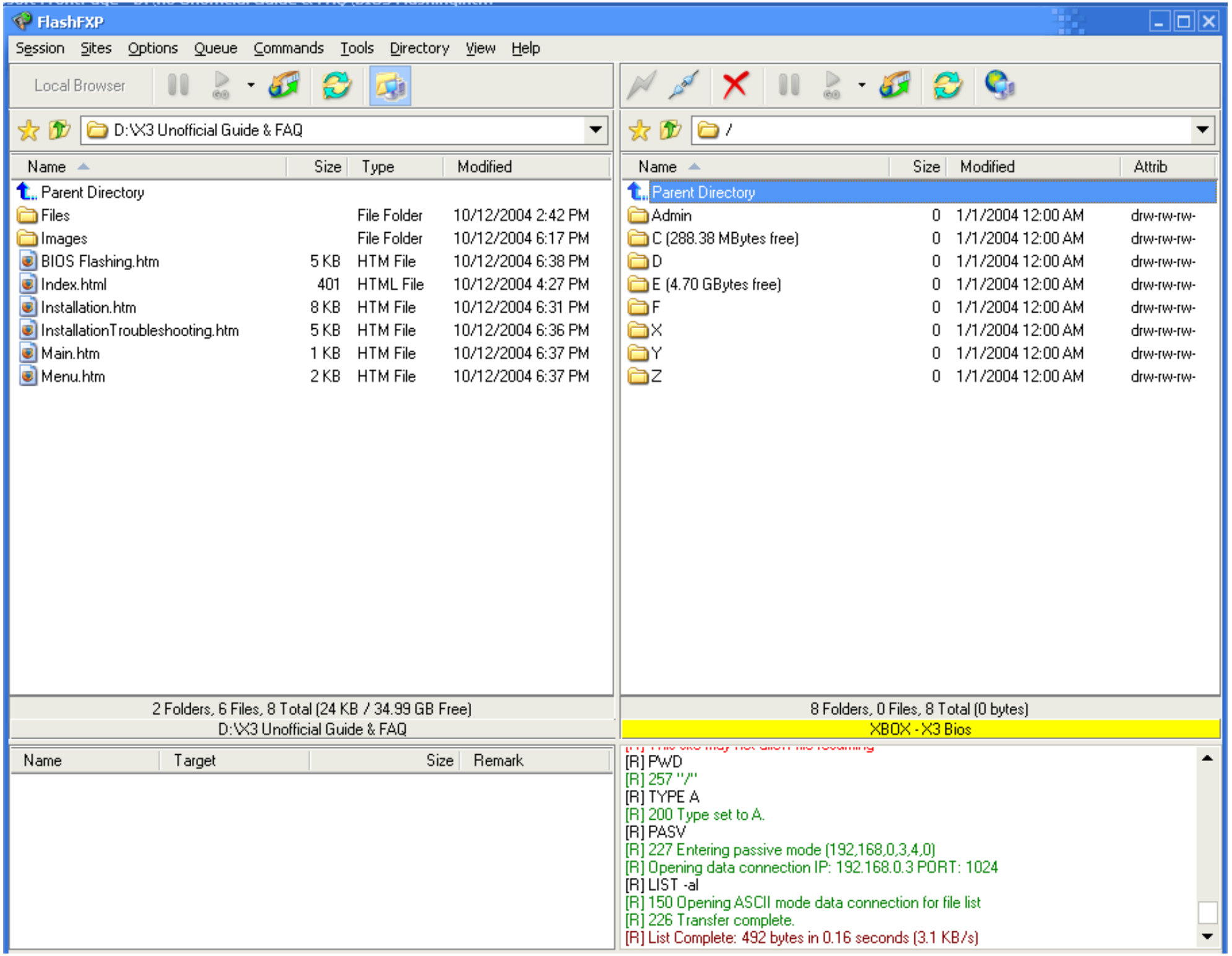


5. Remember that your Xecuter 3 has several banks. Simply place the BIOS, named 'bios.bin' in the appropriate folder. Click for bigger images.

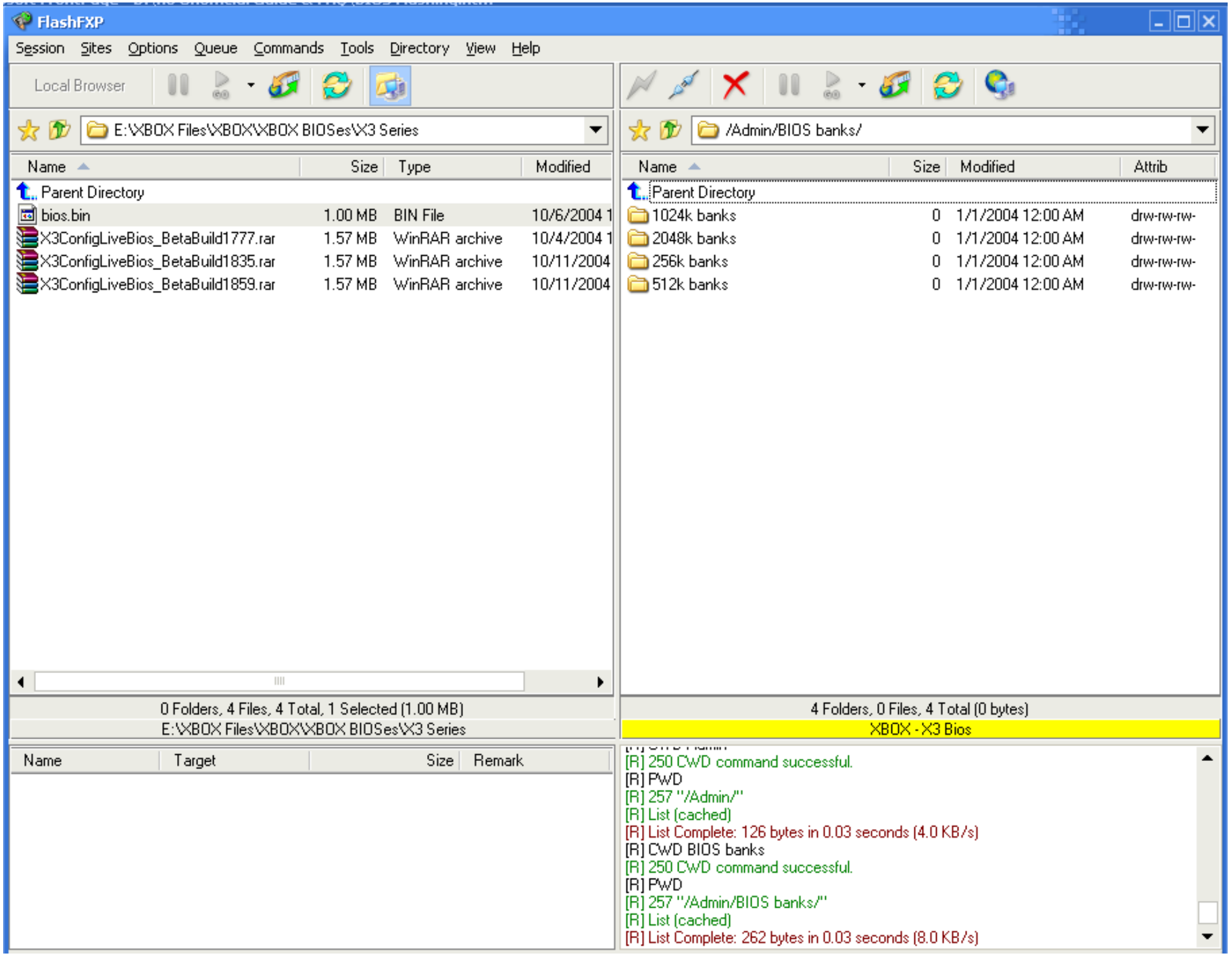




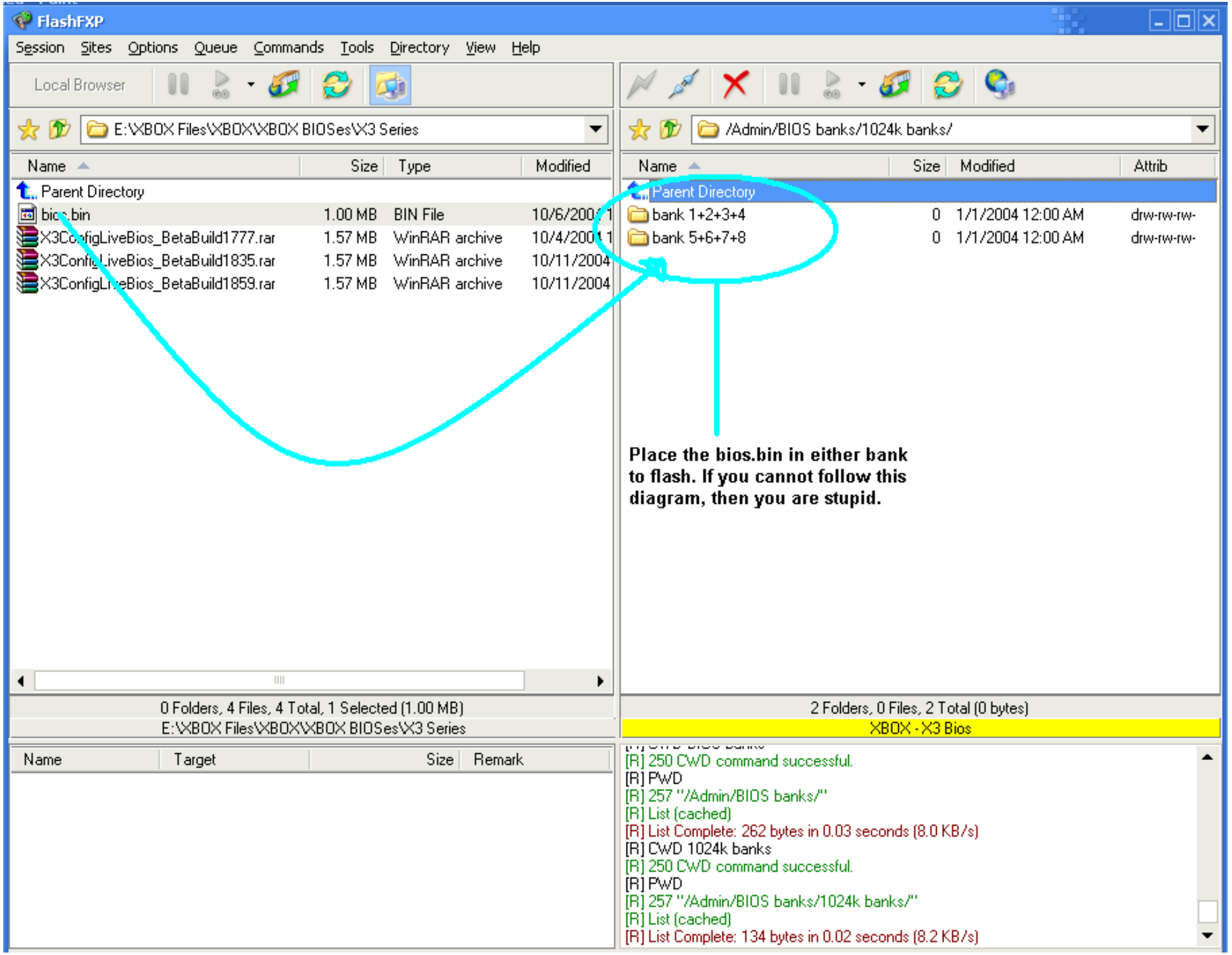
6. That's it! I seriously do not know what you gimps were complaining about. This stuff is simple! :)


FlashFXP
Session Sites Options Queue Commands Tools Directory View Help
Local Browser
D:\X3 Unofficial Guide & FAQ
/
Name Size Type Modified
Parent Directory
Files File Folder 10/12/2004 2:42 PM
Images File Folder 10/12/2004 6:17 PM
BIOS Flashing.htm 5 KB HTM File 10/12/2004 6:38 PM
Index.html 401 HTML File 10/12/2004 4:27 PM
Installation.htm 8 KB HTM File 10/12/2004 6:31 PM
InstallationTroubleshooting.htm 5 KB HTM File 10/12/2004 6:36 PM
Main.htm 1 KB HTM File 10/12/2004 6:37 PM
Menu.htm 2 KB HTM File 10/12/2004 6:37 PM
Name Size Modified Attrib
Parent Directory
Admin 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
C (288.38 MBytes free) 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
D 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
E (4.70 GBytes free) 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
F 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
X 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
Y 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
Z 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
2 Folders, 6 Files, 8 Total (24 KB / 34.99 GB Free)
D:\X3 Unofficial Guide & FAQ
8 Folders, 0 Files, 8 Total (0 bytes)
XBOX - X3 Bios
Name Target Size Remark
[R] PWD
[R] 257 "/"
[R] TYPE A
[R] 200 Type set to A.
[R] PASV
[R] 227 Entering passive mode (192,168,0,3,4,0)
[R] Opening data connection IP: 192.168.0.3 PORT: 1024
[R] LIST -al
[R] 150 Opening ASCII mode data connection for file list
[R] 226 Transfer complete.
[R] List Complete: 492 bytes in 0.16 seconds (3.1 KB/s)

Idle. (00:09)


FlashFXP
Session Sites Options Queue Commands Tools Directory View Help
Local Browser
E:\XBOX Files\XBOX\XBOX BIOSes\X3 Series
/Admin/BIOS banks/
Name Size Type Modified
Parent Directory
bios.bin 1.00 MB BIN File 10/6/2004 1
X3ConfigLiveBios_BetaBuild1777.rar 1.57 MB WinRAR archive 10/4/2004 1
X3ConfigLiveBios_BetaBuild1835.rar 1.57 MB WinRAR archive 10/11/2004
X3ConfigLiveBios_BetaBuild1859.rar 1.57 MB WinRAR archive 10/11/2004
Name Size Modified Attrib
Parent Directory
1024k banks 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
2048k banks 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
256k banks 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
512k banks 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
0 Folders, 4 Files, 4 Total, 1 Selected (1.00 MB)
E:\XBOX Files\XBOX\XBOX BIOSes\X3 Series
4 Folders, 0 Files, 4 Total (0 bytes)
XBOX - X3 Bios
Name Target Size Remark
[R] 250 CWD command successful.
[R] PWD
[R] 257 "/Admin/"
[R] List (cached)
[R] List Complete: 126 bytes in 0.03 seconds (4.0 KB/s)
[R] CWD BIOS banks
[R] 250 CWD command successful.
[R] PWD
[R] 257 "/Admin/BIOS banks/"
[R] List (cached)
[R] List Complete: 262 bytes in 0.03 seconds (8.0 KB/s)

Idle. (00:03)


FlashFXP
Session Sites Options Queue Commands Tools Directory View Help
Local Browser
E:\XBOX Files\XBOX\XBOX BIOSes\X3 Series
/Admin/BIOS banks/1024k banks/
Name Size Type Modified
Parent Directory
bios.bin 1.00 MB BIN File 10/6/2004
X3ConfigLiveBios_BetaBuild1777.rar 1.57 MB WinRAR archive 10/4/2004
X3ConfigLiveBios_BetaBuild1835.rar 1.57 MB WinRAR archive 10/11/2004
X3ConfigLiveBios_BetaBuild1859.rar 1.57 MB WinRAR archive 10/11/2004
Name Size Modified Attrib
Parent Directory
bank 1+2+3+4 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
bank 5+6+7+8 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
Place the bios.bin in either bank to flash. If you cannot follow this diagram, then you are stupid.
0 Folders, 4 Files, 4 Total, 1 Selected (1.00 MB)
E:\XBOX Files\XBOX\XBOX BIOSes\X3 Series
2 Folders, 0 Files, 2 Total (0 bytes)
XBOX - X3 Bios
Name Target Size Remark
[R] 250 CWD command successful.
[R] PWD
[R] 257 "/Admin/BIOS banks/"
[R] List (cached)
[R] List Complete: 262 bytes in 0.03 seconds (8.0 KB/s)
[R] CWD 1024k banks
[R] 250 CWD command successful.
[R] PWD
[R] 257 "/Admin/BIOS banks/1024k banks/"
[R] List (cached)
[R] List Complete: 134 bytes in 0.02 seconds (8.2 KB/s)

Idle. (00:21)

X3 Guide - XBOX Disc Creation

Proper XBOX Disc Creation

All XBOX CD/DVDs must be in the XISO format in order for your XBOX to recognize the discs. Seeing as this format is completely backwards compared to CD/DVDs burned in a PC, we need to do a couple things to get around this. Using programs to build XISOs we can then simply burn them with NERO and be done with it. So, let's go through the process of making a bootable CD/DVD for EvoX.

1. Grab The Files

For the sake of this tutorial I am going to show you how to do this with Nero 6 and Craxtion 4.0.0.

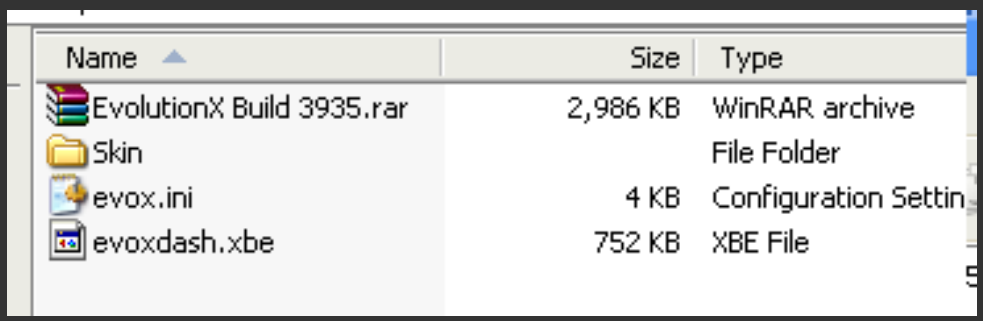
- Nero 6.0
- Craxtion 4.0.0

Once you have installed all the utilities, let's make a simple EvoX boot CD/DVD.

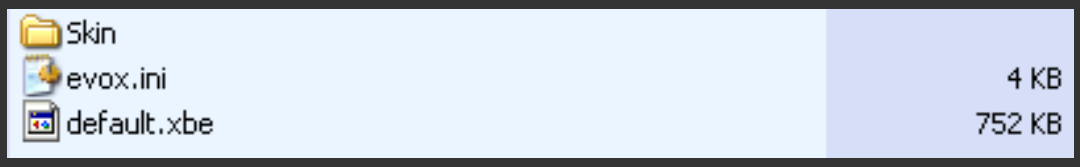
2. Unpack and Setup Structure

Every single XBOX game always contains one common thing, **default.xbe**. Know this file, be this file, love this file. This is single file that the XBOX looks for when it is booting the CD/DVD you've made. So, we need to always make sure that rename whatever we want to boot to **default.xbe**.

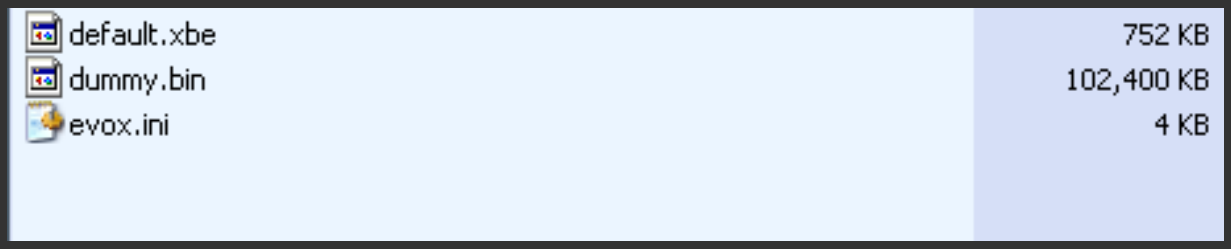
Now that I've said that, let's unpack and delete all the files similar to the dashboard tutorial. We will be left with this:



Now, we need to rename the **evoxdash.xbe** to **default.xbe** if we intend on booting this CD/DVD we are making. We should then have this type of setup:

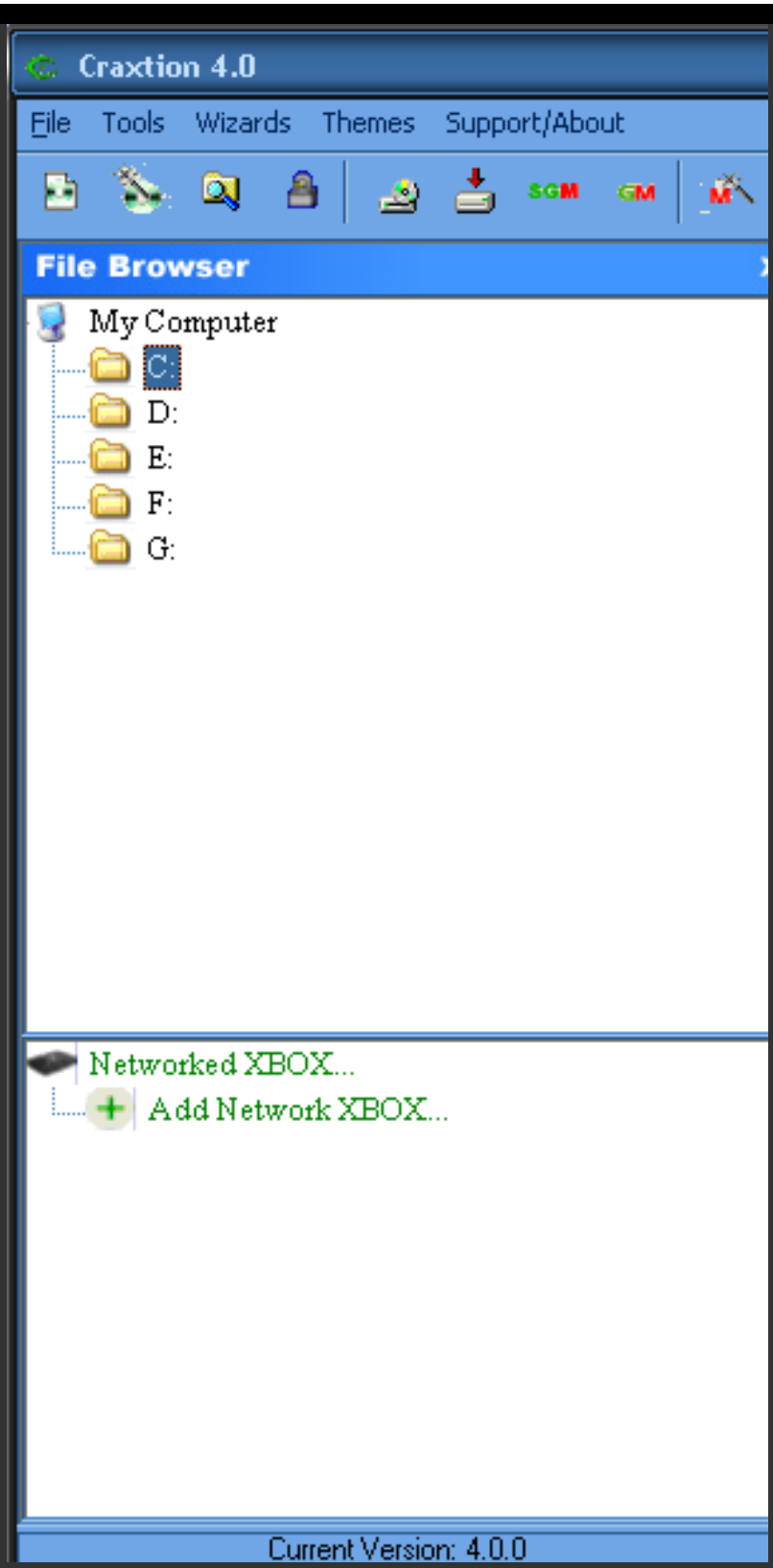


Now, if you plan on burning this to a CD, you need to make a dummy file of at least 100mb. In order to do this download DummyFile and select the directory where you placed EvoX (ex: c:\EvoX) and enter 100 and press build.

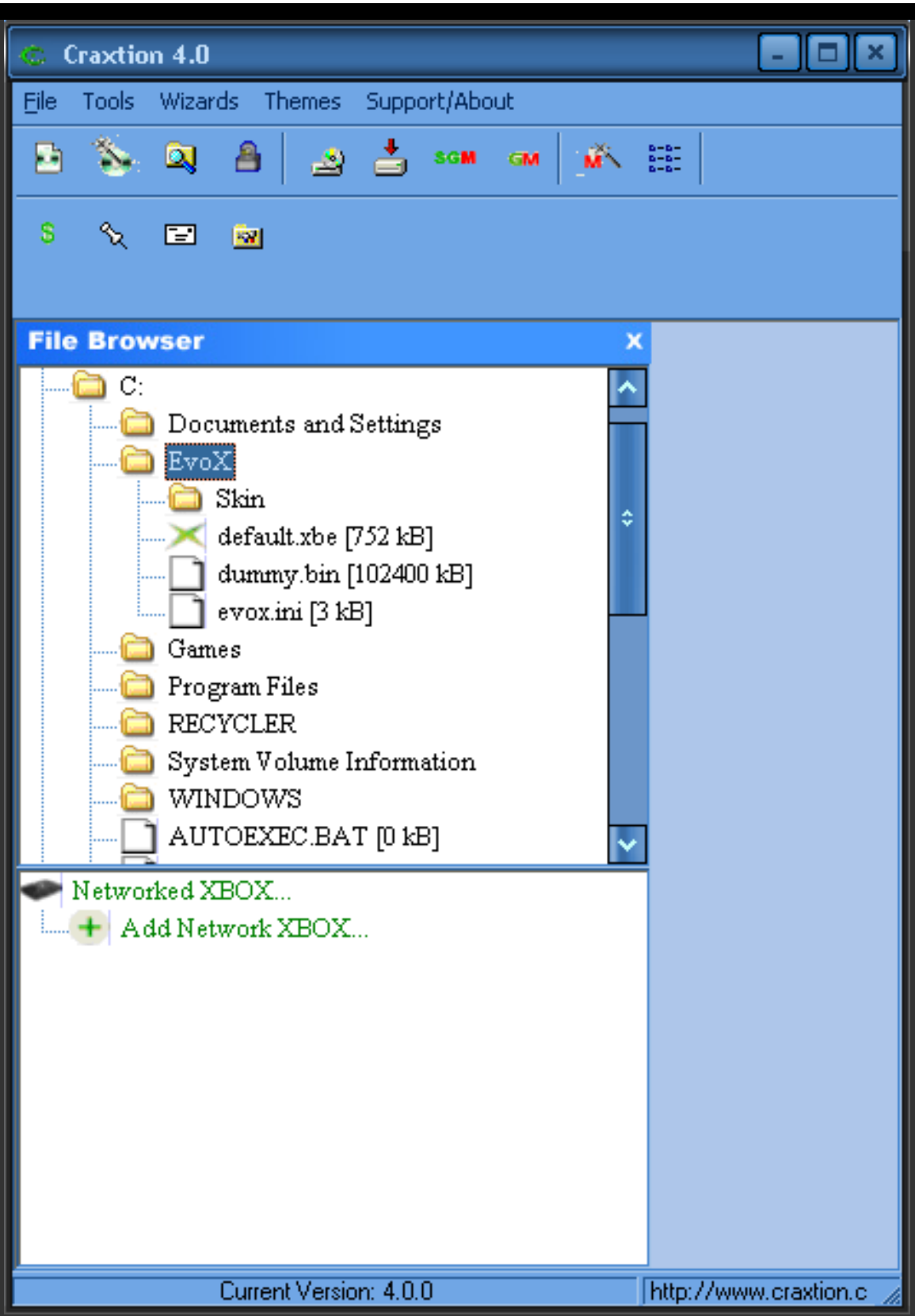


3. Create the XISO

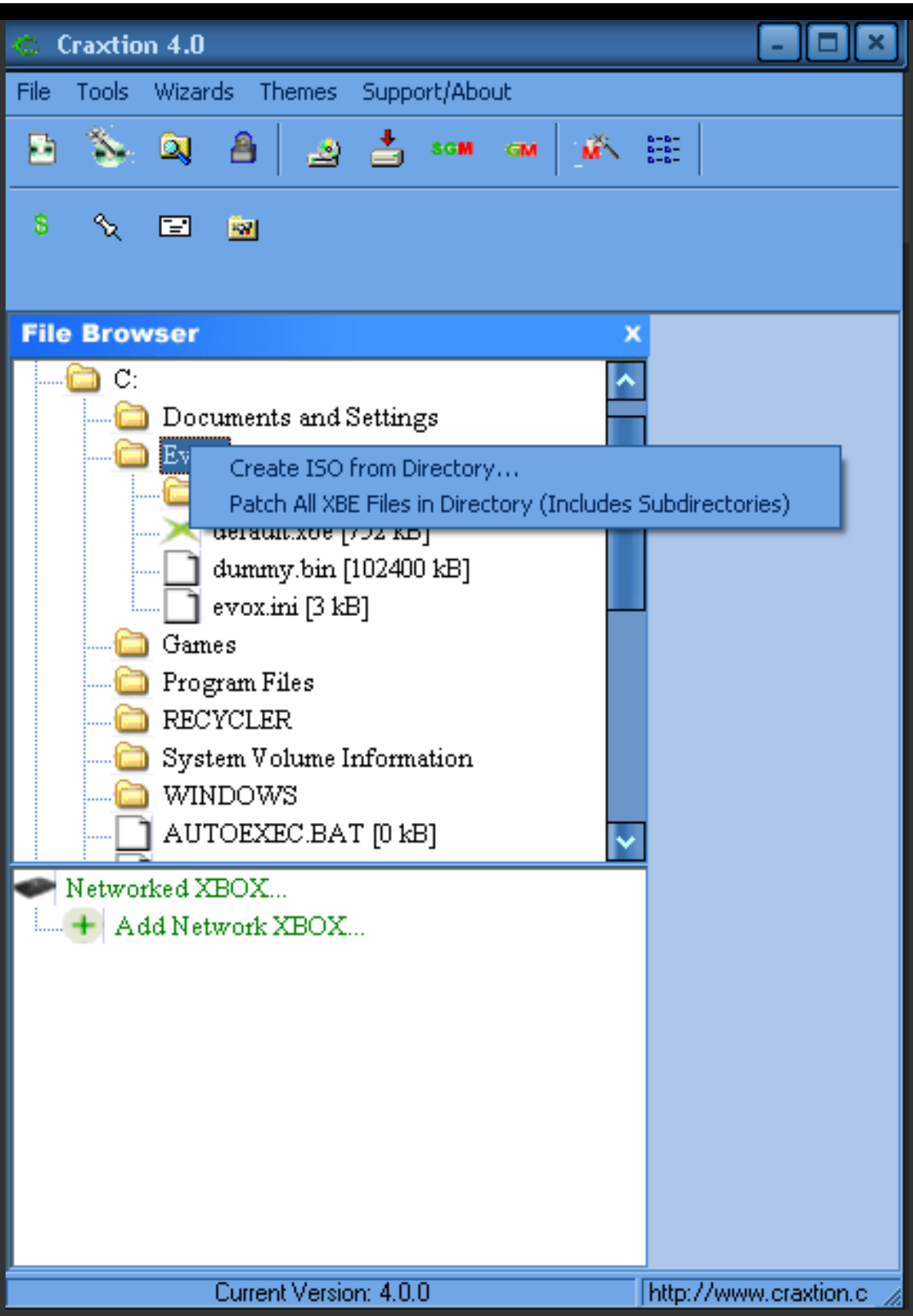
After loading Craxtion, you should see just this:



From here all we need to do is navigate to where our EvoX folder is:



Once you are here, simply right click and select "Create XISO from this directory..."



At this point Craxtion will ask you what you want to name the ISO and where you want it build. Once you are done you will have '<some_name>.iso

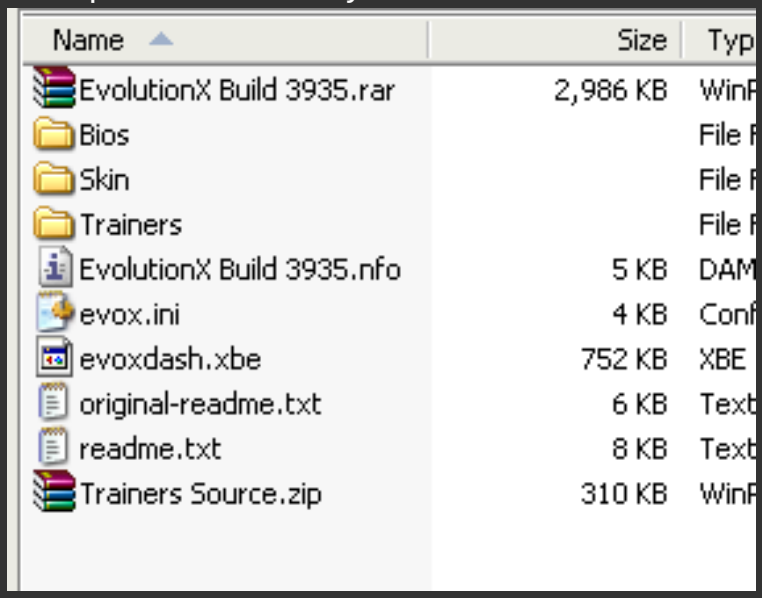
X3 Guide - Dashboard Installation

Installing a New Dashboard

This process is actually quite easy, and for this example we will use EvolutionX. EvoX is a dashboard that has skinning and FTP support among other things that make it a great substitute to the MS Dash. So, let's get this thing installed.

1. Get the latest EvoX - If you do not know where to acquire this, check **Tips & Tricks**

2. Unpack the file and you should see this



3. Now we need to delete all the junk that we do not need to copy to our hard drive, but before we do this, let's go over what we have here.

- **evox.ini**

  This is the file that allows you to customize EvoX. I do not have time to cover everything that is involved with editing this file, so for this tutorial we will just leave it alone. If you want to

customize, check out this tutorial.

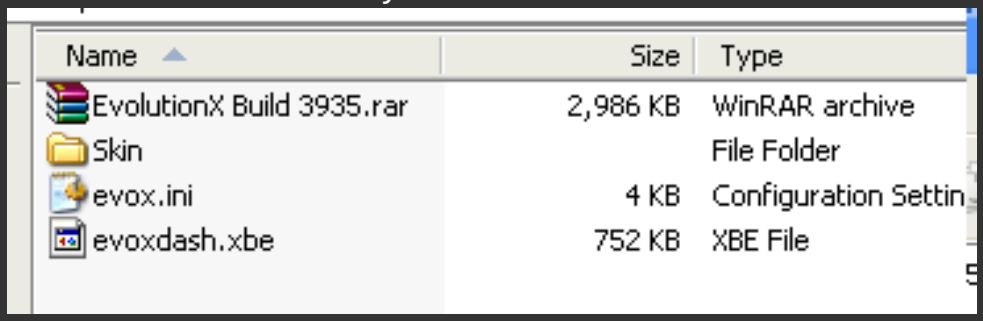
- **evoxdash.xbe**

  This is the actual dashboard file. This is what your Xecuter 3 will actually look for when it is booting up. Leave the name alone.

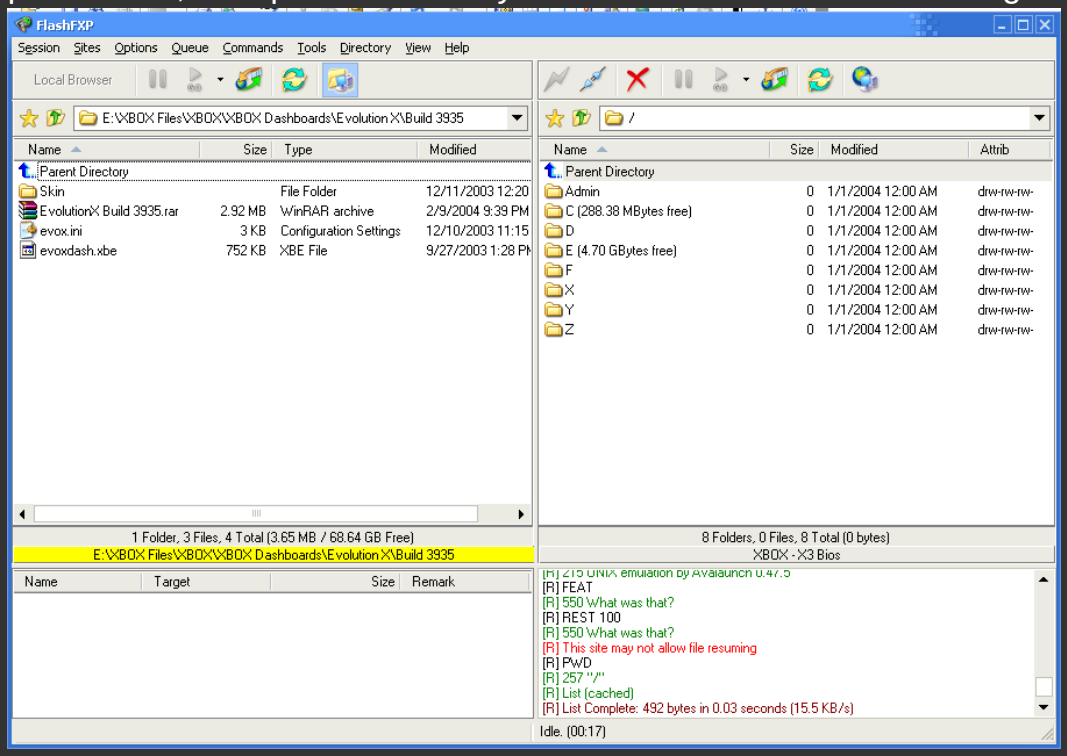
- **Skins Directory**

  This is where all the skins are placed. When skins are downloaded they need to be unpacked here and into their own folders. For skins check out the excellent www.allxboxskins.com

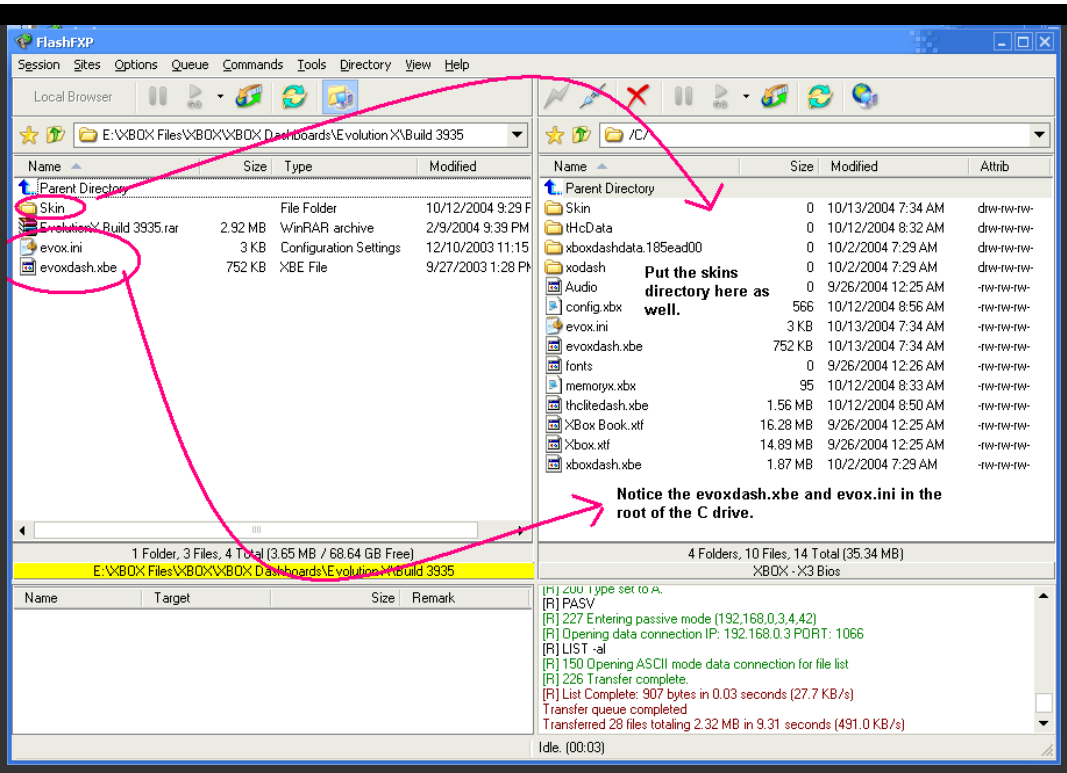
As for the rest of the stuff, who cares. You'll probably never use it. So let's delete all the other stuff in the archive. This is what you should have left.



4. Now it is time to copy all the files over to your XBOX. Remember that the X3 Config Live is programmed to look for "evoxdash.xbe" and by default scopes the C partition, so that is where we will place it. So, fire up FlashFXP or your choice of a FTP client and login to your XBOX.



5. Now the fun part. We simply need to move to the C drive, and then copy over the EvoX contents.



6. After this we need to tell the X3 Config Live program we do not need to boot directly into it. To do this: X3 Config Live -> Configure X3 Bios -> Autostar to X3 Config Live = Disabled.

I assure you that virtually every dashboard has similar install procedures. Some are different but always consult the readme or NFO file before installing.

X3 FAQ - Tips & Tricks

X3 FAQ - Tips & Tricks Index

- Where do I find these 'files' that you keep talking about?
- Can I boot different dashboards besides the ones in the list?
- My flubber colors are not applying, what do I do?

Question: Where do I find these 'files' that you keep talking about?

Answer:

Legally it is too risky to host these files. Instead, check out this link for more information - http://www.xbox-scene.com/articles/xbins.php

Question: Can I boot different dashboards besides the ones in the list?

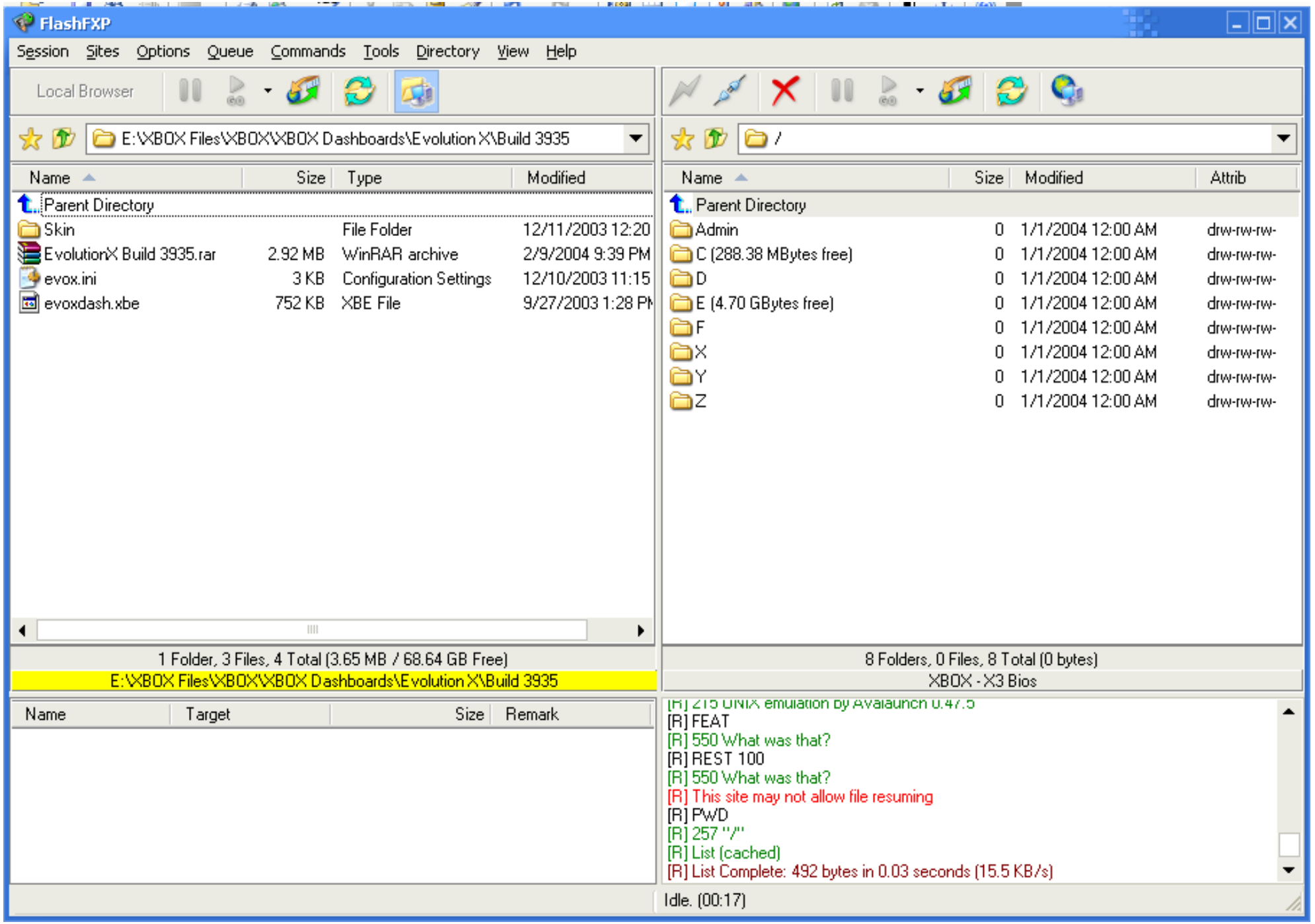
Answer:

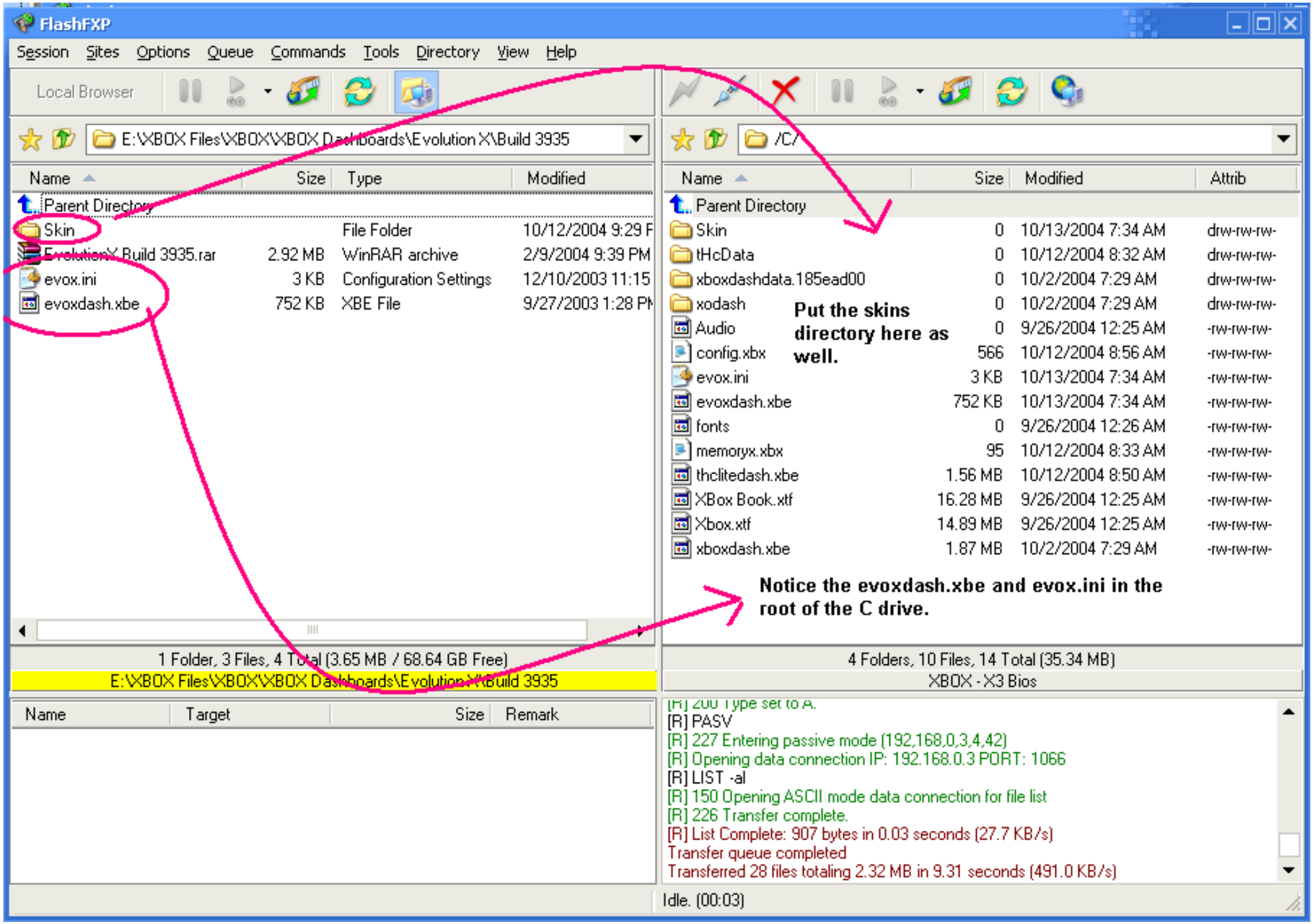
You sure can. In the BIOS configuration you can edit the names of the dashboard XBEs as well as the priority. The menu selections should be pretty apparent.

Question: My flubber colors don't seem to be applying, what do I do?

Answer:

Update to at least BIOS - X3 1879. This fixed this problem with me.


FlashFXP
Session Sites Options Queue Commands Tools Directory View Help
Local Browser
E:\XBOX Files\XBOX\XBOX Dashboards\Evolution X\Build 3935
Name Size Type Modified
Parent Directory
Skin File Folder 12/11/2003 12:20
EvolutionX Build 3935.rar 2.92 MB WinRAR archive 2/9/2004 9:39 PM
evox.ini 3 KB Configuration Settings 12/10/2003 11:15
evoxdash.xbe 752 KB XBE File 9/27/2003 1:28 PM
1 Folder, 3 Files, 4 Total (3.65 MB / 68.64 GB Free)
E:\XBOX Files\XBOX\XBOX Dashboards\Evolution X\Build 3935
/
Name Size Modified Attrib
Parent Directory
Admin 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
C (288.38 MBytes free) 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
D 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
E (4.70 GBytes free) 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
F 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
X 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
Y 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
Z 0 1/1/2004 12:00 AM drw-rw-rw-
8 Folders, 0 Files, 8 Total (0 bytes)
XBOX - X3 Bios
Name Target Size Remark
[R] FEAT
[R] 550 What was that?
[R] REST 100
[R] 550 What was that?
[R] This site may not allow file resuming
[R] PWD
[R] 257 "/"
[R] List (cached)
[R] List Complete: 492 bytes in 0.03 seconds (15.5 KB/s)
Idle. (00:17)


FlashFXP
Session Sites Options Queue Commands Tools Directory View Help
Local Browser
E:\XBOX Files\XBOX\XBOX Dashboards\Evolution X\Build 3935
/C/
Name Size Type Modified
Parent Directory
Skin File Folder 10/12/2004 9:29 F
Evolution X Build 3935.rar 2.92 MB WinRAR archive 2/9/2004 9:39 PM
evox.ini 3 KB Configuration Settings 12/10/2003 11:15
evoxdash.xbe 752 KB XBE File 9/27/2003 1:28 PM
Name Size Modified Attrib
Parent Directory
Skin 0 10/13/2004 7:34 AM drw-rw-rw-
tHcData 0 10/12/2004 8:32 AM drw-rw-rw-
xboxdashdata.185ead00 0 10/2/2004 7:29 AM drw-rw-rw-
xodash 0 10/2/2004 7:29 AM drw-rw-rw-
Audio 0 9/26/2004 12:25 AM -rw-rw-rw-
config.xbx 566 10/12/2004 8:56 AM -rw-rw-rw-
evox.ini 3 KB 10/13/2004 7:34 AM -rw-rw-rw-
evoxdash.xbe 752 KB 10/13/2004 7:34 AM -rw-rw-rw-
fonts 0 9/26/2004 12:26 AM -rw-rw-rw-
memoryx.xbx 95 10/12/2004 8:33 AM -rw-rw-rw-
thclitedash.xbe 1.56 MB 10/12/2004 8:50 AM -rw-rw-rw-
XBox Book.xtf 16.28 MB 9/26/2004 12:25 AM -rw-rw-rw-
Xbox.xtf 14.89 MB 9/26/2004 12:25 AM -rw-rw-rw-
xboxdash.xbe 1.87 MB 10/2/2004 7:29 AM -rw-rw-rw-
Put the skins directory here as well.
Notice the evoxdash.xbe and evox.ini in the root of the C drive.
1 Folder, 3 Files, 4 Total (3.65 MB / 68.64 GB Free)
E:\XBOX Files\XBOX\XBOX Dashboards\Evolution X\Build 3935
4 Folders, 10 Files, 14 Total (35.34 MB)
XBOX - X3 Bios
Name Target Size Remark
[R] 200 Type set to A.
[R] PASV
[R] 227 Entering passive mode (192,168,0,3,4,42)
[R] Opening data connection IP: 192.168.0.3 PORT: 1066
[R] LIST -al
[R] 150 Opening ASCII mode data connection for file list
[R] 226 Transfer complete.
[R] List Complete: 907 bytes in 0.03 seconds (27.7 KB/s)
Transfer queue completed
Transferred 28 files totaling 2.32 MB in 9.31 seconds (491.0 KB/s)
Idle. (00:03)

X3 Guide - X3 External Switch Information

Easy To Understand X3 Switch Information

Switch Introduction

The new switch on the X3 is completely different than all previous chips, so naturally there is some confusion as to how to properly use the switch. Fortunately once you understand the features, you can understand the switch. First, let's recall the features of the X3 as per the BIOS flashing.

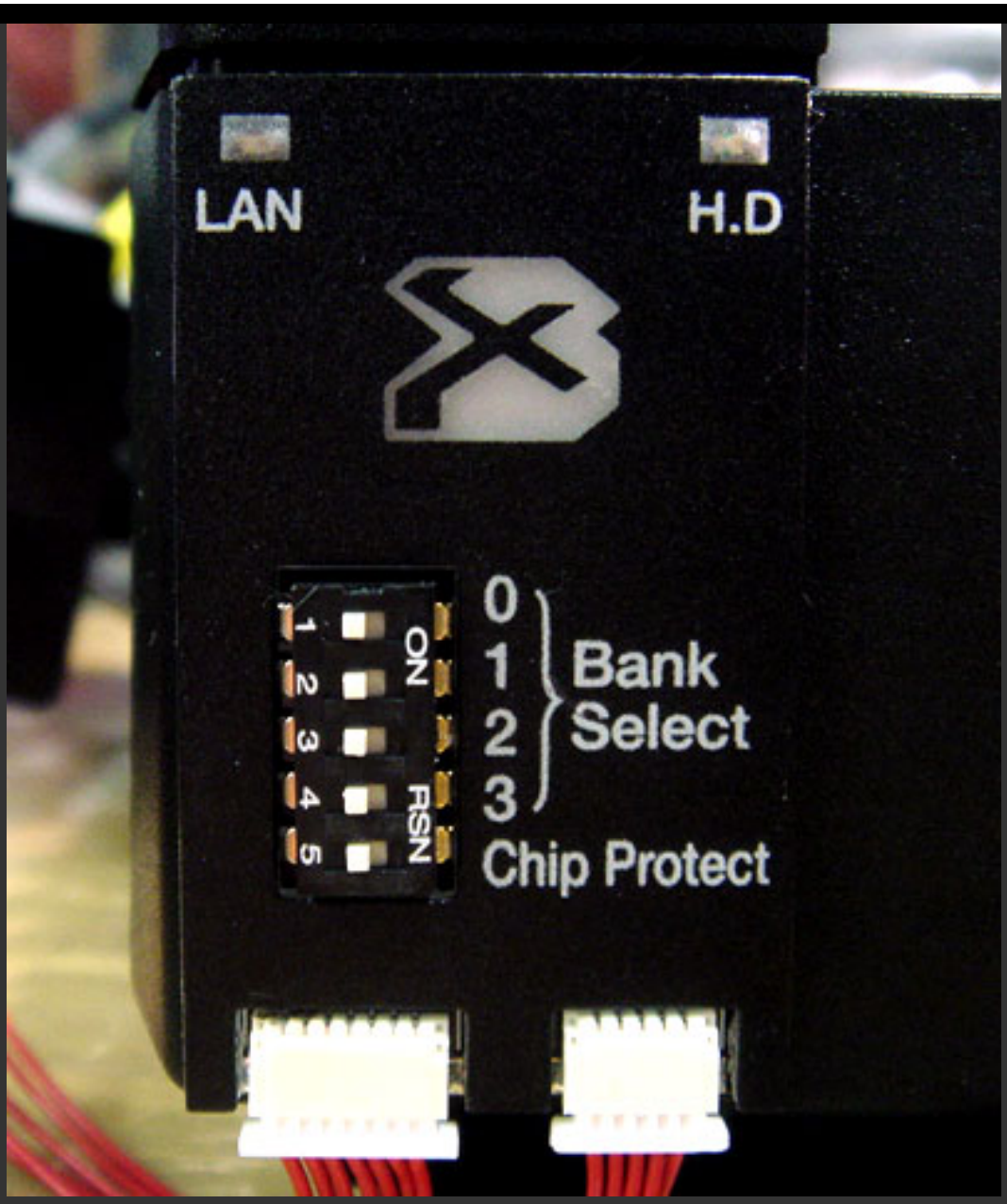
"2MB Flash Rom With 15 Bios Storage Options
Dedicated 256K Backup Rom (Can be upgraded to any bios you wish)"

"Bank Modes:
256k/256k/256k/256k/256k/256k/256k/256k/
512k/512k/512k/512k/
1024k/1024k
2048k"

This information was pulled from this thread on the TeamXecuter forums. Reading this post we can see that it appears that the X3 can handle up 15 different BIOS options and has 2MB of memory built in. This is where the switch comes in.

Each 'bank' of the chip is divided into the smallest components. Per the post, 256K is the smallest amount of BIOS data that can be flashed to the chip. Given the fact that the X3 has 2MB or 2048K (remember 1024-kilobyetes = 1 megabyte) of available flash memory, using simple math we can determine that we have **8 banks of 256K memory** (2048K / 256K = 8) available to use. This is where the dipswitch on the front of the unit comes into play.

Let's take a look at the switch:



As you can see the front of the X3 switch contains 5 different little white switches. This allows us to change the different banks on the chip for flashing. 0-3 are the banks we have and the last switch determines if we will use flash protection or not.

Now, when you received your X3 chip, all the switches were to the left, and everything flashed and booted just fine. But to fully unlock the potential of the chip we need to understand how to switch banks.

Switching Banks

Per this post on the TeamXecuter forums Xecuter tells us the proper settings for the switch in order to tell the X3 chip which bank to flash to. Here is the quote:

"256k Bank
Bank 1: on on on on
Bank 2: off on on on

Bank 3: on off on on
Bank 4: off off on on
Bank 5: on on off on
Bank 6: off on off on
Bank 7: on off off on
Bank 8: off off off on

512k Bank
Bank 12: on on on off
Bank 34: off on on off
Bank 56: on off on off
Bank 78: off off on off

1MB Bank
Bank 1234: on on off off (Set to this when flashing first time with FlashBIOS)
Bank 5678: off on off off

2MB Bank
Bank 12345678: off off off off"

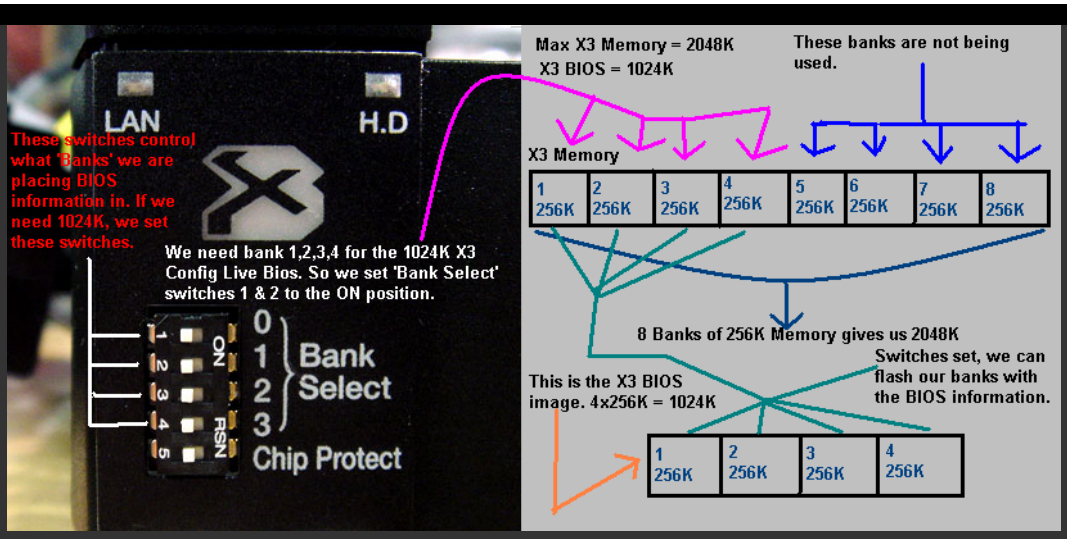
Now I know that you are sitting there wondering what the hell all of this means, and that is understandable, so let's get into it.

If you recall the X3 chip can support a BIOS from 256K through 2048K in size, so, if you think about when you acquired the X3 BIOS, regardless of version, the file size was exactly 1024K. Now, using simple math again, if the available flash memory we have is 2048K and the X3 Config Live BIOS is 1024K, we need to 'bank' 1024K of memory in order to flash the BIOS correclty.

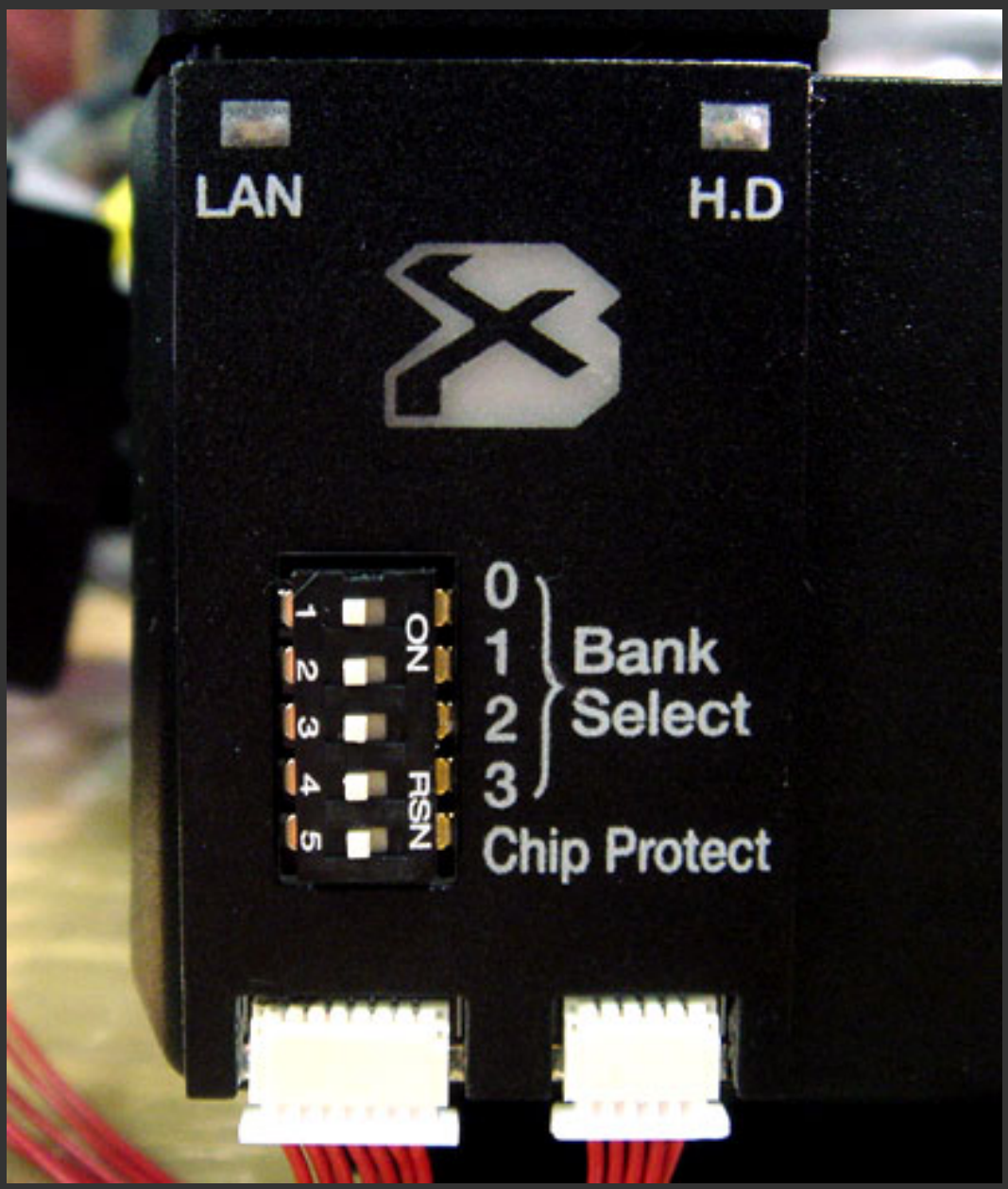
Per the switch info posted by Xecuter, the 1024 or 1MB bank is accessiable by pushing the **Bank 0 and Bank 1** switch to the right - the 'on' position - in order to enable memory banks 1-4. Now before you freak out, think about what I just said.

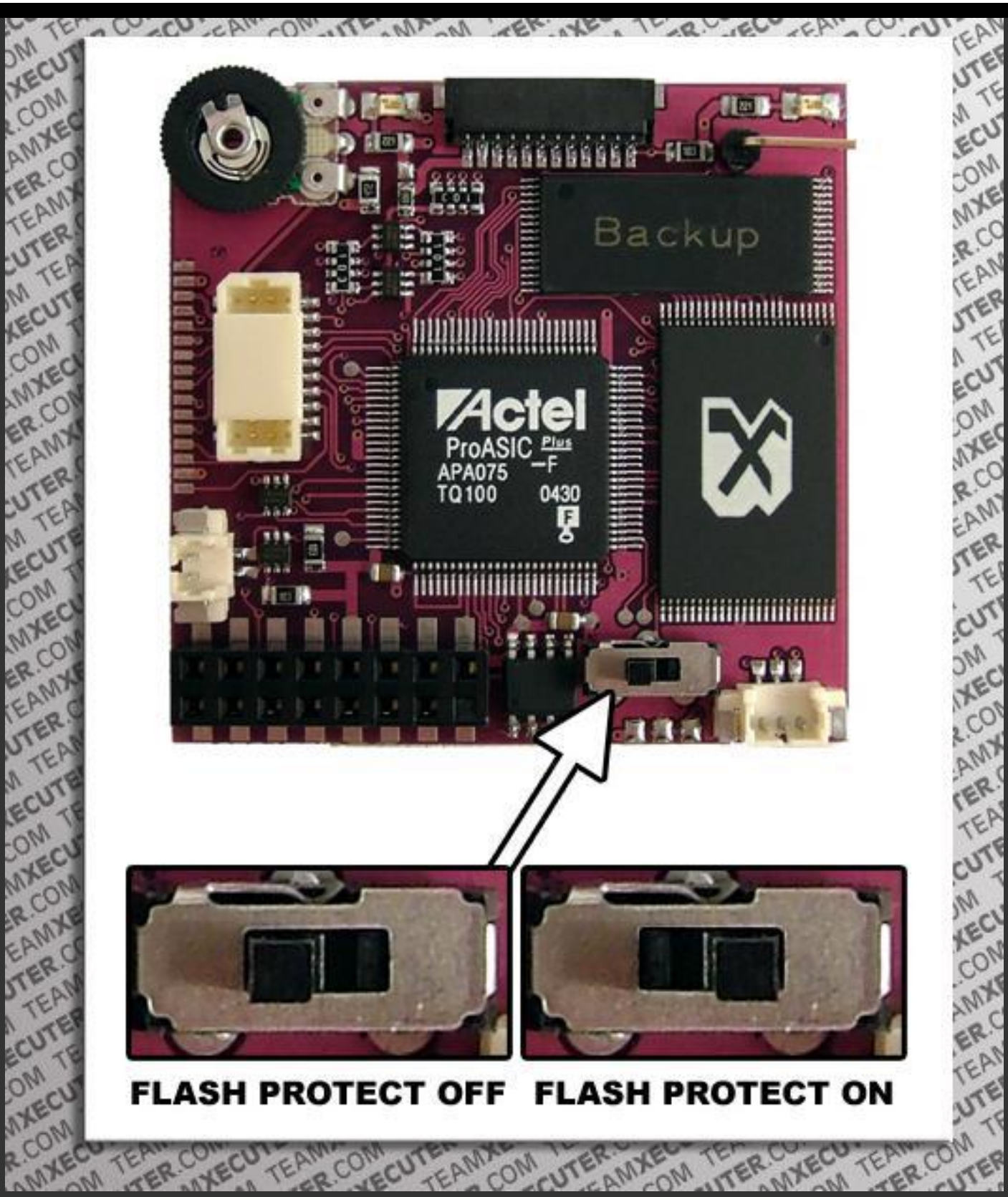
If the lowest common BIOS size is 256K and the max we have is 2048K, then we have 8 banks of 256K memory available for flashing. Now, since we need 1024K to flash the X3 BIOS correctly, we use the switches on the front to select those banks.

To add to the confusion, we still have 1024K of memory available to us for flashing since we have a max of 2048K available. Which could be in either memory bank 1234 or 5678. Make sense? If not, maybe this little image will help. Click to enlarge.



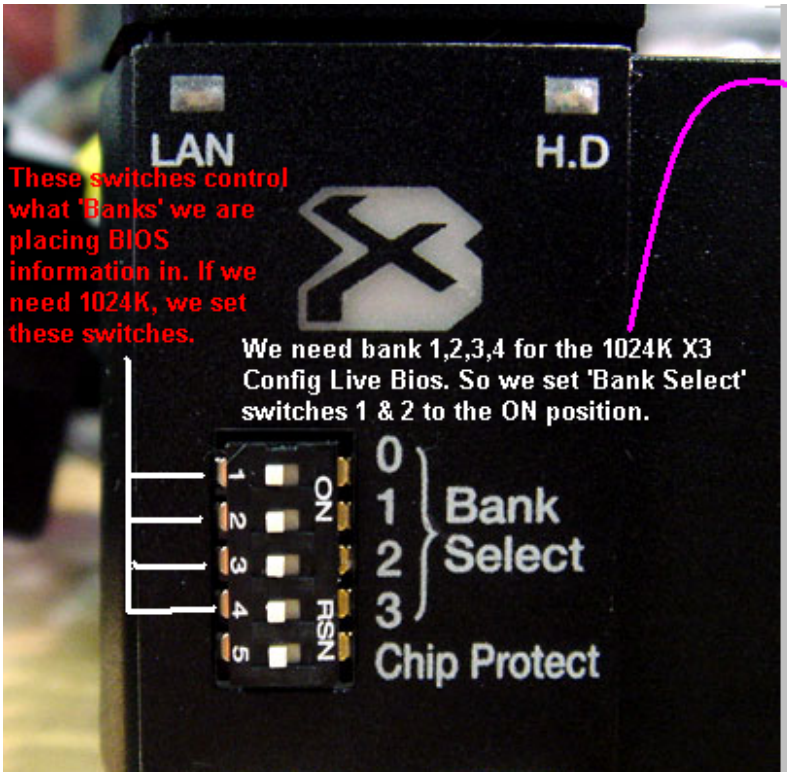
Lastly take a quick peek at both the switch and the chip itself:

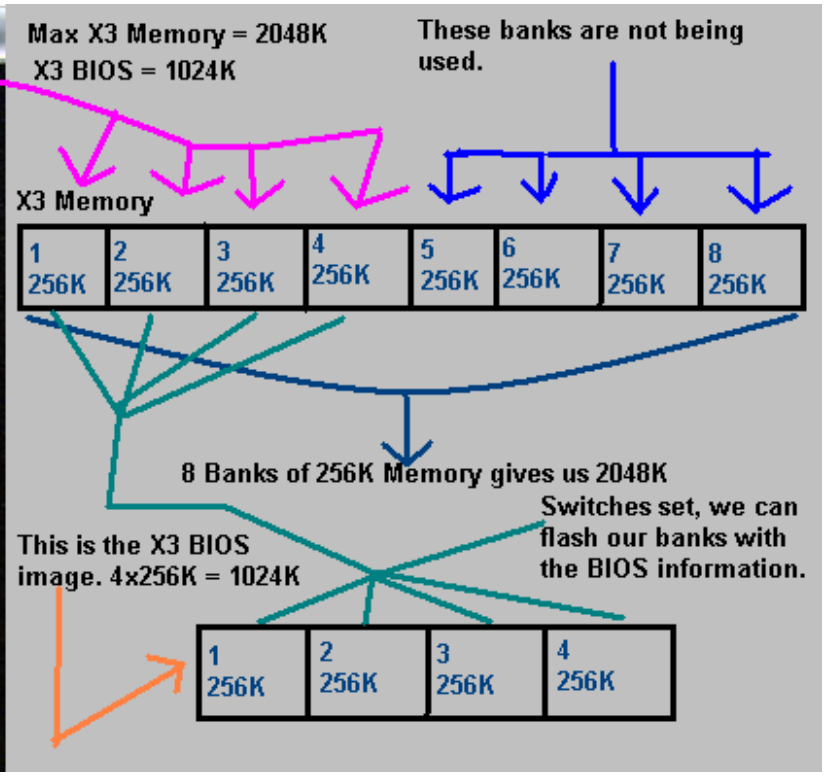




The X3 has built in flash protection to prevent the accidental flashing of the chip. Now this protection is two-fold. So, if the switch on the X3 itself is set the off, the setting on the external switch determines if the X3 can be flashed. If the switch is set to the on position, the chip is not flash-able regardless of the external switch settings.

See the X3 switch isn't that bad.


LAN
H.D
These switches control what 'Banks' we are placing BIOS information in. If we need 1024K, we set these switches.
We need bank 1,2,3,4 for the 1024K X3 Config Live Bios. So we set 'Bank Select' switches 1 & 2 to the ON position.
ON
RSN
0
1
2
3
Bank Select
Chip Protect


Max X3 Memory = 2048K
X3 BIOS = 1024K
These banks are not being used.
X3 Memory
1 256K
2 256K
3 256K
4 256K
5 256K
6 256K
7 256K
8 256K
8 Banks of 256K Memory gives us 2048K
This is the X3 BIOS image. 4x256K = 1024K
Switches set, we can flash our banks with the BIOS information.
1 256K
2 256K
3 256K
4 256K

X3 FAQ - Installation Troubleshooting FAQ

X3 FAQ - Installation FAQ Index

- My XBOX Flashes Red and Green (FRAGS), what do I do?
- My X3 boots, but I do not see anything! What do I do?
- I have having some serious external switch issues. Any ideas?
- My dashboard isn't booting. I set it up correctly, but I placed in on a different partition. What do I do?

Question: My XBOX Flashes Red and Green (FRAGs), what do I do?

Answer:

This question is asked so many times that I am surprised it hasn't been printed on a t-shirt, because the solution is simple. **CHECK YOUR SOLDERING.**

If you are sure your soldering is correct, consider these solutions to common problems:

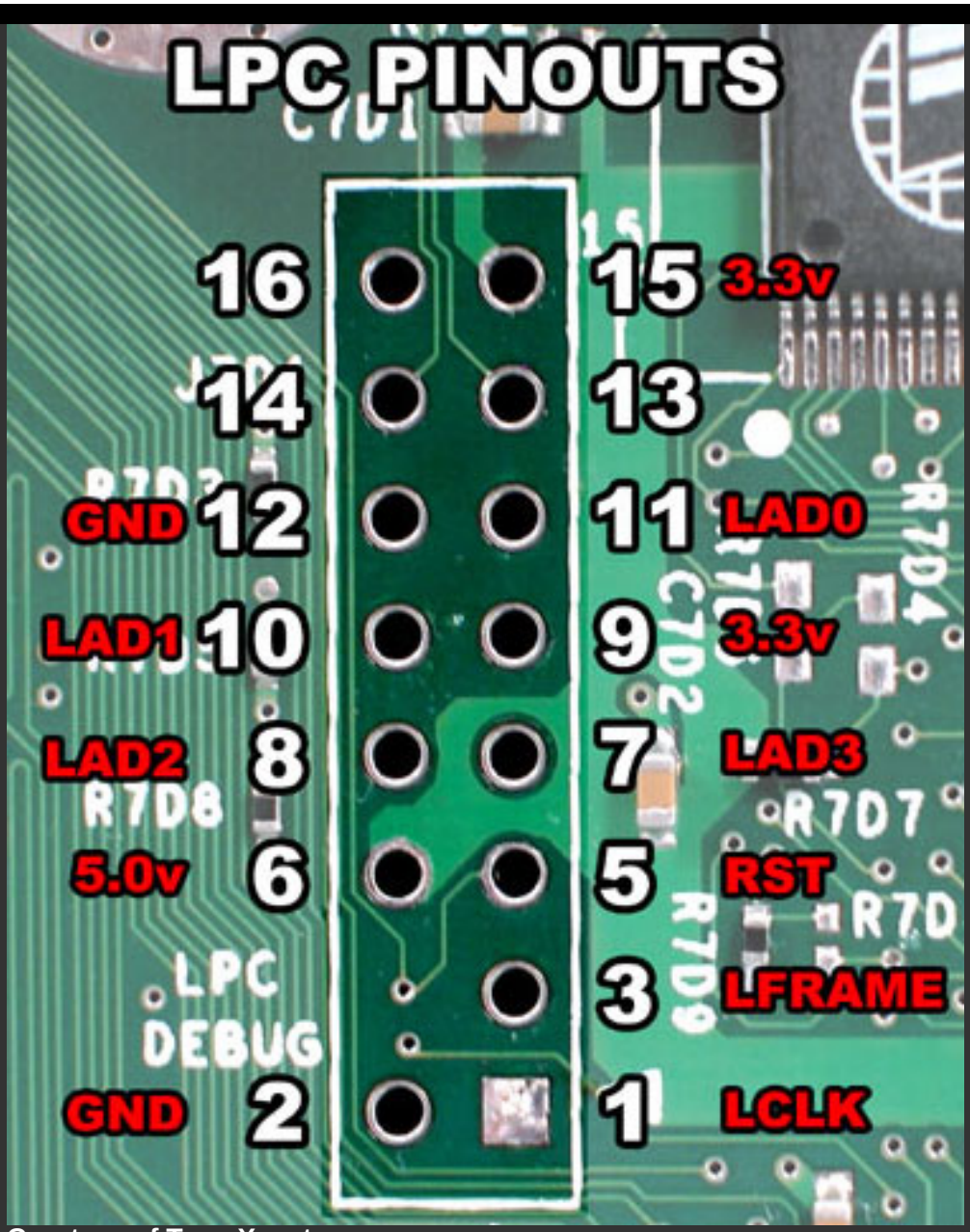
- **X3 Displays Only One Blue LED**

  My XBOX suffered from this and after checking and re-checking all my solder connections, the problem remained.

  I opened the XBOX and disconnected the HDD and the DVD-ROM. I then removed the yellow power cable for the DVD-ROM and the IDE cable from the motherboard. Once all this was done I connected my XBOX to the power cable and the 'original' video cables to my TV and powered up.

  Only one LED on the Xecuter 3 chip lit up. So, I took my finger and placed it on the contacts over the LPC pin header, and the second LED lit up. I then turned off and powered up the XBOX and saw the FlashBios 3.0.0 screen. Success.

  The cause of **my** problem was that pin 15 on the pin header was not level with all the other pins on the pin header. So, when pressure was applied a clean connection was made and the chip worked. I then bent pin 15 to the right and all is good. Here is the LPC pin outs for reference. 1.6 owners note that 'pin 4' is not used.



Courtesy of TeamXecuter.com

While I do not suggest bending pins to get things working, the point is that the second LED is power related, and you need to make a solid connection in order for the chip to power correctly.

However, I do suggest you try fudging the chip just a tad to make sure and double check to make sure the pin header is level. Just take note, if you screw up your chip or XBOX that is your own fault.

For 1.0-1.5 XBOX owners all I can say is you need to re-check your soldering. If 1.6 owners who have two times that amount of soldering to do can do this you can as well. Regardless if both LEDs are not lighting up try playing with the chip to see if that helps.

For more information and failure stories with fixes check out this thread.

player1 has a good amount of information in this thread and it's amazing how many people in this thread bitch and complain about the chip not working, but when they double check soldering, all the sudden it works. Geewhiz.

- **XBOX Boots MS BIOS OK - Fails to load FlashBIOS and FRAGs**

  Oddly enough mine 1.6 XBOX did the same thing. What I found out was that per the 1.6 XBOX rebuild image (thanks TeamXecuter) I had not solder the yellow connection correctly.

  If you check, double check and check again all the soldering points on the LPC, and the XBOX still FRAGs when you enable the Xecuter 3 try booting it from the backup rom. To do this press both the eject and power buttons at the same time. If this still doesn't work I insist you double check your solder connections.

  If you are on a 1.0-1.5 XBOX, the same applies. Check your LPC connections to ensure that they are bright and shiny. If your chip still fails, then post.

- **External LED Control Panel Doesn't Light Up**

  This is quite simple and is one of three things from what I can tell. Make sure the switch module is connected correctly, all the connections off of the black wires are tightly connected to the Xecuter 3 and the dip switch module, make sure that no other problems exist.

  If the Xecuter 3 boots without the switch connected, then you have a connection problem with the switch.

Question: My X3 boots, but I don't see anything. What is wrong?

Answer:

Make sure you are not using the HDTV or the S-Video cable but only the composite cable (Yellow-Red-White).

Question: I am having some serious external switch issues. What do I do?

Answer:

Since I haven't had a single issue with the external switch display, I really can't help too much, but I have received several links to the following thread:

http://www.teamxecuter.com/index.php?name=Forums&file=viewtopic&t=19140

What appears to be going on from other threads I have been watching is that there are some people who had some switch boards that had a solder splash and this causing several odd things to happen with the X3 switch.

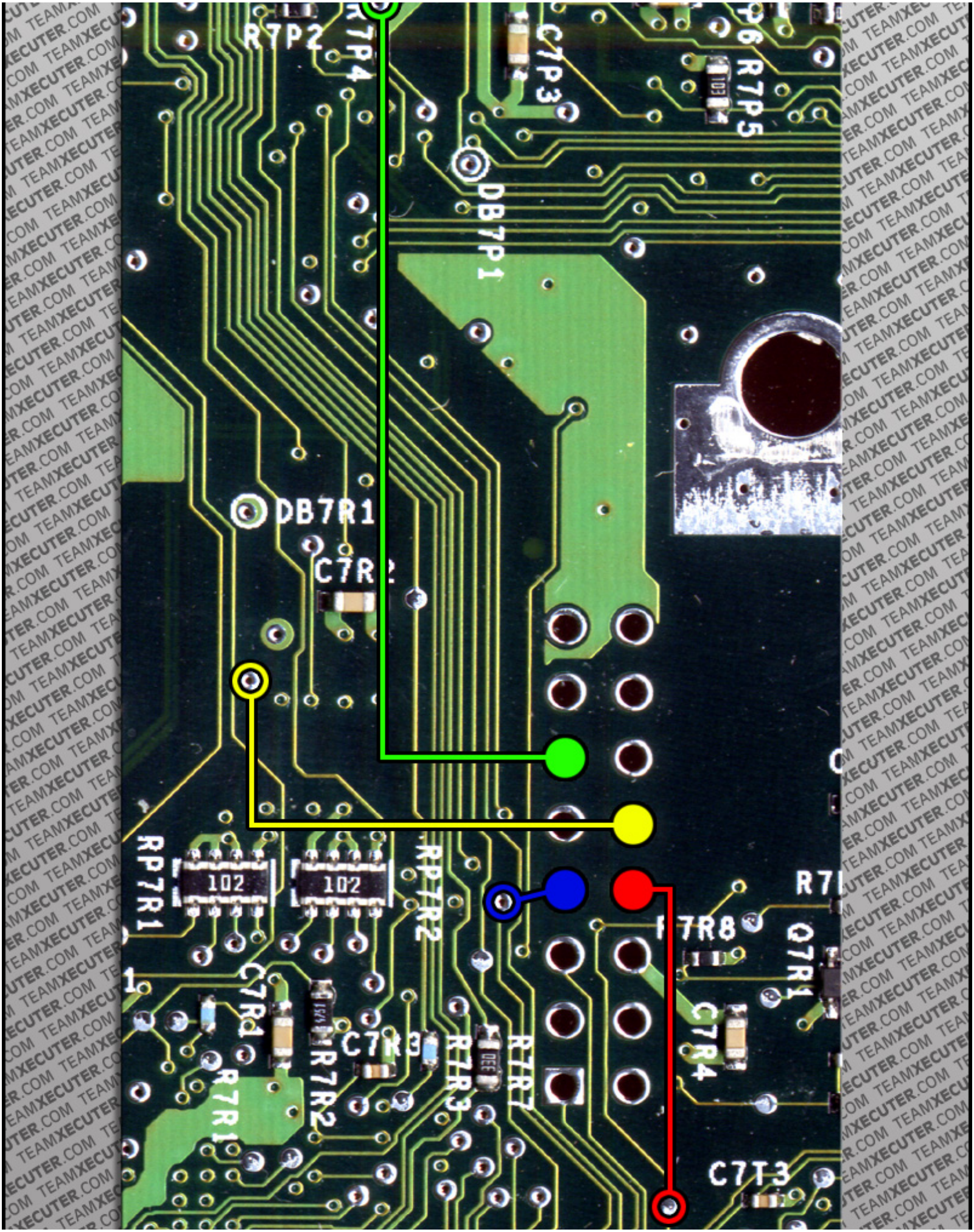
Question: I have a dashboard installed on a different partition, how to I make the X3 load it?

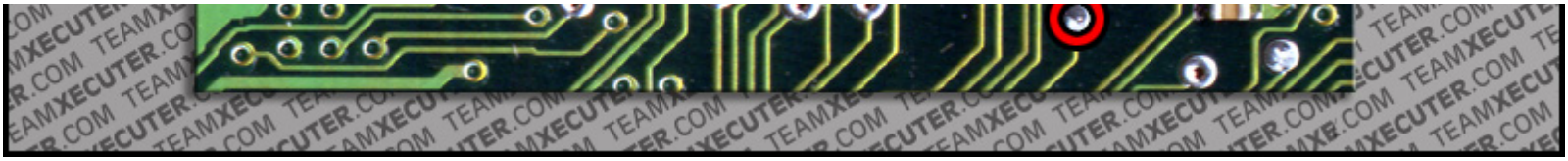
Answer:

The X3 Config Live BIOS has the ability to load a dashboard of any name on four different partitions provided it is in root, ie: C:\ - D:\ - E:\ etc.

In order to get the X3 BIOS to load it, you must select the boot partition and then edit the dashboard filenames to get the X3 BIOS to load the dashboard. Remember **hold the white button to boot into X3 Config Live**.

BOTTOM OF v1.6 XBOX MOTHERBOARD
X3 & X2.6 LPC REBUILD
GREEN: LAD0
YELLOW: LAD1
RED: LAD2
BLUE: LAD3


R7P2
R7P4
C7P3
R7P5
DB7P1
DB7R1
C7R2
RP7R1
102
102
RP7R2
R7R8
Q7R1
C7R1
C7R3
C7R4
R7R2
R7R3
R7R1
C7T3



X3 FAQ - BIOS FAQ

X3 FAQ - BIOS FAQ Index

- I disabled booting into the X3 Config Live, how do I get back?
- How do I update the backup BIOS loaded on the backup ROM?
- Where do I find FlashBIOS?
- I have a Thompson drive, I can't read CD-Rs! What do I do?
- I have a BIOS image on a CD-RW, it won't read. What do I do?
- How do I set my switches before flashing?
- How do I change the logo upon boot up?
- How do I haxor the gibs0n and pirate games? PS MS SUX!

Question: I disabled booting into the X3 Config Live, how do I get back?

Answer:

Easy. Hold down the white button on your controller while booting up the XBOX and the X3 Config Live will launch.

Question: How do I update the backup BIOS loaded on the backup ROM?

Answer:

Before doing this, make sure that the current BIOS that your Xecuter 3 loads from is working 100%. Once you can be sure of this, I would suggest only flashing the backup BIOS with the latest FlashBIOS from TeamXecuter and nothing else.

Once you have the BIOS, follow the methods listed in the BIOS tutorials and flash the backup BIOS to the latest FlashBIOS.

Question: Where do I find the FlashBIOS BIOS in order to update the backup ROM?

Answer:

I really didn't do any research on this, but I am actually not really sure where to get it. If someone knows, please let me know.

Question: Wait! I have a Thompson DVD-ROM drive and I can't read a CD-R to save my life. What do I do?

Answer:

If you read the TeamXecuter tutorial about the proper Nero settings, you will also take note of the fact that you need burn the **CD-RW** at a very low speed in order to get this drive to read it. Do not tell you can't do it either. I have a 1.0 XBOX and it reads CD-RWs at low speed. If you do not have a CD-RW, waste a DVD-R.

Question: I burned my image to the CD-RW correctly, but it still won't flash! What do I do?

Answer:

Remember that on the front of the X3 your dipswitch panel has the ability to flash protect. Make sure the the setting is 'off' - left position - before flashing.

If FlashBIOS still will not flash the BIOS, make sure you named the BIOS image "bios.bin" and nothing else. Make sure it is all lower case and that you added a 100MB minimum file to the CD image.

Question: I want to flash my BIOS but I do not know where to set the switches. What are the positions?

Answer:

Check the menu. The switch is explained in all it's glory.

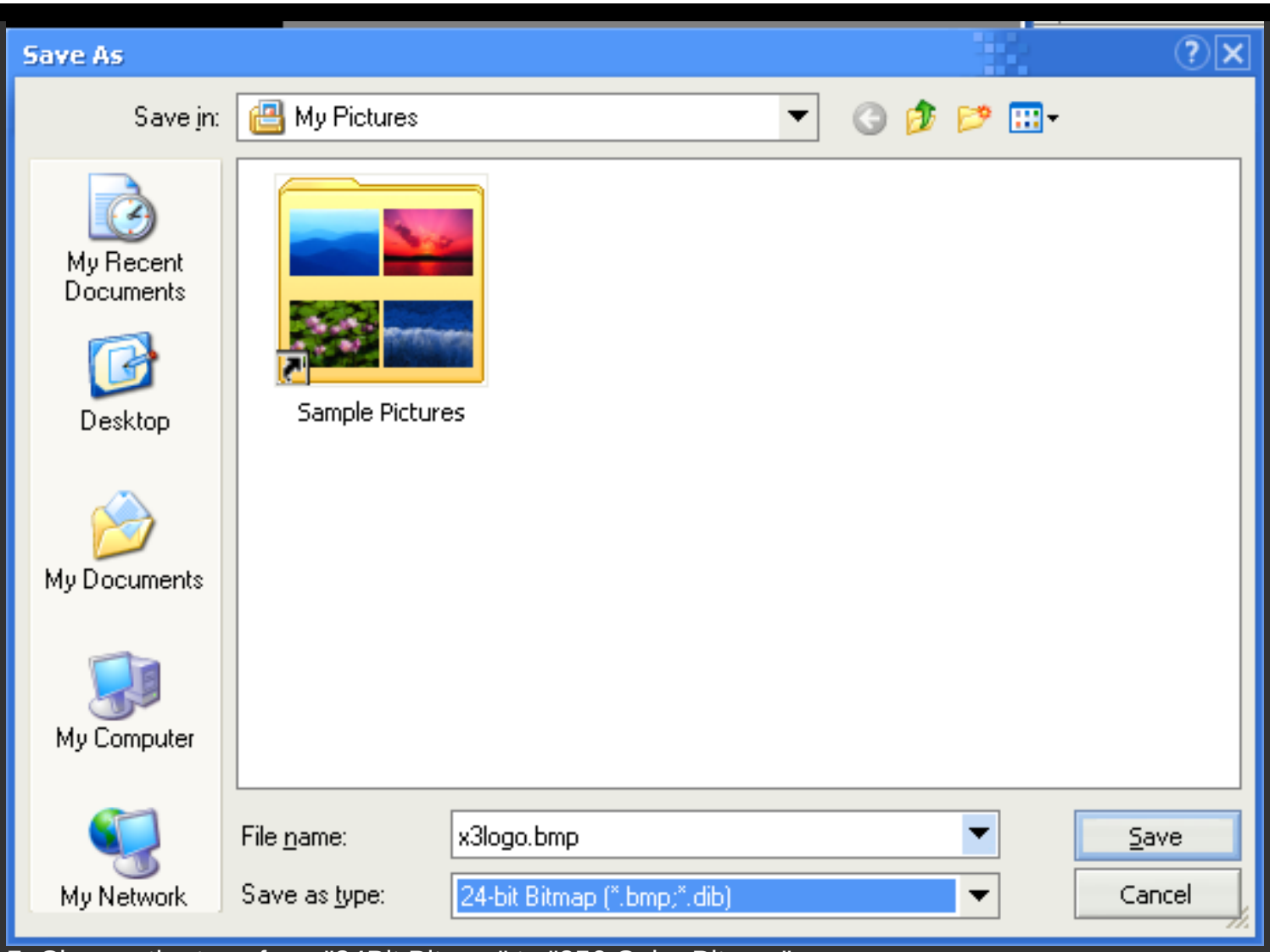
Question: How do I change the "Xecuter Rox My Box" logo at startup?

Answer:

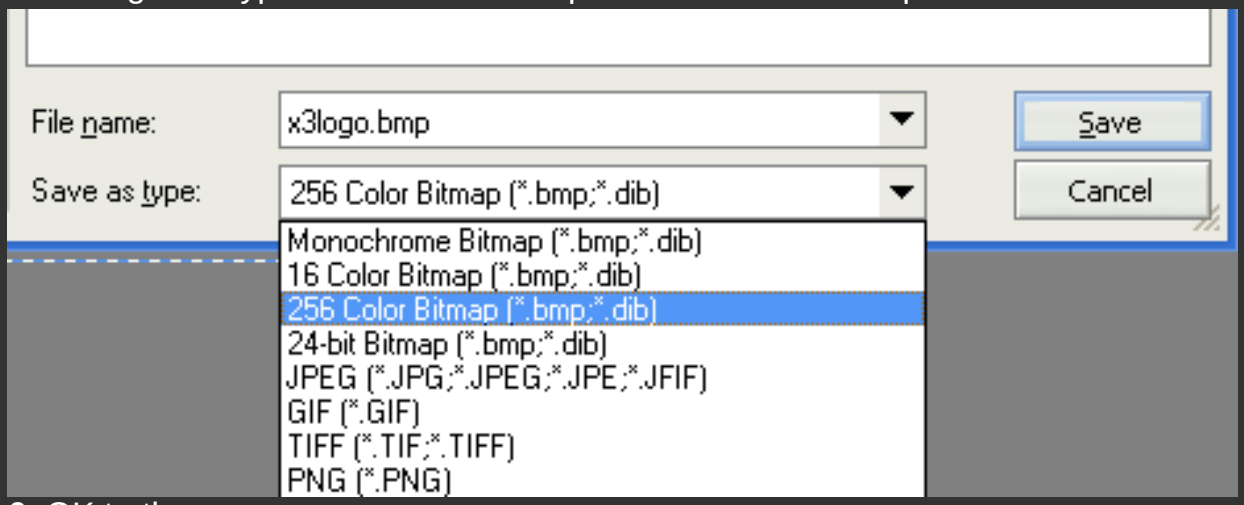
The Xecuter 3 will load a custom image from your XBOX's E drive named x3logo.bmp if you wish to add a little pizzazz. To do this, do the following:

1. Open MS-Paint
2. Hit Ctrl-E and enter 180 for the width and 50 for the height

3. From here create whatever type of logo you wish
4. Hit Ctrl-S to save the image. Type in "x3logo.bmp" without quotes.



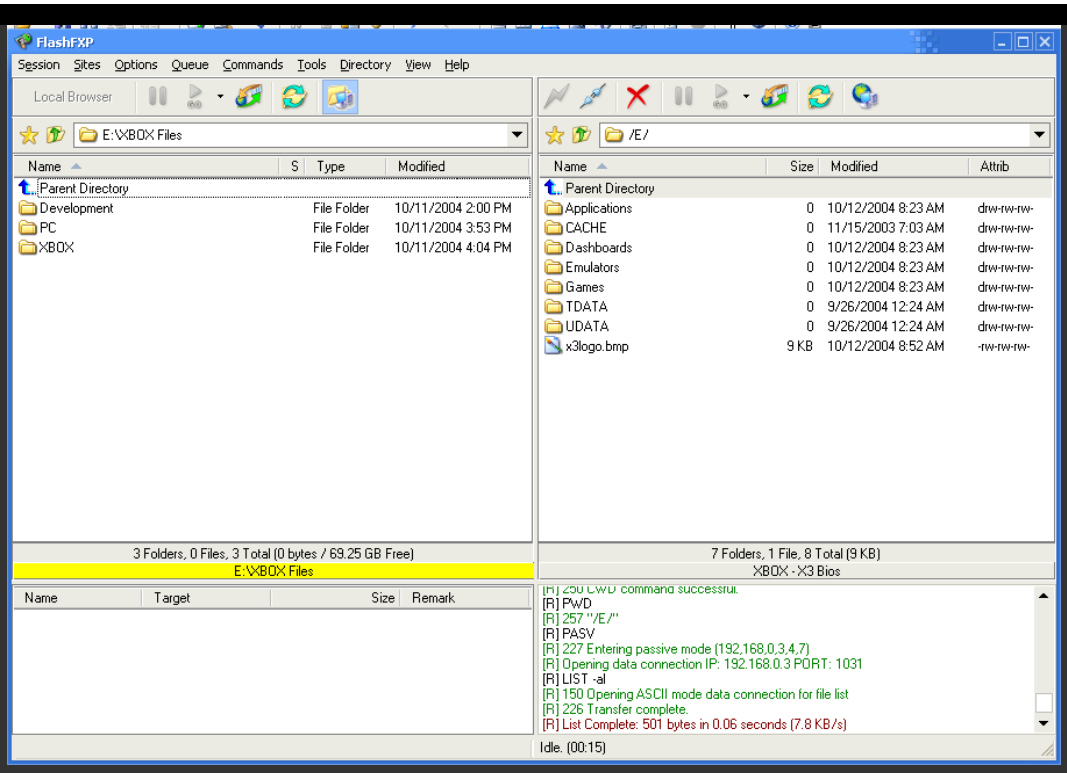
5. Change the type from "24Bit Bitmap" to "256 Color Bitmap".



6. OK to the error.

7. FTP into your XBOX via EvoX/X3 Config Live/Avalaunch and place the image in the root of the E drive.

This is what it should look like:

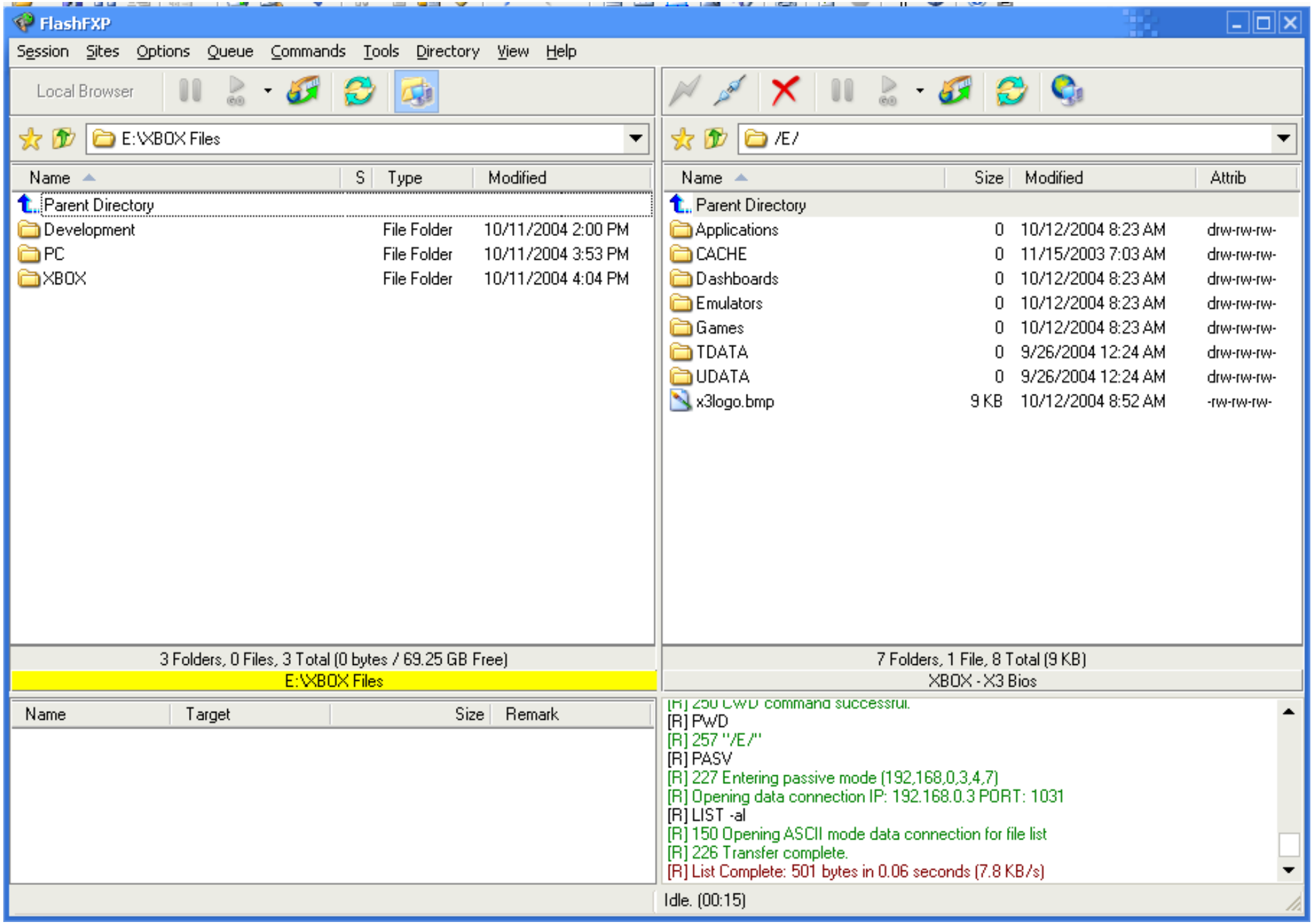


Here is a sample logo that is jet black. This will clear off the logo.

Question: Does the X3 BIOS allow me to play copied games from Hollywood Video or Blockbuster cause my d00dz and me havez a DVD-writer and we want to copy games? PS - Bill Gates SUX!

Answer:

The X3 BIOS allows unsigned code to run on the XBOX so that other people besides Microsoft XBOX developers can develop applications for the XBOX in an effort to increase the available legal applications on the XBOX.


FlashFXP
Session Sites Options Queue Commands Tools Directory View Help
Local Browser
E:\XBOX Files
/E/
Name S Type Modified
Parent Directory
Development File Folder 10/11/2004 2:00 PM
PC File Folder 10/11/2004 3:53 PM
XBOX File Folder 10/11/2004 4:04 PM
Name Size Modified Attrib
Parent Directory
Applications 0 10/12/2004 8:23 AM drw-rw-rw-
CACHE 0 11/15/2003 7:03 AM drw-rw-rw-
Dashboards 0 10/12/2004 8:23 AM drw-rw-rw-
Emulators 0 10/12/2004 8:23 AM drw-rw-rw-
Games 0 10/12/2004 8:23 AM drw-rw-rw-
TDATA 0 9/26/2004 12:24 AM drw-rw-rw-
UDATA 0 9/26/2004 12:24 AM drw-rw-rw-
x3logo.bmp 9 KB 10/12/2004 8:52 AM -rw-rw-rw-
3 Folders, 0 Files, 3 Total (0 bytes / 69.25 GB Free)
E:\XBOX Files
7 Folders, 1 File, 8 Total (9 KB)
XBOX - X3 Bios
Name Target Size Remark
[R] 250 CWD command successful.
[R] PWD
[R] 257 "/E/"
[R] PASV
[R] 227 Entering passive mode (192,168,0,3,4,7)
[R] Opening data connection IP: 192.168.0.3 PORT: 1031
[R] LIST -al
[R] 150 Opening ASCII mode data connection for file list
[R] 226 Transfer complete.
[R] List Complete: 501 bytes in 0.06 seconds (7.8 KB/s)
Idle. (00:15)

X3 FAQ - XBOX Disc Creation

Question: Craxtion keeps giving me an "OS cannot access" type error. What does that mean?

Answer:

Make sure you are not trying to save the image file to the directory it is building from.

Unofficial X3 Guide & FAQ - v.2.0

FAQ Update - v.2.0- _Rem_

11/1/2004

Alright guys and gals, here is a extremely updated version of the Unofficial X3 Guide. Check out what is new:

New in v.2.0

- Correction on wire gauge for LPC rebuild. Thanks BlackTitanium
- New solutions to FRAG problems
- Wire install tutorial for the 1.6
- Soldering links and tutorials
- BIOS Flashing customization
- FAQ Section is not seperate from 'help'
- and more... check it out!

I spend a lot time collecting, searching and answering email for this site, but one thing has been really getting on my nerves lately. What is it you ask? Basically the redundancy of the Team Xecuter forums trickling into my inbox.

I fail to see how the hours and hours I slave on this site could lead to people asking me questions that are answered in the fucking FAQ. Honestly people, if you can find the time to type out the question and click the send button, I am pretty sure you can be put out just a tad to click on the damn menu and find that answer to your question.

Any question I get that are answered in the FAQ are deleted upon receipt. Please make the pain stop.

Lastly, if any XBOX mod-chip resellers would like to link to the FAQ or extract different sections from the FAQ for use, please let me know. I will be really disappointed if you do not.

Thanks,

Rem

FAQ Update - v.1.1.3 - _Rem_

10/13/2004

Well, I didn't figure that the this site would have such and impact, but I have already received several emails about things to add and I really appreciate the help. I would also like to thank www.TeamXecuter.com for posting a link to this guide. Thanks guys.

I do however have one thing to mention. Just because I run this little site here does not make me superman on install problems. This is merely data I have collected and posted, if you feel the need to email me with troubleshooting questions, please don't. I spend too much time updating this site, browsing and **searching** the forums. So, please do not flood my inbox with emails that waste my time. Now that is taken care of. Let's get into the fun stuff.

I have several updates for you this evening covering everything from explaining the switch to the problems encountered when flashing your BIOS and more. Take a look!

New in V.1.1.3

- Added a index for each section. This will aid in finding the answer that you need quicker.
- Updated the BIOS flashing section with screenshots and more information on different methods of flashing in FlashBIOS 3.0.0
- Added much needed info about the switch on the X3. I will add more information and questions later.

I will try to update this FAQ everyday, but I do have other things to do. If you would like to help out more, email me with concise information that is detailed, and I will throw it up. Eventually I may need help maintaining this site. If you are willing, fire me off and email, and I'll keep you posted.

Lastly, here is what is on the list for tomorrows update.

- Complete guide on every feature of the most current BIOS
- More Tips & Tricks
- Information on alternate installs on XBOX 1.0-1.5 and wire-install
- More switch information and BIOS customization.
- Installation tutorial for THC Lite Dashboard
- Solder tutorials/links
- More troubleshooting on all topics

See ya tomorrow and enjoy!

- Rem

Unofficial X3 Guide & FAQ Info

Welcome to the Unofficial X3 Guide & FAQ!

The purpose of this website is to help those who are new to using the Xecuter 3, cannot seem to use the forum search function, and to ease the headache Xecuter must endure thanks to some people on the www.teamxecuter.com forums.

Most of the information gathered on this site is to help people find the information they need without having to go through thousands of posts and spend hours finding the right pictures and diagrams.

Any pictures, information and files are property of the people who created them and will be linked. If I happen to miss something or you would like me to add something, please email me at x3guide@comcast.net.

Enjoy!

- Rem