CSCI 315 Operating Systems Design
Fall 2018
Activity 3

Work with one or two partners. Discuss the answers that each of you have produced for the questions below and write them on the back of this page.

Consider the reading you completed for today's class: *How Computers Boot Up*, by Gustavo Duarte. You have 25 minutes to seek answers to the following questions:

a) What is the status of the RAM when you boot up a computer system?

b) Where is the OS code when the machine is powered down?

c) What is the first program that runs when a system is powered up?

d) What is the purpose of the Power-on Self Test POST code?

e) How is the system able to start running the code that will boot up the OS?

f) What is the relationship between BIOS and the OS?

g) How does the system find in which of possibly many mass storage devices the OS is stored?

h) Why do disk drives have a *Master Boot Record* and also a *boot sector?*

i) Assume that a computer system has just been powered up. Enumerate all the steps in boot sequence that happen *before* the first user process can start to execute.

Supplemental reading: http://computer.howstuffworks.com/operating-system.htm