

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Computer wont start up!! HELP!!](#)

Zion Williamson - March 13, 2015, 3:54 pm

Ok so my desktop wont start up, it says Reboot and select proper boot device. So i went into bios to make sure hard disk was first option and it is, but it just says Hard Disk, is this normal? Then when I click display boot menu it only shows disc drive no option to select hard disc. Any advice?

on windows 7 btw, but i dont think that matters if I cant access it
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archangel.dmitry - March 13, 2015, 4:25 pm

Does the BIOS detect the hard drive?

Zion Williamson - March 13, 2015, 5:20 pm

In the setup section of bios it says hard disc, don't know if that means it recognizes it tho. Is there a way to check?

archangel.dmitry - March 13, 2015, 5:33 pm

Usually there is a section where hard drive information is shown. What are brand and model of the motherboard?

Fox™ - March 13, 2015, 8:11 pm

IF the following is TRUE:

You can't select to boot to the HDD within the BIOS--the option, depending on your BIOS, might be grayed out.

The BIOS isn't showing HDD info nor does it show one is there.

...then it sounds like a hardware failure with your hard drive or something going to it.

If it's a desktop: With your computer off, open up your computer and put your finger on top of the hard drive. Then turn it on and see if you can feel the hard drive spin-up. If so, your drive is at least getting power. Try a different SATA cable. If that doesn't work, your drive is likely dead.

If it's a laptop: I assume by now you know what a hard drive sounds and feels like when it is spinning up. Listen for it when you turn it on. Put your ear up to it and see if you can hear it.

If you have Hiren's Boot Disk or some sort of Bootable Diagnostic Utility: Run a disk diagnostic checker, try for one specific to the brand of HDD you have. If it doesn't recognize a drive, and replacing the SATA or Power connector to the drive didn't work, you can assume you need a new drive.

Note, I'm coming from personal experience. I've had about 4-5 hard drives fail in various different machines over the past 8 years. It's bound to happen at some point.

Additionally, if you have a secondary machine, try and hook up the hard drive to it and boot to it. If it doesn't work, it's definitely dead. Otherwise, your issue is with something on your motherboard.

Jcgob - March 13, 2015, 8:13 pm

This happened to me, I had to get a new drive.

What you can do is boot from USB Ubuntu and see if you can access the data on your C: drive

Fox™ - March 13, 2015, 8:14 pm

(Mar 13, 2015 08:13 PM)Jcgob Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This happened to me, I had to get a new drive.

What you can do is boot from USB Ubuntu and see if you can access the data on your C: drive
This as-well as a USB -> SATA interface + a secondary computer would be options too.

I would put money on OP's drive being a goner. This is exactly what happened to me every time.

Freebooter - March 13, 2015, 8:26 pm

If the HDD is detected by the BIOS then Master Boot Record (MBR) could be damage and needs to be repaired you can repair MBR from System Recovery Options which can be launch from Windows 7 Setup DVD. Open the Command Prompt you can also open Command Prompt by pressing Shift + F10 keys at same time and within Command Prompt type Bootrec /FixBoot press Enter key also type Bootrec /FixMbr press Enter key and restart your computer to find out problem is resolved.

Meechy Darko - March 13, 2015, 8:31 pm

R.I.B(Rest in Bytes) OP's HDD.

It loved a long and beautiful life.

Hopefully it meets a lot of nice and fast SSDs in the great Harddrive Bay in The Sky.

Zion Williamson - March 13, 2015, 9:14 pm

Wow thanks guys for all the help! When I get home I'll try feeling to see if it at least starts up! So can someone explain how I would recover my shit from it?

Freebooter - March 13, 2015, 9:18 pm

(Mar 13, 2015 09:14 PM)Jahlil Okafor Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Wow thanks guys for all the help! When I get home I'll try feeling to see if it at least starts up! So can someone explain how I would recover my shit from it?First find out if HDD is functioning normally then we can help you recover your files there is no need explain how you can recover the files if HDD is not working if HDD is working then try my suggestion to repair MBR.

Fox™ - March 13, 2015, 9:24 pm

(Mar 13, 2015 09:18 PM)Freebooter Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) First find out if HDD is functioning normally then we can help you recover your files there is no need explain how you can recover the files if HDD is not working if HDD is working then try my suggestion to repair MBR.

I believe he said that the BIOS wasn't indicating a hard drive was detected, and it that's the case, the MBR isn't the issue. ?

Zion Williamson - March 13, 2015, 9:24 pm

I don't have the windows 7 cd tho, my computer came with it installed already! If my hard drive is dead, can I just buy an external hdd and hook it up?

(Mar 13, 2015 09:24 PM)Vanill?a Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I believe he said that the BIOS wasn't indicating a hard drive was detected, and it that's the case, the MBR isn't the issue. ?

Well I mean when I go to set the priorities is lets me put hard disc as priority #1 if that's any indication..

Fox™ - March 13, 2015, 9:28 pm

(Mar 13, 2015 09:24 PM)Jahlil Okafor Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I don't have the windows 7 cd tho, my computer came with it installed already! If my hard drive is dead, can I just buy an external hdd and hook it up?

Well I mean when I go to set the priorities is lets me put hard disc as priority #1 if that's any indication..

Download an ISO file for Windows 7 and put it on a flash drive and image it to a flash drive or burn it to a disc.

The external hard drive is technically doable if you want to have a 5 minute boot time, and it'd be very unreliable and a bad idea for heavy computing. You'd spend the same amount you would on a new HDD anyway.

Does the BIOS show a hard drive?...wait, let's back-track. What BIOS does your PC have?

Zion Williamson - March 13, 2015, 9:34 pm

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Ok I don't have access to my computer until tomorrow. Sorry for being a noob but how do I tell what bios my PC has? Also what are my options if my hard drive did die?

Fox™ - March 13, 2015, 9:37 pm

(Mar 13, 2015 09:34 PM)Jahlil Okafor Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Ok I don't have access to my computer until tomorrow. Sorry for being a noob but how do I tell what bios my PC has? Also what are my options if my hard drive did die?

Your computer's BIOS-type/name should be displayed in the main menu.

If your hard drive fails... buy a new hard drive.

Zion Williamson - March 13, 2015, 9:37 pm

Haha pretty dumb question I guess! But obviously an internal hard drive correct? What brand would you recommend?

Fox™ - March 13, 2015, 9:42 pm

(Mar 13, 2015 09:37 PM)Jahlil Okafor Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Haha pretty dumb question I guess! But obviously an internal hard drive correct? What brand would you recommend?

Yes, internal.

I'd recommend Western Digital.

Zion Williamson - March 13, 2015, 9:51 pm

(Mar 13, 2015 09:42 PM)Vanill?a Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yes, internal.

I'd recommend Western Digital.

Alright man, mind if I give you a pm tomorrow when I get home? Or pm me your skype? Thanks a bunch dude!

Fox™ - March 13, 2015, 9:57 pm

(Mar 13, 2015 09:51 PM)Jahlil Okafor Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Alright man, mind if I give you a pm tomorrow when I get home? Or pm me your skype? Thanks a bunch dude!
Drop me a PM tomorrow. I'll respond as soon as I can. :)

Freebooter - March 13, 2015, 10:47 pm

(Mar 13, 2015 09:24 PM)Vanill?a Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I believe he said that the BIOS wasn't indicating a hard drive was detected, and if that's the case, the MBR isn't the issue. ?Op never said BIOS does not detect HDD, below in quoted post what Op said so he still need to make sure HDD is not detected by BIOS so MBR could be a reason because we don't know for now HDD failed or not.

(Mar 13, 2015 05:20 PM)Jahlil Okafor Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) In the setup section of bios it says hard disc, don't know if that means it recognizes it tho. Is there a way to check?
Op if BIOS Setup Utility is not detecting HDD you need to check HDD power and cable connections to make sure they are securely connected. Visit website links for more information about why bios wont detect HDD and how to know if bios does detect HDD.

"How to check if your hard drive is detected by computer BIOS/CMOS"
<http://www.data-r-us.com/help/bios-cmos-hard-drive-detect.html>

"The BIOS does not detect or recognize the ATA / SATA hard drive"
http://knowledge.seagate.com/articles/en_US/FAQ/168595en

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Does the BIOS show a hard drive?...wait, let's back-track. What BIOS does your PC have? BIOS brand name wont solve any problem here except for upgrading BIOS ROM.?

Zion Williamson - March 14, 2015, 6:18 am

(Mar 13, 2015 10:47 PM)Freebooter Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Op never said BIOS does not detect HDD, below in quoted post what Op said so he still need to make sure HDD is not detected by BIOS so MBR could be a reason because we don't know for now HDD failed or not.

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"The BIOS does not detect or recognize the ATA / SATA hard drive"
http://knowledge.seagate.com/articles/en_US/FAQ/168595en

BIOS brand name wont solve any problem here except for upgrading BIOS ROM.?
I will be home in an hour or so and I'll let you know how it goes!