

## systems stopped booting linux CDROMs

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Hello,

I recently have this experience with two of my systems, one Dell and one Gateway. Both are older, from 2001. The Dell has a CDRW, the Gateway just a CDR.

The situation is that both have, within the immediate past, quit booting linux installation CDs. They will, however, boot a Windows 2000 install CD.

Huh?

To install linux on these machines, I have to boot SmartBoot Manager on floppy and then boot the CDROM from there.

Any thoughts on what might have happened? I upgraded the BIOS in the Gateway, that had no effect. I tried clearing NVRAM, too. No joy. (Although, I only did it with the "clear configuration data" option in the BIOS interface.) The effect is not limited to a single linux boot CD, it happened with Gentoo, Really Horrible and Slackware.

Thanks.

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The only advice I can give anybody who is about to go out into the world is  
this: Don't do it. I have been out there. It is a mess.  
-- Russell Baker, commencement address, Gould Academy, 2003