

The Villages Computer Club will meet at 1 p.m. Friday Sept 13th at Lake Miona Recreation Center.

The program will feature a presentation on "Protecting Your Social Security Account" by Social Security Administration.

Following the presentation will be refreshments, door prizes and a problem solving session.

If you have a computer problem you can't resolve, fill out the troubleshooting request form found at [thevillagescomputerclub.com](http://thevillagescomputerclub.com) and bring it to the meeting. Forms are also available at the meeting. Ask for one when you pick up your door prize ticket.

Guests are always welcome, please bring your village ID card. For information or to sign up to be on the VCC email list, visit the website or email Paul Rabenold at [TVCC.Pres@gmail.com](mailto:TVCC.Pres@gmail.com)

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Simple test for those AA, AAA, D, C batteries

Hold the battery an inch or so above a flat surface and drop it on the end without the post. If it is good, it will not bounce and will most likely remain upright.

If the battery is bad, it will bounce several times and most times tip over.

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### **Adding RAM Memory to CPU (Central Processing Unit)**

**(Adding memory to a laptop is different. See your Laptop Manual)**

**First you must know the kind of memory to use and the amount your computer can handle. If you go to [www.crucial.com](http://www.crucial.com), you can select search my computer for the type of RAM memory needed. It will search your computer for you and tell you the type needed and how much your model computer can handle.**

- 1. Shut down and unplug the power from the computer tower.**
- 2. Remove the cover to the tower, just the side where you can see the 'guts' of it. This is usually the left side of the tower as you sit facing the tower.**
- 3. Now grip the metal skeleton of the tower to discharge any static electricity from your own body.**
- 4. Next look at the motherboard, that's the board where all kinds of little things are attached. You will see a strips of slots sorted onto the mother board that are about 3 inches long and that has 2 or three slots in it. If three, then you'll see that 2 of them have a strip of memory in them and all you have to do is to add the 1G strip to the empty slot.**

5. If only 2 slots, you'll have to remove one of the 256 strips. To release the strip so you can remove it, place thumbs on the little ends that hold the memory strip and press outward. You'll hear a little click and then you can pull up on the memory strip and it will easily lift out. Remove the first one in the row and note which side is facing towards the outside. You'll want to put the new strip into the strip in the same direction. One side will be most likely pretty flat and the other side will have little rectangle pieces.

6. To put the new strip in, turn it so it is in the same direction of the one you've removed. Gently fit it's bottom edge into the slot so the ends fit into the notch of the end pieces that you clicked open to release the strip in step 5. Once the bottom edge is in the slot, the pressed downward pretty hard until you hear the click that means the ends have clipped onto the memory strip to fasten it into the slot. Once it clicked correctly you won't be able to pull it out without releasing those end brackets.

7. Now, before you put the side panel back on, plug in the computer and power up.

As the black screen comes up, you may get a message acknowledging the increase RAM memory. Sometimes it requires you to press OK to accept it. IF you get an error message, then it will tell you that the memory you've installed is not the correct type memory for this computer or some such.

8. If all goes well and it continues to startup desktop, then rightclick My Computer and select Properties. On the screen that comes up near the bottom it will tell you how much Ram is in your computer. IF You've removed a 256 strip and added a 1 GB, then it should show 1,256MB or 1.25GB. If you had 3 slots and didn't have to remove a strip in order to add the 1G strip, then it should show 1.5G or 1,512MB.

9. IF the RAM shows up that you've added, then put the panels back on the tower and you're finished.

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## **APC Backup Reset**

When power fails and the APC sounds the alarm, it will need to be reset.

### **APC Back UP- flashing red light and cricket sound**

1. Shut down computer
2. Press power button on UPS
3. Wait awhile
4. Press power button on UPS
5. Turn computer back on
6. Sound goes away

7. Bottom green light stays lit

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### **Auto Play CDs on XP**

Auto Play is the default setting for most windows operating systems, but if your CDs do begin to play after a short wait for loading, do the following.

Doubleclick the MY COMPUTER icon on the desktop.

1. Right-click the CD-ROM drive, and then click Properties.
2. On the Auto Play tab, click the program you wish to use to play CDs.
3. Under Actions, click the action you want Windows to perform when it detects the media type you selected.
4. To AutoPlay remove the dot from Prompt me each time to choose an action.

Notes: Your removable storage device such as cd-rom, dvd-rom, flash drive, etc. must be attached to your computer for it to appear in the My Computer folder.

### **ERROR MESSAGES:**

If you receive an error message when you double-click the CD or DVD icon in Windows Explorer or in My Computer:

- You may not have the CD in the correct drive. Insert the CD and try again.
- After inserting a CD, wait until the light on the front of the drive stops flashing, then double-click the drive icon again.
- Make sure CD is face up and centered in the disc tray.
- You may be trying to read from a blank recordable CD.

If you receive an Invalid Media error, the computer is trying to start the operating system using the CD or DVD drive. Remove the disc from the disc tray immediately after turning on the computer, and before the light on the drive tray is green.

### **If CD or DVD drive doesn't appear in My Computer or in Windows Explorer:**

Restart the computer. check that the drive is receiving power by pressing the Eject button on the front of the drive; if the tray opens, it is getting power.

For more information on specific error messages, click the **Help and Support** icon in the Start menu.

**Check sound and power connections:**

- Check the speaker connection.
- Remove any connected headphone.
- Check to see if the IDE data cable is connected to both the CD/DVD drive and the motherboard if you have installed other hardware components in your computer.
- Check to see if the audio cable from the sound card is attached to the CD-ROM or DVD drive.

**Note:** Refer to the printed Upgrading and Servicing for the PC guide that came with your computer to check or adjust connections to your computer.

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**IF A VIRUS KILLS THE BIOS, YOUR PC DIES TOO**

**What is the BIOS?** [Click here: What is BIOS? - A Word Definition From the Webopedia Computer Dictionary](#)

Question: "It seems incongruous that a virus program can rewrite the BIOS chip, but there's no other program available to put the BIOS instructions back onto the chip. Is this chip programmable or isn't it?"

Answer: The problem arises if the CIH **virus program overwrites the BIOS program code (but with no effect on the chip itself). The user could flash the chip again--there's** nothing physically wrong with it. One could even restore the BIOS program with a disk image copy of it (made in advance or obtained from the manufacturer), along with the software to reflash it onto the chip.

The BIOS program is vital, because it directly accesses the PC's hardware to test system memory and disk drives at boot-up, and it accesses the disk to load the operating system. Most PCs store the BIOS code on a flash (write-enabled) RAM chip to allow updates--if the PC is running normally.

However, CIH makes that task difficult if not impossible, because CIH's overwriting process temporarily disables the PC. Without the BIOS program, the PC will not start, even from a floppy disk or CD, and that means you can't access the disk image copy of the BIOS code (assuming you even have that), nor can you flash the program onto the chip again.

In those few cases where a skilled user has a second (identical) machine running and both machines have removable chips, the user could switch the chips (with extreme care, of course). But in many cases, the chip is soldered to the motherboard. You could in theory send the board back to the factory--but most people give up and replace it to get the PC up and running.

Note: The original CIH virus spread under the Portable Executable file format under Windows 95, Windows 98, and Windows ME. For a long time, CIH did not spread under Windows NT, Windows 2000, Windows XP or Windows Vista or MAC OS.

However, The CIH got a new look, while scanning the security holes inside the Windows Networks. Windows XP got prone to it when some people disliked the windows validation tool. CIH caused IP Conflicts, Font removal, System Netbios Conflicts on the many windows xp/server systems.

Most Anti-virus programs today will see the CIH and remove it...IF...IF you're running a reputable anti-virus program and if it has been updated regularly.

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## **Say goodbye to BIOS — and hello to UEFI!**

By Woody Leonhard

**If you've ever struggled with your PC's BIOS — or been knee-capped by a rootkit that assailed the BIOS — you undoubtedly wondered why this archaic part of every PC wasn't scrapped long ago.**

Well, be of good cheer: Windows 8 will finally pull the PC industry out of the BIOS generation and into a far more capable — and controversial — alternative, the Unified Extensible Firmware Interface.

To best understand where we're headed, it's helpful to look at where we've been. An integral part of every PC, the Basic Input/Output System spans the entire history of the personal computer — more than 30 years. The very first IBM PC had a BIOS. And despite extraordinary advances in hardware and software, the BIOS we still puzzle over today is not much different from the one in that original PC.

Essentially a miniature OS, the BIOS has a simple but critical function — when a PC powers up, the BIOS checks that all hardware is in order (the POST or "power-on self-test" sequence); fires up the full operating system on the machine, such as Windows (using OS loader code); and then hands all control of the computer over to the OS.

Although older operating systems (such as DOS) relied on the BIOS to perform input and output functions, modern OSES (including Windows) have their own device drivers and completely bypass the BIOS after they're up and running.

These days, it's rare that a PC user is forced to invoke the BIOS's cryptic and somewhat enigmatic user interface. Usually, it's in response to some near-catastrophic system failure.

The Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI) is essentially the next generation of BIOS. It's a system that potentially offers new and more advanced control of the boot-up process. If your PC is less than two or three years old, chances are good that it already has UEFI ([more info](#)) capabilities. Chances are **very** good that you didn't know that, because the hardware manufacturers have been carefully keeping the old BIOS interface as your default boot system. But that will change with Windows 8. generation and into a far more capable — and controversial — alternative, the Unified Extensible Firmware Interface.

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## How UEFI is different from/better than BIOS

The standard BIOS has all sorts of problems, not least of which is its susceptibility to malware. For example, there are rootkits that hook themselves into the BIOS OS-loader code, permitting them to run underneath Windows. They're difficult to remove and will reinfect Windows over and over.

And because the BIOS sits on a chip on the motherboard, it's more difficult to update than an operating system or an application. So most PC users never update their BIOS, leaving the PC possibly incompatible with newer operating systems. (The early PC BIOS was hard-coded on a chip, so upgrading required replacing the entire chip or PROM.)

The UEFI is a more sophisticated system that runs before your primary OS kicks in. Unlike the BIOS, UEFI can access **all** PC hardware, including the mouse and network connections. It can take advantage of modern video cards and monitors. It can even access the Internet.

UEFI offers a modern, easy-to-decipher user interface. It could make dual-booting simpler, more visual, and controllable by mouse or touch. If you've ever played your BIOS, you discover that UEFI is in a whole new dimension.

Unlike the BIOS, the UEFI can exist on a disk, just like any other program — or in nonvolatile memory on the motherboard or even on a network share.

At this point, it's important to note that systems can run either the BIOS or the UEFI — or both. When they're both used, the BIOS goes first to run POST, then the UEFI takes over and hooks into any calls that may be made to the BIOS. (Windows typically doesn't make calls directly to the BIOS, but other operating systems might — and the UEFI will handle them, not the BIOS.)

The UEFI can also run without the BIOS — it can take care of all OS loading/interface functions previously handled by the BIOS. The only thing the UEFI can't do is perform the POST or run the initial setup (configuring the CPU, memory, and other hardware). PCs that have the UEFI but no BIOS have separate programs for POST and setup that run automatically when the PC is powered on.

As we all know, the BIOS initialization process — including POST — seems to take a long time. The

UEFI, on the other hand, can run quickly.

Moreover, a BIOS is easily reverse-engineered and typically has no internal security protection, making it a sitting duck for malware. A UEFI can run malware-dodging techniques such as policing operating systems prior to loading them — which might make rootkit writers' lives considerably more difficult. For example, the UEFI could refuse to run OSes that lack proper digital security signatures.

And that's where the UEFI controversy begins.

## Windows 8 will implement UEFI in new ways

Back in September, Microsoft wrote voluminously about the UEFI in Windows 8. The first [post](#), "Reengineering the Windows boot experience," talks about the basic ways Windows 8 will use the UEFI. (If your PC doesn't support a UEFI, Win8 should still work fine.)

The article shows how current text-based, boot-time options, such as system repair store and image recovery, can be made more usable with a new graphical interface. The story goes on to describe how system startup could go, in seconds, from power-on to Windows Desktop without so much as flickering the screen. It also shows how dual-boot will work with a graphical face-lift.

The changes appear to be largely cosmetic, but they're long overdue and a welcome improvement to the constrained, DOS-era recovery environments under which Windows operates.

The second [article](#), "Protecting the pre-OS environment with UEFI," shows how the UEFI secure boot — using Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) digital certificates — validates programs, peripherals, and OS loaders before they can run. The system can go out to the Internet and check whether the UEFI is about to run an OS that has had its certificate yanked.

If it sounds a lot like Secure Sockets Layer protection — no stranger to controversy, as I detailed in my Sept. 15, 2011, [Top Story](#) — there certainly are similarities.

Microsoft states it will let the hardware manufacturers struggle with the difficult question of who controls the digital-signature keys. "Microsoft supports OEMs having the flexibility to decide who manages security certificates and how to allow customers to import and manage those certificates, and manage secure boot. We believe it is important to support this flexibility to the OEMs and to allow our customers to decide how they want to manage their systems."

Still, Microsoft is ensuring that anyone buying a certified Windows 8 PC can rely on a certain level of protection from rogue OS loaders. "For Windows customers, Microsoft is using the Windows Certification program to ensure that systems shipping with Windows 8 have secure boot enabled by default, that firmware not allow programmatic control of secure boot (to prevent malware from disabling security policies in firmware), and that OEMs prevent unauthorized attempts at updating firmware that could compromise system integrity."

## The controversial side of dual boot

When those details first hit, the Linux community flew up in arms. Dual booting between Windows 8 and Linux might require a digital signature from a recognized certificate authority. That authority might be Microsoft, through its Windows Certification program, and Linux folks would have to pay the piper.

That controversy went on for a while but eventually died down (though it never disappeared) when it became clear that putting together the signature is relatively easy and not very expensive.

Then another conflagration started last week. To understand why, you have to understand that UEFI secure boot has two bail-out options. First, most PCs let you turn off UEFI secure boot entirely. You have

to be sitting at the computer and do it manually, but it's easy enough. In one of the Microsoft postings mentioned previously, the company acknowledged that hardware manufacturers could "allow customers to ... manage secure boot."

Second, there's a provision for something called "custom secure boot mode" in which you, as a customer, can sit at your computer and type in a signature for any OS loader you darned well like. This manually created whitelist overrides the Windows 8 or third-party check, letting the UEFI run OS loaders unhindered.

You must also understand that Windows 8 will run on two entirely different hardware platforms — Intel/AMD platforms spanning the range from (ponderous!) tablets to full-size desktops, and the svelte, tablet-friendly ARM platforms. If you use Win8, one of your first decisions will be which platform you choose.

The Linux world was taken aback when researcher Glyn Moody and the Software Freedom Law Center announced last week in a [blog](#) that Microsoft is making specific demands from hardware manufacturers who intend to sell Windows 8 bundled with their ARM machines — that is, those lightweight Windows 8 tablets. The Microsoft restrictions prevent hardware manufacturers from disabling secure boot and also prevent hardware manufacturers from implementing "custom secure boot" whitelists — but again, only on ARM hardware.

In other words, if at some point in the future you buy an ARM-based tablet with Windows 8 preinstalled, you won't be able to dual-boot with Linux or any operating system other than the ones that pass the security check. Presumably that could mean Windows 8 or some later version of Windows that Microsoft might ordain in the future.

Aside from the fact that the restrictions fly in the face of what Microsoft specifically said in September, it's hard for me to get too worked up about them. If you buy a Win8 (ARM) tablet, you won't be able to root it ([Wikipedia definition](#)), and you may not be able to upgrade it. You'll just have to take that into account when you think about buying one — assuming Microsoft is up-front about the limitation and mentions it to consumers.

Intel-based Windows 8 machines — even tablets (including tablets that run only the Metro interface) — aren't hobbled by those ARM restrictions. At least at this point, Intel/AMD machines are, in fact, required to allow multibooting (with signed operating systems) and even to replace Windows 8 with an OS of your choice. It remains to be seen whether Microsoft's going to change its mind about that distinction.

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## HOW BOOT-SECTOR VIRUSES SPREAD

### Win XP

**Creating an XP boot disk** is much more involved and so I recommend that you have the RECOVERY Disks that came with your computer, or create a set of the disks and keep those in a safe place just in case a crash occurs and you have to reinstall the applications or do a full format and recovery. IF your XP will not power up so you can get to the Recovery disks stored in a partition of your C:\drive, you're going to need something to power up. In most computer's setup that has the XP operating system and stores the Recovery Disks on a partition (D:) of the hard drive, instructions are given for creating Recovery CDs. **IF you did not do that and do not have a SET OF RECOVERY DISKS for your computer, then TODAY is the time to create those Recovery CDs...before you need them.**



**IF you created a set of Recovery Disks but you can't find them, you can recreate the disks if you have an HP or Compaq computer, using the small free download program**

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### STARBUCKS LEMON LOAF

This is a Top Secret recipe version of Starbucks Lemon loaf.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cup(s) FLOUR
- 1/2 tsp BAKING SODA
- 1/2 tsp BAKING POWDER
- 1/2 tsp SALT
- 3 EGGS
- 1 cup(s) SUGAR
- 2 TBS BUTTER; Softened.
- 1 tsp VANILLA
- 1 tsp LEMON EXTRACT
- 1/3 cup(s) LEMON JUICE
- 1/2 cup(s) OIL

#### Lemon Icing Ingredients:

- 1 cup POWDERED SUGAR; Plus 1 Tablespoon.
- 2 TBS WHOLE MILK; I Used 2%.
- 1/2 tsp LEMON EXTRACT

#### Instructions:

- Combine flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt in a bowl.
- Use a mixer to blend together the eggs, sugar, butter, vanilla, lemon extract and lemon juice in a medium bowl.
- Pour wet ingredient into the dry ingredients and blend until smooth.
- Add oil and mix well.
- Pour batter into a well greased 9x5-inch loaf pan.
- Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until a toothpick stuck into center of the cake comes out clean.
- Make the lemon icing by combining all the icing ingredients in a small bowl with an electric mixer on low speed.
- When the loaf is cool, remove it from pan and frost the top with the icing.
- Let the icing set up before slicing.

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Dear Friend of CV,

Pope Francis has called on all Catholics and people of faith to pray for peace. This Saturday, September 7.

You. Me. Everyone.

The Holy Father is asking Catholics and people of all faiths to join together on the vigil of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary – for a day of fasting and prayer for peace in Syria.

In his Sunday audience, Pope Francis said:

“All men and women of good will are bound by the task of pursuing peace. I make a forceful and urgent call to the entire Catholic Church, and also to every Christian of other

confessions, as well as to followers of every religion and to those brothers and sisters who do not believe: peace is a good which overcomes every barrier, because it belongs all of humanity!"

Pope Francis' two predecessors saw first-hand the devastation of the Second World War. But Francis has also known war as violence raged in his home country of Argentina during the 1970s.

Americans today are understandably anxious and weary about our country getting engulfed in yet another conflict in the Middle East. Our political leaders are reviewing the evidence and debating the options. As citizens, it is difficult to fully assess all of the evidence and weigh all the options available.

But we know from our recent history that the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq did not go as planned. War never does. And we know that a conflict in Syria risks igniting a separate conflict with Iran and potentially others in the region. And we know that the Syrian rebels include many terrorists allied with Al Qaeda.

**Yes, the use of force is sometimes justified and necessary. In our fallen world, the use of force may be needed to repel aggressors and bring about peace. But the cost of war in blood, treasure, and culture is incalculable and lasting. Recall what Blessed John Paul II warned: War is always a defeat for humanity.**

So this Saturday, let's take up this challenge from our Pope.

Please pray for peace.

We can pray to other Mother in Heaven, Mary, Queen of Peace. As our Holy Father said on Sunday: "Let us ask Mary to help us to respond to violence, to conflict and to war, with the power of dialogue, reconciliation and love. She is our mother: may she help us to find peace; all of us are her children! Help us, Mary, to overcome this most difficult moment and to dedicate ourselves each day to building in every situation an authentic culture of encounter and peace."

Here is a prayer to Mary, Immaculate Queen of Peace, you can use on Saturday:

*Most holy and immaculate Virgin, Mother of Jesus and our loving Mother, being his Mother, you shared in his universal kingship. The prophets and angels proclaimed him King of peace. With loving fervor in our hearts we salute and honor you as Queen of peace.*

*We pray that your intercession may protect us and all people from hatred and discord, and direct our hearts into the ways of peace and justice which your Son taught and exemplified. We ask your maternal care for our Holy Father who works to reconcile the nations in peace. We seek your guidance for our President and other leaders as they strive for world peace.*

*Glorious Queen of peace, grant us peace in our hearts, harmony in our families and concord throughout the world. Immaculate Mother, as patroness of our beloved country, watch over us and protect us with your motherly love. Amen.*

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You can only be happy with a thankful heart...

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?feature=player\\_embedded&v=nj2ofrX7jAk](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?feature=player_embedded&v=nj2ofrX7jAk)



Jmax's Website <http://www.jmaxbits.com/>

Jmax Bits Newsletter is now posted each Monday & Thursday on the website.  
You have the option for a .pdf or a .rtf file.

1. For help with a computer problem, put **HELP** in the subject line and give me info about the computer you're using, if you know it.

2. To view or print **Jmax Bits Good Services List** in the Villages area, click link [www.jmaxbits.com](http://www.jmaxbits.com)

3. To sign up for the non-computer newsletter, send an email to [VLGSClassifieds@aol.com](mailto:VLGSClassifieds@aol.com). Put **SUBSCRIBE** in the subject line. To send an Ad, place **AD** in the subject line.

4. The Villages Computer Club's web page: [Click here: Welcome To The Villages Computer Club](#)

To add your name to the VCC announcements list, send email to [TheVCC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:TheVCC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

5. Fred Benson's website [www.thevillagescomputerbasics.com](http://www.thevillagescomputerbasics.com)