Echolink Back Online

Yesterday, the Echolink computer froze mid-net. I tried to restart it, but it kept rebooting into the BIOS.

It's now back and running, but here's an outline of the steps I took to fix the issue (for future reference).

Re-install Windows

- From a working Windows computer, I downloaded the Windows 11 USB boot drive program from the “Create Windows 11 Installation Media” section of this Microsoft page.
- Following section 3 of these instructions, I booted the Echolink computer using the USB boot drive and tried to “Troubleshoot” the computer that option wasn't available. 😕
- I decided to do a full re-install, but first I had to find the original Windows Product key (since Windows came pre-installed on that computer).
    - If Windows had been working, I could have used `regedit` to navigate to `Computer\HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\SoftwareProtectionPlatform`, and lookup `BackupProductKeyDefault`. (See Method 3 from these instructions for more details)
    - But I couldn't boot into Windows so I used a Linux Mint USB boot drive and tried to

      ```
      sudo strings /sys/firmware/acpi/tables/MSDM | tail -1
      ```

      Unfortunately, the `MSDM` file didn't exist on that computer. I tried that command on in my personal computers and it worked so I made notes of these keys in case I ever wanted to install Windows on them. (See these instructions for more details.)

    - Finally, following these instructions, I installed `reglookup` on the Linux boot drive and ran:

      ```
      reglookup -p "/Microsoft/Windows
      NT/CurrentVersion/SoftwareProtectionPlatform/BackupProductKeyDefault" \
      [YOURMOUNTPOINT]/Windows/System32/config/SOFTWARE
      ```

- I rebooted the computer using the Windows boot drive to re-install Windows 11 from scratch on its old partition (leaving the other partitions alone), but it again booted to the BIOS. 😕
- I rebooted back to LinuxMint and used GParted and delete every partition on the Echolink computer.
- I rebooted back using the Windows boot drive and this time Windows re-installed properly. 😀

Configure Windows

- I used these instructions to load Windows without a Microsoft account:

    - At the sign-in page, press Shift+F10 to open a command prompt window and type:

      ```
      oobe\bypassnro
      ```

    - While the computer rebooted, I disconnected the ethernet cable.
    - Then chose `I don't have internet`
- I used Raphire's script to debloat Windows: Windows Key+R and type `cmd` to open a command prompt window and type:

  ```
  & ([scriptblock]::Create((irm "https://debloat.raphi.re/")))
  ```

- Run Windows updates
- Turn off device sleep and hibernation

Install and Configure Echolink

- Download and install Echolink
- Add Echolink to the startup folder:
    - Press Windows Key+R and type `shell:startup` to open the startup folder.
    - Copy (**not** Move) the Echolink link from the Desktop into that folder
- With the radio turned off, plug in the Signalink device and configure the audio settings.