TRIAGE UNIT
TOPIC 2 – WORKSHEET 1
OPENING THE BIOS PROGRAM

The computer's boot (start-up) process has several steps. The boot-up program is written on a small, memory chip called the BIOS (Basic Input Output System). The first step in the start-up process is POST (Power On Self-Test). In this step, The BIOS checks all the "input and output" devices in the computer to make sure they are working. The BIOS program also stores this information so you can see it and even lets you change some of the hardware settings. To access the BIOS you have to interrupt the boot process and select this option.



Figure 1: AMI BIOS Chip on the Main Logic Board

Step 1. – Opening BIOS
To get into the BIOS or "set-up" program you have to stop the boot-up process when you see the computer manufacturer's start-up splash screen. It should look something like this:





At the bottom of these screens you can see instructions for entering the BIOS, sometimes called the "Set-up" program. Different manufacturers will use various keyboard keys and combinations to enter BIOS. To find the proper key stroke method to open the BIOS on your computer, do a web search or look at the "*bios-keyboard-shortcuts-by-Manufacturer*" information sheet of this curriculum..

Step 2 – Finding the processor and RAM
Since computer manufacturers use different BIOS programs you will have to take time and search for the information you are looking for. The processor and RAM information are usually in the same place under "System Information."

Step 3. – Finding the hard drive information
Information about the hard drive will usually be found under the heading “Storage.” The hard drive is the device where data is stored while the computer is turned off. The hard drive is also listed as a boot device but information about its type or size will not be given. When we triage a computer we need to know how much data the hard drive can hold, usually in gigabytes (GB or GiB).

Step 4. – Check for other hardware devices
The WCE triage sheet also has check boxes for other devices. Explore the BIOS program and try to find the hardware listed on the triage sheet.

Answer the Following Questions

What was the keyboard combination for your computer to enter BIOS? _____

Were you able to maneuver around in the BIOS program with your keyboard? _____

Was it easy or hard to get around and find everything you were looking for? _____

_____

_____

Did your mouse (pointing device) work in the BIOS program? _____

Does this computer have the required processor? _____

Does this computer have the required amount of RAM (Random Access Memory)? _____

Does this computer have the required amount of hard Disk space? _____