Boot a PC with CD/USB flash drive/Network(PXE)

Getting your PC to boot from something other device than the internal disk drive can be a bit tricky, so here's how to do it. Depending on the PC, you may be able to boot from the CD or USB flash drive just by inserting it, but if it does not boot, you will need to use the following method.

Resolving boot device issues



Select boot device by Windows restart menu

If Windows(10/11) is still working, press and hold [SHIFT] key and click [Restart] to display the boot device selection menu screen [Use a Device]. You can select boot device on the screen.



Select boot device by "boot menu"

Just after turn on the PC, press a key to show a "boot device selection menu" ("boot menu") and select boot device.

The key you press to display a "boot menu" varies depending on the manufacturer and model. Also, after turning on the power, the timing of pressing the keys is somewhat difficult, and if you don't get the timing right, Windows will start up as usual.

For example, F12(Dell or other) key or F9 key(HP) or other key to show PC's "boot menu".

Usually, if you see the manufacturer's logo, you need to hold down the key or tap the key repeatedly. Please see manufacturer's manual.



Change boot priority of the device in the BIOS/UEFI settings

In the PC's BIOS/UEFI settings, set the boot priority of the device you want to boot from, to the highest level.

First of all, you need to enter the BIOS/UEFI settings screen.

If Windows(10/11) is still working, press and hold [SHIFT] key and click [Restart] to display the [Troubleshoot]->[Advanced Options]->[UEFI Firmware Settings]. PC is restarted and UEFI setting menu is displayed.



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"Boot menu" example



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Another method to enter the BIOS /UEFI settings is the same as for displaying the "boot menu" (Method 2, above), only the key is different.

For example, F1 key, F2(Dell or other) key, F10 key(HP), [Delete] key, or other key to show PC's setup menu.

Usually, if you see the manufacturer's logo, you need to hold down the key or tap the key repeatedly. Please see manufacturer's manual.

BIOS/UEFI setting example

Info System Advanced Security Power	Boot	Exit
Boot Option Priorities		
Boot Option #1		
Windows Boot Manager (WD SN123 SDDABD	-256G)	
Boot Option #2		
UEFI: PXE IPv4 Intel [®] Ethernet Connection		
Boot Option #3		
UEFI: PXE IPv6 Intel® Ethernet Connection		
Boot Option #4		
UEFI: (VerbatimSTORE N GO PNAP)		
Boot Option #5		
UEFI: PIONEER BD-RW BDR-TD051.02		

Resolving Secure Boot issues

For our "Green Pepper PRO" system, many PCs can boot even if "secure boot" is enabled. However, "Secure Boot" may prevent booting. In that case, a message such as "Secure Error" may be displayed and the PC may not boot, but nothing may be displayed and the PC may boot from another device instead of booting from the specified device. When using WindowsPE CD/USB stick to boot, you do not have to disable "Secure Boot".

Method

Disable "Secure Boot" in the BIOS/UEFI settings

Enter BIOS/UEFI setting screen, as mentioned above "Method 3". In the Secure Boot settings, set to [disable].

If there is a "Third-party UEFI CA" item in the menu (wording may vary), enable it. By doing so, you may be able to get it to work with "Secure Boot" set to [Enable].

BIOS/UEFI setting example

