



06.24.13

Gemini version available

# IF YOU USE MICROSOFT WINDOWS, THE NSA CAN BRICK YOUR COMPUTER HARDWARE REMOTELY

Posted in [Microsoft](#), [Security](#), [Windows](#) at 3:53 pm by Dr. Roy Schestowitz

Cluster of bricks is all you have left



**Summary:** Legions of cyberattack staff from the NSA can engage not only in espionage but also remote mass-vandalism of hardware in foreign nations

Now that we know [calling out Windows](#) is a [serious matter of national security](#) (the NSA regularly gets back doors for access, as noted in [more and more articles right now](#)), we should consider what it really means. With [UEFI](#) it has been demonstrated that motherboards can be bricked [\[1, 2, 3\]](#), irrespective of the platform (provided there is remote access to it). Imagine what can happen at times of war. If the NSA can take over Windows, which it can, it can brick any computer with such motherboards. This is serious because it means that not even reinstalling the operating system or swapping operating systems would help. This is what one gets when the most ferocious cyberarmy has back door access to the system. This [new article about restricted boot](#) covers [antitrust issues](#) as well:

We take a look at the most recent controversial feature to emerge from Redmond

[...]

But there is another angle to it all. Microsoft probably couldn't have insisted that manufacturers lock the boot loader on x86 machines. In the EU at least, this would almost certainly be construed as abusing a dominant market position, and that has got Microsoft in trouble before.

With ARM though, they don't have a dominant market position so are legally free to abuse their non-dominant position as much as they wish. With this in mind, some people have speculated that Secure Boot on ARM is what Microsoft want to do, and on x86 it's what they've been forced to do.

In the future, these people speculate, the x86 version will creep closer and closer to how it is on ARM until it finally locks users out of their own computers.

Fortunately, Microsoft in ARM is dying breed. Some reports from Taiwan say that Windows RT is a failure (links posted in daily links) and [it is being dumped right now \(so-called 'discounts'\)](#) with [speculation that it might die](#):

Reports that Windows RT is headed for the dustbin of failed Microsoft operating systems has become a month — if not weekly — ritual for Asia-based sources.

This time Digitimes has gone so far to compare RT to the fate of Hewlett-Packard's failed WebOS.

"Microsoft's Windows RT operating system may fall to the same fate as Hewlett-Packard's (HP) WebOS as most brand vendors have already stopped developing related products," Digitimes wrote on Wednesday, citing sources at hardware suppliers.

Microsoft is on its way out, but the damage it causes on its way out is immense. When wars are waged by geeks like Turing and cryptology is where a lot of potential for domination lies, using Windows in any government other than the United States' is simply unthinkable. Countries like Germany [should complete the migration to Free software](#). ■

**Share in other sites/networks:** These icons link to social bookmarking sites where readers can share and discover new web pages.

- 

Permalink [Send this to a friend](#)

## GEMINI SPACE

[*Status code 20* | SUCCESS]

See also [the original in the official Web site](#) □  
It may also have [images and/or videos](#).

---

**Note:** this is [only a proxy](#) (Gemini→HTTP) gateway.  
We highly recommend using *proper* [Gemini client software](#) instead.

**## ●● IF YOU USE MICROSOFT WINDOWS, THE  
NSA CAN BRICK YOUR COMPUTER HARDWARE  
REMOVEDLY**

Posted in [Microsoft](#), [Security](#), [Windows](#) at 3:53 pm by Dr. Roy Schestowitz

Cluster of bricks is all you have left

Below is a Web proxy. We recommend getting a Gemini client/browser.

This post is also available in [Gemini](#) over at [this address](#) (requires a Gemini client/browser to open).

## CROSS-REFERENCES

Pages that cross-reference this one, if any exist, are listed below or will be listed below over time.

- [Governments-Connected 'Hacking Team' Targets UEFI, Reveal Leaks](#)
- [Yet Another Major Security Deficiency in UEFI](#)
- [Intel is Lying to the World and the World Cooperates in Lying](#)
- [Microsoft is Bricking Devices With Linux \(Yet Again!\), So a Microsoft Booster Spins/Paints Linux Devices as 'Fakes'](#)
- [Symptoms of Post-x86 Era: Even Intel Apologists Turn Against Bribes-Dependent Intel While Microsoft Continues to Deceive Journalists on Patents in Order to Create a Scare](#)
- ['Active Management Technology' is Quite Likely a Back Door, Along With Intel's UEFI](#)
- [World's Largest Population Heading Towards GNU/Linux Because Windows is Not Secure \(NSA Trojan Horse\)](#)
- [Microsoft Still Imposes Broken 'Updates' and Breaks GNU/Linux Through UEFI Boot Restrictions](#)
- [UEFI is Bricking Computers When One Removes Spyware With Back Doors \(Microsoft Windows\)](#)
- [Mark Shuttleworth With a Beard Starts Sounding More Like Richard Stallman](#)
- [My Disagreement With the FSF Over UEFI 'Secure Boot'](#)
- [UEFI Booster Intel Could Not Even Bother Making GNU/Linux Bootable on NUC](#)
- [Installing GNU/Linux is Still Hard Due to UEFI](#)
- [When Microsoft Deletes Windows and GNU/Linux](#)
- [Urge Hardware Companies to Stop Using UEFI \(or Boycott Them\), Don't Work on UEFI](#)
- [Microsoft Booster at the Microsoft-Leaning Ars Technica: UEFI Restricted Boot is Good](#)
- [NSA Confirms Remote Computer Bricking by BIOS \(or UEFI\) as a Real Strategy](#)
- [A Western Assault on GNU/Linux Security and Privacy](#)
- [How to Overcome Microsoft UEFI 'Secure' Boot Lock-in: Chuck the Physical Hard-Drive](#)
- [Windows Vista 8.1, or Windows 'Brick Edition', Shows That UEFI is Malicious, Opposite of 'Secure'](#)
- [British Healthcare and Life in General Being Ruined by Microsoft 'Standards'](#)
- [Former Novell Staff Still Pushing the Linux Foundation Into Restricted Boot Territory, Ignoring the Real Threat \(Back Doors\)](#)
- [NSA Back Doors Get Microsoft Windows Excluded From Procurement in Germany](#)
- [The NSA Can Now Ping to Death Windows-running PCs](#)
- [UEFI Sucks, Suggests a Growing Consensus](#)
- [UEFI a Complication That Almost Nobody Needs](#)