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BIOS PASSWORD REMOVAL GUIDE & LINKS

The best method I have found is removing the battery. This is usually the way to go for the majority of laptops and practically all desktops. It is a button cell on the motherboard. This will, on almost all motherboards, reset the BIOS to its default value. Unplug the power from your computer, and then remove the battery. After removing it for about 10 seconds reinstall the battery and you should be good to go. If your using a laptop this can be a pain, and there are some software solutions available (I would try !BIOS first, info at links below), so if this doesn't work there are several guides on the internet that have alternative methods, I have organized the most useful ones below:

http://www.technibble.com/how-to-bypass-or-remove-a-bios-password/

http://www.askvg.com/how-to-reset-remove-bypass-a-bios-or-cmos-password/

http://www.computerhope.com/issues/ch000235.htm

http://www.tech-faq.com/reset-bios-password.shtml

http://www.elfqrin.com/docs/biospw.html

http://www.s2services.com/bioscmospasswordfreeware.htm

http://xtreview.com/review113.htm

There is also a bootable CD that will read the BIOS passwords for some models which you can download for free at the link below:

http://www.pccmos.com

To burn this CD use a software such as the free software IMGBurn from http://imgburn.com

General Laptops

Laptops generally have two batteries. The large battery used for running the computer when it is not plugged into the the wall, and another smaller battery that powers the real time clock and CMOS ram. Generally the CMOS battery is either in a hidden compartment near the main battery, or is a button cell on the motherboard such as seen here:

http://support.dell.com/support/edocs/systems/latd600/sm/reserve.htm#1123951

Other laptops will have switches or jumpers for removing the password such as this ACER:

http://www.laptop-repair.info/acer_bios_password.html

This is all fine and good but disassembling a laptop can be a time consuming process.

Most laptops can have their password removed using !BIOS from the links above or CMOSpswd available here:

http://www.cgsecurity.org/wiki/CmosPwd

These require the laptop to get into windows or boot from a CD.

Laptops with lockout codes

Some laptops will provide a lockout code which can be used to generate a password to login.

http://www.overclock.net/laptops-notebook-computers/422880-how-reset-laptop-bios-password.html

Acer

Acer laptops generally have DIP switches that can be used to remove the password, see the following for an example:

http://www.laptop-repair.info/acer_bios_password.html

For some models CTRL+ALT+ESC or F2 allows for boot to BIOS.

Dell

Dell's website has instructions for practically all their laptops. Just do a search in their support section under your model number.

Heres an example for the Latitude d600

 http://support.dell.com/support/edocs/systems/latd600/sm/reserve.htm#1123951

This tool also works well:

http://www.majorgeeks.com/download2969.html

For the Latitude C640 and similar models the BIOS is not resettable by battery removal. There is a EEPROM chip that stores the data. For many of these models the chip is located near the RAM, so full disassembly is not required:

http://web.archive.org/web/20040429025127/qasimtoep.tripod.com/dell/dell6.html

There is also a utility that lets you generate "Master" passwords on certain models from the Service Tag number. You can google "latitude.exe" and read about it, or just go for it below.

http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~skynet/zips/latitude.exe

Go into a command-session (or DOS-box) in any OS you like.
Go to the directory with the LATITUDE.EXE program in it.
Type in **latitude 12345** and hit enter. You have to substitute 12345 with your 5-character service tag number. If it is not a 5 character code on your model, then this program will probably not work, but it is worth trying the first 5 and last 5 digits, anyway. The program then gives you the password.
If you have issues, google "latitude.exe" and read the details.

Sager

http://blog.throbs.net/2006/12/22/I+Just+Reset+My+Sager+Notebooks+BIOS.aspx

Toshiba

For Toshiba laptops there is a hardware key that can be used to remove the password.

This is not always necessary as there is a software that is geared specifically for Toshiba laptops.

The software is called keydisk.

There is info at the bottom three links above, as well as my synopsis below.

Some Toshiba notebooks allow to bypass BIOS by inserting a "key-disk" in the floppy disk drive while booting. To create a Toshiba Keydisk, take a 720Kb or 1.44Mb floppy disk, format it (if it's not formatted yet), then use a hex editor such as Hex Workshop to change the first five bytes of the second sector (the one after the boot sector) and set them to 4B 45 59 00 00 (note that the first three bytes are the ASCII for "KEY". Once you have created the key disk put it into the notebook's drive and turn it on, then push the reset button and when asked for password, press Enter. You will be asked to Set Password again. Press Y and Enter. You'll enter the BIOS configuration where you can set a new password.

Here is a download for a keydisk generator:

http://www.cgsecurity.org/keydisk.exe

Some Toshiba's can be convinced to bypass the startup BIOS password if you hold down the LEFT-SHIFT; key while booting the system.

If this doesn't work you can use a hardware reset tool.

For older laptops there is a parallel port version that is relatively inexpensive.

It can generally be found on ebay by looking for 'Toshiba bios password' or something similar.

For newer laptops there is a USB version that is expensive, and I would suggest returning the laptop to Toshiba if you have a warranty, as they will general do this for you.

https://www.regnow.com/softsell/nph-softsell.cgi?items=1824-296

HP/Compaq

If the software above does not work, most all HP laptops have backup batteries, a smaller battery in addition to the main battery that can be removed and will remove a BIOS password.

The trick is to find the service manual for your laptop on HP's website, which will include disassembly instructions and how to remove the BIOS backup battery. You can typically google "YourLaptopModelNumber Service Manual" or find it by searching HP's website http://docs.hp.com/

Here is an example manual for the Presario 2500 with disassembly instructions for removing the CMOS battery on page 91:

http://h10032.www1.hp.com/ctg/Manual/c00246219.pdf

Here is another example, the manual for a zv6000 series laptop. The CMOS reset instructions are on page 8 of the PDF:

http://h10032.www1.hp.com/ctg/Manual/c00364919.pdf

For some very recent models that have a EEPROM backup you will need to contact HP support and they will guide you through removing the password. You will have to fax in some statement of ownership etc. Last I tried, this was a free service. Alternately, you can purchase a replacement EEPROM chip. The password on this model is stored in non-volitile memory and the removal of a CMOS battery will not clear the password. This EEPROM chip can be desoldered and a purchased replacement soldered back in place: http://excoboard.com/exco/archive.php?ac=t&forumid=61150&date=08-15-2006&t=430226-1.

For some Compaq desktop models, such as the DC7100 there is a green jumper next to the SATA connectors, remove it, turn the machine on, should be no more power on/bios passwords. You need to turn the machine on with the jumper removed

For some other models, try resetting the CMOS jumper by pulling the jumper out first and put it back or press the CMOS button about 10 times. If that doesn't work, take out the battery on the motherboard with the power cord unplugged and wait up to 15-30 minutes then put it back in

Sony

If the software above does not work, Sony laptops typically have a BIOS battery and can be disassembled such that the battery may be removed. A link with various service manuals may be found below.

http://www.laptoprepair101.com/laptop/2008/01/07/service-manuals-for-sony-vaio-laptops-notebooks/

If you have read through the guide and still cannot remove the BIOS password, send us an email at support@electrodisc.com with your laptop's make and model and we will see what we can do.