

Babystep4

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I know this is starting to look like a half-baked tutorial in assembly, but there's actually a reason behind my madness. Namely, solving as many problems as possible before switching to Protected mode etc. will lessen the confusion a great deal.

This example prints a string and the contents of a memory location (which is the first letter of the string in video memory). It is meant to demonstrate printing to screen in text mode without using BIOS, as well as converting hex so it can be displayed -- so we can check register and memory values.

A stack is included, but left unused.

Babystep4

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```
;=====
; nasmw boot.asm -f bin -o boot.bin
; partcopy boot.bin 0 200 -f0

[ORG 0x7c00]      ; add to offsets
    xor ax, ax    ; make it zero
    mov ds, ax    ; DS=0
    mov ss, ax    ; stack starts at 0
    mov sp, 0x9c00 ; 200h past code start

    mov ax, 0xb800 ; text video memory
    mov es, ax

    mov si, msg   ; show text string
    call sprint

    mov ax, 0xb800 ; Look at video mem
    mov gs, ax
    mov bx, 0x0000 ; 'W'=57 attrib=0F
    mov ax, [gs:bx]

    mov word [reg16], ax ;Look at register
    call printreg16

hang:
    jmp hang
```

```

;-----
dochar:  call cprint      ; print one character
sprint:  lodsb        ; string char to AL
        cmp al, 0
        jne dochar ; else, we're done
        add byte [ypos], 1 ;down one row
        mov byte [xpos], 0 ;back to left
        ret

cprint:  mov ah, 0x0F ; attrib = white on black
        mov cx, ax ; save char/attribute
        movzx ax, byte [ypos]
        mov dx, 160 ; 2 bytes (char/attrib)
        mul dx ; for 80 columns
        movzx bx, byte [xpos]
        shl bx, 1 ; times 2 to skip attrib

        mov di, 0 ; start of video memory
        add di, ax ; add y offset
        add di, bx ; add x offset

        mov ax, cx ; restore char/attribute
        stosw ; write char/attribute
        add byte [xpos], 1 ; advance to right

        ret
;-----

printreg16:
        mov di, outstr16
        mov ax, [reg16]
        mov si, hexstr
        mov cx, 4 ;four places

hexloop:
        rol ax, 4 ;leftmost will
        mov bx, ax ; become
        and bx, 0x0f ; rightmost
        mov bl, [si + bx];index into hexstr
        mov [di], bl
        inc di
        dec cx
        jnz hexloop

        mov si, outstr16
        call sprint

        ret
;-----
```

```
xpos    db 0
ypos    db 0
hexstr  db '0123456789ABCDEF'
outstr16 db '0000', 0 ;register value string
reg16   dw    0 ; pass values to printreg16
msg     db "What are you doing, Dave?", 0
times 510-($-$) db 0
db 0x55
db 0xAA
=====
```

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