

How to turn on your computer*

* x86 computer **

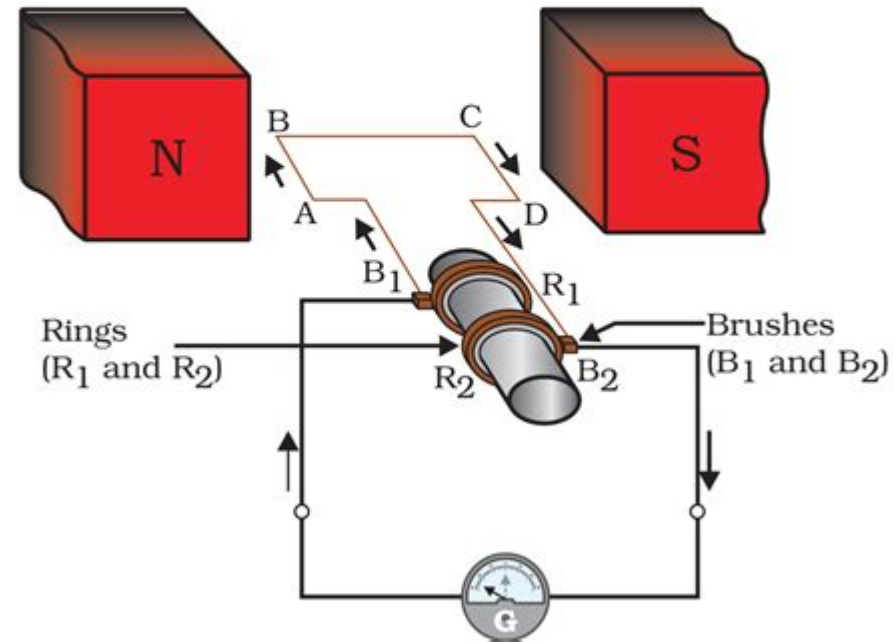
** old x86 computer

Step one: invent the wheel

- Changing magnetic flux through a loop induces a current in the loop
- $V \propto d\phi/dt$
- Basically how every form of energy production (coal, nuclear, wind, geothermal) is converted into electricity

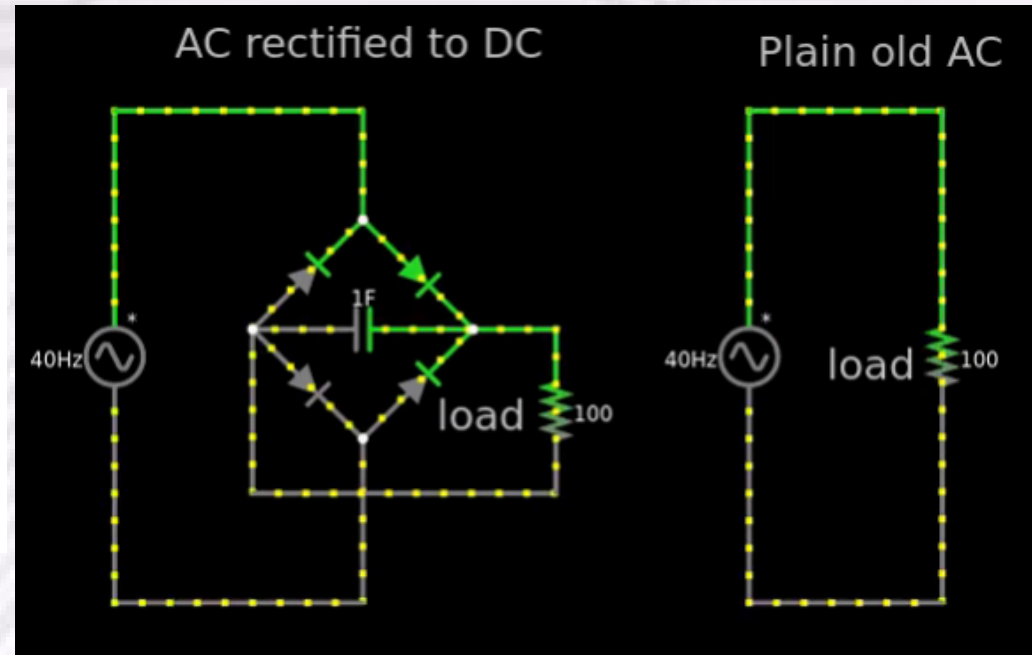
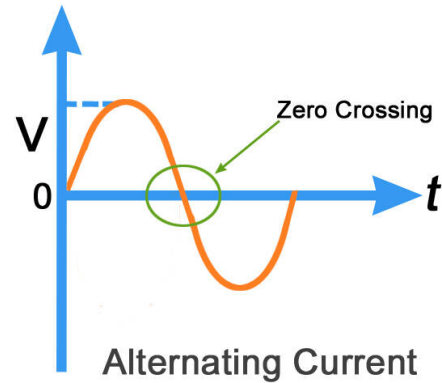
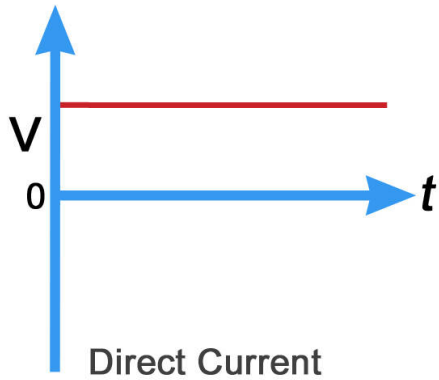
(solar is an exception to this)

Electric Generator (AC)



Step two: rectify AC to DC

- AC bad for computer! Computer hate AC. AC probably make CPU go boom.
- DC good for computer. DC smooth like pebble. Computer love DC.
- Filters, stepdown transformers, grounding are also important

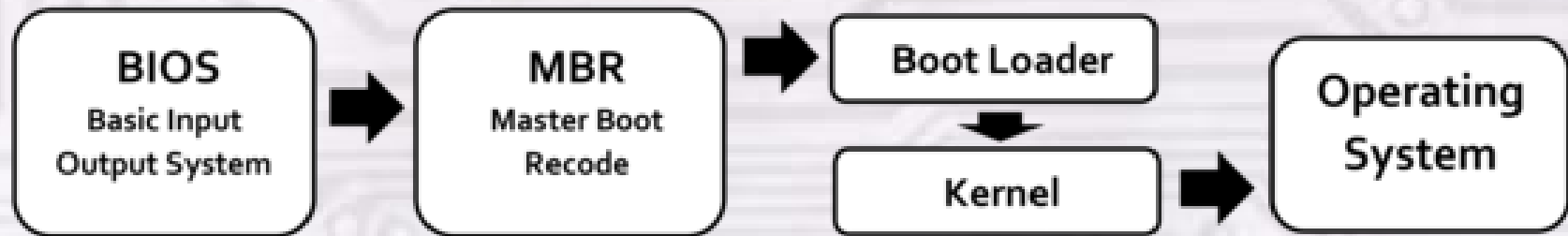


Step three: plug it in!

- Some protective circuitry on motherboard, lots of chips that do onboard logic
 - Regulating voltage, generating data / clock signals, monitoring power
 - Distinction between power lines and data lines
- POST (power-on self test)
 - Ensuring that onboard hardware is all working properly
 - Example, many computers will beep if no RAM sticks are found
 - (Therefore they fail to POST)

Overview of the rest of the process

Legacy Boot



What happens before bootloader?

- BIOS searches for bootable drives
 - USB's, hard disks, etc.
- Search order can be modified by booting into BIOS config and changing parameters
- BIOS looks for a drive starting with a 512 byte sector ending with the magic number 0xaa55

Boot Mode
UEFI Boot
CSM Support

[Normal]
[Disabled]
[Auto]

Sets the system boot o

Boot Option Priorities

Boot Option #1
Boot Option #2
Boot Option #3
Boot Option #4
Boot Option #5
Boot Option #6

[USB Floppy Disk]
[Hard Disk]
[USB Optical Drive]

Boot Option #1

Hard Disk
USB Floppy Disk
USB Optical Drive
USB Hard Disk
USB KEY
LAN
Disabled

→←: Select Screen
↑↓: Select Item
Enter: Select
F5/F6: Change Values
F1: General Help
F9: Setup Defaults
F10: Save and Reboot
Esc: Exit



MBR (Master Boot Record)

- First physical sector on bootable storage device
- Contains code + data required to find and boot the operating system
- x86 machines start in 16 bit Real Mode (for compatibility), operating systems normally run in 32 or 64 bit Protected Mode
- In 446 bytes (A single 512 byte sector – 2 byte magic number – partition table with 4 16-byte entries), the bootloader must*
 - find a bootable partition
 - find kernel image and load it into memory
 - switch to protected 32 bit mode (64 bit is a bit more complicated (32 of them, actually))
 - (optionally) set up stack for operating system

* this is partially a lie, as we shall see



MASTER BOOT RECORD

≥ INVOKE-IR

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BOOT CODE

```
000: 33 C0 8E D0 BC 00 7C 8E C0 8E D8 BE 00 7C BF 00
010: 06 89 00 02 FC F3 A4 50 68 1C 06 CB FB B9 04 00
020: BD BE 07 80 7E 00 00 7C 0B 0F 85 0E 01 83 C5 10
030: E2 F1 CD 18 88 56 00 55 C6 46 11 05 C6 46 10 00
040: 84 41 BB AA 55 CD 13 5D 72 0F 81 FB 55 AA 75 09
050: F7 C1 01 00 74 03 FE 46 10 66 60 80 7E 10 00 74
060: 26 66 68 00 00 00 00 66 FF 76 08 68 00 00 68 00
070: 7C 68 01 00 68 10 00 B4 42 8A 56 00 8B F4 CD 13
080: 9F 83 C4 10 9E EB 14 B8 01 02 BB 00 7C 8A 56 00
090: 8A 76 01 8A 4E 02 8A 6E 03 CD 13 66 61 73 1C FE
0A0: 4E 11 75 0C 80 7E 00 80 0F 84 8A 00 B2 80 EB 84
0B0: 55 32 E4 8A 56 00 CD 13 5D EB 9E 81 3E FE 7D 55
0C0: AA 75 6E FF 76 00 E8 8D 00 75 17 FA B0 D1 E6 64
0D0: E8 83 00 B0 DF E6 60 E8 7C 00 B0 FF E6 64 E8 75
0E0: 00 FB B8 00 BB CD 1A 66 23 C0 75 3B 66 81 FB 54
0F0: 43 50 41 75 32 81 F9 02 01 72 2C 66 68 07 B8 00
100: 00 66 68 00 02 00 00 66 68 08 00 00 66 53 66
110: 53 66 55 66 68 00 00 00 66 68 00 00 66 68 00 66
120: 61 68 00 00 07 CD 1A 5A 32 F6 EA 00 7C 00 00 CD
130: 18 A0 B7 07 EB 08 A0 B6 07 EB 03 A0 B5 07 32 E4
140: 05 00 07 8B F0 AC 3C 00 74 09 B8 07 00 B4 0E CD
150: 10 EB F2 F4 EB FD 2B C9 E4 64 EB 00 24 02 E0 F8
160: 24 02 C3 49 6E 76 61 6C 69 64 20 70 61 72 74 69
170: 74 69 6F 6E 20 74 61 62 6C 65 00 45 72 72 6F 72
180: 20 6C 6F 61 64 69 6E 67 20 6F 70 65 72 61 74 69
190: 6E 67 20 73 79 73 74 65 6D 00 4D 69 73 73 69 6E
1A0: 67 20 6F 70 65 72 61 74 69 6E 67 20 73 79 73 74
1B0: 65 6D 00 00 00 63 7B 9A 82 D4 BA 7D 00 00 00 20
1C0: 21 00 07 FE FF FF 00 08 00 00 90 36 06 80 FE
1D0: FF FF 07 FE FF FF 00 A0 36 06 00 60 09 00 00 00
1E0: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
1F0: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 55 AA
```

CHS ADDRESSING

00100000 00100001 00000000
00100000 100001 0000000000
Head - 1st byte
Sector - 2nd byte (0-5 bits)
Cylinder - 2nd byte (6-7 bits)
3rd byte

PARTITION TABLE

PARTITION TYPES

0x00 - EMPTY	0x83 - LINUX
0x01 - FAT12	0x84 - HIBERNATION
0x04 - FAT16	0x85 - LINUX_EXTENDED
0x05 - MS_EXTENDED	0x86 - NTFS_VOLUME_SET
0x06 - FAT16	0x87 - NTFS_VOLUME_SET_1
0x07 - NTFS	0xA0 - HIBERNATION_1
0x0B - FAT32	0xA1 - HIBERNATION_2
0x0C - FAT32	0xA5 - FREEBSD
0x0E - FAT16	0xA6 - OPENBSD
0x0F - MS_EXTENDED	0xA8 - MACOSX
0x11 - HIDDEN_FAT12	0xA9 - NETBSD
0x14 - HIDDEN_FAT16	0xAB - MAC_OSX_BOOT
0x16 - HIDDEN_FAT16	0xB7 - BSDI
0x1B - HIDDEN_FAT32	0xB8 - BSDI_SWAP
0x1C - HIDDEN_FAT32	0xEE - EFI_GPT_DISK
0x1E - HIDDEN_FAT16	0xEF - EFI_SYSTEM_PARTITION
0x42 - MS_MBR_DYNAMIC	0xFB - VMWARE_FILE_SYSTEM
0x82 - SOLARIS_X86	0xFC - VMWARE_SWAP
0x82 - LINUX_SWAP	

FIELDS

VALUES

jump to boot program
disk parameters
boot program code
disk signature

82D4BA7D

status 0x00 - Non-Bootable
starting head 0x20
starting sector 0x21
starting cylinder 0x00
partition type 0x07 - NTFS
ending head 0xFE
ending sector 0x3F
ending cylinder 0x3FF
relative start sector 0x800
total sectors 0x6369000

status 0x80 - Bootable
starting head 0xFE
starting sector 0x3F
starting cylinder 0x3FF
partition type 0x07 - NTFS
ending head 0xFE
ending sector 0x3F
ending cylinder 0x3FF
relative start sector 0x636A000
total sectors 0x96000

partition type 0x00 - EMPTY

partition type 0x00 - EMPTY

END OF MBR

marker

0x55AA

Fun details

- No distinction between code and data in bootloader code
- 16-bit limitations mean that segmentation addressing must frequently be used
 - `segment:offset` \rightarrow $(\text{segment} * 16) + \text{offset}$
 - Commonly, a code segment and a data segment
- Programmer must be very aware of relative addressing

How its actually done

- Because of the 446-byte limitation, actual bootloaders do not usually complete the entire boot process in the boot sector.
- Other approaches are:
 - Use the second+ sectors for more bootloader code, and to load those into memory using first sector code
 - Relocate initial bootloader code, and load a secondary bootloader to `0x7c0:0x0` (good for multibooting)

How its actually done

- Because of the 446-byte limitation, actual bootloaders do not usually complete the entire boot process in the boot sector.
- Other approaches are:
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 - Relocate initial bootloader code, and load a secondary bootloader to `0x7c0:0x0` (good for multibooting)
 - Give up and blow up your computer (recommended)

```
org 0x0
bits 16
jmp 0x7c0:start          ; set (cs,ip) = (0x7c0, start)
```

```
;; prepare to copy sector at 0x7c0:0x0 to 0x060:0x0
```

```
start:
```

```
;; set data segment to point to code segment 0x7c0:0x0
```

```
mov bx, 0x7c0
```

```
mov ds, bx
```

```
;; store boot drive number for later use in BIOS calls
```

```
mov [ds:511], dl
```

```
;; clear interrupt and direction flags
```

```
cli
```

```
cld
```


copy_sector:

;; finish copying if we've copied 512 bytes

cmp bx, 512

je relocate

;; copy one byte from ds sector to es sector

mov ah, [ds:bx]

mov [es:bx], ah

;; move bx to point to the next byte, and loop

inc bx

jmp copy_sector

```
;; set code segment and data segment to point  
;; to freshly copied segment 0x060:0x0
```

relocate:

```
;; set the data segment
```

```
mov bx, 0x060
```

```
mov ds, bx
```

```
;; set up (small) stack
```

```
mov sp, 446
```

```
;; (implicitly) set code segment through this jump
```

```
jmp 0x060:find_active_partition
```

```
;; Wait for user to press a key, then reboot  
reboot_on_keypress:  
    xor ah, ah  
    int 0x16  
    int 0x19  
    hlt
```

QEMU

Machine View

Welcome to RunicOS!
Disk read success...

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Credits

- <http://www.invoke-ir.com/2015/05/ontheforensictrail-part2.html>
- https://wiki.osdev.org/Boot_Sequence
- <https://www.teachoo.com/10705/3113/Electric-Generator/category/Concepts/>