Information on how to download and install the Windows Loader. Windows Loader is a generic term, like "swiss army knife" or something. It's a loader for Microsoft Windows that modifies the bootstrap code and tells it how to load an alternative, usually Linux-based operating system from your disk drive. The point of this is to modify the way Windows boots, so that when you turn your computer on, it loads an OS other than Microsoft's own Windows. The concept has been around for decades but it's only recently that enough people have started using Linux or another non-Windows OS that someone bothered to write software specifically to help with the task of installing one over Microsoft's proprietary operating systems. If you don't want Windows to boot, then all that's needed is a valid operating system to load instead. There are plenty of legal ways to do this such as emulating Windows (Virtual PC, Parallels or VMWare) or installing Linux or one of the various variants of BSD. Various pieces of software exist for doing each of these things. The most popular and well-known is probably Wubi (Windows Ubuntu Installation). The author and site maintainer makes it very easy to install and uninstall. But in my opinion, it's no longer an accurate representation of what Windows is really like when installed from Microsoft's server by standard means. For one, it's no longer supported (Microsoft itself doesn't even maintain it anymore, as far as I know). It also installs a complete copy of Windows. In comparison, the procedure I describe here is much more effective and easier to use. In order to make Windows load from a non-Microsoft filesystem, it's necessary to allow the operating system access to those partitions from which it can load a file system. The essential steps are: Install a bootloader on your hard disk. The most popular choices are Grub and LILO. The former has been around for over 20 years now and is pretty robust whereas the latter is newer but widely used. Both can be overridden or removed with ease. Install a Virtual Machine Manager (VMM). I recommend VirtualBox because it works very well with Ubuntu. Run the VMM in full screen mode. This is because otherwise it will grab focus away from Windows, which you don't want to happen while Windows is booting. Select the disk partition in which you intend to install your GNU Operating System (Linux, BSD, etc). Make sure that the "Advanced Options" are enabled in the virtual machine's display settings. Select "Install Operating System..." in the VM window. Select your preferred OS installation disk image. For Linux, I recommend Ubuntu or Kubuntu but any flavour of Debian should work well enough for this purpose. Make sure that the "Use entire disk" option is checked. Click the "Start" button to install your OS to your disk partition. Since you've installed a virtual machine, you can continue using that. Otherwise, if you re-booted your computer after installing a VMM and a bootloader, Windows will probably recognize the new bootloader but will still try to start from a Microsoft-formatted filesystem even though it's not there anymore. If this happens, just press any key when the screen prompts you to do so and proceed with Windows starting up normally. If it doesn't start up normally (i.e.

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