

## Point of View

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### Why a BIOS virus can kill Mac's

Researchers from Legba Core and Two Sigma Investments develop a virus worm that kills Mac computers. It will be presented during the ongoing Black Hat trade show in Las Vegas.

Why is this possible? Because most software that initiates the hardware and boots the operating system, the BIOS, follows the latest UEFI standard.

A UEFI BIOS requires access to the hard drive's file system whilst accessing data through the network port of the computer.

Yes we agree this is stupid. You don't need to be Einstein to realize it is hazardous to open up your computer to the internet before your anti-virus software has booted.

Apparently, the Snowden files revealed that the NSA has used this technique to access Windows and Linux-based computers. Macbooks also use UEFI BIOS to boot up, say no more.

Microsoft invented a patchwork for UEFI called "secure boot" to pacify the multi-billion embedded computing industry. They also grabbed the opportunity to stop non-windows operating systems from booting, which created an outrage in the Linux community. Since, they have made an additional patch for Linux.

We at WinZent believe in keeping things simple. The BIOS should just initialize the hardware and boot the operating system as quickly and safely as possible.

We therefore don't endorse UEFI.

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