

## Re: Making a SATA drive the boot drive

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.hardware/2004-12/1642.html>

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**From:** \_Vanguard\_ (see\_signature)

**Date:** 12/17/04

Date: Fri, 17 Dec 2004 11:18:40 -0600

"BobV" <robowa@comcast.net> wrote in message  
news:%23%232eaP\$4EHA.1120@TK2MSFTNGP11.phx.gbl...  
>  
> "\_Vanguard\_" <see\_signature> wrote in message  
> news:uPOrOYz4EHA.1292@TK2MSFTNGP10.phx.gbl...  
>> "BobV" <robowa@comcast.net> wrote in message  
>> news:uTuvqBz4EHA.2600@TK2MSFTNGP09.phx.gbl...  
>>> I have a new ASUS A7N8X-E with a SATA controller on board, and a new  
>>> WD SATA drive, and am finding it impossible to make it the boot disk.  
>>>  
>>> XP SP2 will recognize the disk as long as I have a IDE disk  
>>> installed, and the SATA disk is usable, but I am unable to use it as  
>>> the boot drive. If I try to reinstall XP without the IDE drive then  
>>> the install won't run because it says that there are no drives at  
>>> all.  
>>>  
>>> I can use XP's disk management to partition and format the SATA  
>>> drive but this doesn't help.  
>>>  
>>> Any answers, thanks, Bob  
>>>  
>>  
>> Did you configure the boot drive sequence in BIOS to actually use the  
>> SATA ports to find a bootable hard drive? Is the SATA controller  
>> enabled in BIOS? Did you install the SATA BIOS (it has its own BIOS  
>> that loads after the system BIOS although it might share EEPROM  
>> space), usually as part of the chipset driver package for your  
>> motherboard?  
>>  
> I can find no way to configure the boot drive to use the SATA ports in  
> BIOS,  
> I see no way to enable the SATA controller in BIOS.  
> No I did not install the SATA BIOS, as I am not sure what or where it  
> is. It certainly is not mentioned in the MOBO manual.  
>> --  
>> \_\_\_\_\_

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>> \_\_\_\_\_  
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>  
>

>From

[http://www.asus.com/pub/ASUS/mb/socka/nforce2/a7n8x-e/e1322\\_a7n8x-e\\_deluxe.pdf](http://www.asus.com/pub/ASUS/mb/socka/nforce2/a7n8x-e/e1322_a7n8x-e_deluxe.pdf),  
page 4–16, the available devices for a boot drive are:

Floppy  
LS120  
HDD–0 (first physically discovered hard drive)  
SCSI  
CDROM  
HDD–1 (second physically discovered hard drive)  
HDD–2  
HDD–3  
Zip  
USB–FDD  
USB–Zip  
USB–CDROM  
USB–HDD  
LAN  
Disabled

I don't see SATA mentioned although the mobo uses the Silicon Image SATA controller chip. So my guess is that you select SCSI. SCSI is actually handled as a generic BIOS–supported device rather than just for SCSI devices. SCSI BIOS loads after the system BIOS, as do IDE controller cards and SATA controllers and cards.

It is possible that this motherboard will not support booting from a SATA drive and instead only supports RAID using SATA devices. I noticed the SATA ports are labelled "SATA\_RAID1" and "SATA\_RAID2". I have two SATA ports on my Abit mobo and they are just labelled as "SATA1" and "SATA2" although they can be used for single drives or used with RAID. I have already used a lone SATA port with one hard disk as a bootable Windows XP drive. Page 2–20 of your Asus manual says:

"These Serial ATA connectors support SATA hard disks that you may configure as a RAID set."

Most onboard SCSI and SATA controllers don't let you create a RAID set from existing basic volumes without destroying their contents. I suppose you could try to use the SATA BIOS setup screen on bootup to configure a RAID set and then install Windows on it, but you'll need 2 SATA drives (for RAID–0 or –1).

microsoft.public.windowsxp.hardware: Re: Making a SATA drive the boot drive

You might be screwed in trying to use a lone non-RAIDed SATA drive as a boot drive and will get stuck with having to use an IDE drive to boot your system. Perhaps someone in the alt.comp.periphs.mainboards.asus with the same mobo can help you if they figured out a workaround.

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