

# Re: What does boot mean??

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2005-07/msg15069.html>

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- *From:* "Timothy Daniels" <TDaniels@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 28 Jul 2005 17:22:35 -0700
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A little background: At one time, long, long ago, before floppies and punched tape, people started computers by setting toggle switches to form a command that the computer read when a button was pushed. This command started a series of increasingly complex loading events that culminated in the loading of the entire operating system from some peripheral. With a completely dumb computer and just one command, the entire OS was loaded, resulting in a smart computer. This was analogous to someone lifting himself up by his bootstraps. Thus the terms "bootstrap" as a verb and "bootstrap loader" came into use, and the terse term "boot" came to mean "start the bootstrap loading process to load the operating system".

Nowadays, with CMOS boot loaders and entire Oses on an internal hard drive, all that is invisible to a user. But the "boot" process is still a long series of increasingly complex load events to get from a single built-in instruction in the CPU to the complete loading of an OS (or installation executive program) into RAM. And when one "boots from a CD", one includes reading an executive program from a CD which then supervises some sort of loading process - perhaps from a hard drive, perhaps from the CD itself.

\*TimDaniels\*

"Dave Patrick" wrote:

In other words "start/restart the computer" with the XP CD-Rom in the drive.

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Regards,

Dave Patrick ....  
Microsoft Certified Professional  
Microsoft MVP [Windows]

## Re: What does boot mean??

"Robb Reis" wrote:

Hello yet again.

I want to know what boot means, because I do not understand the lingo of computers that well yet. This is related to my other post "Problems trying to reinstall windows XP - HELP!!" I want to get rid of the newer version of XP of my computer, and install the old one I have and get the updates which I already know where to get them.

Please someone tell me what boot means.  
Robb