

What is UEFI?

by Nnigma, Inc.2012

UEFI stands for United Extensible Firmware Interface and is a term that describes the process of starting your computer.

The startup procedure for a computer system, known as a boot is the series of processes that happen when you power on the system.

Perhaps the best way to explain is to talk you through the process. You sit down at your computer and push the power button.

As your computer powers up there is a period of time when the screen displays a number of screens that probably make little sense to you.

After a short time you see the operating system begin to load and progress boxes or other symbols indicate to you that the system is loading and opening. Eventually the login or startup screen displays and your computer is ready for action.

This is the process of booting your computer.

After you turn the power on to your computer but before the OS loads and takes control of the computers processes your system needs some other form of control.

Traditionally this period of time is controlled by a system known as BIOS. This gets a little complicated, but it's worth understanding.

BIOS stands for Basic Input/Output System and is the program originally designed to get a PC started after the power is turned out.

The BIOS manages the data flow between your computer's OS and any attached devices like the hard disk, video card, keyboard and mouse.

When the BIOS starts up your computer it verifies that all the attachments are in place and operational before it loads the OS and activates it.

The UEFI does not replace your computer's BIOS. Instead it is layered on top of the BIOS to help it run cleanly and smoothly. The BIOS is specific to the type of processor your computer uses.

Some of the devices you might attach to your computer may not be compatible to your system's BIOS. The UEFI provides a safe environment that allows your BIOS to work with these types of attachments.

So, what does all this mean to you? Windows 8 includes UEFI. This means your Windows 8 system will boot smoothly and safely regardless of the attachments

you add to your computer. Basically, UEFI increases the booting efficiency of your system and prevents problems during the startup.