

A8N-VM

ASUS[®]

Motherboard

E2295

Revised Edition V2
October 2005

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Notices

Federal Communications Commission Statement

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- This device may not cause harmful interference, and
- This device must accept any interference received including interference that may cause undesired operation.

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment to an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.



The use of shielded cables for connection of the monitor to the graphics card is required to assure compliance with FCC regulations. Changes or modifications to this unit not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate this equipment.

Canadian Department of Communications Statement

This digital apparatus does not exceed the Class B limits for radio noise emissions from digital apparatus set out in the Radio Interference Regulations of the Canadian Department of Communications.

This class B digital apparatus complies with Canadian ICES-003.

Safety information

Electrical safety

- To prevent electrical shock hazard, disconnect the power cable from the electrical outlet before relocating the system.
- When adding or removing devices to or from the system, ensure that the power cables for the devices are unplugged before the signal cables are connected. If possible, disconnect all power cables from the existing system before you add a device.
- Before connecting or removing signal cables from the motherboard, ensure that all power cables are unplugged.
- Seek professional assistance before using an adapter or extension cord. These devices could interrupt the grounding circuit.
- Make sure that your power supply is set to the correct voltage in your area. If you are not sure about the voltage of the electrical outlet you are using, contact your local power company.
- If the power supply is broken, do not try to fix it by yourself. Contact a qualified service technician or your retailer.

Operation safety

- Before installing the motherboard and adding devices on it, carefully read all the manuals that came with the package.
- Before using the product, make sure all cables are correctly connected and the power cables are not damaged. If you detect any damage, contact your dealer immediately.
- To avoid short circuits, keep paper clips, screws, and staples away from connectors, slots, sockets and circuitry.
- Avoid dust, humidity, and temperature extremes. Do not place the product in any area where it may become wet.
- Place the product on a stable surface.
- If you encounter technical problems with the product, contact a qualified service technician or your retailer.

A8N-VM specifications summary

CPU	Socket 939 for AMD Athlon™ 64FX/Athlon™ 64 X2/ Athlon™ 64 processors Supports AMD Cool 'n' Quiet™ Technology
Chipset	Northbridge: NVIDIA® GeForce™ 6100 GPU Southbridge: NVIDIA® nForce™410 MCP
Front Side Bus	2000/1600 MT/s
Memory	Dual-channel memory architecture 4 x 184-pin DIMM sockets support up to 4 GB of unbuffered ECC/non-ECC 400/333 MHz DDR memory modules
Expansion slots	1 x PCI Express™ x16 slot 1 x PCI Express™ x1 slot 2 x PCI slots
Graphics	Integrated in the NVIDIA® GeForce™ 6100 Graphics Processing Unit (GPU)
Storage	NVIDIA® nForce™410 media and communications processor (MCP) supports: - 2 x Ultra DMA 133/100/66/33 interfaces for four (4) hard disk drives - 2 x Serial ATA I/Serial ATA II 3 Gb/s hard disk drives support RAID 0 and RAID 1 configuration NVIDIA® MediaShield storage management technology
High Definition Audio	SoundMAX® ADI AD1986A 5.1-channel CODEC Supports Jack Sensing technology S/PDIF out interface
LAN	Integrated 10/100 Mb MAC with Realtek® ALC8201CL external PHY
USB	Supports up to 8 USB 2.0 ports
Special features	ASUS C.P.R. (CPU Parameter Recall) ASUS CrashFree BIOS 2 ASUS EZ Flash ASUS MyLogo2™ Stepless Frequency Selection (SFS) allows FSB tuning from 200 MHz to 240 MHz at 1 MHz increment

(continued on the next page)

A8N-VM specifications summary

BIOS features	4 Mb Flash ROM, AMI BIOS, PnP, DMI, WfM2.0, ACPI 2.0a, SM BIOS 2.3
Rear panel	1 x Parallel port 1 x LAN (RJ-45) port 4 x USB 2.0 ports 1 x VGA 1 x PS/2 keyboard port 1 x PS/2 mouse port 6-channel audio ports
Internal connectors	1 x Front panel audio connector 1 x CD in audio connector 1 x Chassis intrusion connector 1 x Serial port connector 1 x CPU fan connector 1 x Chassis fan connector 1 x Floppy disk drive connector 1 x Primary IDE connector 1 x Secondary IDE connector 1 x S/PDIF Out connector 2 x Serial ATA connectors 2 x USB 2.0 connectors for four additional USB 2.0 ports 24-pin ATX power connector 4-pin x ATX 12V power connector System panel connector
Power Requirement	ATX power supply (with 24-pin and 4-pin 12 V plugs) ATX 12 V 2.0 compliant
Form Factor	µATX: 9.6 in. x 9.6 in. (24.5cm x 24.5cm)
Manageability	WfM2.0, DMI 2.0, WOL by PME, WOR by PME
Support CD contents	Device drivers ASUS PC Probe II AMD Cool 'n'Quiet™ utility ASUS Live Update utility Anti-virus software (OEM version)

*Specifications are subject to change without notice.

This chapter describes the motherboard features and the new technologies it supports.

Product introduction



1.1 Welcome!

Thank you for buying an ASUS® A8N-VM motherboard!

The motherboard delivers a host of new features and latest technologies, making it another standout in the long line of ASUS quality motherboards!

Before you start installing the motherboard, and hardware devices on it, check the items in your package with the list below.

1.2 Package contents

Check your motherboard package for the following items.

Motherboard	ASUS A8N-VM motherboard
Cables	1 x Serial ATA signal cable 1 x Serial ATA power cable 1 x Ultra DMA 133/100/66 cable 1 x Floppy disk drive cable
Accessory	I/O shield
Application CD	ASUS motherboard support CD
Documentation	User guide



If any of the above items is damaged or missing, contact your retailer.

1.3 Special features

1.3.1 Product highlights

Latest processor technology



The motherboard comes with a 939-pin surface mount, Zero Insertion Force (ZIF) socket that supports AMD Athlon™ 64/Athlon™ 64 FX/Athlon™ 64 X2 processors. With an integrated low-latency high-bandwidth memory controller and a highly-scalable HyperTransport™ technology-based system bus, the motherboard provides a powerful platform for your diverse computing needs, increased office productivity, and enhanced digital media experience. See page 1-8.

NVIDIA® GeForce™ 6100 GPU and NVIDIA® nForce™ 410 MCP chipsets



The NVIDIA® GeForce™ 6100 graphics processing unit (GPU) Northbridge supports Microsoft® DirectX 9.0 Shader Model 3.0, and PCI Express interface.

The NVIDIA® nForce™ 410 media and communications processor (MCP) Southbridge delivers NVIDIA® 10/100 Mbps LAN and NVIDIA® MediaShield storage management technology allowing easy RAID configuration (RAID 0, RAID 1) for Serial ATA II.

Dual-channel DDR memory support

Employing the Double Data Rate (DDR) memory technology, the motherboard supports up to 4 GB of system memory using DDR400/333 DIMMs. The ultra-fast 400 MHz memory bus delivers the required bandwidth for the latest 3D graphics, multimedia, and Internet applications. See page 1-10 for details.

PCI Express™ interface

The motherboard fully supports PCI Express, the latest I/O interconnect technology that speeds up the PCI bus. PCI Express features point-to-point serial interconnections between devices and allows higher clock speeds by carrying data in packets. This high speed interface is software compatible with existing PCI specifications. See page 1-15 for details.

Serial ATA II technology

The motherboard supports the Serial ATA 3 Gb/s technology through the Serial ATA interfaces and the NVIDIA® nForce™410 MCP Southbridge. The Serial ATA II 3 Gb/s specification provides twice the bandwidth of the current Serial ATA products with a host of new features, including Native Command Queuing (NCQ), and Power Management (PM) Implementation Algorithm. Serial ATA allows for thinner, more flexible cables with lower pin count, reduced voltage requirement. See page 1-23 for details.



The Hot Swap function is supported only in RAID mode.

S/PDIF digital sound ready

The motherboard supports the S/PDIF Out function through the S/PDIF interfaces on the rear panel and at midboard. The S/PDIF technology turns your computer into a high-end entertainment system with digital connectivity to powerful audio and speaker systems. See page 1-24 for details.

USB 2.0 technology

The motherboard implements the Universal Serial Bus (USB) 2.0 specification, dramatically increasing the connection speed from the 12 Mbps bandwidth on USB 1.1 to a fast 480 Mbps on USB 2.0. USB 2.0 is backward compatible with USB 1.1. See pages 1-20 and 1-25 for details.

1.3.2 Innovative ASUS features

ASUS EZ Flash BIOS

With the ASUS EZ Flash, you can easily update the system BIOS even before loading the operating system. No need to use a DOS-based utility or boot from a floppy disk. See page 2-3 for details.

ASUS CrashFree BIOS 2

This feature allows you to restore the original BIOS data from the support CD in case when the BIOS codes and data are corrupted. This protection eliminates the need to buy a replacement ROM chip. See page 2-6 for details.

ASUS MyLogo2™

This feature allows you to personalize and add style to your system with customizable boot logos. See page 2-35 for details.

C.P.R. (CPU Parameter Recall)

The C.P.R. feature of the motherboard BIOS allows automatic re-setting to the BIOS default settings in case the system hangs due to overclocking. When the system hangs due to overclocking, C.P.R. eliminates the need to open the system chassis and clear the RTC data. Simply shut down and reboot the system, and the BIOS automatically restores the CPU default setting for each parameter.

1.4 Before you proceed

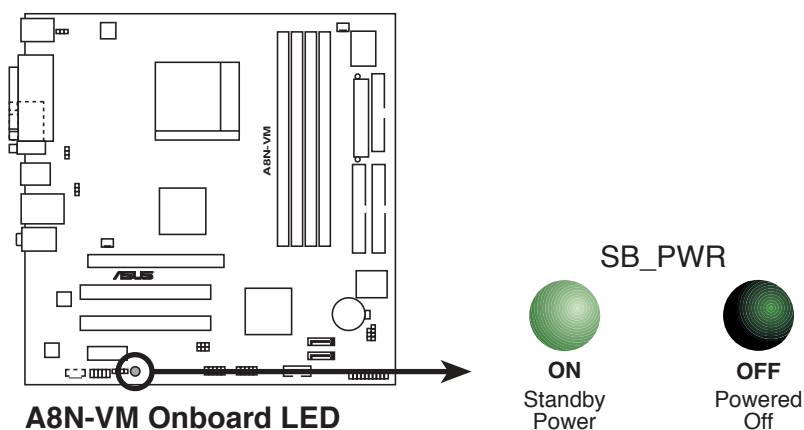
Take note of the following precautions before you install motherboard components or change any motherboard settings.



- Unplug the power cord from the wall socket before touching any component.
- Use a grounded wrist strap or touch a safely grounded object or a metal object, such as the power supply case, before handling components to avoid damaging them due to static electricity
- Hold components by the edges to avoid touching the ICs on them.
- Whenever you uninstall any component, place it on a grounded antistatic pad or in the bag that came with the component.
- **Before you install or remove any component, ensure that the ATX power supply is switched off or the power cord is detached from the power supply.** Failure to do so may cause severe damage to the motherboard, peripherals, and/or components.

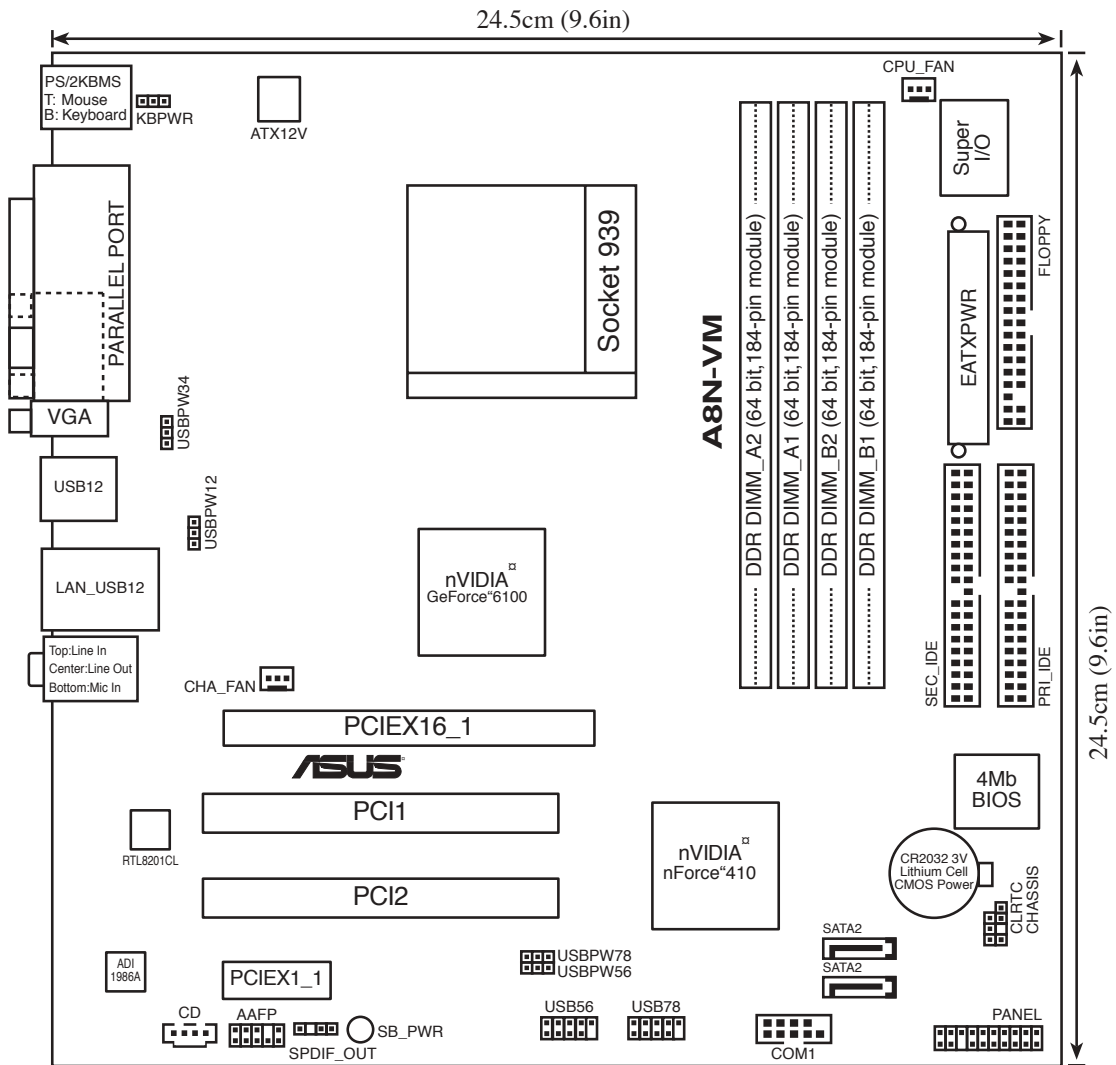
Onboard LED

The motherboard comes with a standby power LED that lights up to indicate that the system is ON, in sleep mode, or in soft-off mode. This is a reminder that you should shut down the system and unplug the power cable before removing or plugging in any motherboard component. The illustration below shows the location of the onboard LED.



1.5 Motherboard overview

1.5.1 Motherboard layout



1.5.2 Placement direction

When installing the motherboard, make sure that you place it into the chassis in the correct orientation. The edge with external ports goes to the rear part of the chassis as indicated in the image below.

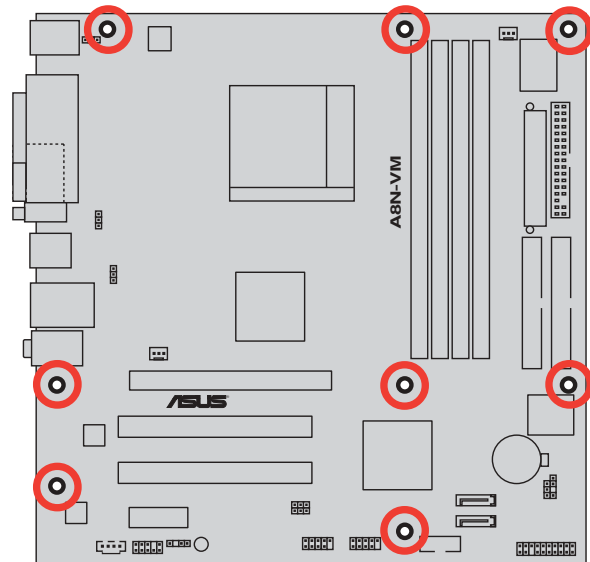
1.5.3 Screw holes

Place eight (8) screws into the holes indicated by circles to secure the motherboard to the chassis.



Do not overtighten the screws! Doing so can damage the motherboard.

Place this side towards
the rear of the chassis

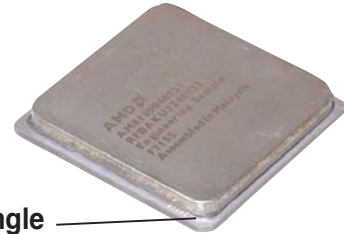


1.6 Central Processing Unit (CPU)

The motherboard comes with a surface mount 939-pin Zero Insertion Force (ZIF) socket designed for the AMD Athlon™ 64FX/AMD Athlon™ 64 / Athlon™ 64 X2 processor.

The 128-bit-wide data paths of these processors can run applications faster than processors with only 32-bit or 64-bit wide data paths.

Take note of the marked corner (with gold triangle) on the CPU. This mark should match a specific corner on the socket to ensure correct installation.

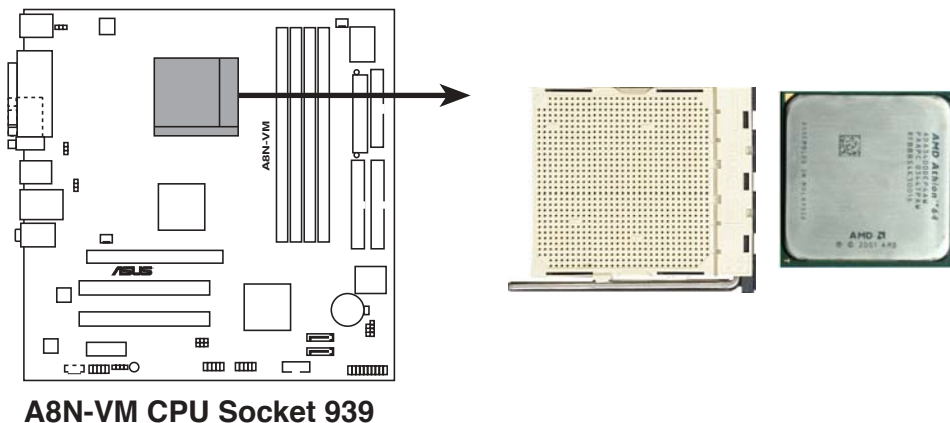


Gold triangle

Installing the CPU

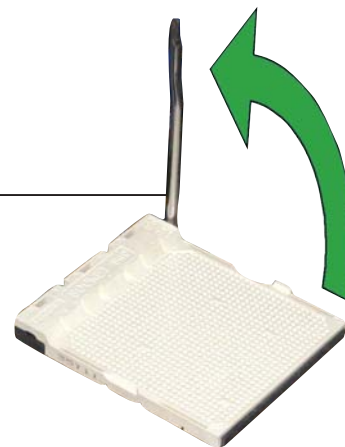
Follow these steps to install a CPU.

1. Locate the 939-pin ZIF socket on the motherboard.



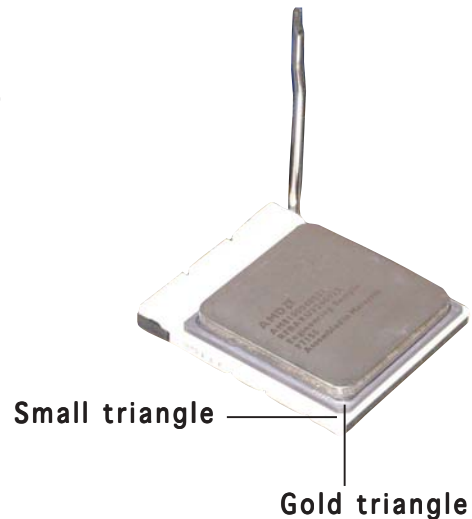
2. Unlock the socket by pressing the lever sideways, then lift it up to a 90°-100° angle.

Socket Lever



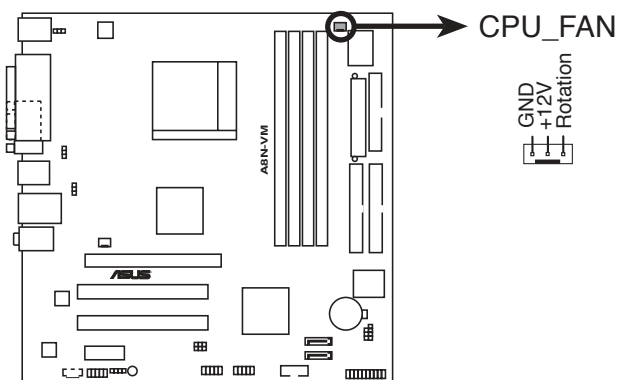
Make sure that the socket lever is lifted up to 90°-100° angle, otherwise the CPU does not fit in completely.

- Position the CPU above the socket such that the CPU corner with the gold triangle matches the socket corner with a small triangle.
- Carefully insert the CPU into the socket until it fits in place.



The CPU fits only in one correct orientation. DO NOT force the CPU into the socket to prevent bending the pins and damaging the CPU!

- When the CPU is in place, push down the socket lever to secure the CPU. The lever clicks on the side tab to indicate that it is locked.
- Install a CPU heatsink and fan following the instructions that came with the heatsink package.
- Connect the CPU fan cable to the CPU_FAN connector on the motherboard.



A8N-VM CPU fan connector



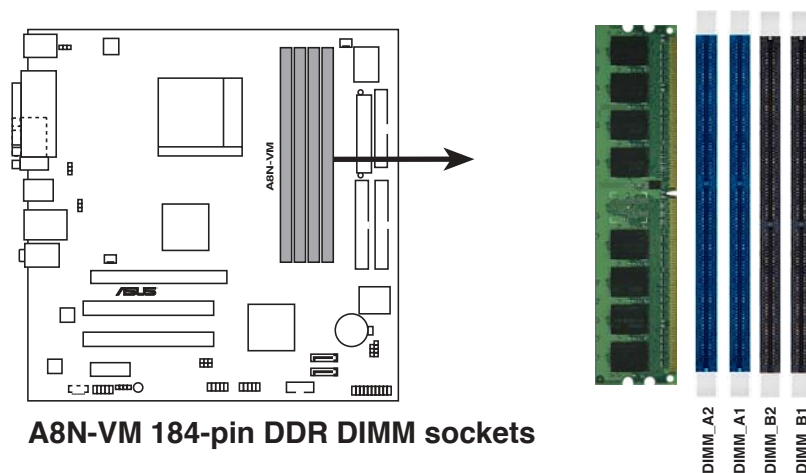
Do not forget to connect the CPU fan connector! Hardware monitoring errors can occur if you fail to plug this connector.

1.7 System memory

1.7.1 Overview

The motherboard comes with four 184-pin Double Data Rate (DDR) Dual Inline Memory Modules (DIMM) sockets.

The following figure illustrates the location of the sockets:



A8N-VM 184-pin DDR DIMM sockets

Channel	Sockets
Channel 1	DIMM_A1 and DIMM_B1
Channel 2	DIMM_A2 and DIMM_B2

1.7.2 Memory configurations

You may install 128 MB, 256 MB, 512 MB, and 1 GB unbuffered ECC/non-ECC DDR DIMMs into the DIMM sockets using the memory configurations in this section.



- Installing DDR DIMMs other than the recommended configurations may cause memory sizing error or system boot failure. Use any of the recommended configurations on the next page.
- Install only identical (the same type and size) DDR DIMM pairs for each channel.
- Always install DIMMs with the same CAS latency. For optimum compatibility, it is recommended that you obtain memory modules from the same vendor.
- Due to chipset limitation, this motherboard does not support DIMM modules with less than or equal to 128 Mb memory chips.
- If you are installing only one DIMM module for a Single-channel configuration, install the module on DIMM_A1 (blue slot).

Recommended memory configurations

		Sockets			
Mode		DIMM_A2 (blue)	DIMM_A1 (blue)	DIMM_B2 (black)	DIMM_B1 (black)
Single-channel	(1)	—	Populated	—	—
Dual-channel	(1)*	Populated	Populated	—	—
	(2)*	Populated	Populated	Populated	Populated

* Use only identical DIMM pairs.



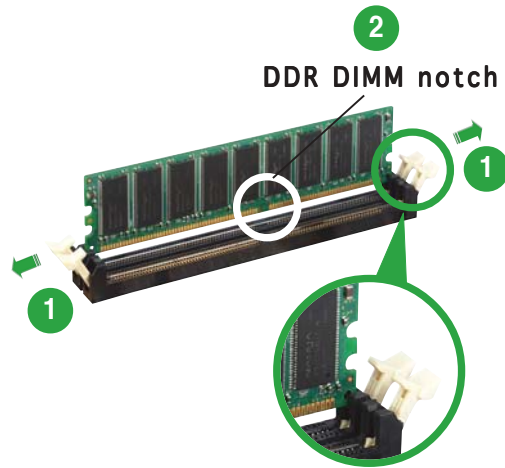
Visit the ASUS website (www.asus.com) for the latest DDR 400 Qualified Vendors List for this motherboard.

1.7.3 Installing a DIMM



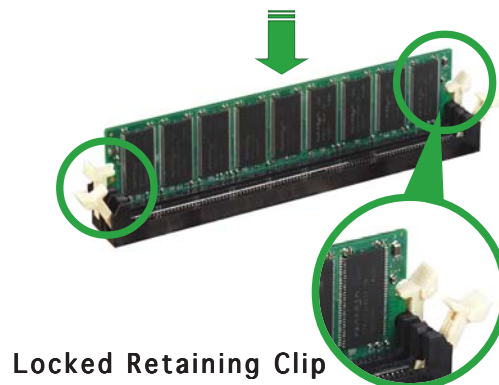
Make sure to unplug the power supply before adding or removing DIMMs or other system components. Failure to do so may cause severe damage to both the motherboard and the components.

1. Unlock a DIMM socket by pressing the retaining clips outward.
2. Align a DIMM on the socket such that the notch on the DIMM matches the break on the socket.



A DDR DIMM is keyed with a notch so that it fits in only one direction. **DO NOT** force a DIMM into a socket to avoid damaging the DIMM.

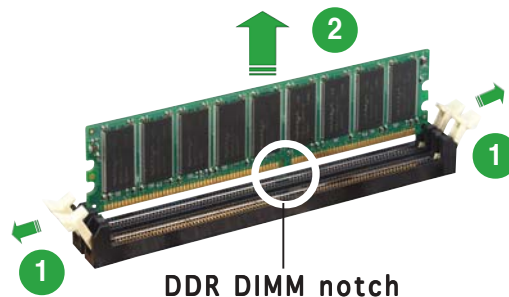
3. Firmly insert the DIMM into the socket until the retaining clips snap back in place and the DIMM is properly seated.



1.7.4 Removing a DIMM

To remove a DIMM:

1. Simultaneously press the retaining clips outward to unlock the DIMM.



Support the DIMM lightly with your fingers when pressing the retaining clips. The DIMM might get damaged when it flips out with extra force.

2. Remove the DIMM from the socket.

1.8 Expansion slots

In the future, you may need to install expansion cards. The following sub-sections describe the slots and the expansion cards that they support.



Make sure to unplug the power cord before adding or removing expansion cards. Failure to do so may cause you physical injury and damage motherboard components.

1.8.1 Installing an expansion card

To install an expansion card:

1. Before installing the expansion card, read the documentation that came with it and make the necessary hardware settings for the card.
2. Remove the system unit cover (if your motherboard is already installed in a chassis).
3. Remove the bracket opposite the slot that you intend to use. Keep the screw for later use.
4. Align the card connector with the slot and press firmly until the card is completely seated on the slot.
5. Secure the card to the chassis with the screw you removed earlier.
6. Replace the system cover.

1.8.2 Configuring an expansion card

After installing the expansion card, configure it by adjusting the software settings.

1. Turn on the system and change the necessary BIOS settings, if any. See Chapter 2 for information on BIOS setup.
2. Assign an IRQ to the card. Refer to the tables on the next page.
3. Install the software drivers for the expansion card.

Standard interrupt assignments

IRQ	Priority	Standard Function
0	1	System Timer
1	2	Keyboard Controller
2	-	Re-direct to IRQ#9
3	11	IRQ holder for PCI steering*
4	12	Communications Port (COM1)*
5	13	IRQ holder for PCI steering*
6	14	Floppy Disk Controller
7	15	Printer Port (LPT1)*
8	3	System CMOS/Real Time Clock
9	4	IRQ holder for PCI steering*
10	5	IRQ holder for PCI steering*
11	6	IRQ holder for PCI steering*
12	7	PS/2 Compatible Mouse Port*
13	8	Numeric Data Processor
14	9	Primary IDE Channel
15	10	Secondary IDE Channel

* These IRQs are usually available for ISA or PCI devices.

IRQ assignments for this motherboard

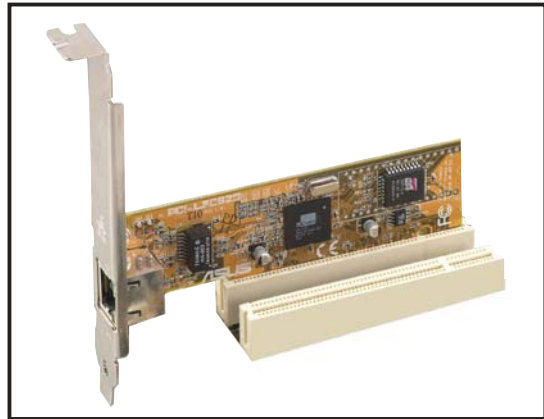
	A	B	C	D
PCI slot 1	used	—	—	—
PCI slot 2	—	used	—	—



When using PCI cards on shared slots, ensure that the drivers support “Share IRQ” or that the cards do not need IRQ assignments; otherwise, conflicts will arise between the two PCI groups, making the system unstable and the card inoperable.

1.8.3 PCI slots

The PCI slots support cards such as a LAN card, SCSI card, USB card, and other cards that comply with PCI specifications. The figure shows a LAN card installed on a PCI slot.



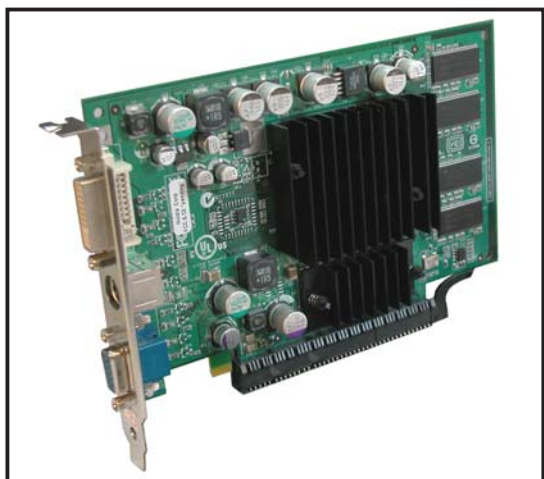
1.8.4 PCI Express x1 slot

This motherboard supports PCI Express x1 network cards, SCSI cards and other cards that comply with the PCI Express specifications. The following figure shows a network card installed on the PCI Express x1 slot.



1.8.5 PCI Express x16 slot

This motherboard has supports PCI Express x16 graphic cards that comply with PCI Express specifications. The figure shows a graphics card installed on the PCI Express x16 slot.



1.9 Jumpers

1. Clear RTC RAM (CLRTC)

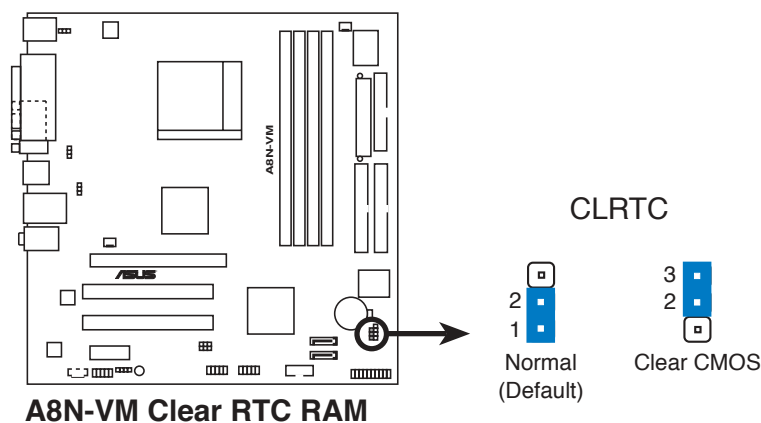
This jumper allows you to clear the Real Time Clock (RTC) RAM in CMOS. You can clear the CMOS memory of date, time, and system setup parameters by erasing the CMOS RTC RAM data. The onboard button cell battery powers the RAM data in CMOS, which include system setup information such as system passwords.

To erase the RTC RAM:

1. Turn OFF the computer and unplug the power cord.
2. Remove the onboard battery.
3. Move the jumper cap from pins 1-2 (default) to pins 2-3. Keep the cap on pins 2-3 for about 5~10 seconds, then move the cap back to pins 1-2.
4. Reinstall the battery.
5. Plug the power cord and turn ON the computer.
6. Hold down the key during the boot process and enter BIOS setup to re-enter data.



Except when clearing the RTC RAM, never remove the cap on CLRTC jumper default position. Removing the cap will cause system boot failure!

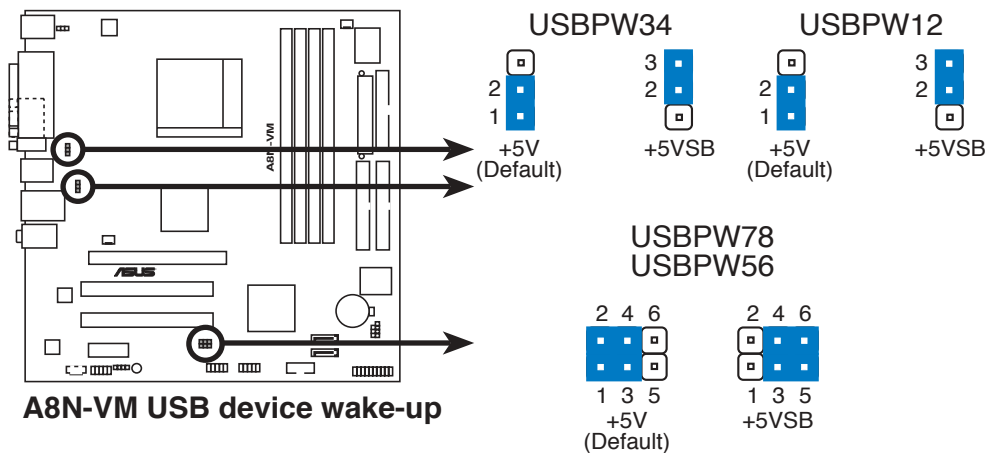


You do not need to clear the RTC when the system hangs due to overclocking. For system failure due to overclocking, use the C.P.R. (CPU Parameter Recall) feature. Shut down and reboot the system so the BIOS can automatically reset parameter settings to default values.

2. USB device wake-up (3-pin USBPW12, USBPW34, USBPW56, USBPW78)

Set these jumpers to +5V to wake up the computer from S1 sleep mode (CPU stopped, DRAM refreshed, system running in low power mode) using the connected USB devices. Set to +5VSB to wake up from S3 and S4 sleep modes.

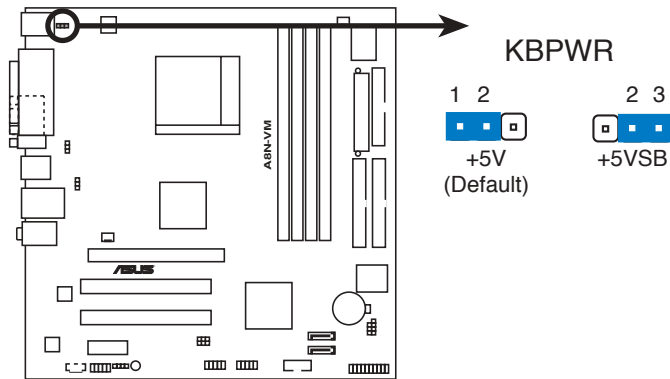
The USBPW12 and USBPW34 jumpers are for the rear USB ports. The USBPW56 and USBPW78 jumper is for the internal USB connectors that you can connect to additional USB ports.



- The USB device wake-up feature requires a power supply that can provide 500mA on the +5VSB lead for each USB port; otherwise, the system will not power up.
- The total current consumed must NOT exceed the power supply capability (+5VSB) whether under normal condition or in sleep mode.

3. Keyboard power (3-pin KBPWR)

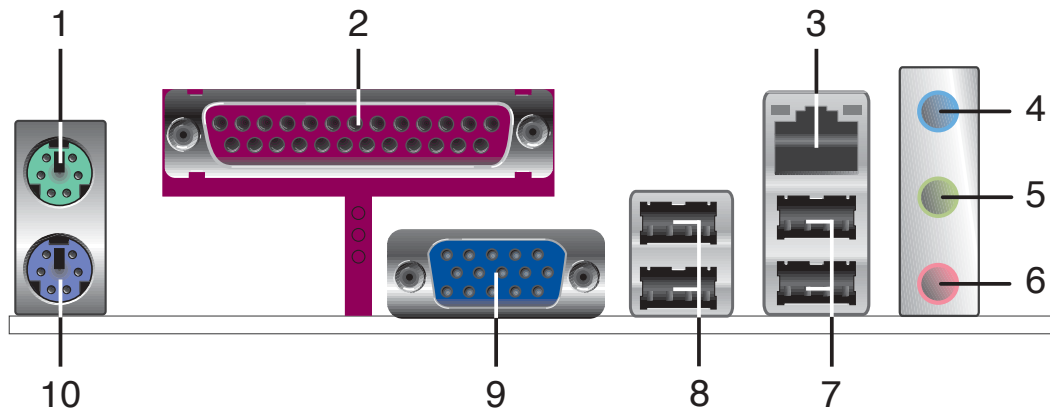
This jumper allows you to enable or disable the keyboard wake-up feature. Set this jumper to pins 2-3 (+5VSB) to wake up the computer when you press a key on the keyboard (the default is the Space Bar). This feature requires an ATX power supply that can supply at least 500 mA on the +5VSB lead, and a corresponding setting in the BIOS.



A8N-VM Keyboard power setting

1.10 Connectors

1.10.1 Rear panel connectors



1. **PS/2 mouse port (green).** This port is for a PS/2 mouse.
2. **Parallel port.** This 25-pin port connects a parallel printer, a scanner, or other devices.
3. **LAN (RJ-45) port.** This port allows Gigabit connection to a Local Area Network (LAN) through a network hub.
4. **Line In port (light blue).** This port connects a tape, CD, DVD player, or other audio sources.
5. **Line Out port (lime).** This port connects a headphone or a speaker. In 4-channel/ 6-channel configuration, the function of this port becomes Front Speaker Out.
6. **Microphone port (pink).** This port connects a microphone.



Refer to the audio configuration table for the function of the audio ports in 2, 4, or 6-channel configuration.

Audio 2, 4, or 6-channel configuration

Port	Headset 2-speaker	4-speake	6-speaker
Light Blue	Line In	Surround Out	Surround Out
Lime	Line Out	Front Speaker Out	Front Speaker Out
Pink	Mic In	Mic	Center/Bass

7. **USB 2.0 ports 3 and 4.** These two 4-pin Universal Serial Bus (USB) ports are available for connecting USB 2.0 devices.
8. **USB 2.0 ports 1 and 2.** These two 4-pin Universal Serial Bus (USB) ports are available for connecting USB 2.0 devices.
9. **Video Graphics Adapter (VGA) port.** This 15-pin port is for a VGA monitor or other VGA-compatible devices.
10. **PS/2 keyboard port (purple).** This port is for a PS/2 keyboard.

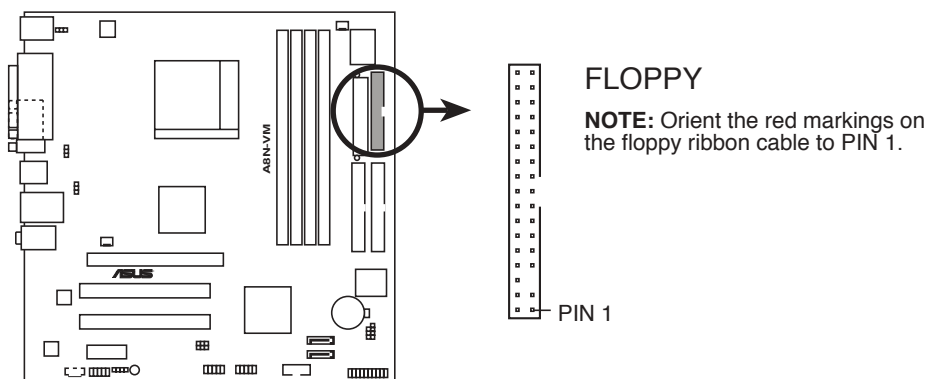
1.10.2 Internal connectors

1. Floppy disk drive connector (34-1 pin FLOPPY)

This connector is for the provided floppy disk drive (FDD) signal cable. Insert one end of the cable to this connector, then connect the other end to the signal connector at the back of the floppy disk drive.



Pin 5 on the connector is removed to prevent incorrect cable connection when using an FDD cable with a covered Pin 5.

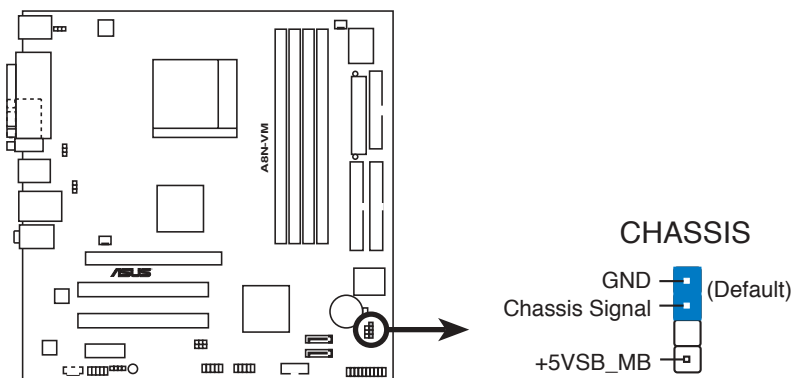


A8N-VM Floppy disk drive connector

2. Chassis intrusion connector (4-1 pin CHASSIS)

This connector is for a chassis-mounted intrusion detection sensor or switch. Connect one end of the chassis intrusion sensor or switch cable to this connector. The chassis intrusion sensor or switch sends a high-level signal to this connector when a chassis component is removed or replaced. The signal is then generated as a chassis intrusion event.

By default, the pins labeled “Chassis Signal” and “Ground” are shorted with a jumper cap. Remove the jumper caps only when you intend to use the chassis intrusion detection feature.



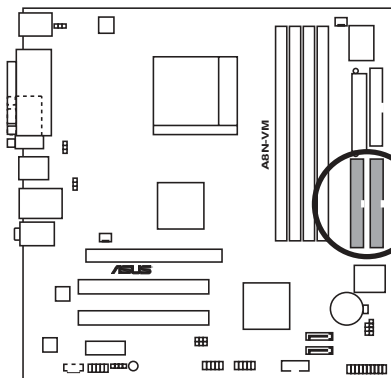
A8N-VM Chassis intrusion connector

3. IDE connectors (40-1 pin PRI_IDE, 40-1 pin SEC_IDE)

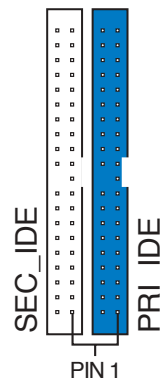
These connectors are for an Ultra DMA 133/100/66 signal cable. The Ultra DMA 133/100/66 signal cable has three connectors: a blue connector for the primary IDE connector on the motherboard, a black connector for an Ultra DMA 133/100/66 IDE slave device (optical drive/hard disk drive), and a gray connector for an Ultra DMA 133/100/66 IDE master device (hard disk drive). If you install two hard disk drives, you must configure the second drive as a slave device by setting its jumper accordingly. Refer to the hard disk documentation for the jumper settings.



- Pin 20 on the IDE connector is removed to match the covered hole on the Ultra DMA cable connector. This prevents incorrect insertion when you connect the IDE cable.
- Use the 80-conductor IDE cable for Ultra DMA 133/100/66 IDE devices.



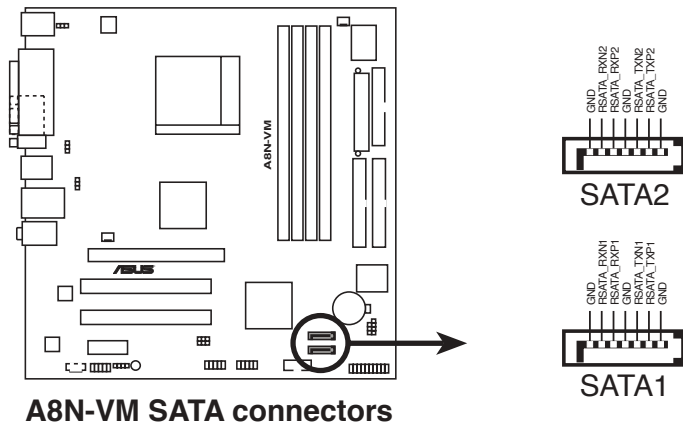
A8N-VM IDE connectors



NOTE: Orient the red markings (usually zigzag) on the IDE ribbon cable to PIN 1.

4. Serial ATA connectors (7-pin SATA1, SATA2)

These connectors are for the Serial ATA signal cables for Serial ATA hard disk drives. The current Serial ATA I interface allows up to 150 MB/s data transfer rate while Serial ATA II allows up to 300 MB/s data transfer rate, faster than the standard parallel ATA with 133 MB/s (Ultra DMA/133)



A8N-VM SATA connectors



Important note on Serial ATA

Install the Windows® 2000 Service Pack 4 or the Windows® XP Service Pack1 before using Serial ATA.



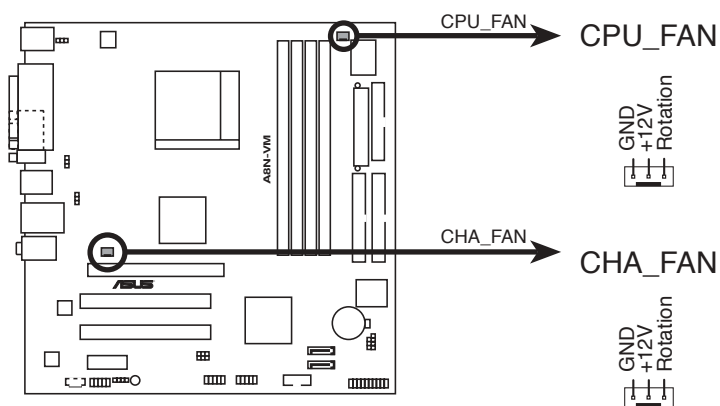
For detailed instructions on how to configure RAID 0, 1, and 0+1, refer to the RAID manual in the support CD. See page 3-6 for details.

5. CPU and Chassis fan connectors (3-pin CPU_FAN, 3-pin CHA_FAN)

The fan connectors support cooling fans of 350mA~740mA (8.88W max.) or a total of 1A~2.22A (26.64W max.) at +12V. Connect the fan cables to the fan connectors on the motherboard, making sure that the black wire of each cable matches the ground pin of the connector.



Do not forget to connect the fan cables to the fan connectors. Insufficient air flow inside the system may damage the motherboard components. These are not jumpers! DO NOT place jumper caps on the fan connectors.



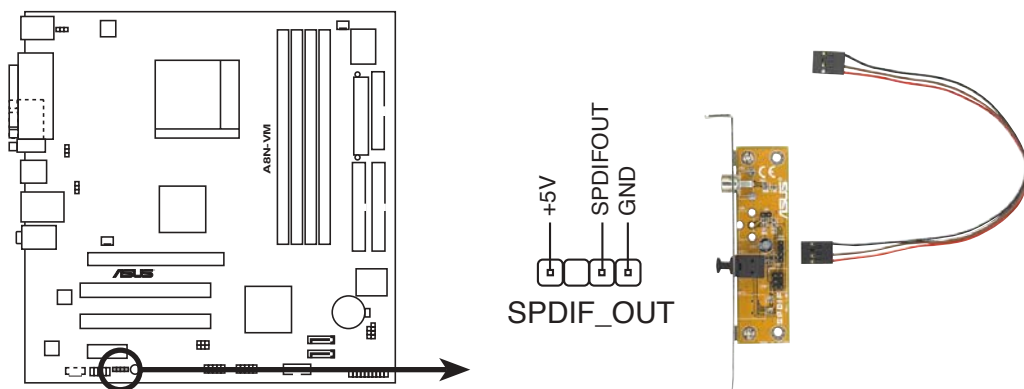
A8N-VM Fan connectors

6. Digital audio connector (4-1 pin SPDIF_OUT)

This connector is for an additional Sony/Philips Digital Interface (S/PDIF) port(s). Connect the S/PDIF module cable to this connector, then install the module to a slot opening at the back of the system chassis.



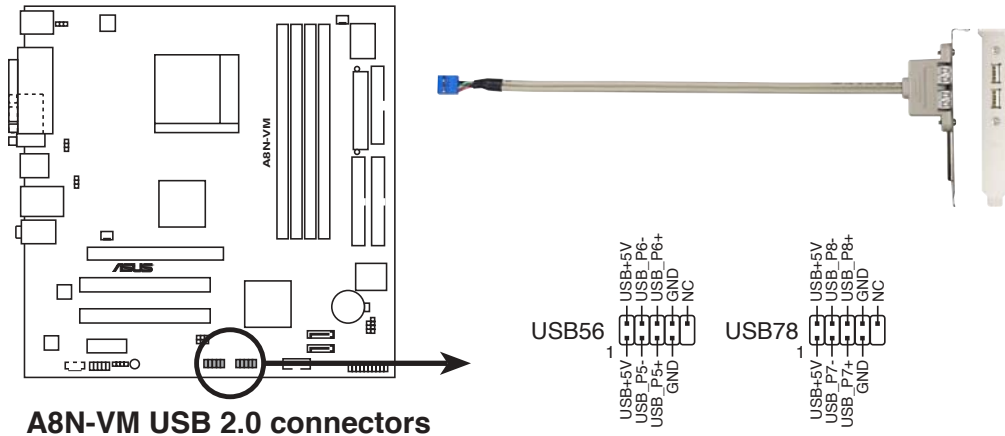
The S/PDIF module is purchased separately.



A8N-VM Digital audio connector

7. USB connectors (10-1 pin USB56, USB78)

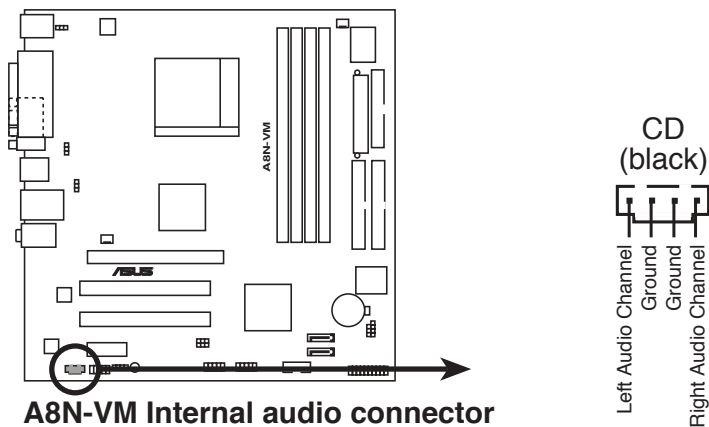
These connectors are for USB 2.0 ports. Connect the USB module cable to any of these connectors, then install the module to a slot opening at the back of the system chassis. These USB connectors comply with USB 2.0 specification that supports up to 480 Mbps connection speed.



The USB 2.0 module is purchased separately.

8. Internal audio connector (4-pin CD)

These connectors allow you to receive stereo audio input from sound sources such as a CD-ROM, TV tuner, or MPEG card.

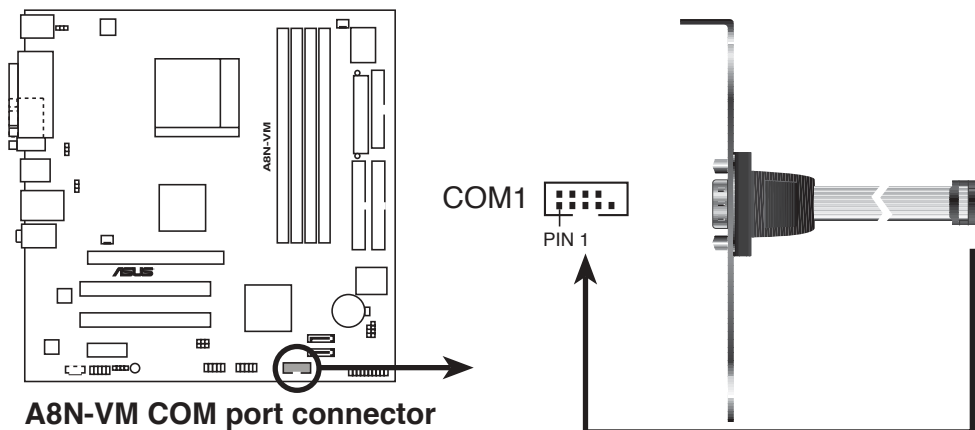


9. Serial port connector (10-1 pin COM1)

This connector is for a serial (COM) port. Connect the serial port module cable to this connector, then install the module to a slot opening at the back of the system chassis.

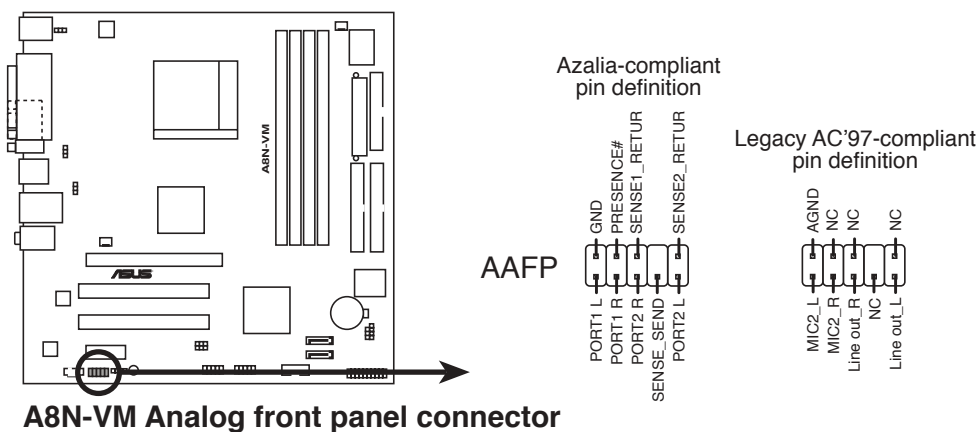


The serial port bracket (COM1) is purchased separately.



10. Front panel audio connector (10-1 pin AAFP)

This connector is for a chassis-mounted front panel audio I/O module that supports either High Definition Audio or AC `97 audio standard. Connect one end of the front panel audio I/O module cable to this connector.



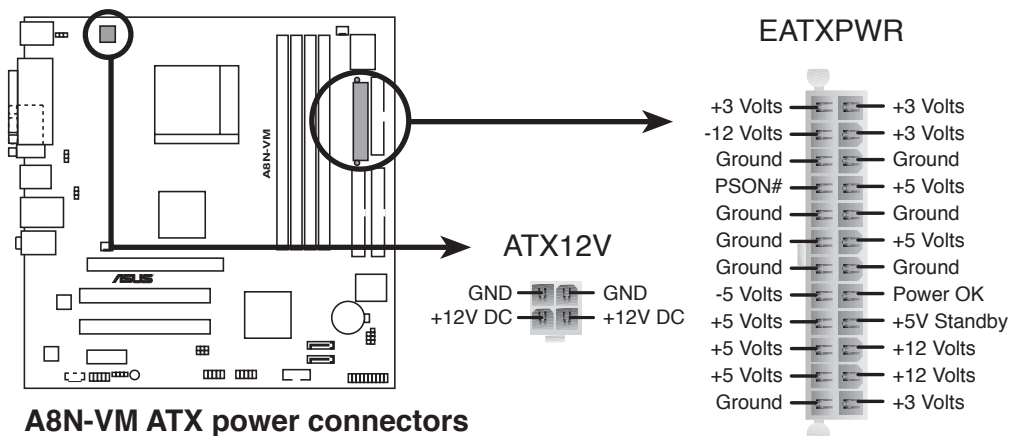
- We recommend that you connect a high-definition front panel audio module to this connector to avail of the motherboard high-definition audio capability.
- If you want to connect a high-definition front panel audio module to this connector, make sure that the Onboard AUDIO item in the BIOS is set to [Enabled]. See page 2-27 for details.

11. ATX power connectors (24-pin EATXPWR, 4-pin ATX12V)

These connectors are for an ATX power supply. The plugs from the power supply are designed to fit these connectors in only one orientation. Find the proper orientation and push down firmly until the connectors completely fit.

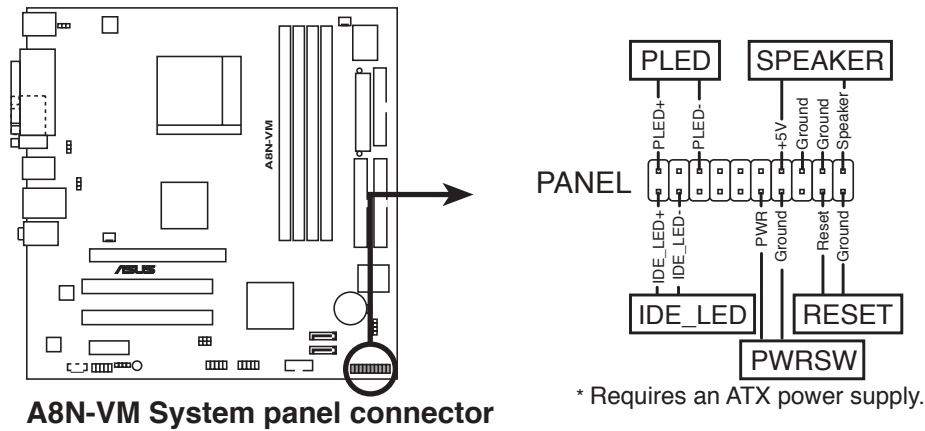


- We recommend that you use an ATX 12 V Specification 2.0-compliant power supply unit (PSU) with a minimum of 300 W power rating. This PSU type has 24-pin and 4-pin power plugs.
- If you intend to use a PSU with 20-pin and 4-pin power plugs, make sure that the 20-pin power plug can provide at least 15 A on +12 V and that the PSU has a minimum power rating of 300 W. The system may become unstable or may not boot up if the power is inadequate.
- Do not forget to connect the 4-pin ATX +12 V power plug; otherwise, the system will not boot up.
- We recommend that you use a PSU with higher power output when configuring a system with more power-consuming devices. The system may become unstable or may not boot up if the power is inadequate.
- You must install a PSU with a higher power rating if you intend to install additional devices.



12. System panel connector (20-1 pin PANEL)

This connector supports several chassis-mounted functions.



The system panel connector is color-coded for easy connection. Refer to the connector description below for details.

- **System power LED (Green 3-pin PLED)**
This 3-pin connector is for the system power LED. Connect the chassis power LED cable to this connector. The system power LED lights up when you turn on the system power, and blinks when the system is in sleep mode.
- **Hard disk drive activity (Red 2-pin IDE_LED)**
This 2-pin connector is for the HDD Activity LED. Connect the HDD Activity LED cable to this connector. The IDE LED lights up or flashes when data is read from or written to the HDD.
- **System warning speaker (Orange 4-pin SPEAKER)**
This 4-pin connector is for the chassis-mounted system warning speaker. The speaker allows you to hear system beeps and warnings.
- **Power/Soft-off button (Yellow 2-pin PWRSW)**
This connector is for the system power button. Pressing the power button turns the system ON or puts the system in SLEEP or SOFT-OFF mode depending on the BIOS settings. Pressing the power switch for more than four seconds while the system is ON turns the system OFF.
- **Reset button (Blue 2-pin RESET)**
This 2-pin connector is for the chassis-mounted reset button for system reboot without turning off the system power.

This chapter tells how to change the system settings through the BIOS Setup menus. Detailed descriptions of the BIOS parameters are also provided.

BIOS setup

2.1 Managing and updating your BIOS

The following utilities allow you to manage and update the motherboard Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) setup.

1. **ASUS AFUDOS** (Updates the BIOS in DOS mode using a bootable floppy disk.)
2. **ASUS EZ Flash** (Updates the BIOS using a floppy disk during POST.)
3. **ASUS CrashFree BIOS 2** (Updates the BIOS using a bootable floppy disk or the motherboard support CD when the BIOS file fails or gets corrupted.)
4. **ASUS Update** (Updates the BIOS in Windows® environment.)

Refer to the corresponding sections for details on these utilities.



Save a copy of the original motherboard BIOS file to a bootable floppy disk in case you need to restore the BIOS in the future. Copy the original motherboard BIOS using the ASUS Update or AFUDOS utilities.

2.1.1 Creating a bootable floppy disk

1. Do either one of the following to create a bootable floppy disk.

DOS environment

- a. Insert a 1.44MB floppy disk into the drive.
- b. At the DOS prompt, type `format A: /S` then press <Enter>.

Windows® XP environment

- a. Insert a 1.44 MB floppy disk to the floppy disk drive.
- b. Click **Start** from the Windows® desktop, then select **My Computer**.
- c. Select the 3 1/2 Floppy Drive icon.
- d. Click **File** from the menu, then select **Format**. A **Format 3 1/2 Floppy Disk** window appears.
- e. Select **Create an MS-DOS startup disk** from the format options field, then click **Start**.

Windows® 2000 environment

To create a set of boot disks for Windows® 2000:

- a. Insert a formatted, high density 1.44 MB floppy disk into the drive.
- b. Insert the Windows® 2000 CD to the optical drive.
- c. Click **Start**, then select **Run**.

- d. From the Open field, type
`D:\bootdisk\makeboot a:`
 assuming that D: is your optical drive.
 - e. Press <Enter>, then follow screen instructions to continue.
2. Copy the original or the latest motherboard BIOS file to the bootable floppy disk.

2.1.2 ASUS EZ Flash utility

The ASUS EZ Flash feature allows you to update the BIOS without having to go through the long process of booting from a floppy disk and using a DOS-based utility. The EZ Flash utility is built-in the BIOS chip so it is accessible by pressing <Alt> + <F2> during the Power-On Self Tests (POST).

To update the BIOS using EZ Flash:

1. Visit the ASUS website (www.asus.com) to download the latest BIOS file for the motherboard and rename the same to **A8NVM.ROM**.
2. Save the BIOS file to a floppy disk, then restart the system.
3. Press <Alt> + <F2> during POST to display the following.

```
EZFlash starting BIOS update
Checking for floppy...
```

4. Insert the floppy disk that contains the BIOS file to the floppy disk drive. When the correct BIOS file is found, EZ Flash performs the BIOS update process and automatically reboots the system when done.

```
EZFlash starting BIOS update
Checking for floppy...
Floppy found!
Reading file "A8NVM.ROM". Completed.
Start erasing.....|
Start programming...|
Flashed successfully. Rebooting.
```



- Do not shut down or reset the system while updating the BIOS to prevent system boot failure!
- A “Floppy not found!” error message appears if there is no floppy disk in the drive. A “A8NVM.ROM not found!” error message appears if the correct BIOS file is not found in the floppy disk. Make sure that you rename the BIOS file to A8NVM.ROM.

2.1.3 AFUDOS utility

The AFUDOS utility allows you to update the BIOS file in DOS environment using a bootable floppy disk with the updated BIOS file. This utility also allows you to copy the current BIOS file that you can use as backup when the BIOS fails or gets corrupted during the updating process.

Copying the current BIOS

To copy the current BIOS file using the AFUDOS utility:



- Make sure that the floppy disk is not write-protected and has at least 600 KB free space to save the file.
- The succeeding BIOS screens are for reference only. The actual BIOS screen displays may not be exactly the same as shown.

1. Copy the AFUDOS utility (afudos.exe) from the motherboard support CD to the bootable floppy disk you created earlier.
2. Boot the system in DOS mode, then at the prompt type:

```
afudos /o[filename]
```

where the [filename] is any user-assigned filename not more than eight alphanumeric characters for the main filename and three alphanumeric characters for the extension name.

```
A:\>afudos /oOLDBIOS1.ROM
```

Main filename Extension name

3. Press <Enter>. The utility copies the current BIOS file to the floppy disk.

```
A:\>afudos /oOLDBIOS1.ROM
AMI Firmware Update Utility - Version 1.10
Copyright (C) 2002 American Megatrends, Inc. All rights reserved.
  Reading flash ..... done
A:\>
```

The utility returns to the DOS prompt after copying the current BIOS file.

Updating the BIOS file

To update the BIOS file using the AFUDOS utility:

1. Visit the ASUS website (www.asus.com) and download the latest BIOS file for the motherboard. Save the BIOS file to a bootable floppy disk.



Write the BIOS filename on a piece of paper. You need to type the exact BIOS filename at the DOS prompt.

2. Copy the AFUDOS utility (afudos.exe) from the motherboard support CD to the bootable floppy disk you created earlier.
3. Boot the system in DOS mode, then at the prompt type:

```
afudos /i[filename]
```

where [filename] is the latest or the original BIOS file on the bootable floppy disk.

```
A:\>afudos /iA8NVM.ROM
```

4. The utility verifies the file and starts updating the BIOS.

```
A:\>afudos /iA8NVM.ROM
AMI Firmware Update Utility - Version 1.10
Copyright (C) 2002 American Megatrends, Inc. All rights reserved.
Reading file ..... done
Erasing flash .... done
Writing flash .... 0x0008CC00 (9%)
```



Do not shut down or reset the system while updating the BIOS to prevent system boot failure!

5. The utility returns to the DOS prompt after the BIOS update process is completed. Reboot the system from the hard disk drive.

```
A:\>afudos /iA8NVM.ROM
AMI Firmware Update Utility - Version 1.10
Copyright (C) 2002 American Megatrends, Inc. All rights reserved.
Reading file ..... done
Erasing flash .... done
Writing flash .... 0x0008CC00 (9%)
Verifying flash .. done
A:\>
```

2.1.4 ASUS CrashFree BIOS 2 utility

The ASUS CrashFree BIOS 2 is an auto recovery tool that allows you to restore the BIOS file when it fails or gets corrupted during the updating process. You can update a corrupted BIOS file using the motherboard support CD or the floppy disk that contains the updated BIOS file.



- Prepare the motherboard support CD or the floppy disk containing the updated motherboard BIOS before using this utility.
- Make sure that you rename the original or updated BIOS file in the floppy disk to **A8NVM.ROM**.

Recovering the BIOS from a floppy disk

To recover the BIOS from a floppy disk:

1. Turn on the system.
2. Insert the floppy disk with the original or updated BIOS file to the floppy disk drive.
3. The utility displays the following message and automatically checks the floppy disk for the original or updated BIOS file.

```
Bad BIOS checksum. Starting BIOS recovery...
Checking for floppy...
```

When found, the utility reads the BIOS file and starts flashing the corrupted BIOS file.

```
Bad BIOS checksum. Starting BIOS recovery...
Checking for floppy...
Floppy found!
Reading file "A8NVM.ROM". Completed.
Start flashing...
```



DO NOT shut down or reset the system while updating the BIOS! Doing so can cause system boot failure!

4. Restart the system after the utility completes the updating process.

Recovering the BIOS from the support CD

To recover the BIOS from the support CD:

1. Remove any floppy disk from the floppy disk drive, then turn on the system.
2. Insert the support CD to the optical drive.
3. The utility displays the following message and automatically checks the floppy disk for the original or updated BIOS file.

```
Bad BIOS checksum. Starting BIOS recovery...
Checking for floppy...
```

When no floppy disk is found, the utility automatically checks the optical drive for the original or updated BIOS file. The utility then updates the corrupted BIOS file.

```
Bad BIOS checksum. Starting BIOS recovery...
Checking for floppy...
Floppy not found!
Checking for CD-ROM...
CD-ROM found!
Reading file "A8NVM.ROM". Completed.
Start flashing...
```



DO NOT shut down or reset the system while updating the BIOS! Doing so can cause system boot failure!

4. Restart the system after the utility completes the updating process.



The recovered BIOS may not be the latest BIOS version for this motherboard. Visit the ASUS website (www.asus.com) to download the latest BIOS file.

2.1.5 ASUS Update utility

The ASUS Update is a utility that allows you to manage, save, and update the motherboard BIOS in Windows® environment. The ASUS Update utility allows you to:

- Save the current BIOS file
- Download the latest BIOS file from the Internet
- Update the BIOS from an updated BIOS file
- Update the BIOS directly from the Internet, and
- View the BIOS version information.

This utility is available in the support CD that comes with the motherboard package.



ASUS Update requires an Internet connection either through a network or an Internet Service Provider (ISP).

Installing ASUS Update

To install ASUS Update:

1. Place the support CD in the optical drive. The **Drivers** menu appears.
2. Click the **Utilities** tab, then click **ASUS Update**. See page 3-4 for the **Utilities** screen menu.
3. The ASUS Update utility is copied to your system.

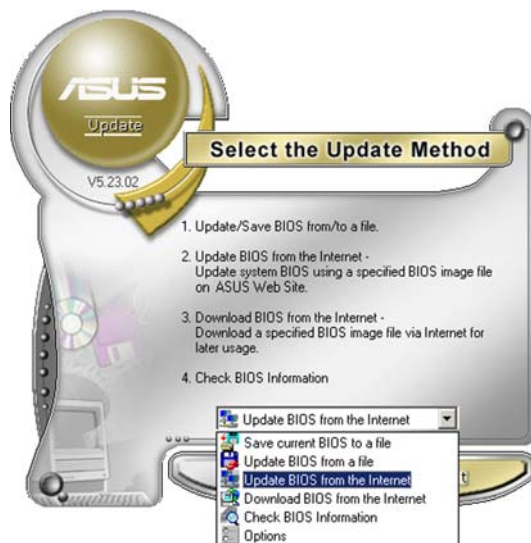
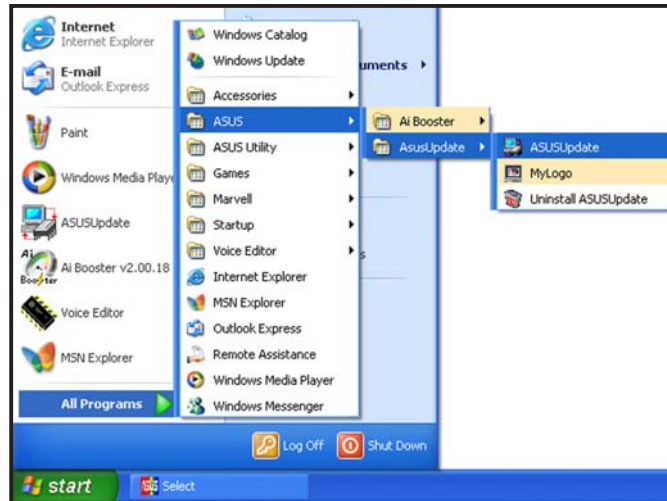


Quit all Windows® applications before you update the BIOS using this utility.

Updating the BIOS through the Internet

To update the BIOS through the Internet:

1. Launch the ASUS Update utility from the Windows® desktop by clicking **Start > Programs > ASUS > ASUSUpdate > ASUSUpdate**. The ASUS Update main window appears.



2. Select **Update BIOS from the Internet** option from the drop-down menu, then click **Next**.



3. Select the ASUS FTP site nearest you to avoid network traffic, or click **Auto Select**. Click **Next**.

- From the FTP site, select the BIOS version that you wish to download. Click Next.
- Follow the screen instructions to complete the update process.



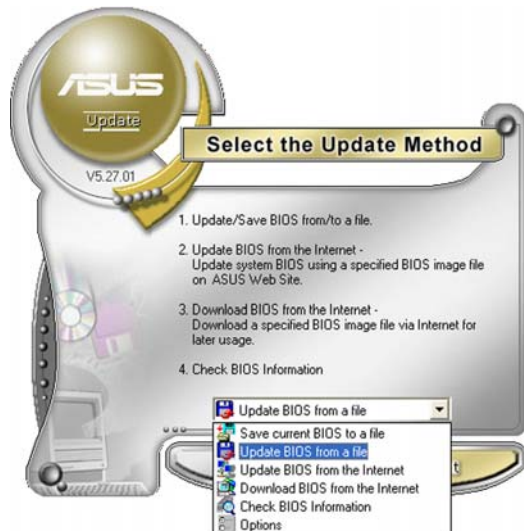
The ASUS Update utility is capable of updating itself through the Internet. Always update the utility to avail all its features.



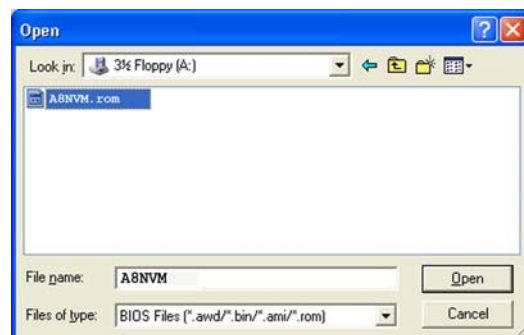
Updating the BIOS through a BIOS file

To update the BIOS through a BIOS file:

- Launch the ASUS Update utility from the Windows® desktop by clicking **Start > Programs > ASUS > ASUSUpdate > ASUSUpdate**. The ASUS Update main window appears.
- Select **Update BIOS from a file** option from the drop-down menu, then click **Next**.



- Locate the BIOS file from the **Open** window, then click **Save**.
- Follow the screen instructions to complete the update process.



2.2 BIOS setup program

This motherboard supports a programmable firmware chip that you can update using the provided utility described in section “2.1 Managing and updating your BIOS.”

Use the BIOS Setup program when you are installing a motherboard, reconfiguring your system, or prompted to “Run Setup.” This section explains how to configure your system using this utility.

Even if you are not prompted to use the Setup program, you can change the configuration of your computer in the future. For example, you can enable the security password feature or change the power management settings. This requires you to reconfigure your system using the BIOS Setup program so that the computer can recognize these changes and record them in the CMOS RAM of the firmware hub.

The firmware hub on the motherboard stores the Setup utility. When you start up the computer, the system provides you with the opportunity to run this program. Press during the Power-On-Self-Test (POST) to enter the Setup utility; otherwise, POST continues with its test routines.

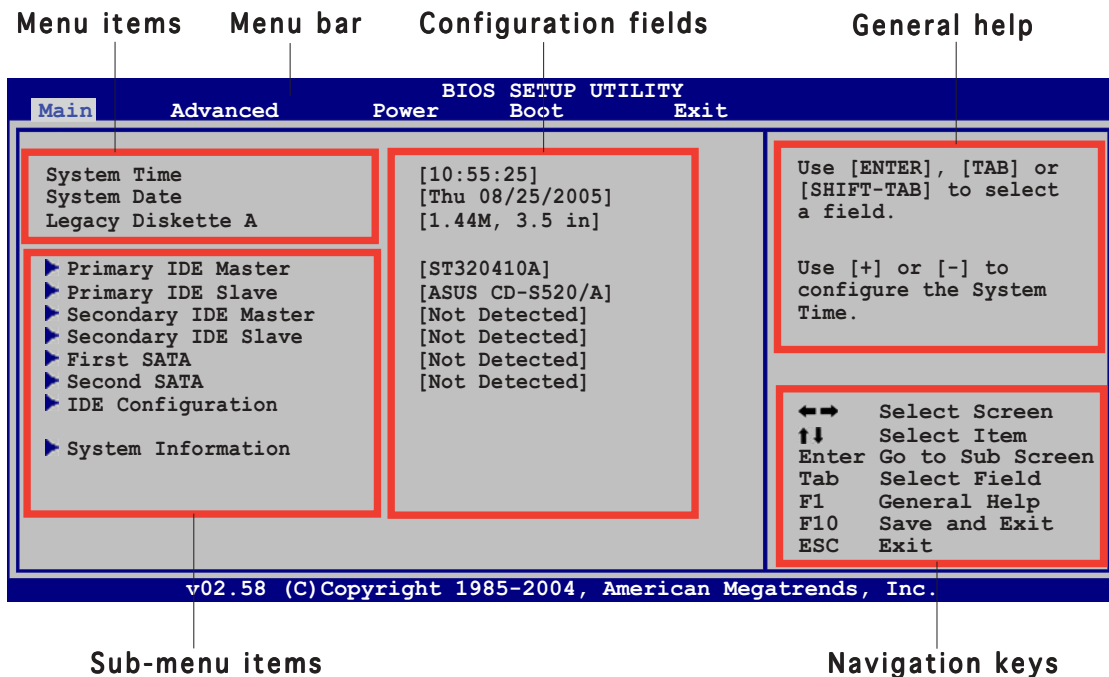
If you wish to enter Setup after POST, restart the system by pressing <Ctrl+Alt+Delete>, or by pressing the reset button on the system chassis. You can also restart by turning the system off and then back on. Do this last option only if the first two failed.

The Setup program is designed to make it as easy to use as possible. Being a menu-driven program, it lets you scroll through the various sub-menus and make your selections from the available options using the navigation keys.



-
- The default BIOS settings for this motherboard apply for most conditions to ensure optimum performance. If the system becomes unstable after changing any BIOS settings, load the default settings to ensure system compatibility and stability. Select the **Load Default Settings** item under the Exit Menu. See section “2.7 Exit Menu.”
 - The BIOS setup screens shown in this section are for reference purposes only, and may not exactly match what you see on your screen.
 - Visit the ASUS website (www.asus.com) to download the latest BIOS file for this motherboard and .
-

2.2.1 BIOS menu screen



2.2.2 Menu bar

The menu bar on top of the screen has the following main items:

Main	For changing the basic system configuration
Advanced	For changing the advanced system settings
Power	For changing the advanced power management (APM) configuration
Boot	For changing the system boot configuration
Exit	For selecting the exit options and loading default settings

To select an item on the menu bar, press the right or left arrow key on the keyboard until the desired item is highlighted.

2.2.3 Navigation keys

At the bottom right corner of a menu screen are the navigation keys for that particular menu. Use the navigation keys to select items in the menu and change the settings.

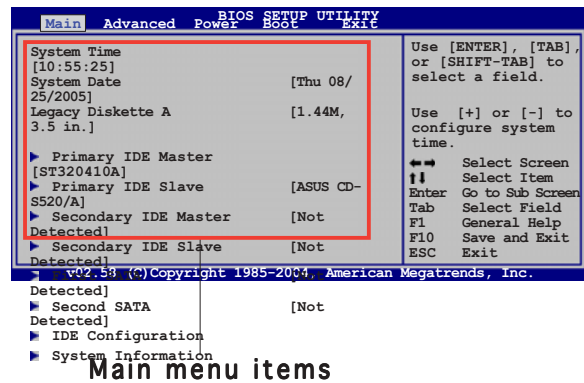


Some of the navigation keys differ from one screen to another.

2.2.4 Menu items

The highlighted item on the menu bar displays the specific items for that menu. For example, selecting **Main** shows the Main menu items.

The other items (Advanced, Power, Boot, and Exit) on the menu bar have their respective menu items.



2.2.5 Sub-menu items

A solid triangle before each item on any menu screen means that the item has a sub-menu. To display the sub-menu, select the item and press <Enter>.

2.2.6 Configuration fields

These fields show the values for the menu items. If an item is user-configurable, you can change the value of the field opposite the item. You cannot select an item that is not user-configurable.

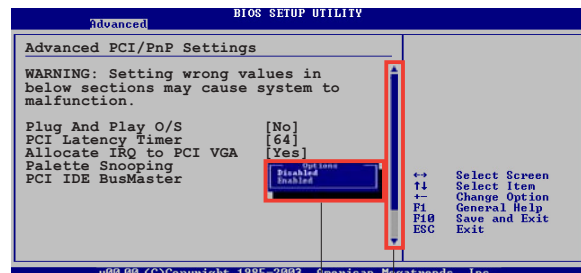
A configurable field is enclosed in brackets, and is highlighted when selected. To change the value of a field, select it then press <Enter> to display a list of options. Refer to “2.2.7 Pop-up window.”

2.2.7 Pop-up window

Select a menu item then press <Enter> to display a pop-up window with the configuration options for that item.

2.2.8 Scroll bar

A scroll bar appears on the right side of a menu screen when there are items that do not fit on the screen. Press the Up/Down arrow keys or <Page Up> / <Page Down> keys to display the other items on the screen.



2.2.9 General help

At the top right corner of the menu screen is a brief description of the selected item.

2.3 Main menu

When you enter the BIOS Setup program, the Main menu screen appears, giving you an overview of the basic system information.



Refer to section “2.2.1 BIOS menu screen” for information on the menu screen items and how to navigate through them.

```
BIOS SETUP UTILITY
Main  Advanced  Power  Boot  Exit

System Time          [10:55:25]
System Date          [Thu 08/25/2005]
Legacy Diskette A    [1.44M, 3.5 in]

▶ Primary IDE Master  [ST320410A]
▶ Primary IDE Slave   [ASUS CD-S520/A]
▶ Secondary IDE Master [Not Detected]
▶ Secondary IDE Slave [Not Detected]
▶ First SATA          [Not Detected]
▶ Second SATA         [Not Detected]
▶ IDE Configuration

▶ System Information

Use [ENTER], [TAB] or [SHIFT-TAB] to select a field.

Use [+] or [-] to configure the System Time.

←→ Select Screen
↑↓ Select Item
Enter Go to Sub Screen
Tab  Select Field
F1   General Help
F10  Save and Exit
ESC  Exit

v02.58 (C) Copyright 1985-2004, American Megatrends, Inc.
```

2.3.1 System Time [xx:xx:xx]

Allows you to set the system time.

2.3.2 System Date [Day xx/xx/xxxx]

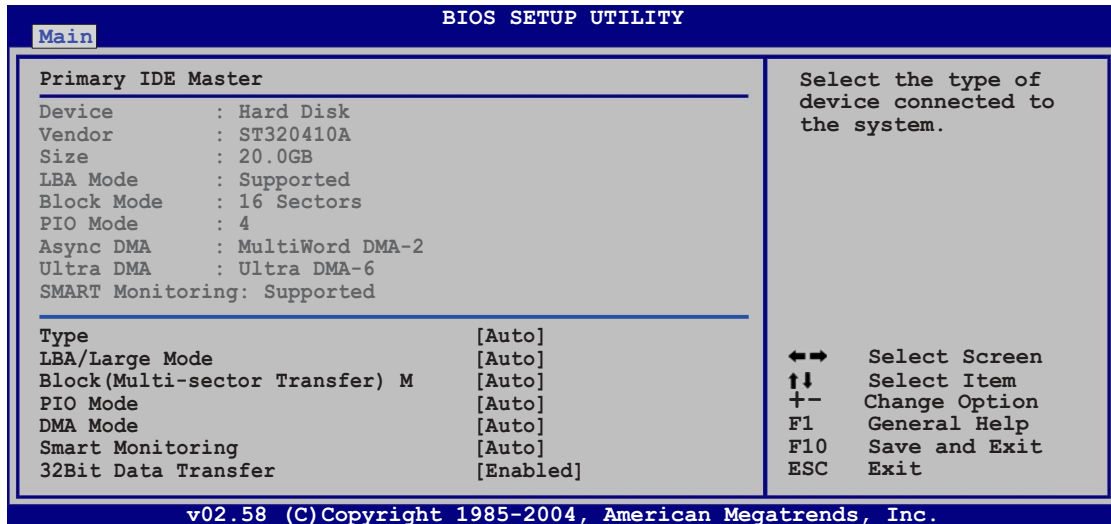
Allows you to set the system date.

2.3.3 Legacy Diskette A [1.44M, 3.5 in.]

Sets the type of floppy drive installed. Configuration options: [Disabled] [360K, 5.25 in.] [1.2M, 5.25 in.] [720K, 3.5 in.] [1.44M, 3.5 in.] [2.88M, 3.5 in.]

2.3.4 Primary and Secondary IDE Master/Slave; First and Second SATA

While entering Setup, the BIOS automatically detects the presence of IDE devices. There is a separate sub-menu for each IDE device. Select a device item then press <Enter> to display the IDE device information.



The BIOS automatically detects the values opposite the dimmed items (Device, Vendor, Size, LBA Mode, Block Mode, PIO Mode, Async DMA, Ultra DMA, and SMART monitoring). These values are not user-configurable. These items show N/A if no IDE device is installed in the system.

Type [Auto]

Selects the type of IDE drive. Setting to Auto allows automatic selection of the appropriate IDE device type. Select CDROM if you are specifically configuring a CD-ROM drive. Select ARMD (ATAPI Removable Media Device) if your device is either a ZIP, LS-120, or MO drive.

Configuration options: [Not Installed] [Auto] [CDROM] [ARMD]

LBA/Large Mode [Auto]

Enables or disables the LBA mode. Setting to Auto enables the LBA mode if the device supports this mode, and if the device was not previously formatted with LBA mode disabled. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Auto]

Block (Multi-sector Transfer) M [Auto]

Enables or disables data multi-sectors transfers. When set to Auto, the data transfer from and to the device occurs multiple sectors at a time if the device supports multi-sector transfer feature. When set to [Disabled], the data transfer from and to the device occurs one sector at a time.

Configuration options: [Disabled] [Auto]

PIO Mode [Auto]

Sets the PIO mode.

Configuration options: [Auto] [0] [1] [2] [3] [4]

DMA Mode [Auto]

Sets the DMA mode. Configuration options: [Auto] [SWDMA0] [SWDMA1] [SWDMA2] [MWDMA0] [MWDMA1] [MWDMA2] [UDMA0] [UDMA1] [UDMA2] [UDMA3] [UDMA4] [UDMA5] [UDMA6]

SMART Monitoring [Auto]

Sets the Smart Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Technology monitoring support. Configuration options: [Auto] [Disabled] [Enabled]

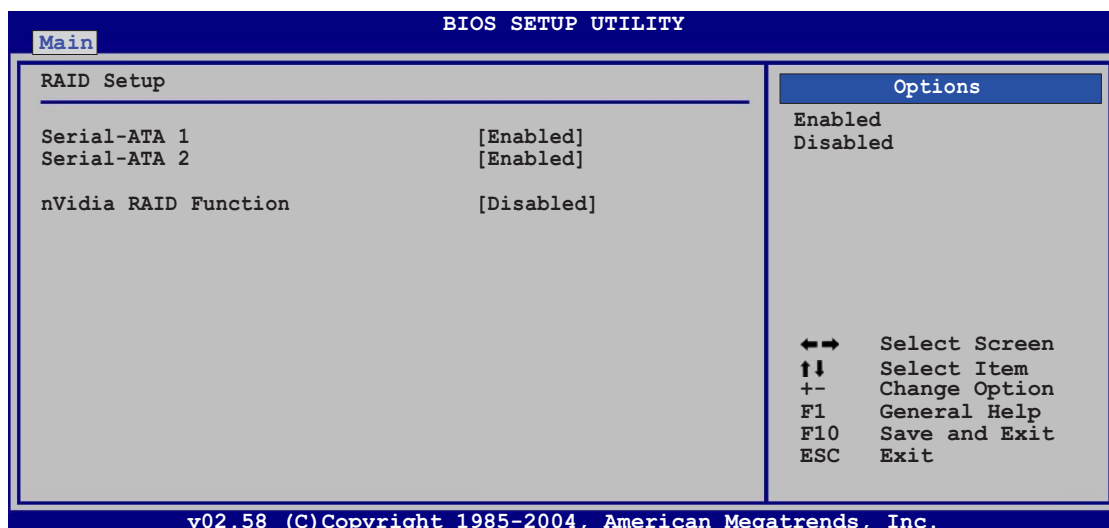
32Bit Data Transfer [Enabled]

Enables or disables 32-bit data transfer.

Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

2.3.5 IDE Configuration

The items in this menu allow you to set or change the configurations for the IDE devices installed in the system. Select an item then press <Enter> if you want to configure the item.



Serial-ATA 1 [Enabled]

Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

Serial-ATA 2 [Enabled]

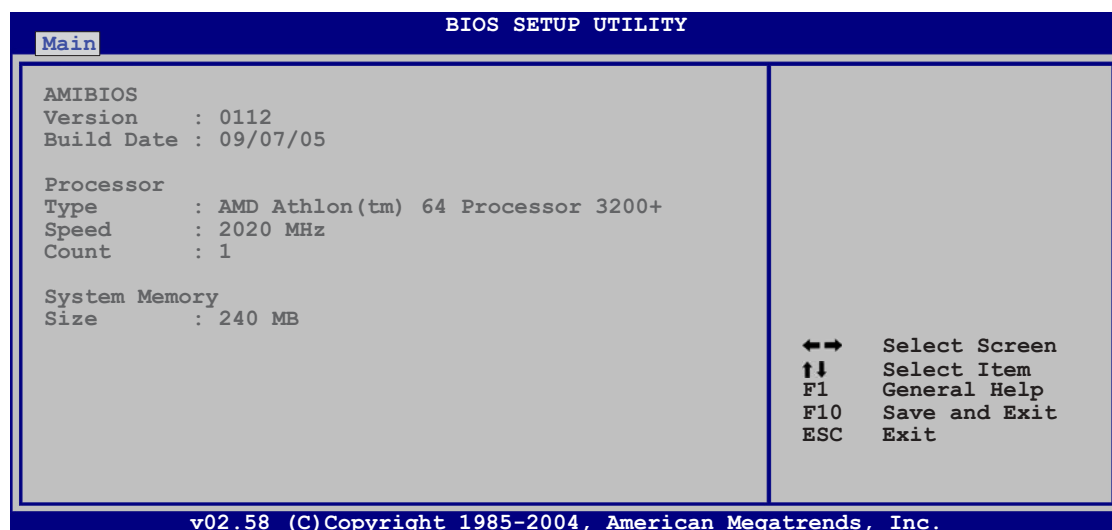
Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

nVidia RAID Function [Disabled]

Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

2.3.6 System Information

This menu gives you an overview of the general system specifications. The BIOS automatically detects the items in this menu.



AMI BIOS

Displays the auto-detected BIOS information.

Processor

Displays the auto-detected CPU specification.

System Memory

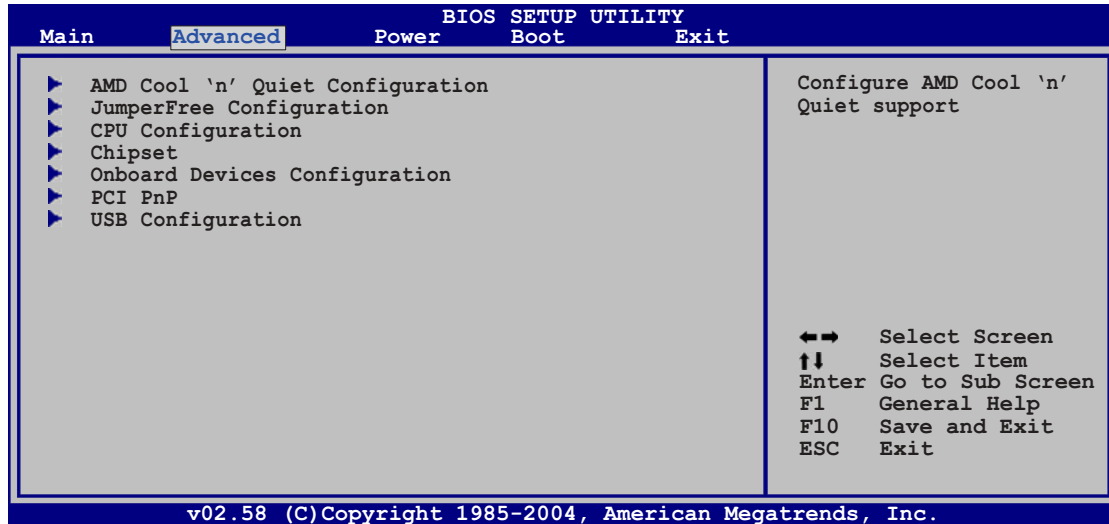
Displays the auto-detected system memory.

2.4 Advanced menu

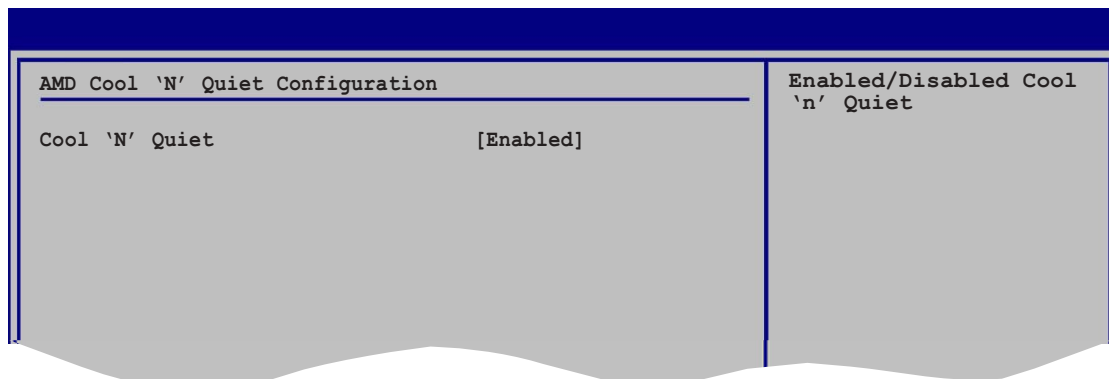
The Advanced menu items allow you to change the settings for the CPU and other system devices.



Take caution when changing the settings of the Advanced menu items. Incorrect field values can cause the system to malfunction.



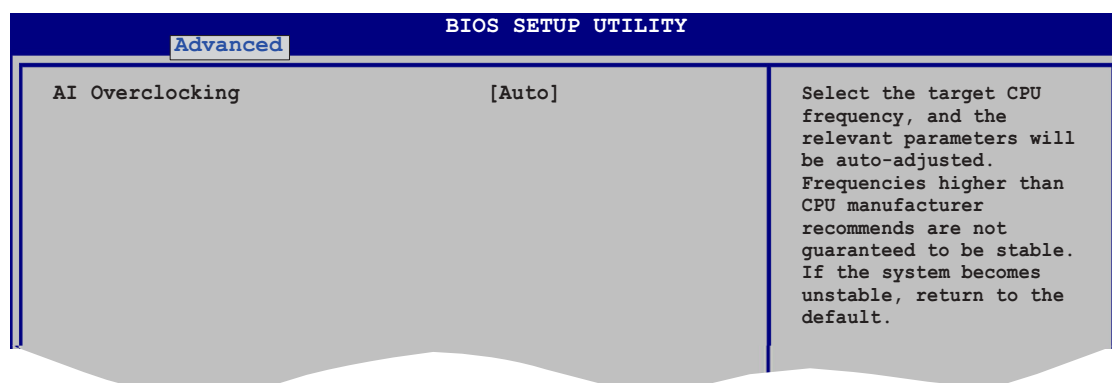
2.4.1 AMD Cool 'n' Quiet Configuration



Cool 'n' Quiet [Enabled]

Allows you to enable or disable the AMD Cool 'n' Quiet™ technology feature. Configuration options: [Enabled] [Disabled]

2.4.2 JumperFree Configuration



AI Overclocking [Auto]

Allows you to select the overclocking options to achieve the desired CPU internal frequency. Select either one of the preset overclocking configuration options.

Manual - allows you to individually set overclocking parameters.

Auto - loads the optimal settings for the system.

Standard - loads the standard settings for the system.



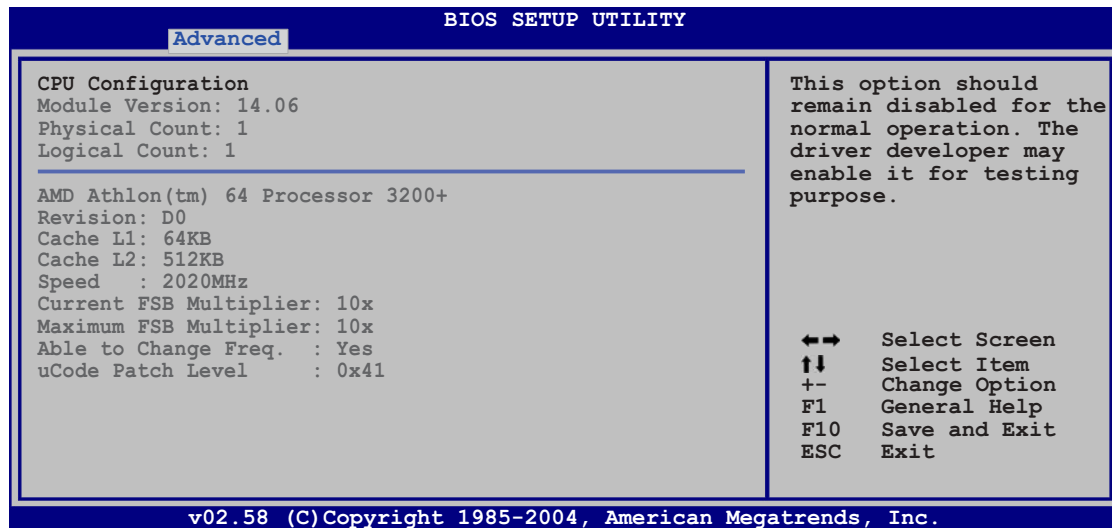
The following item appears only when you set the **AI Overclocking** item to [Manual].

CPU FSB Frequency [XXX]

Allows you to adjust the CPU FSB frequency. The value of this item is auto-detected by the BIOS. Use the <+> and <-> keys to adjust the CPU FSB frequency. You can also type the desired CPU frequency using the numeric keypad. The values range from 200 to 240.

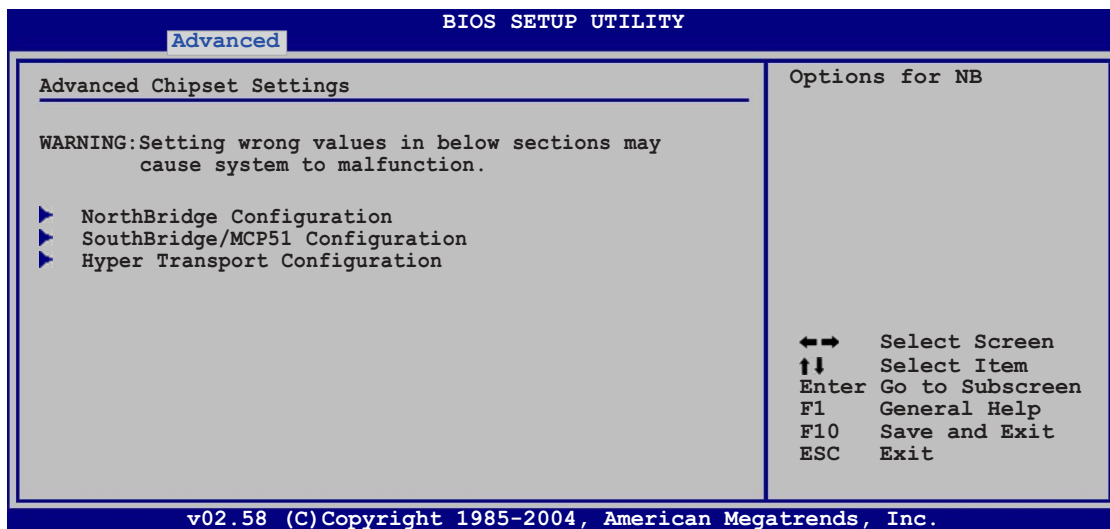
2.4.3 CPU Configuration

The items in this menu show the CPU-related information that the BIOS automatically detects.

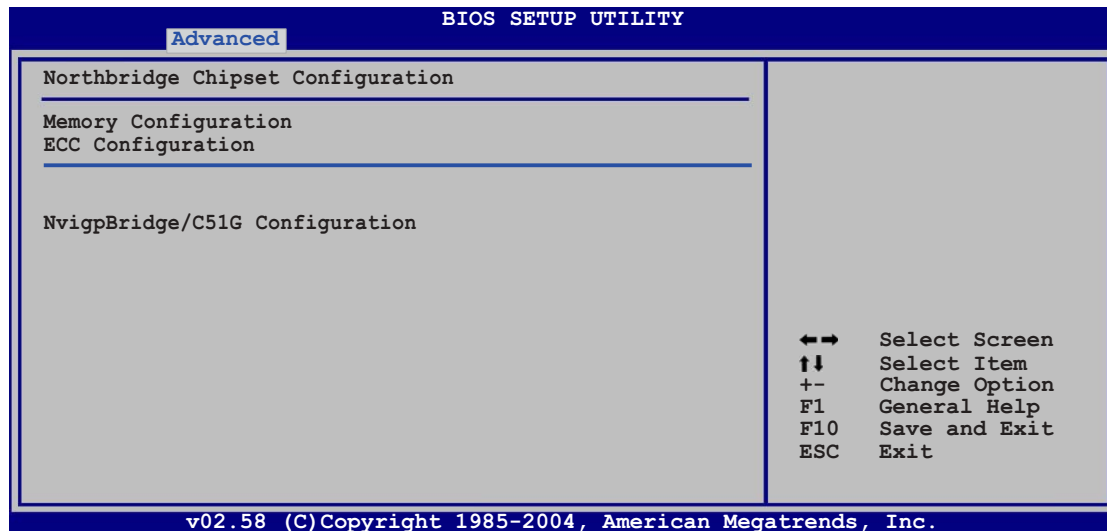


2.4.4 Chipset

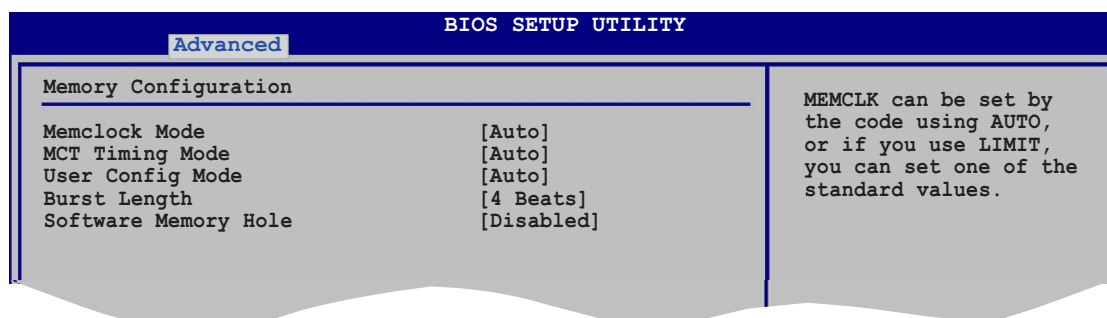
The Chipset menu allows you to change the advanced chipset settings. Select an item then press <Enter> to display the sub-menu.



Northbridge Configuration



Memory Configuration



Memclock Mode [Auto]

[Auto] allows the BIOS to set the memclock mode automatically.
[Limit] allows you to select from any of the standard values.
Configuration options: [Auto] [Limit]



The following item appears when the **Memclock Mode** item is set to [Limit].

Memclock Value [100 MHz]

Allows you to set the memclock value.
Configuration options: [100 MHz] [133 MHz] [166 MHz]
[183 MHz] [200 MHz]

MCT Timing Mode [Auto]

[Auto] allows the BIOS to set the MCT timing mode automatically.
[Manual] allows you to set the values by yourself.
Configuration options: [Auto] [Manual]



The following items appear when the **MCT Timing Mode** item is set to [Manual].

CAS Latency (CL) [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [2.0] [3.0] [2.5]

TRAS [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [5 CLK] [6 CLK]... [15 CLK]

TRP [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [2 CLK] [3 CLK]... [6 CLK]

TRCD [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [2 CLK] [3 CLK]... [6 CLK]

TRRD [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [2T] [3T] [4T]

TRC [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [7T] [8T] [9T]... [22T]

TRFC [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [9T] [10T] [11T]... [24T]

TRWT [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [1 CLK] [2 CLK]... [6 CLK]

User Config Mode [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [Manual]

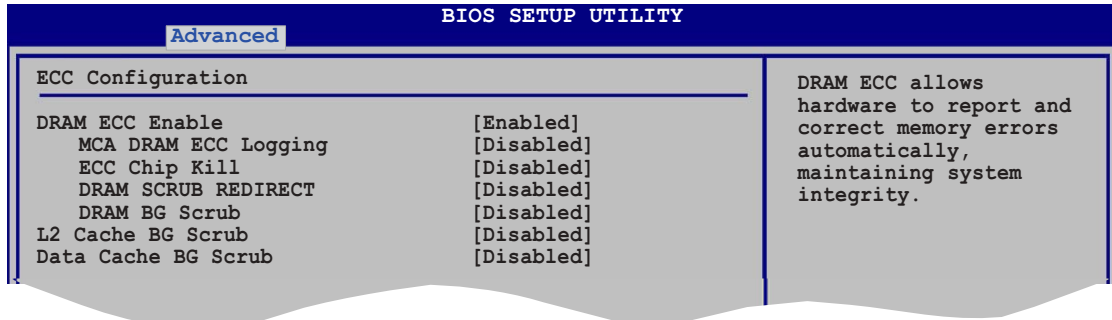
Burst length [4 Beats]

Sets the burst length.
Configuration options: [8 Beats] [4 Beats] [2 Beats]

Software Memory Hole [Disabled]

Enables or disables the software memory remapping around the memory hole. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

ECC Configuration



DRAM ECC Enable [Enabled]

Allows you to enable or disable DRAM ECC, which allows the hardware to report and correct memory errors automatically to maintain system integrity. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

MCA DRAM ECC Logging [Disabled]

Allows you to enable or disable MCA DRAM ECC logging/reporting. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

ECC Chip Kill [Disabled]

Allows you to enable or disable ECC chip kill. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

DRAM SCRUB REDIRECT [Disabled]

Allows you to enable or disable DRAM scrub redirect, which allows the system to correct DRAM ECC errors immediately when they occur, even if background scrubbing is on. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

DRAM BG Scrub [Disabled]

Allows DRAM scrubbing to correct memory errors so later reads are correct. Doing this while memory is not being used improves performance. Configuration options: [Disabled] [40ns] [80ns] [160ns] [320ns] [640ns] [1.28us] [2.56us] [5.12us] [10.2us] [20.5 us] [41.0us] [81.9us] [163.8us] [327.7us] [655.4us] [1.31ms] [2.62ms] [5.24ms] [10.49ms] [20.97ms] [42.00ms] [84.00ms]

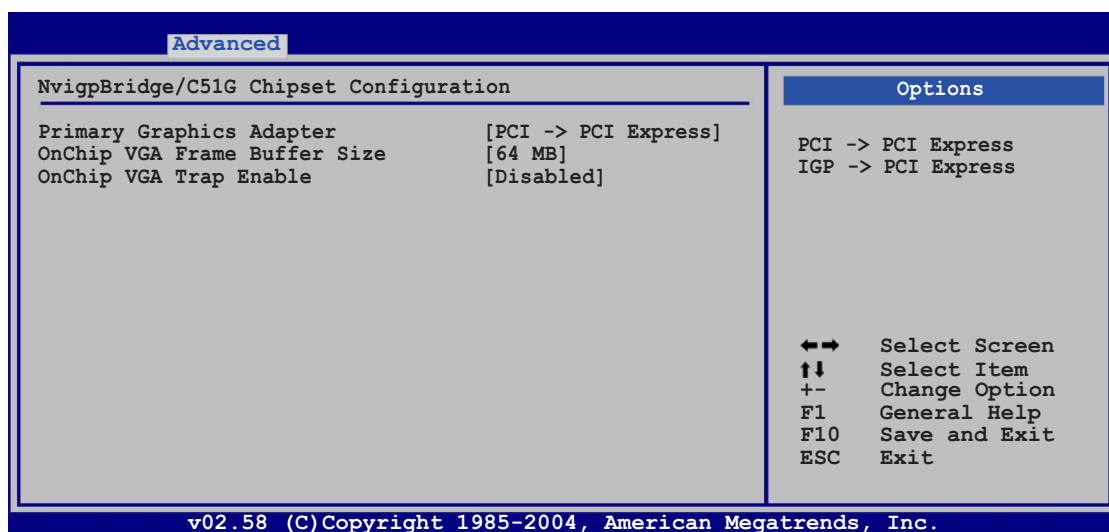
L2 Cache BG Scrub [Disabled]

Allows the L2 Data Cache RAM to be corrected while idle. Configuration options: [Disabled] [40ns] [80ns] [160ns] [320ns] [640ns] [1.28us] [2.56us] [5.12us] [10.2us] [20.5 us] [41.0us] [81.9us] [163.8us] [327.7us] [655.4us] [1.31ms] [2.62ms] [5.24ms] [10.49ms] [20.97ms] [42.00ms] [84.00ms]

Data Cache BG Scrub [Disabled]

Allows the L1 Data Cache RAM to be corrected while idle. Configuration options: [Disabled] [40ns] [80ns] [160ns] [320ns] [640ns] [1.28us] [2.56us] [5.12us] [10.2us] [20.5 us] [41.0us] [81.9us] [163.8us] [327.7us] [655.4us] [1.31ms] [2.62ms] [5.24ms] [10.49ms] [20.97ms] [42.00ms] [84.00ms]

NvигpBridge/C51G Chipset Configuration



Primary Graphics Adapter [PCI -> PCI Express -> IGP]

Allows selection of the graphics controller to use as a primary boot device. Configuration options: [PCI -> PCI Express -> IGP] [IGP -> PCI Express -> PCI]

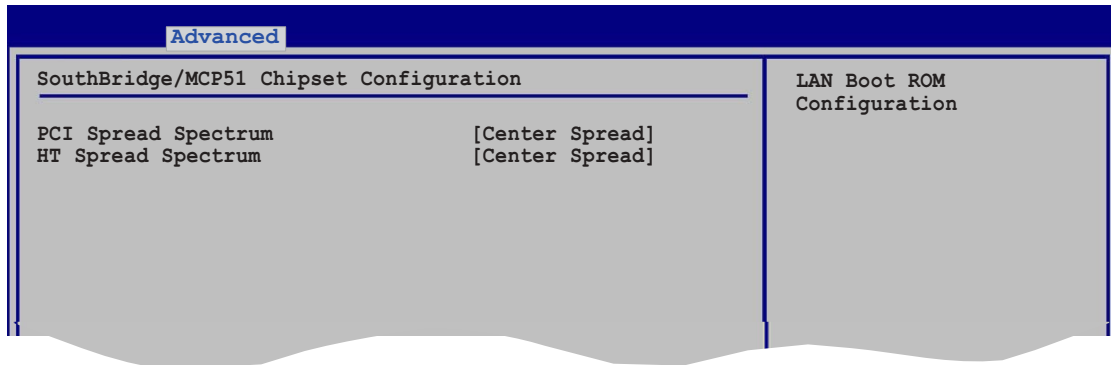
OnChip VGA Frame Buffer Size [64 MB]

Allows you to disable or set the onchip VGA frame buffer size. Configuration options: [Disabled] [16 MB] [32 MB] [64 MB] [128 MB]

OnChip VGA Trap Enable [Disabled]

Allows you to enable or disable the onchip VGA trap feature, which patches some Linux operating systems that cannot be installed with an onchip VGA. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

SouthBridge/MCP51 Chipset Configuration



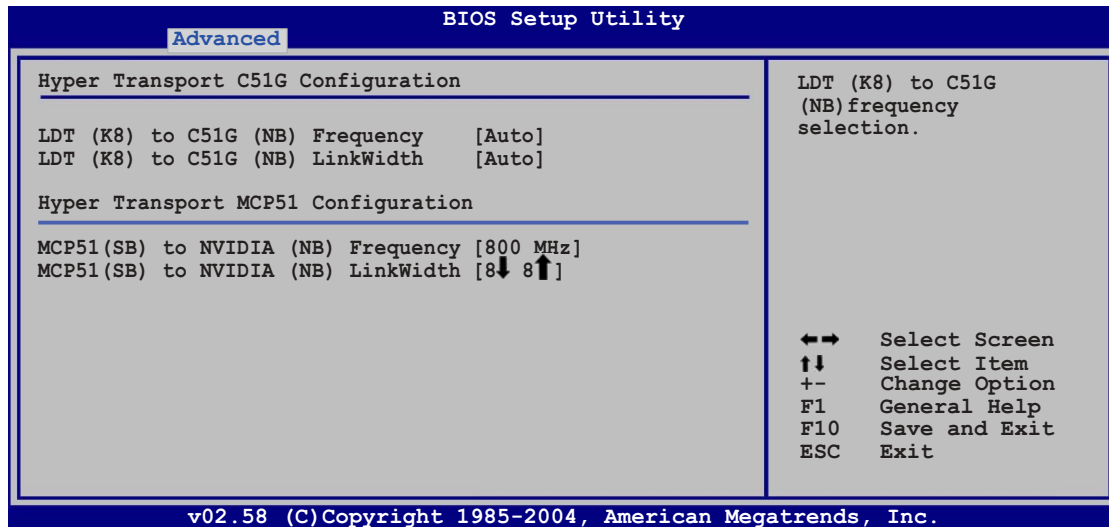
PCI Spread Spectrum [Center Spread]

Configuration options: [Disabled] [Center Spread] [Down Spread]

HT Spread Spectrum [Center Spread]

Configuration options: [Disabled] [Center Spread] [Down Spread]

Hyper Transport Configuration



Hyper Transport C51G Configuration

LDT (K8) to C51G (NB) Frequency [Auto]
Configuration options: [Auto] [200 MHz] [400 MHz] [600 MHz]
[800 MHz] [1000 MHz] [1200 MHz] [1400 MHz] [1600 MHz]

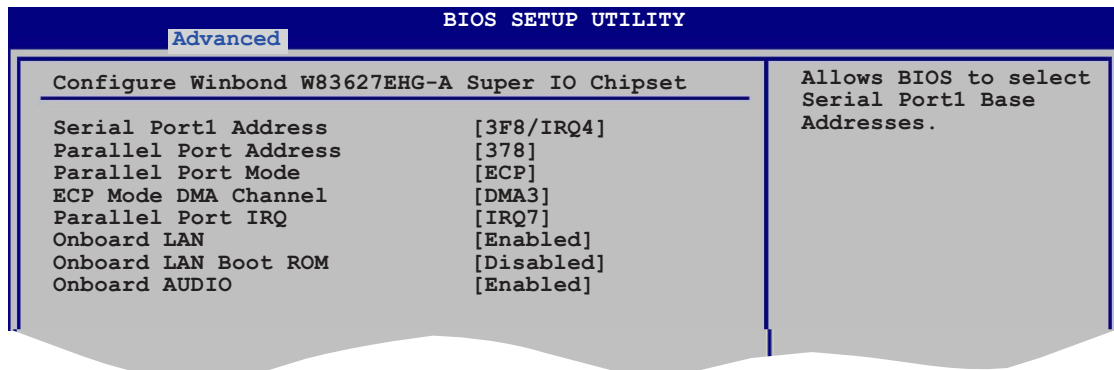
LDT (K8) to C51G (NB) LinkWidth [Auto]
Configuration options: [Auto] [8 ↓ 8 ↑] [16 ↓ 16 ↑]

Hyper Transport MCP51 Configuration

MCP51(SB) to NVIDIA (NB) Frequency [800 MHz]
Configuration options: [Auto] [200 MHz] [400 MHz] [600 MHz]
[800 MHz] [1000 MHz] [1200 MHz] [1400 MHz] [1600 MHz]

MCP51(SB) to NVIDIA (NB) LinkWidth [8 ↓ 8 ↑]
Configuration options: [4 ↓ 4 ↑] [8 ↓ 8 ↑] [16 ↓ 16 ↑]

2.4.5 Onboard Devices Configuration



Serial Port1 Address [3F8/IRQ4]

Allows you to select the Serial Port1 base address.

Configuration options: [Disabled] [3F8/IRQ4] [2F8/IRQ3] [3E8/IRQ4] [2E8/IRQ3]

Parallel Port Address [378]

Allows you to select the Parallel Port base addresses.

Configuration options: [Disabled] [378] [278] [3BC]

Parallel Port Mode [ECP]

Allows you to select the Parallel Port mode.

Configuration options: [Normal] [Bi-directional] [EPP] [ECP]

ECP Mode DMA Channel [DMA3]

Appears only when the Parallel Port Mode is set to [ECP]. This item allows you to set the Parallel Port ECP DMA. Configuration options: [DMA0] [DMA1] [DMA3]

EPP Version [1.9]

Allows selection of the Parallel Port EPP version. This item appears only when the **Parallel Port Mode** is set to **EPP**.

Configuration options: [1.9] [1.7]

Parallel Port IRQ [IRQ7]

Configuration options: [IRQ5] [IRQ7]

Onboard LAN [Enabled]

Allows you to enable or disable the onboard LAN.

Configuration options: [Enable] [Disabled]

Onboard LAN Boot ROM [Disabled]

Allows you to enable or disable the onboard LAN boot ROM.

Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

Onboard AUDIO [Enabled]

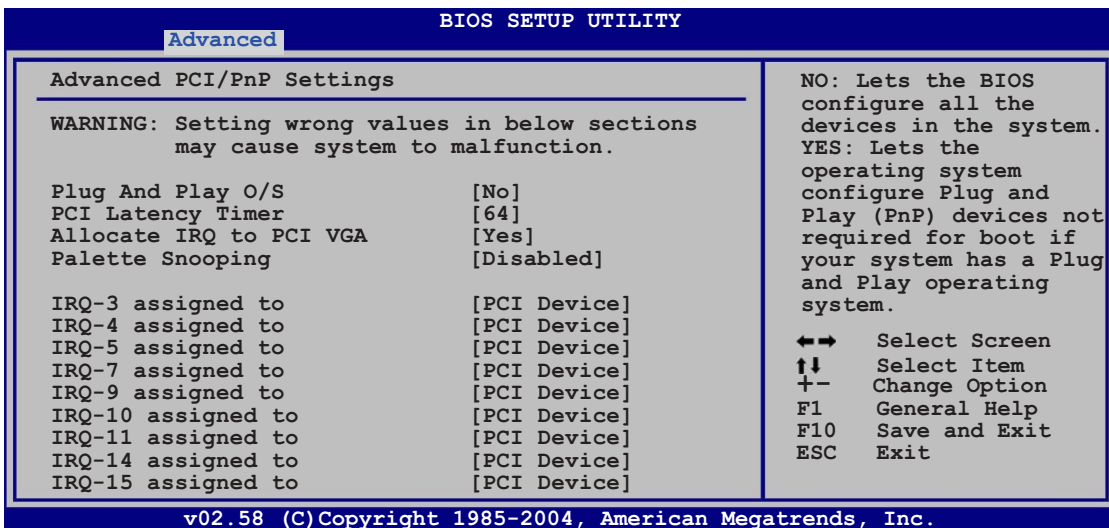
Allows you to enable or disable the onboard high definition audio controller.
Configuration options: [Enabled] [Disabled]

2.4.6 PCI PnP

The PCI PnP menu items allow you to change the advanced settings for PCI/PnP devices. The menu includes setting IRQ and DMA channel resources for either PCI/PnP or legacy ISA devices, and setting the memory size block for legacy ISA devices.



Take caution when changing the settings of the PCI PnP menu items. Incorrect field values can cause the system to malfunction.



Plug And Play O/S [No]

When set to [No], BIOS configures all the devices in the system. When set to [Yes] and if you install a Plug and Play operating system, the operating system configures the Plug and Play devices not required for boot.
Configuration options: [No] [Yes]

PCI Latency Timer [64]

Allows you to select the value in units of PCI clocks for the PCI device latency timer register. Configuration options: [32] [64] [96] [128] [160] [192] [224] [248]

Allocate IRQ to PCI VGA [Yes]

When set to [Yes], BIOS assigns an IRQ to PCI VGA card if the card requests for an IRQ. When set to [No], BIOS does not assign an IRQ to the PCI VGA card even if requested. Configuration options: [No] [Yes]

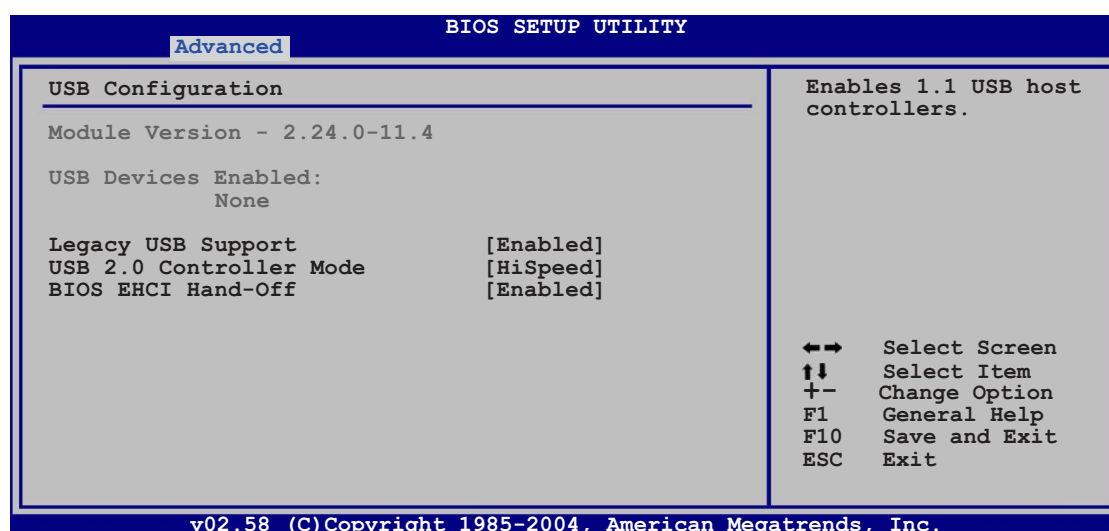
Palette Snooping [Disabled]

When set to [Enabled], the palette snooping feature informs the PCI devices that an ISA graphics device is installed in the system so that the latter can function correctly. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

IRQ-xx assigned to [PCI Device]

When set to [PCI Device], the specific IRQ is free for use of PCI/PnP devices. When set to [Reserved], the IRQ is reserved for legacy ISA devices. Configuration options: [PCI Device] [Reserved]

2.4.7 USB Configuration



The Module Version and USB Devices Enabled items show the auto-detected values. If no USB device is detected, the item shows None.

Legacy USB Support [Enabled]

Allows you to enable or disable support for USB devices on legacy operating systems (OS). Setting to Auto allows the system to detect the presence of USB devices at startup. If detected, the USB controller legacy mode is enabled. If no USB device is detected, the legacy USB support is disabled. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled] [Auto]

USB 2.0 Controller Mode [HiSpeed]

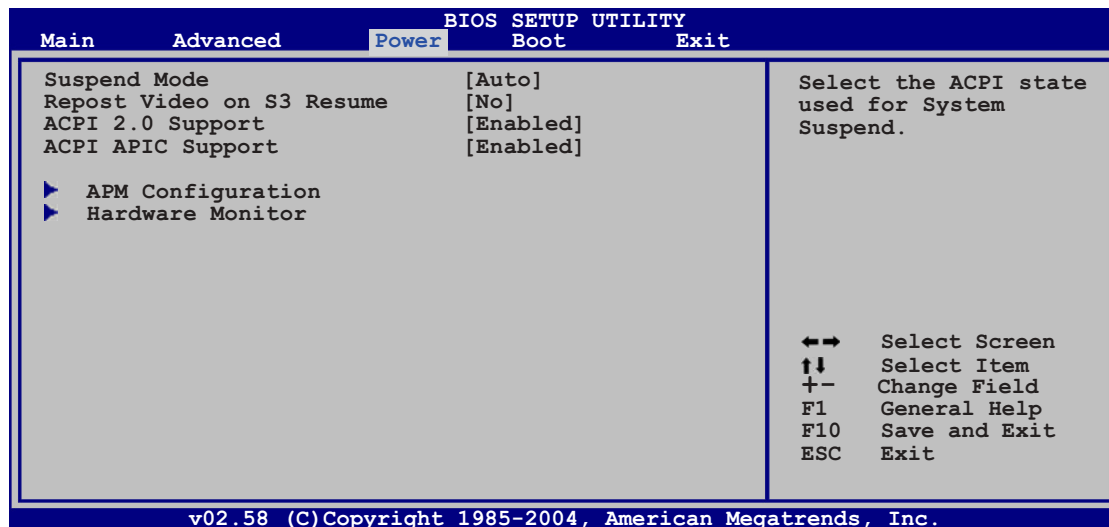
Allows you to set the USB 2.0 controller mode to HiSpeed (480 Mbps) or FullSpeed (12 Mbps). Configuration options: [FullSpeed] [HiSpeed]

BIOS EHCI Hand-Off [Enabled]

Allows you to enable support for operating systems without an EHCI hand-off feature. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

2.5 Power menu

The Power menu items allow you to change the settings for the Advanced Power Management (APM). Select an item then press <Enter> to display the configuration options.



2.5.1 Suspend Mode [Auto]

Allows you to select the Advanced Configuration and Power Interface (ACPI) state to be used for system suspend.

Configuration options: [S1 (POS) Only] [S3 Only] [Auto]

2.5.2 Repost Video on S3 Resume [No]

Determines whether to invoke VGA BIOS POST on S3/STR resume.

Configuration options: [No] [Yes]

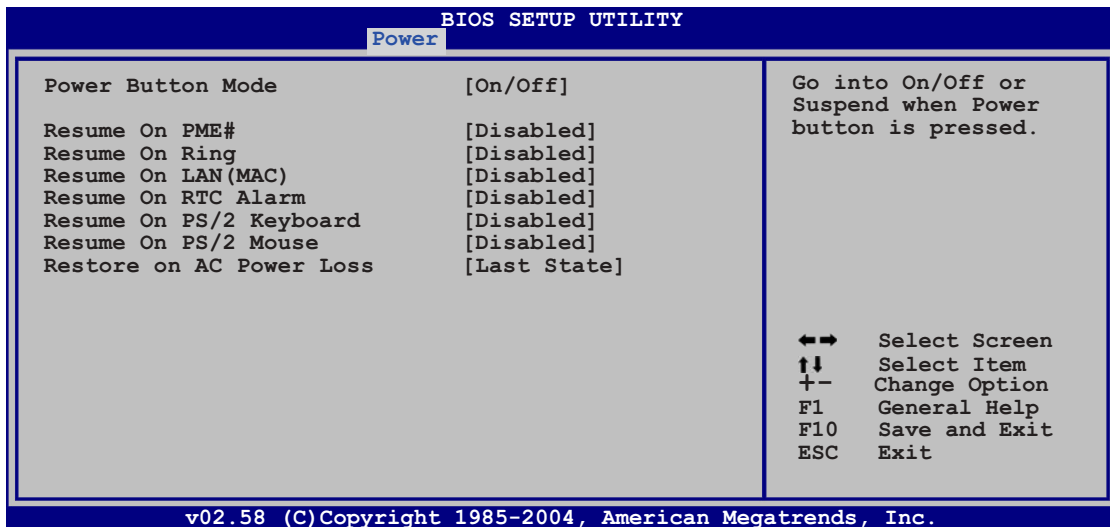
2.5.3 ACPI 2.0 Support [Enabled]

Specifies the Advanced Configuration and Power Interface (ACPI) version supported. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

2.5.4 ACPI APIC Support [Enabled]

Allows you to enable or disable the Advanced Configuration and Power Interface (ACPI) support in the Advanced Programmable Interrupt Controller (APIC). When set to Enabled, the ACPI APIC table pointer is included in the RSDT pointer list. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

2.5.5 APM Configuration



Power Button Mode [On/Off]

Allows the system to go into On/Off mode or suspend mode when the power button is pressed. Configuration options: [On/Off] [Suspend]

Resume On PME# [Disabled]

When set to [Enabled], the system enables the PME to generate a wake event while the computer is in Soft-off mode. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

Resume On Ring [Disabled]

When set to [Enabled], the system enables the RI to generate a wake event while the computer is in Soft-off mode. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

Resume On LAN(MAC) [Disabled]

When set to [Enabled], this parameter allows you to turn on the system through a PCI LAN or modem card. This feature requires an ATX power supply that provides at least 1A on the +5VSB lead. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

Resume On RTC Alarm [Disabled]

Allows you to enable or disable RTC to generate a wake event. When this item is set to Enabled, the items RTC Alarm Date, RTC Alarm Hour, RTC Alarm Minute, and RTC Alarm Second appear with set values. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

Power On By PS/2 Keyboard [Disabled]

When set to [Enabled], this parameter allows you to use the PS/2 keyboard to turn on the system. This feature requires an ATX power supply that provides at least 1A on the +5VSB lead. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

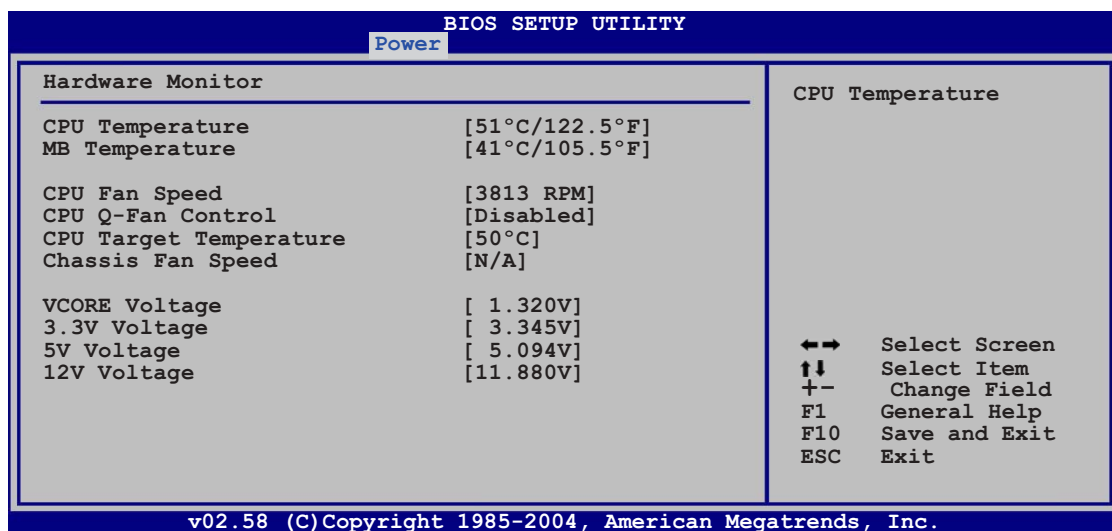
Power On By PS/2 Mouse [Disabled]

When set to [Enabled], this parameter allows you to use the PS/2 mouse to turn on the system. This feature requires an ATX power supply that provides at least 1A on the +5VSB lead. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

Restore On AC Power Loss [Last State]

When set to Power Off, the system goes into off state after an AC power loss. When set to Power On, the system goes on after an AC power loss. When set to Last State, the system goes into either off or on state, whatever the system state was before the AC power loss. Configuration options: [Power Off] [Power On] [Last State]

2.5.6 Hardware Monitor



CPU Temperature [xxx°C/xxx°F] or [Ignored] MB Temperature [xxx°C/xxx°F] or [Ignored]

The onboard hardware monitor automatically detects and displays the motherboard and CPU temperatures. Select Disabled if you do not wish to display the detected temperatures.

CPU Fan Speed [xxxxRPM] or [Ignored] / [N/A]

The onboard hardware monitor automatically detects and displays the CPU fan speed in rotations per minute (RPM). If the fan is not connected to the motherboard, the field shows N/A.

CPU Q-Fan Control [Disabled]

Allows you to enable or disable the ASUS Q-Fan feature that smartly adjusts the fan speeds for more efficient system operation. Configuration options: [Ignored] [Enabled]

CPU Target Temperature [XXX°C]

Allows you to set the CPU temperature threshold when the CPU fan speed is increased to lower CPU temperature. The configuration options for this item depend on the recommended temperature settings. Target temperature options are at 3°C intervals.

Chassis Fan Speed [xxxxRPM] or [Ignored] / [N/A]

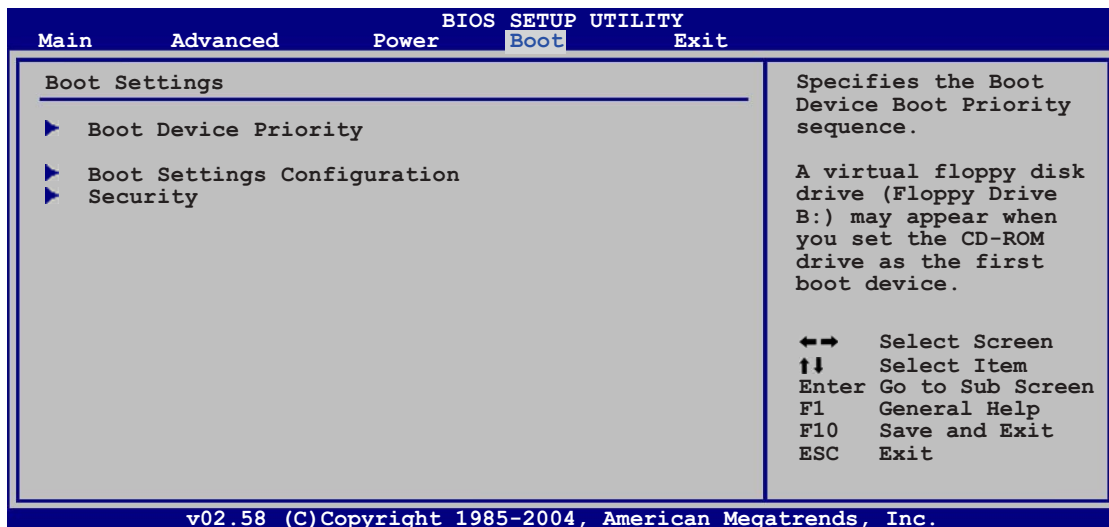
The onboard hardware monitor automatically detects and displays the chassis fan speed in rotations per minute (RPM). If the fan is not connected to the motherboard, the field shows N/A.

VCORE Voltage, 3.3V Voltage, 5V Voltage, 12V Voltage

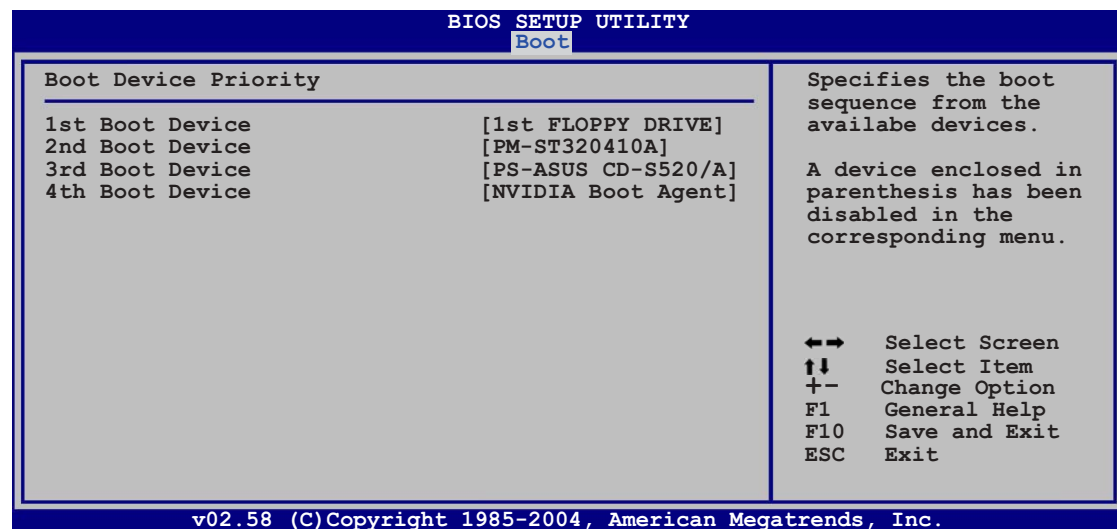
The onboard hardware monitor automatically detects the voltage output through the onboard voltage regulators.

2.6 Boot menu

The Boot menu items allow you to change the system boot options. Select an item then press <Enter> to display the sub-menu.



2.6.1 Boot Device Priority

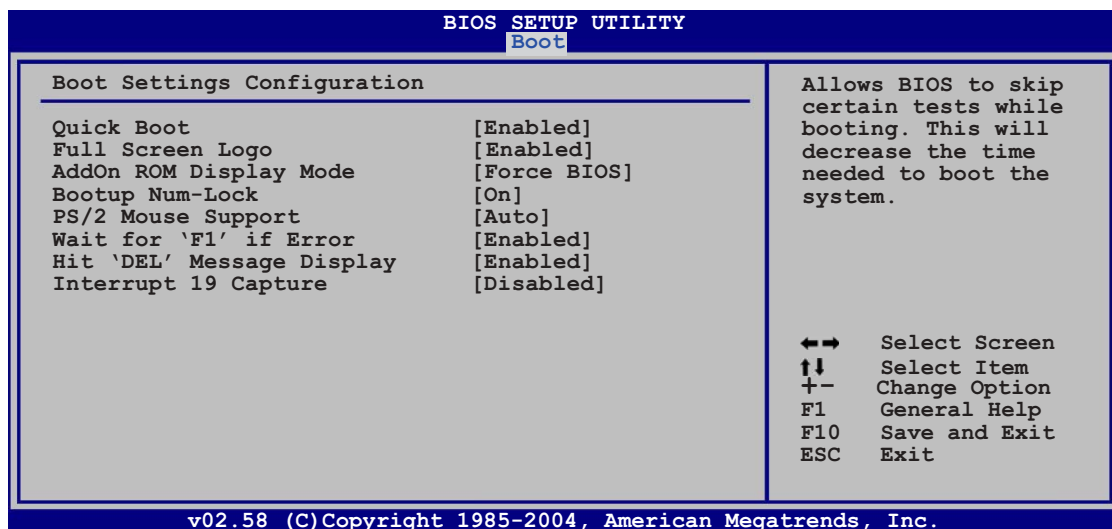


1st ~ xxth Boot Device [xxx Drive]

These items specify the boot device priority sequence from the available devices. The number of device items that appears on the screen depends on the number of devices installed in the system.

Configuration options: [xxx Drive] [Disabled]

2.6.2 Boot Settings Configuration



Quick Boot [Enabled]

Enabling this item allows the BIOS to skip some power on self tests (POST) while booting to decrease the time needed to boot the system. When set to [Disabled], BIOS performs all the POST items.

Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

Full Screen Logo [Enabled]

This allows you to enable or disable the full screen logo display feature.

Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]



Set this item to [Enabled] to use the ASUS MyLogo2™ feature.

Add On ROM Display Mode [Force BIOS]

Sets the display mode for option ROM.

Configuration options: [Force BIOS] [Keep Current]

Bootup Num-Lock [On]

Allows you to select the power-on state for the NumLock.

Configuration options: [Off] [On]

PS/2 Mouse Support [Auto]

Allows you to enable or disable support for PS/2 mouse.

Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled] [Auto]

Wait for 'F1' If Error [Enabled]

When set to Enabled, the system waits for the F1 key to be pressed when error occurs. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

Hit 'DEL' Message Display [Enabled]

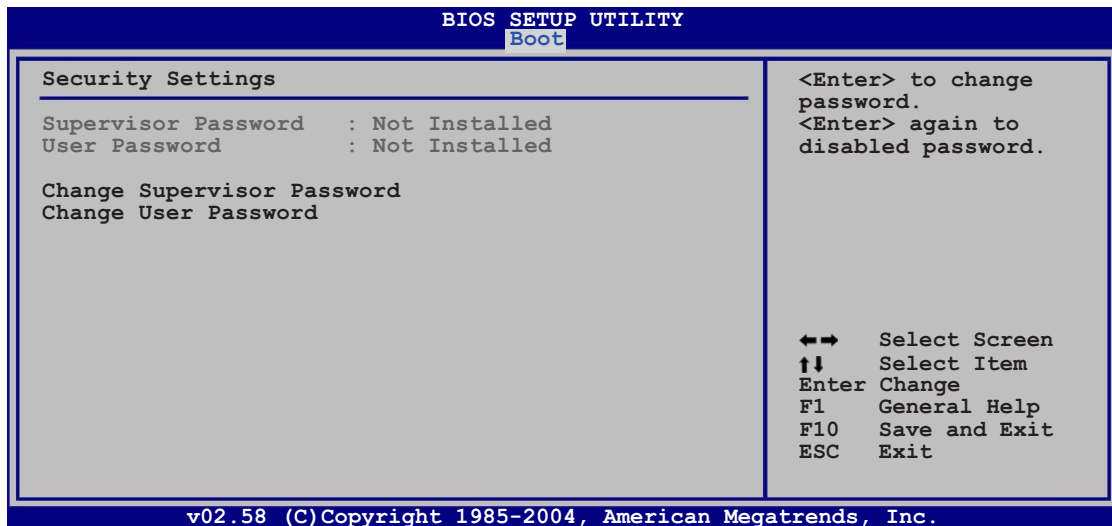
When set to Enabled, the system displays the message "Press DEL to run Setup" during POST. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

Interrupt 19 Capture [Disabled]

When set to [Enabled], this function allows the option ROMs to trap Interrupt 19. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

2.6.3 Security

The Security menu items allow you to change the system security settings. Select an item then press <Enter> to display the configuration options.



Change Supervisor Password

Select this item to set or change the supervisor password. The Supervisor Password item on top of the screen shows the default **Not Installed**. After you set a password, this item shows **Installed**.

To set a Supervisor Password:

1. Select the Change Supervisor Password item and press <Enter>.
2. From the password box, type a password composed of at least six letters and/or numbers, then press <Enter>.
3. Confirm the password when prompted.

The message "Password Installed" appears after you successfully set your password.

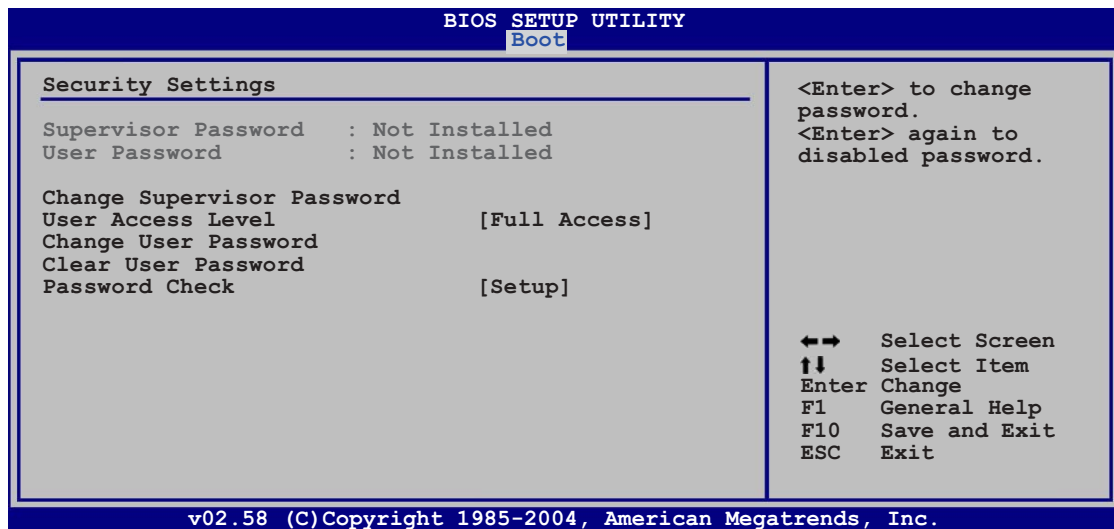
To change the supervisor password, follow the same steps as in setting a user password.

To clear the supervisor password, select the Change Supervisor Password then press <Enter>. The message “Password Uninstalled” appears.



If you forget your BIOS password, you can clear it by erasing the CMOS Real Time Clock (RTC) RAM. See section “1.9 Jumpers” for information on how to erase the RTC RAM.

After you have set a supervisor password, the other items appear to allow you to change other security settings.



User Access Level (Full Access]

This item allows you to select the access restriction to the Setup items. Configuration options: [No Access] [View Only] [Limited] [Full Access]

No Access prevents user access to the Setup utility.

View Only allows access but does not allow change to any field.

Limited allows changes only to selected fields, such as Date and Time.

Full Access allows viewing and changing all the fields in the Setup utility.

Change User Password

Select this item to set or change the user password. The User Password item on top of the screen shows the default **Not Installed**. After you set a password, this item shows **Installed**.

To set a User Password:

1. Select the Change User Password item and press <Enter>.
2. On the password box that appears, type a password composed of at least six letters and/or numbers, then press <Enter>.
3. Confirm the password when prompted.

The message “Password Installed” appears after you set your password successfully.

To change the user password, follow the same steps as in setting a user password.

Clear User Password

Select this item to clear the user password.

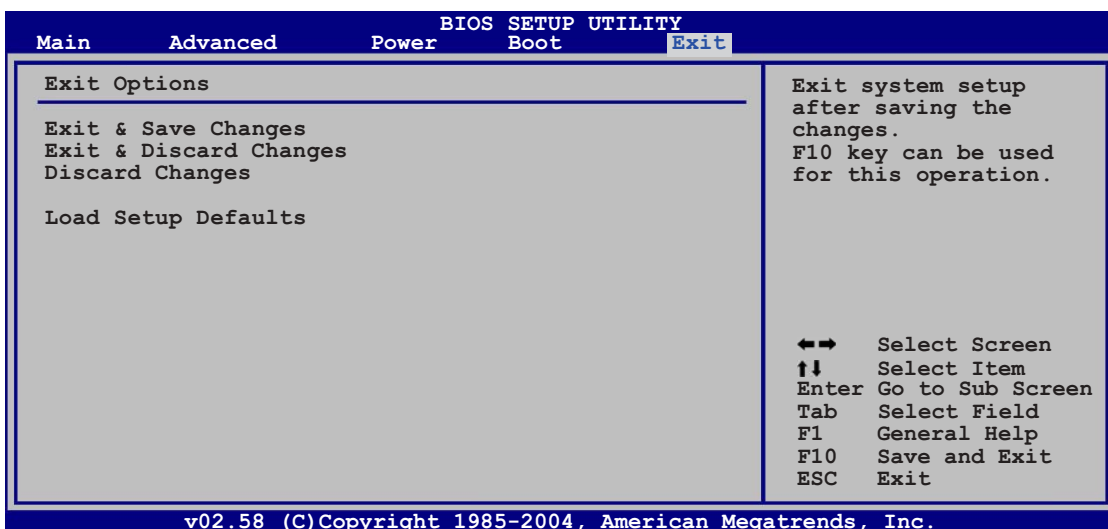
Password Check [Setup]

When set to [Setup], BIOS checks for user password when accessing the Setup utility. When set to [Always], BIOS checks for user password both when accessing Setup and booting the system.

Configuration options: [Setup] [Always]

2.7 Exit menu

The Exit menu items allow you to load the optimal or failsafe default values for the BIOS items, and save or discard your changes to the BIOS items.



Pressing <Esc> does not immediately exit this menu. Select one of the options from this menu or <F10> from the legend bar to exit.

Exit & Save Changes

Once you are finished making your selections, choose this option from the Exit menu to ensure the values you selected are saved to the CMOS RAM. An onboard backup battery sustains the CMOS RAM so it stays on even when the PC is turned off. When you select this option, a confirmation window appears. Select **[Ok]** to save changes and exit.



If you attempt to exit the Setup program without saving your changes, the program prompts you with a message asking if you want to save your changes before exiting. Press <Enter> to save the changes while exiting.

Exit & Discard Changes

Select this option only if you do not want to save the changes that you made to the Setup program. If you made changes to fields other than System Date, System Time, and Password, the BIOS asks for a confirmation before exiting.

Discard Changes

This option allows you to discard the selections you made and restore the previously saved values. After selecting this option, a confirmation appears. Select **[Ok]** to discard any changes and load the previously saved values.

Load Setup Defaults

This option allows you to load the default values for each of the parameters on the Setup menus. When you select this option or if you press <F5>, a confirmation window appears. Select **[Ok]** to load default values. Select **Exit & Save Changes** or make other changes before saving the values to the non-volatile RAM.

This chapter describes the contents of the support CD that comes with the motherboard package.

Software support

A large, light gray, stylized number '3' is positioned behind the text 'Software support', partially overlapping it.

3.1 Installing an operating system

This motherboard supports Windows® 2000/XP operating systems (OS). Always install the latest OS version and corresponding updates to maximize the features of your hardware.



- Motherboard settings and hardware options vary. Use the setup procedures presented in this chapter for reference only. Refer to your OS documentation for detailed information.
- Make sure that you install Windows® 2000 Service Pack 4 or the Windows® XP Service Pack 1 or later versions before installing the drivers for better compatibility and system stability.

3.2 Support CD information

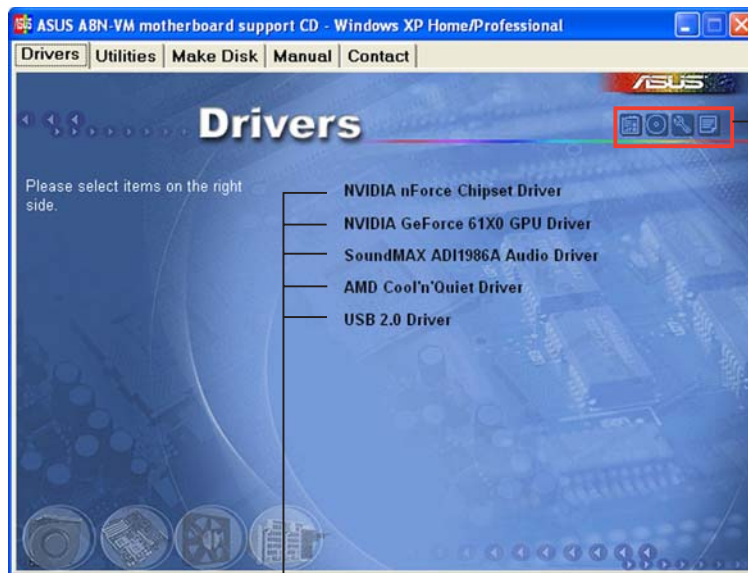
The support CD that came with the motherboard package contains the drivers, software applications, and utilities that you can install to avail all motherboard features.



The contents of the support CD are subject to change at any time without notice. Visit the ASUS website(www.asus.com) for updates.

3.2.1 Running the support CD

Place the support CD to the optical drive. The CD automatically displays the **Drivers** menu if Autorun is enabled in your computer.



Click an icon to display support CD/motherboard information

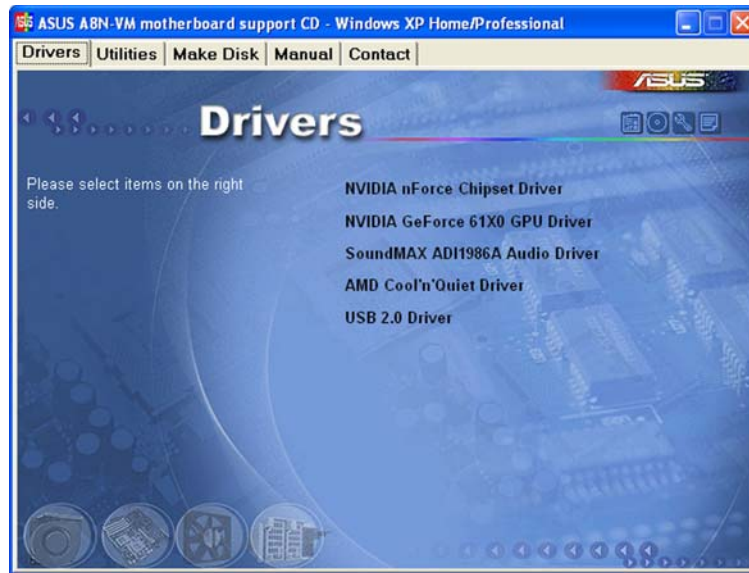
Click an item to install



If **Autorun** is NOT enabled in your computer, browse the contents of the support CD to locate the file **ASSETUP.EXE** from the BIN folder. Double-click the **ASSETUP.EXE** to run the CD.

3.2.2 Drivers menu

The drivers menu shows the available device drivers if the system detects installed devices. Install the necessary drivers to activate the devices.



NVIDIA nForce Chipset Driver

Installs the NVIDIA® nForce™ Chipset Driver program.

NVIDIA GeForce 61X0 GPU Driver

Installs the NVIDIA® GeForce™ 61X0 graphics processing unit driver.

SoundMAX® AD1986A Audio Driver

Executes the wizard to install the SoundMAX™ AD1986A audio driver and application.

AMD Cool 'n' Quiet Driver

Installs the AMD Cool 'n' Quiet driver.

USB 2.0 Driver

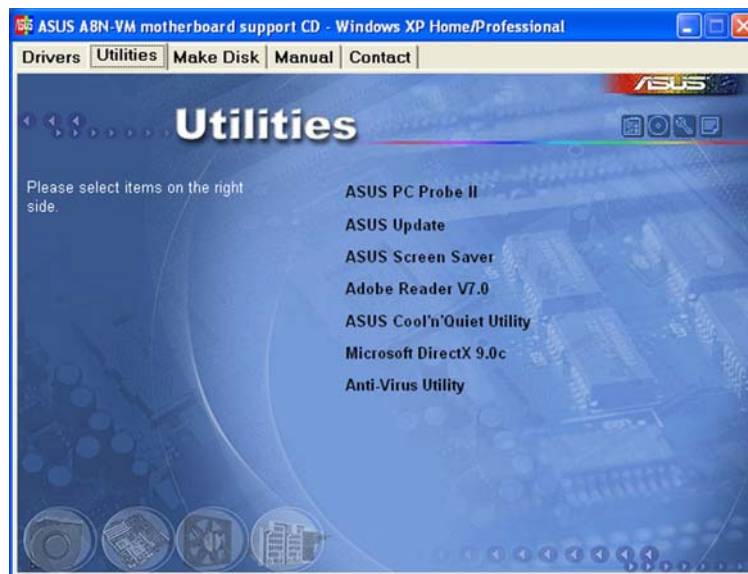
Installs the USB 2.0 driver.



The screen display and drivers option may not be the same for different operating system versions.

3.2.3 Utilities menu

The Utilities menu shows the applications and other software that the motherboard supports.



ASUS PC Probe II

This smart utility monitors the fan speed, CPU temperature, and system voltages, and alerts you of any detected problems. This utility helps you keep your computer in healthy operating condition.

ASUS Update

The ASUS Update utility allows you to update the motherboard BIOS in a Windows® environment. This utility requires an Internet connection either through a network or an Internet Service Provider (ISP).

ASUS Screen Saver

Installs the ASUS screen saver.

ADOBE Acrobat Reader V7.0

The Adobe® Acrobat® Reader V7.0 is for opening, viewing, and printing documents in Portable Document Format (PDF).

ASUS Cool 'n' Quiet Utility

This item installs the ASUS Cool 'n' Quiet utility.

Microsoft DirectX 9.0c

The Microsoft® DirectX® 9.0c is a multimedia technology that enhances computer graphics and sounds. DirectX® improves the multimedia features of your computer so you can enjoy watching TV and movies, capturing videos, or playing games on your computer.



Microsoft® Windows® XP Service Pack 2 already includes Microsoft® DirectX® 9.0c. If your system is Microsoft® Windows® XP Service Pack 2-embedded, skip Microsoft® DirectX® 9.0c installation.

Anti-virus utility

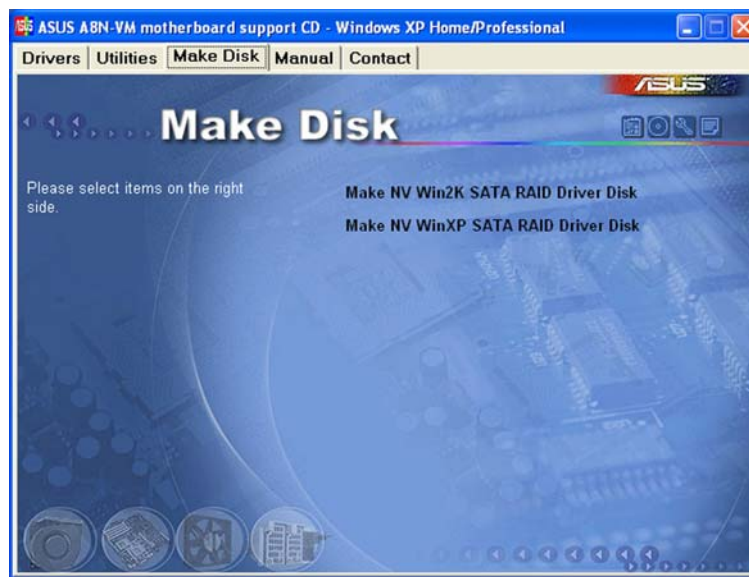
The anti-virus utility scans, identifies, and removes computer viruses. View the online help for detailed information.



The screen display and utilities option may not be the same for different operating system versions.

3.2.4 Make Disk menu

The Make Disk menu allows you to make a RAID driver disk.



Make NV Win2K SATA RAID Driver Disk

Allows you to create an NVIDIA® Windows® 2000 Serial ATA RAID driver disk.

Make NV WinXP SATA RAID Driver Disk

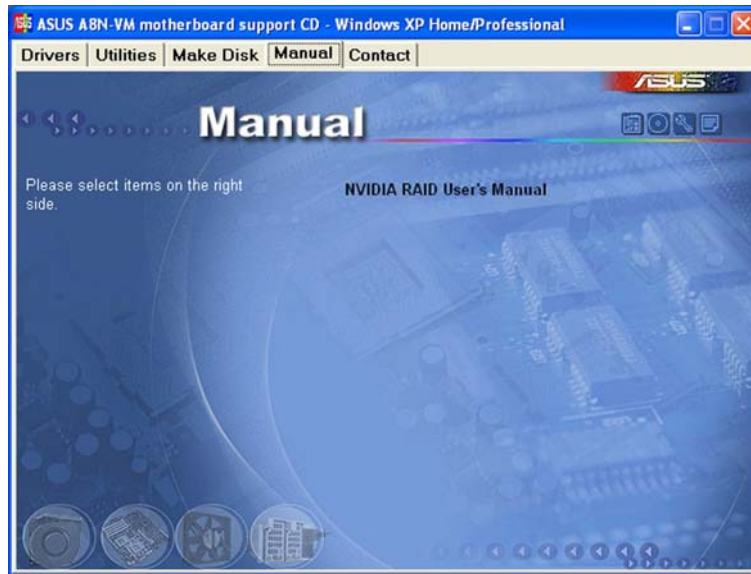
Allows you to create an NVIDIA® Windows® XP Serial ATA RAID driver disk.

3.2.5 Manual menu

The Manual menu contains a list of supplementary user manuals. Click an item to open the folder of the user manual.



Most user manual files are in Portable Document Format (PDF). Install the Adobe® Acrobat® Reader from the **Utilities menu** before opening a user manual file.

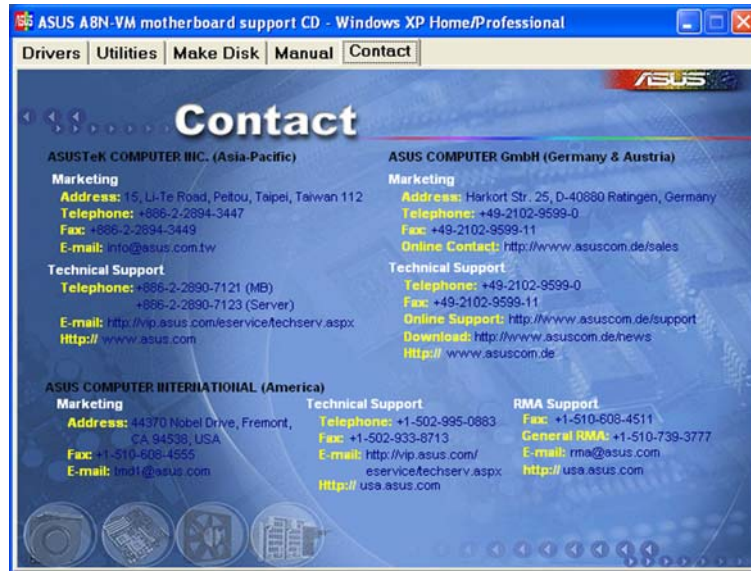


NVIDIA RAID User's Manual

Allows you to open the NVIDIA® RAID user's manual.

3.2.6 ASUS Contact information

Click the **Contact** tab to display the ASUS contact information. You can also find this information on the inside front cover of this user guide.

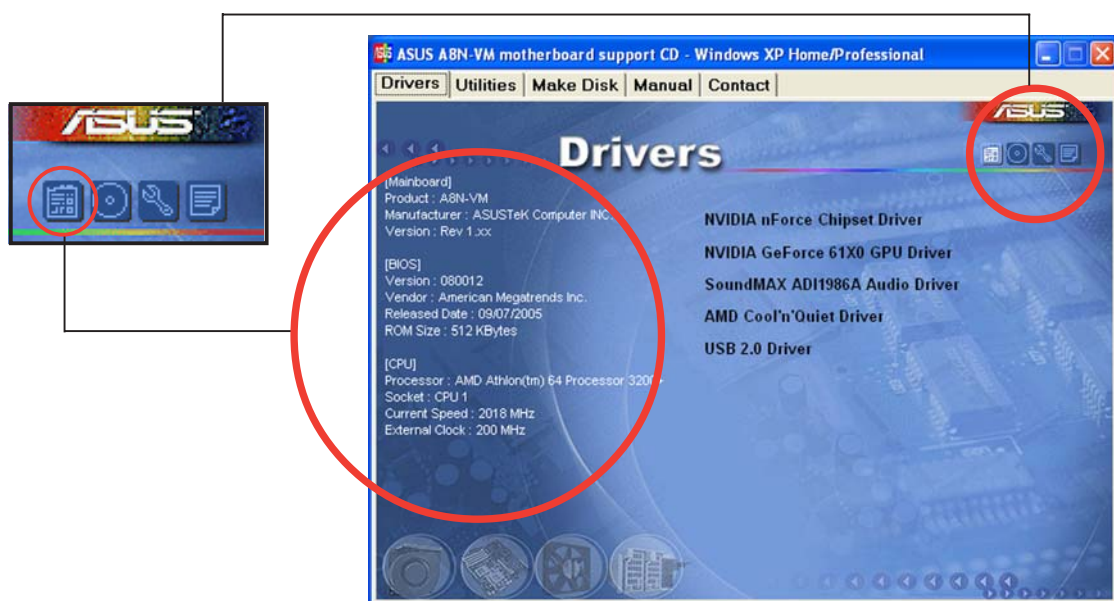


3.2.7 Other information

The icons on the top right corner of the screen give additional information on the motherboard and the contents of the support CD. Click an icon to display the specified information.

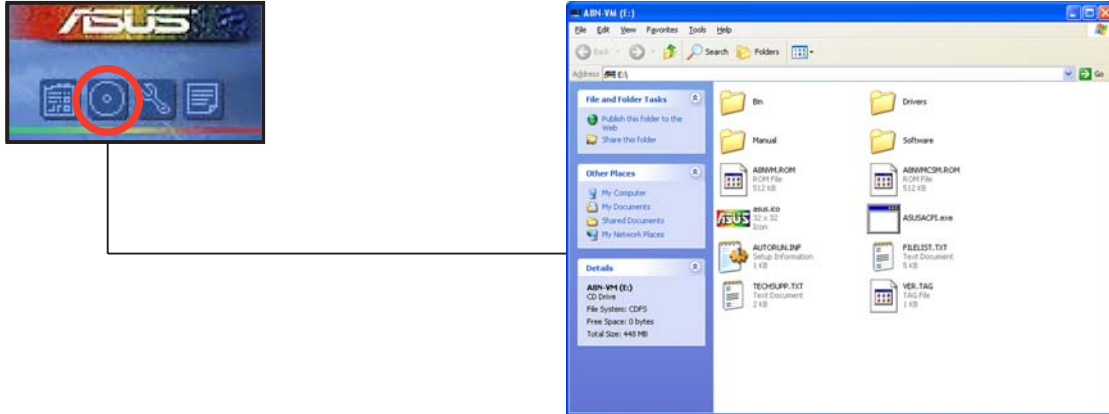
Motherboard Info

Displays the general specifications of the motherboard.



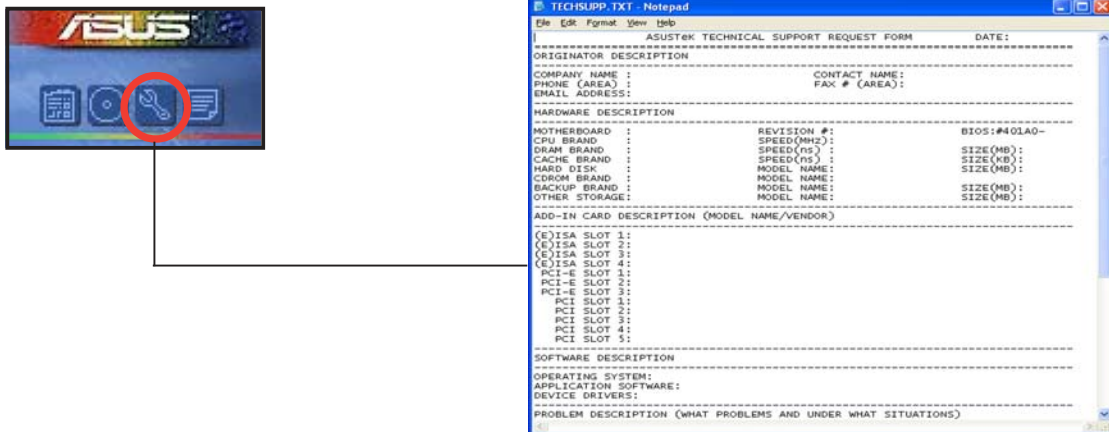
Browse this CD

Displays the support CD contents in graphical format.



Technical support Form

Displays the ASUS Technical Support Request Form that you have to fill out when requesting technical support.



Filelist

Displays the contents of the support CD and a brief description of each in text format.

