

"Boot Options" Screen

After you push the power button on your computer, and the BIOS is performing its "POST" functions (Power On Self Test), you have the opportunity to have your computer go to the "Boot Options" screen before it starts up your Windows operating system.

To access the "Boot Options" screen at start-up you would normally hold down the F-11 key after pushing the power-on button. HOWEVER, unfortunately, we again have the problem that not all manufacturers use this protocol. If your computer does not go to the "Boot Options" screen when you use the F-11 key you will need to check your manual, or do a Google search to find out which key is needed.

So why would we want to access this screen? One of the main reasons is to be able to select a different start-up location for performing repair work on your computer. A prime example would be the case where the computer will not boot-up when you push the start button. In this example you might need to insert a CD/DVD rescue disc and have the computer go directly to this disc on start-up. You can have this action done by directing your computer to access the CD/DVD drive first, rather than your hard drive.

The "Boot Options" screen also gives you the opportunity to have your computer start up from a variety of locations. Normally a computer will access the "C" drive, where you "normally" have the operating system located. But, if you have the operating system located on a different drive you would want to have the computer access that drive. It also gives you the opportunity to have two different operating systems (i.e., Windows 7 and Windows 8 and/or Linux) on the same hard drive, located in different partitions, with the opportunity to start-up which ever operating system you needed or wanted. Or, you might have one operating system on your "C" drive and a different operating system on an external hard drive. There are numerous possibilities.