

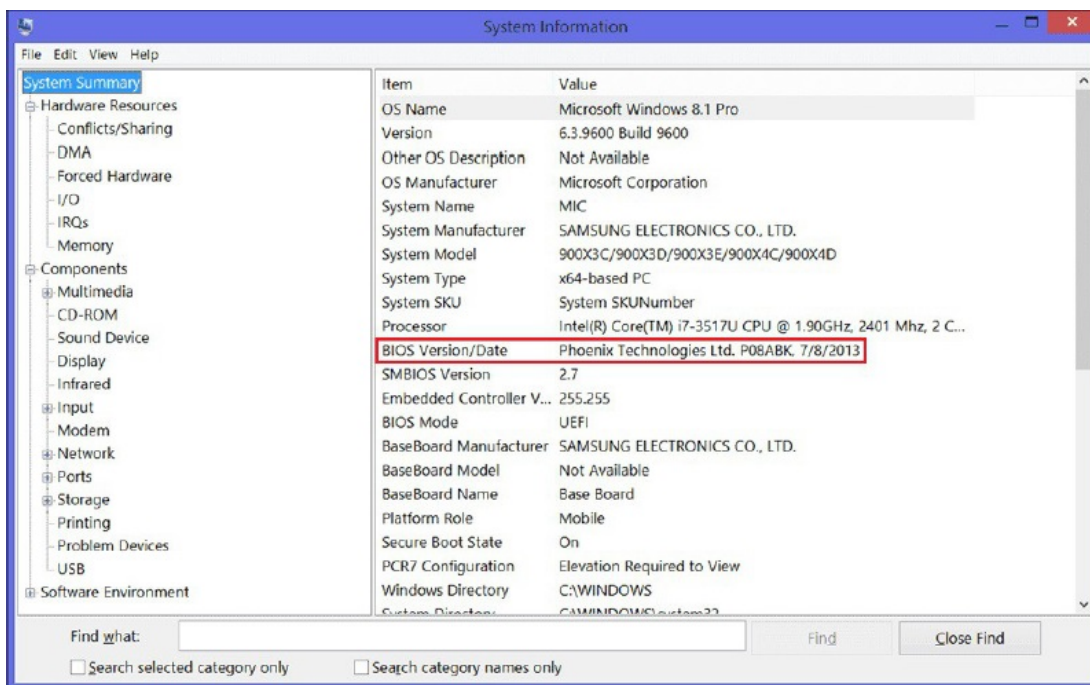
## BIOS Tools on a PC

The BIOS is the Basic Input/Output System. This is a chip which resides on the Motherboard within ROM (Read Only Memory) on older systems, or within some Flash memory on a more modern system. The BIOS is usually referred to as 'firmware'. It contains instructions which allow the motherboard to initialize the hardware components and perform the POST (Power On Self Test), before moving forward to the boot process and loading the main operating system such as Windows or Linux.

Boot sequence is the order in which a computer searches for nonvolatile data storage devices containing program code to load the operating system (OS). Typically, a Macintosh system uses ROM and Windows uses BIOS to start the boot sequence. Once the instructions are found, the CPU takes control and loads the OS into system memory.

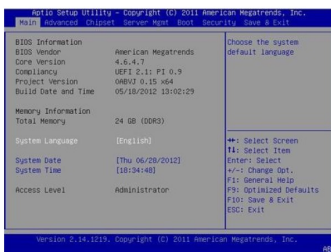
The devices that are usually listed as boot order options in the BIOS settings are hard disks, optical drives, flash drives, etc. The user is able to change the boot sequence via the CMOS setup. Boot sequence is also called as boot order or BIOS boot order.

You may find the BIOS version on a Windows computer by running msinfo32 command at the command prompt. It will bring up the following window:



As can be seen in the above screenshot, BIOS info is given under System Summary.

BIOS has a Setup utility stored in the BIOS flash memory. The configured data is provided with context-sensitive Help and is stored in the system's battery-backed CMOS RAM. To get into the BIOS on your Windows computer you need to press F2 just after you turn on the computer. A typical BIOS snap shot is shown below:



The following are some of the things that you can do with BIOS settings: Change the Boot Order, Create a BIOS Password, Change the Date and Time, Change Floppy Drive Settings, Change Hard Drive Settings. Checkout the full article at [examguides.com](http://examguides.com) Comptia A+ Core1 exam notes