

# TY2008 AARP HP Laptop BIOS Settings

This document specifies the recommended BIOS Setup Program settings for the HP Laptop computers that were purchased by the AARP Foundation for AARP Tax-Aide volunteer use in the years starting with 2005.

## WARNING!

Erroneous changes to BIOS Setup Program settings can render the computer inoperable. BIOS Setup Program changes should only be undertaken by qualified volunteer leaders, normally Technology Specialists or TCS-designated Technology Coordinators.

An issue that is common to all of these models is the recommended value of the BIOS Administrator or Setup Password. Some models call this the BIOS Administrator Password, while other models call it the BIOS Setup Password. Note that this password is not a Windows login password. Whatever it is called, it is the password that allows changes to be made to the BIOS Setup Program settings. When these machines initially came to us new, they did not have a BIOS Administrator or Setup Password enabled. It is important that the BIOS Administrator or Setup Password be ENABLED and set to a value that is known to the TCS for the state or sub-state where the computer is assigned. If the TCS has not specified a different value for this password in their sub-state, it should be set to the value of the BIOS Supervisor Password contained in the **2007** password letter for the IRS computer loan program laptops, even though the AARP computers do not belong to the IRS.

Because of differences in the BIOS settings from one model to another, there is a separate section of this document for each model that was purchased in recent years:

- Page 2 - 2005 HP Compaq nx6110
- Page 3 - 2006 HP Compaq nx6310
- Page 5 - 2007 HP Compaq 6715b
- Page 7 - 2008 HP Compaq nc6000 (refurbished)
- Page 9 - 2008 HP Compaq 6735s

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## *BIOS Settings for model HP Compaq nx6110*

1. Just after power on, use the F10 key to enter the BIOS Setup Program. You may need to use the Computer BIOS (Administrator) Password provided by your state Technology Specialist.
2. In the Advanced, Boot Options section, disable Multi-boot
3. In the Advanced, Device Options section, enable all except disable Swap Fn/Ctrl keys
4. In the Security, Device Security section, disable all three of these boot device options
5. In the Security, Administrator Password section, establish the Administrator Password if it is not already established. Use the value specified by your state Technology Specialist. Be careful when doing this! **Do not share this password with your users.**
6. In the Security, Power-On Password section, disable the Power-On password by changing it to <no entry>. That means, do not enter anything – just hit ENTER for the new password.
  - a. Use of encryption makes the use of this password unnecessary.
7. In the Security, Password Options section, enable both
  - a. Require Password on Restart and
  - b. Stringent Security - Don't be deterred by the warnings; just don't forget the Administrator Password that you are establishing.
8. In File, Save Changes and Exit.

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## *BIOS Settings for model HP Compaq nx6310*

1. Just after power on, use the F10 key to enter the BIOS Setup Program. You may need to use the Computer BIOS (Setup) Password provided by your state Technology Specialist.
2. In the System Configuration, Boot Options section, disable the following:
  - a. CD-ROM Boot
  - b. Floppy Boot
  - c. Internal Network Adapter Boot
  - d. Multi-boot
3. In the System Configuration, Device Configurations section, enable all except disable Swap Fn/Ctrl keys
4. In the System Configuration, Built-In Device Options section:
  - a. Embedded WLAN Device Radio
    - i. If you NEVER want this machine on a wireless network, disable the radio here, for security sake.
    - ii. If you EVER want this machine on a wireless network, enable the radio here.
  - b. Enable LAN/WLAN Switching. This will disable the WLAN Device Radio whenever an Ethernet cable is plugged into the computer. If, however, you want to use Internet Connection Sharing on this computer, you will need to leave this option disabled so that both adapters can operate at the same time.
  - c. Disable Wake on LAN.
5. In the System Configuration, Port Options section, leave all three of these Enabled.
6. In the Security, System IDs Section, Set the first line of the Notebook Ownership Tag section to "AARP TAX-AIDE" and the second line to "T-" followed by the AARP Asset Tag number from the tag on the outside of the machine. You may have done this already.
7. In the Security, Setup Password section, establish the Setup Password if it is not already established. Use the value specified by your state Technology Specialist. Be careful when doing this! **Do not share this password with your**

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**users.**

8. In the Security, Power-On Password section, disable the Power-On password by changing it to <no entry>. That means, do not enter anything – just hit ENTER for the new password.
  - a. Use of encryption makes the use of this password unnecessary.
9. In the Security, Password Options section, enable both
  - a. Require Password on Restart and
  - b. Stringent Security - Don't be deterred by the warnings; just don't forget the BIOS Setup Password that you are establishing.
10. In File, Save Changes and Exit.

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## ***BIOS Settings for model HP Compaq 6715b***

1. Just after power on, use the F10 key to enter the BIOS Setup Program. You may need to use the Computer BIOS (Setup) Password provided by your state Technology Specialist.
2. In the System Configuration, Boot Options section, disable the following:
  - a. CD-ROM Boot
  - b. Floppy Boot
  - c. Internal Network Adapter Boot
  - d. Multi-boot
3. In the System Configuration, Device Configurations section, enable all except:
  - a. Disable Swap Fn/Ctrl keys
  - b. Disable Windows VISTA Direct App Launch
  - c. Ignore Parallel Port mode, since there is no parallel port
4. In the System Configuration, Built-In Device Options section:
  - a. Embedded WLAN Device Radio
    - i. If you NEVER want this machine on a wireless network, disable the radio here, for security sake.
    - ii. If you EVER want this machine on a wireless network, enable the radio here.
  - b. Enable Network Interface Controller (LAN)
  - c. Enable LAN/WLAN Switching. This will disable the WLAN Device Radio whenever an Ethernet cable is plugged into the computer. If, however, you want to use Internet Connection Sharing on this computer, you will need to leave this option disabled so that both adapters can operate at the same time.
  - d. Disable Wake on LAN.
  - e. Enable Optical Disk Drive
  - f. Disable Fingerprint Device, since there is no fingerprint device.
5. In the System Configuration, Port Options section, leave all of these Enabled, except:
  - a. Disable Parallel Port, since there is no parallel port.
6. In the Security, System IDs Section, Set the first line of the Notebook Ownership Tag section to "AARP TAX-AIDE" and the second line to "T-" followed by the AARP Asset Tag number from the tag on the outside of the machine. You may have done this already.

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7. In the Security, Setup Password section, establish the Setup Password if it is not already established. Use the value specified by your state Technology Specialist. Be careful when doing this! **Do not share this password with your users.**
8. In the Security, Power-On Password section, disable the Power-On password by changing it to <no entry>. That means, do not enter anything – just hit ENTER for the new password.
  - a. Use of encryption makes the use of this password unnecessary.
9. In the Security, Password Options section, enable both
  - a. Require Password on Restart and
  - b. Stringent Security - Don't be deterred by the warnings; just don't forget the BIOS Setup Password that you are establishing.
10. Do not establish DriveLock Passwords.
11. Leave Smart Card Power-On Support Disabled.
12. Do not change the TPM Embedded Security settings.
13. In File, Save Changes and Exit.

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## *BIOS Settings for model HP Compaq nc6000*

1. Just after power on, use the F10 key to enter the BIOS Setup Program. You may need to use the Computer BIOS (Administrator) Password provided by your state Technology Specialist.
2. In the Advanced, Boot Options section, disable Multi-boot
3. In the Advanced, Device Options section:
  - a. Num lock state at boot = Off
  - b. Disable Swap Fn/Ctrl keys
  - c. Enable multiple pointing devices
  - d. Disable USB legacy support
  - e. Parallel Port Mode = ECP
  - f. Intel Speed-step technology = Automatic
  - g. Disable fan always on when on AC power
4. In the Security, Device Security section, enable all options except:
  - a. Disable CD-ROM boot
  - b. Disable Floppy boot
  - c. Disable Internal network adapter boot
5. In the Security, Administrator Password section, establish the Administrator Password if it is not already established. Use the value specified by your state Technology Specialist. Be careful when doing this! **Do not share this password with your users.**
6. In the Security, Power-On Password section, disable the Power-On password by changing it to <no entry>. That means do not enter anything – just hit ENTER for the new password.
  - a. Use of encryption makes the use of this password unnecessary.
7. In the Security, Password Options section, enable both
  - a. Require Password on Restart and
  - b. Stringent Security - Don't be deterred by the warnings; just don't forget the Administrator Password that you are establishing.
8. In the Security, Embedded Security section,
  - a. Disable the Embedded Security Device

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9. In the Security, System IDs section,
  - a. Set the Asset Tag to the manufacturer's Serial Number from the label on the bottom of the case.
  - b. Set the first line of the Notebook Ownership Tag section to "AARP TAX-AIDE" and the second line to "T-" followed by the AARP Asset Tag number from the tag on the outside of the machine.
  
10. In File, Save Changes and Exit.

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## *BIOS Settings for model HP Compaq 6735s*

1. Just after power on, use the Esc key and then the F10 key to enter the BIOS Setup Program. You may need to use the Computer BIOS (Administrator) Password provided by your state Technology Specialist.
2. In the System Configuration, Boot Options section, disable the following:
  - a. CD-ROM Boot
  - b. SD Card Boot
  - c. Floppy Boot
  - d. PXE Internal NIC BootMake the Notebook Hard Drive the first item in the Boot Order.
3. In the System Configuration, Device Configurations section:
  - a. Disable USB Legacy Support
  - b. Disable Fan Always on when A/C Power
  - c. Set SATA Device Mode to AHCI
  - d. Disable UEFI Boot Mode
4. In the System Configuration, Built-In Device Options section:
  - a. Enable Wireless Button State
  - b. Embedded WLAN Device (radio)
    - i. If you NEVER want this machine on a wireless network, disable the radio here, for security sake.
    - ii. If you EVER want this machine on a wireless network, enable the radio here.
  - c. Enable Network Interface Controller (LAN)
  - d. Enable LAN/WLAN Switching. This will disable the WLAN Device Radio whenever an Ethernet cable is plugged into the computer. If, however, you want to use Internet Connection Sharing on this computer, you will need to leave this option disabled so that both adapters can operate at the same time.
  - e. Disable Wake on LAN.
  - f. Enable Notebook Upgrade Bay (Optical Disk Drive)
  - g. Enable Modem Device.
5. In the System Configuration, Port Options section, leave all of these Enabled.
6. In the System Configuration, Set Security Level section, leave these as they are.

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7. In the Security, System IDs Section, Set the first line of the Notebook Ownership Tag section to "AARP TAX-AIDE" and the second line to "T-" followed by the AARP Asset Tag number from the tag on the outside of the machine. You may have done this already.
8. In the Security, Setup BIOS Administrator Password section, establish the BIOS Administrator Password. Establish the value specified by your state Technology Specialist. Be careful when doing this! **Do not share this password with your users.**

To accomplish the above may require multiple steps. Initially, the Password Policy requires that all BIOS passwords be at least 8 characters long. If the value you want to establish is that long, you will be able to establish it directly.

Otherwise, you will need to first establish a temporary BIOS Administrator Password that is at least 8 characters long. Then you will be able to change the Password Policy to allow BIOS passwords, including the BIOS Administrator Password, to be shorter. Having done that, you will then be able to change the BIOS Administrator Password to the shorter value that you want to establish.

9. In the Security, Administrator Tools section,
  - a. Disable "Always prompt for HP Spare Key Enrollment."
10. In the Security, User Tools section,
  - a. Do not establish DriveLock Passwords.
11. In File, Save Changes and Exit.