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How to take BIOS screenshots

Alan D. Monument
Monument.AL IT Pty Ltd
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The BIOS (Basic Input Output System) is a system firmware installed on your computer's motherboard that allows users to directly change hardware settings to make the computer run according to their needs. In the early days of personal computing BIOS setups were fairly simple and allowed for the customisation of basic computer functions such as Boot device selection and hardware information.

Nowadays motherboard manufacturers have started manufacturing motherboards with more advanced chipsets requiring a more sophisticated (read more complicated) BIOS. Now it is possible to overclock your computer, control the cooling system, use a mouse to navigate the BIOS setup screens, and so much more.

It is therefore so much easier to make a change when configuring the BIOS settings that can have a negative effect on the functioning of your computer. It is important therefore to make careful notes of the settings both before and after you make any changes so that you can revert these changes in the event of a problem. Because there are so many parameters, it is much easier to simply take a screen shot of each BIOS page and then copy the saved images into a document that you can refer back to later. This topic explains how to accomplish that task.

Requirements: A USB flash drive

Steps:

1. Grab a USB flash drive and plug it into the computer. Make sure it connects to your Operating System.
2. Now format that flash drive to FAT 16/32 file system (if necessary backup its data first). In Windows File Explorer Right Click > Format > Select File System > Click Format.
3. Restart your PC and keep pressing the <F2>, , or whatever key is required to access your motherboard's BIOS (you will usually briefly see a message indicating what that key is when the computer performs its initial power on sequence).
4. When in the BIOS, ensure your USB drive is detected, check the boot device priority.
5. After confirmation, press the <F12> (usually) or Print Screen (PrntScr) key to take a screenshot of the BIOS page(s). Some BIOS will wait for you to specify where you want to save your screenshot. These will then be stored in your flash drive with a .BMP extension.



The BMP files can then later (when you get back into your operating system) optionally be copy and pasted into a word processing document.

Note:

Older Intel motherboard BIOS may not support this function. In that case you will need to revert back to a camera/smart phone to capture the BIOS screens.