

## TEJ 20 - The BIOS

Visit "How Stuff Works – How BIOS Works" (<http://www.howstuffworks.com/bios.htm>) and answer the following questions:

1. What does BIOS stand for?
2. What is the purpose of the BIOS?
3. List and describe the three types of software that a computer needs to operate.
4. What is the most important role of the BIOS?
5. When a computer is first turned on, where does the microprocessor (CPU) first get its instructions from?
6. What are some of the other common tasks that the BIOS performs?
7. Fill in the blanks- The BIOS is special \_\_\_\_\_ that interfaces the major \_\_\_\_\_ components of your computer with the \_\_\_\_\_. It is usually stored on a \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_, but sometimes the chip is another type of \_\_\_\_\_.
8. What is the usual sequence of steps performed by the BIOS when the computer is first turned on?
9. What does CMOS stand for?
10. What does the CMOS setup provide?
11. What are interrupt handlers?
12. What are device drivers?
13. Where are device drivers usually copied?
14. After checking the CMOS Setup and loading the interrupt handlers, what does the BIOS do?
15. What is a cold boot? What is a reboot?
16. After the BIOS determines whether the video card is operational, what does it do?
17. If the BIOS finds any errors during the POST (Power-On Self Test), what will it do?
18. What information does the BIOS display on the monitor?
19. After the system settings are displayed on the monitor, what does the BIOS do?
20. How does the BIOS determine where to find the operating system?
21. How does a person enter into the CMOS settings?
22. What are some of the common options included in the CMOS setup?
23. What may happen if an incorrect change is made to the CMOS settings?
24. Why might a BIOS need to be updated?
25. How can the BIOS be changed?
26. Take the BIOS quiz at <http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/bios-quiz.htm> What did you score out of 10?