

# HOW TO REMOVE STARTUP PASSWORD ON TOSHIBA C55D-C5271 LAPTOP

Security comes at the expense of convenience. If your computer has a startup password enabled, you will need to enter this password every time you start your computer. Unfortunately, human memory is far from perfect. This guide is intended for computer repair technicians and DIYers alike looking to remove a forgotten startup password on the Toshiba C55D-C5271 laptop.

The following guide consists of four parts: (1) confirm compatibility, (2) configure software and tools, (3) backup current BIOS, (4) flash new BIOS.

*Notes:*

1. This only covers the startup password when the computer is first powered on, not the password needed to login to the Windows account.
2. It is assumed you are looking to re-purpose the laptop for testing, donating, or other small projects that don't require much computing power. The Toshiba C55D-C5271 is a low spec computer and is not suitable for day-to-day use.

## Tools and software required

To successfully remove the startup password on the Toshiba C55D-C5271, you will need:

- Locked Toshiba C55D-C5271 laptop
- Functional Windows laptop
- [CH341a programmer w/alligator clips](#)
- Latest version of [AsProgrammer](#)
- Known good BIOS file: [Download](#)

## Optional tools

The clips that come with the programmer are fairly short and a USB extender may be useful

- [USB extender](#)

## Step 1: Confirm Compatibility

The Toshiba C55D-C5271 uses a cFeon QH64-104HIP chip to store the BIOS. In order for the flash to work, you will need to confirm that your model is using this exact chip. To verify this, please power off the laptop and perform the following:

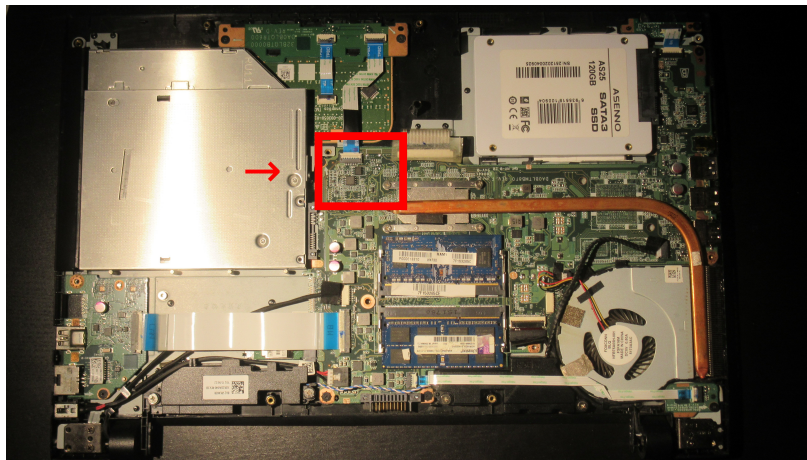
1. Remove battery and bottom cover

### Caution:

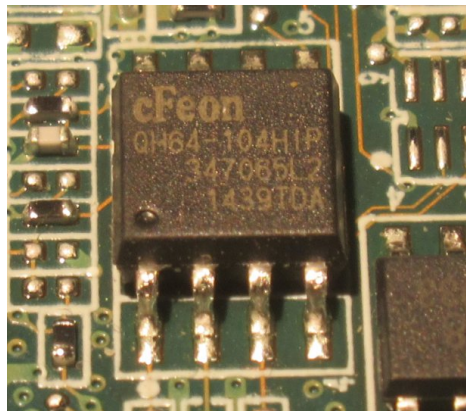
Sensitive electronics inside, other components may be damaged if not handled properly

2. Locate chip and confirm markings as **cFeon QH64-104HIP**

The chip will be located to the left of the heatsink (see red rectangle)



Zoomed-in image of cFeon QH64-104HIP

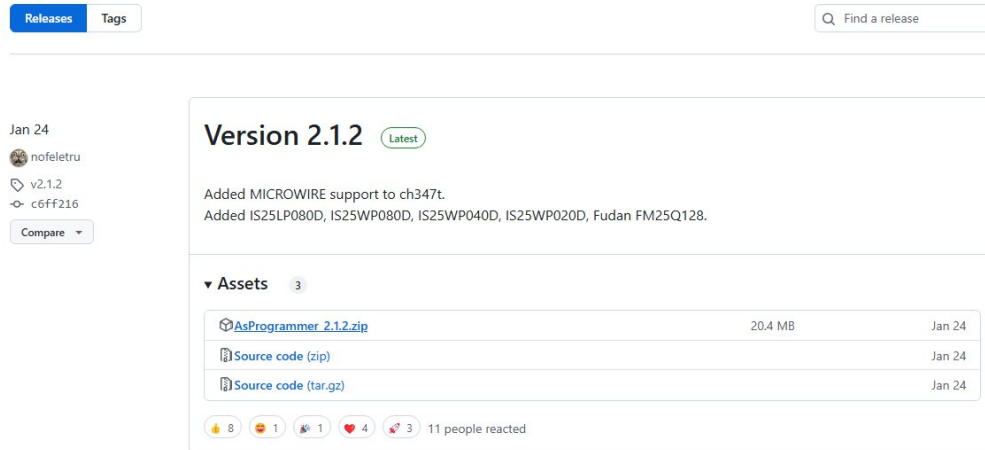


*Note:* If the marking does not match, **STOP READING AND DO NOT PROCEED**. This guide only works for the cFeon QH64-104HIP.

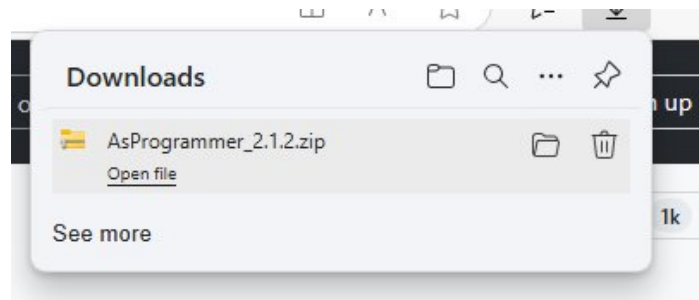
## Step 2A: Configure software

AsProgrammer is a free and open source program that allows you to read and write to EEPROM chips. You will be using this with the CH341a programmer to backup and flash the cFeon chip. Perform the following on your functional Windows laptop to get started:

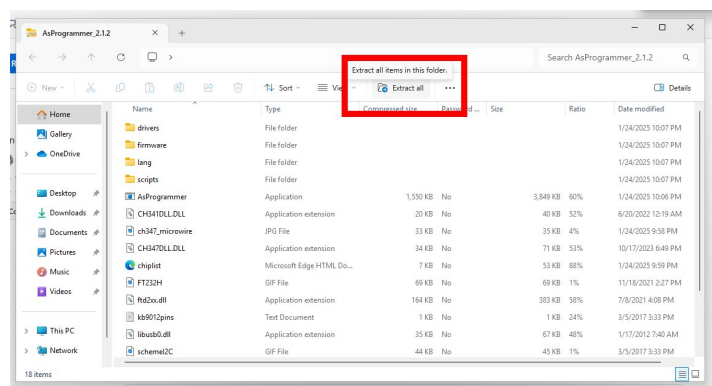
1. Visit <https://github.com/nofeletru/UsbAsp-flash/releases/tag/v2.1.2>



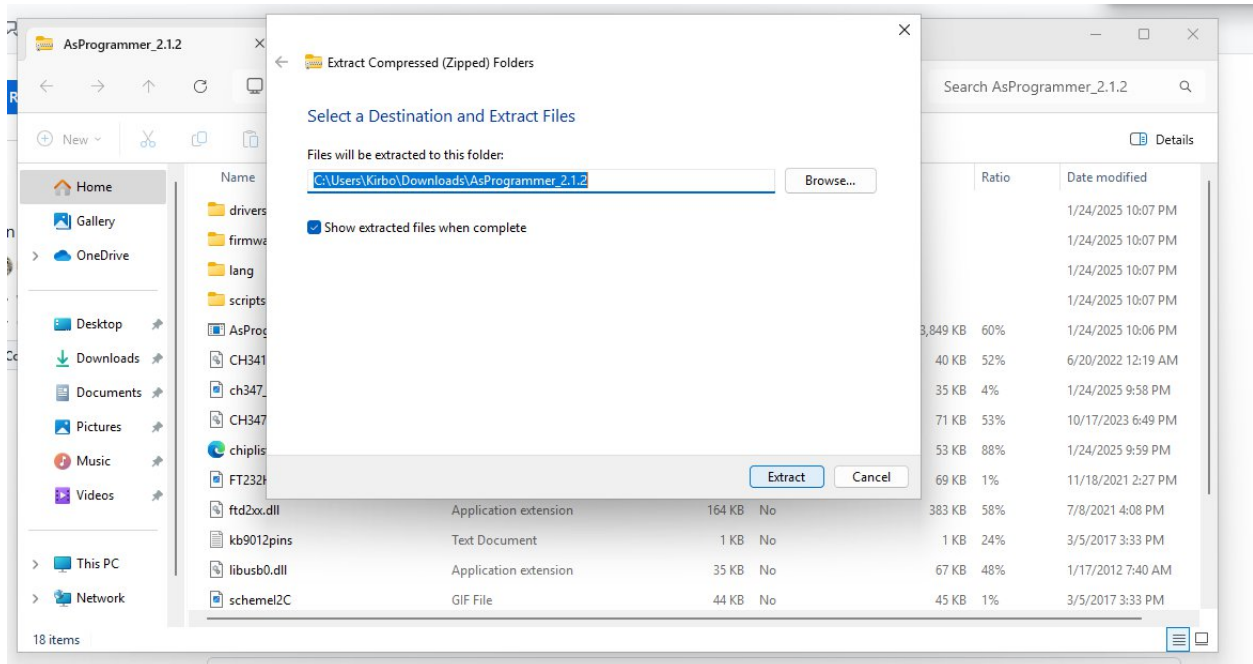
2. Click on the 'AsProgrammer' ZIP folder and select 'Open file' when downloaded



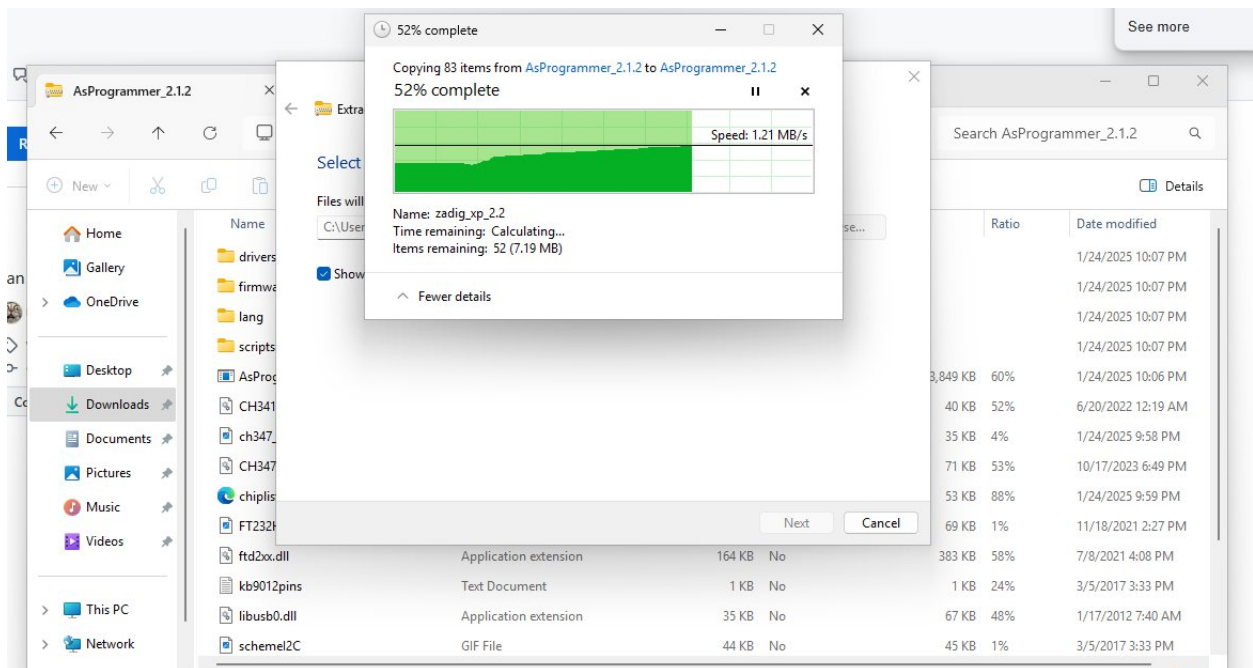
3. Click on 'Extract all'



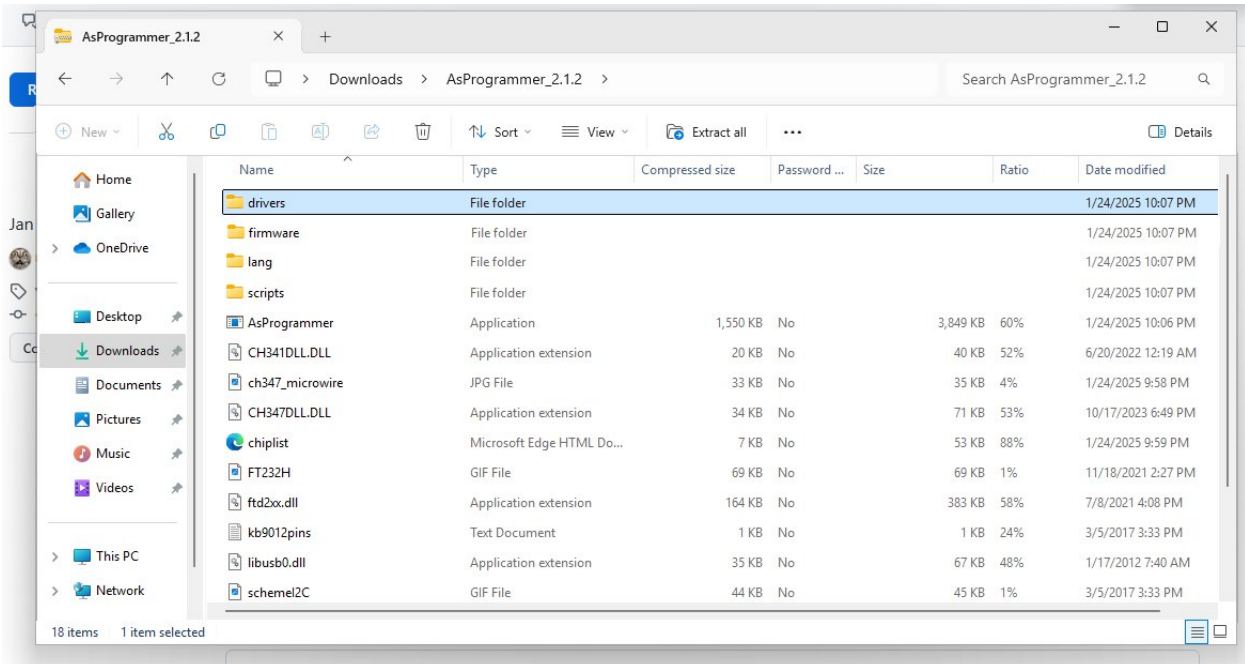
4. Ensure that 'Show extracted files when complete' is selected, then click 'Extract'



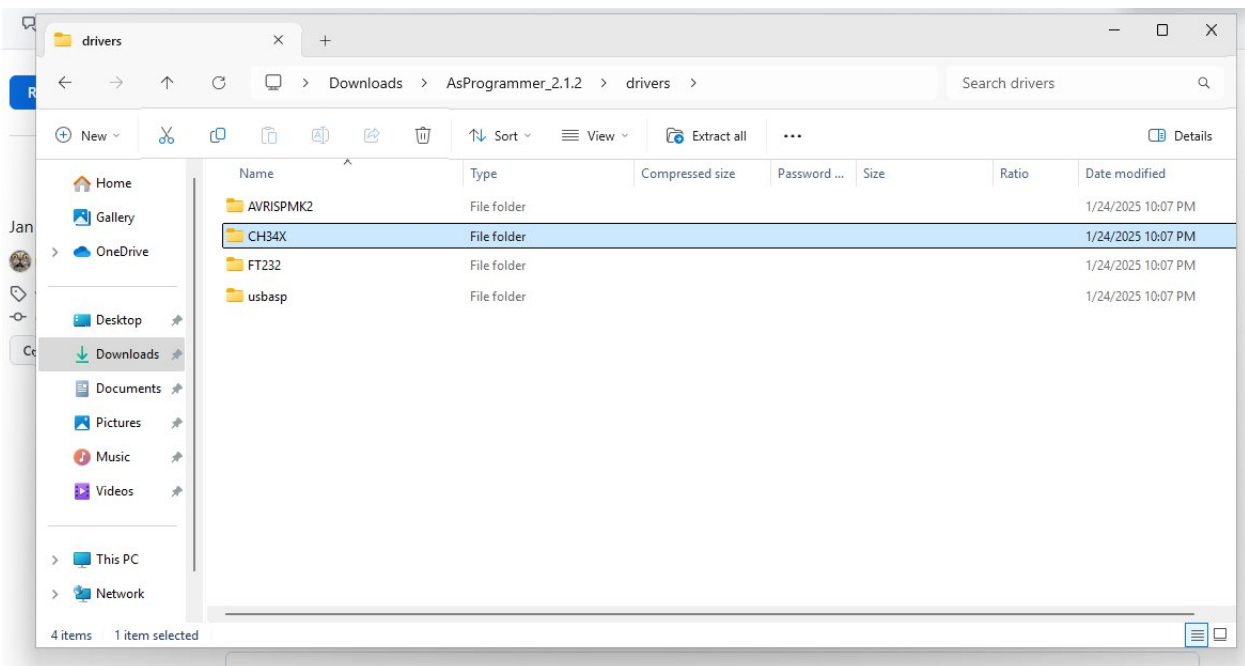
5. Wait for extraction to complete



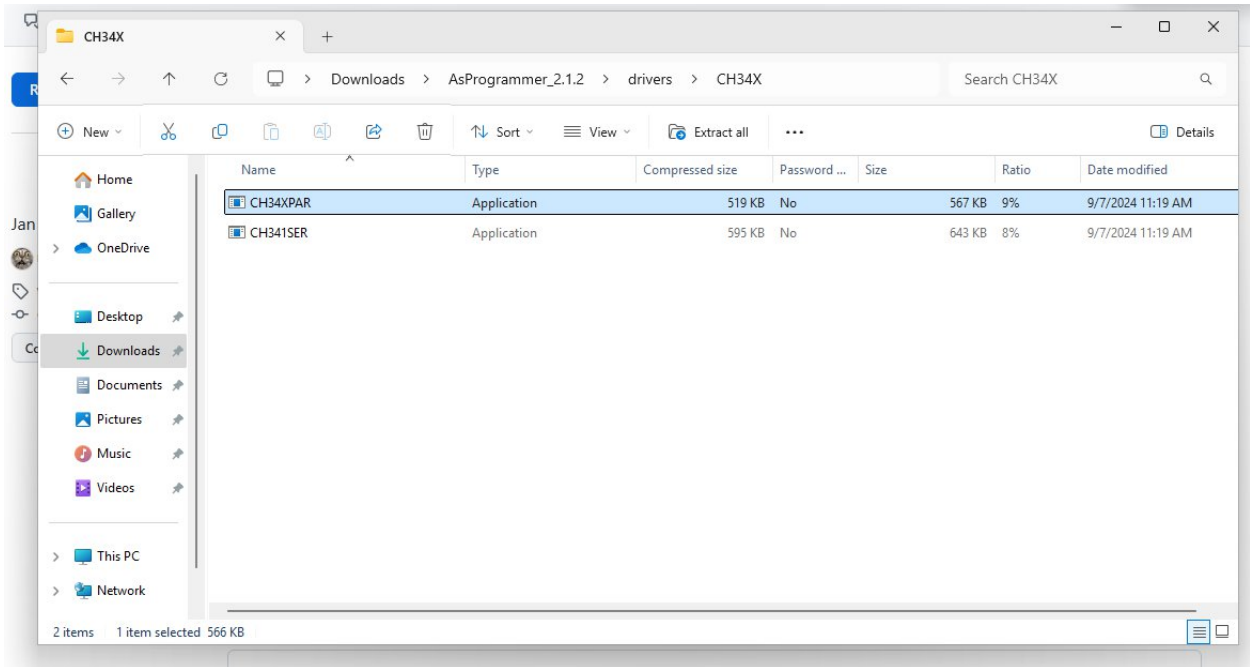
## 6. Double click inside 'drivers'



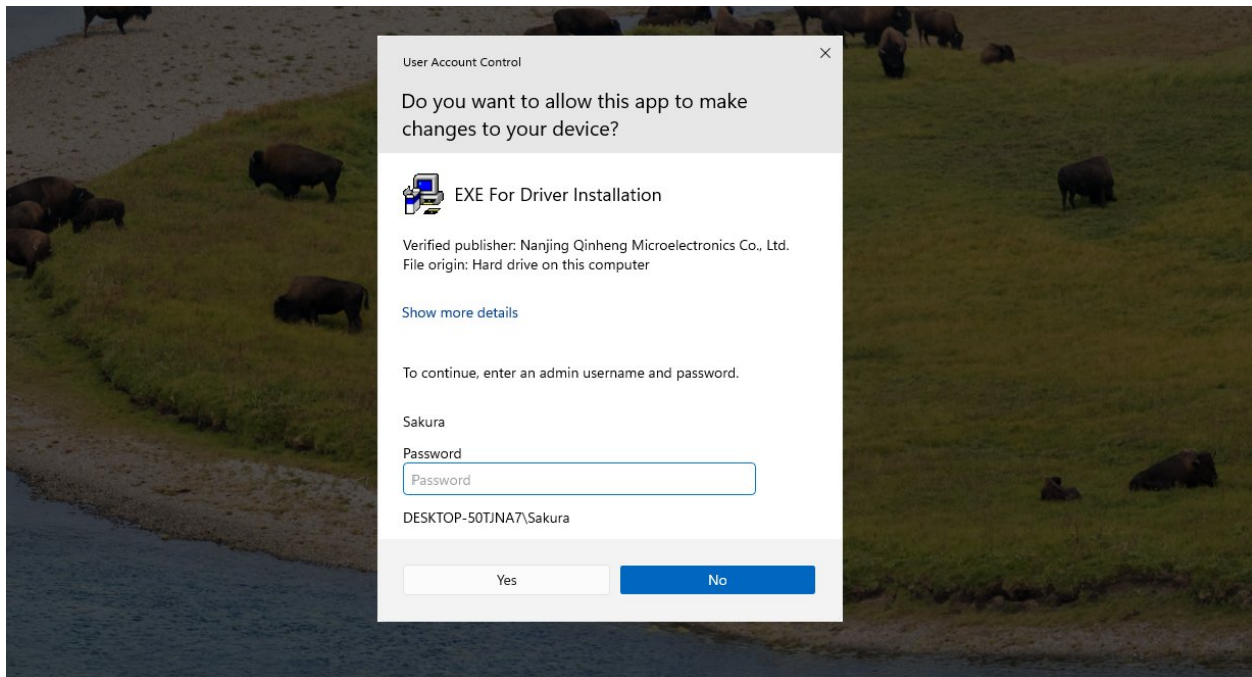
## 7. Double click inside 'CH34X' folder



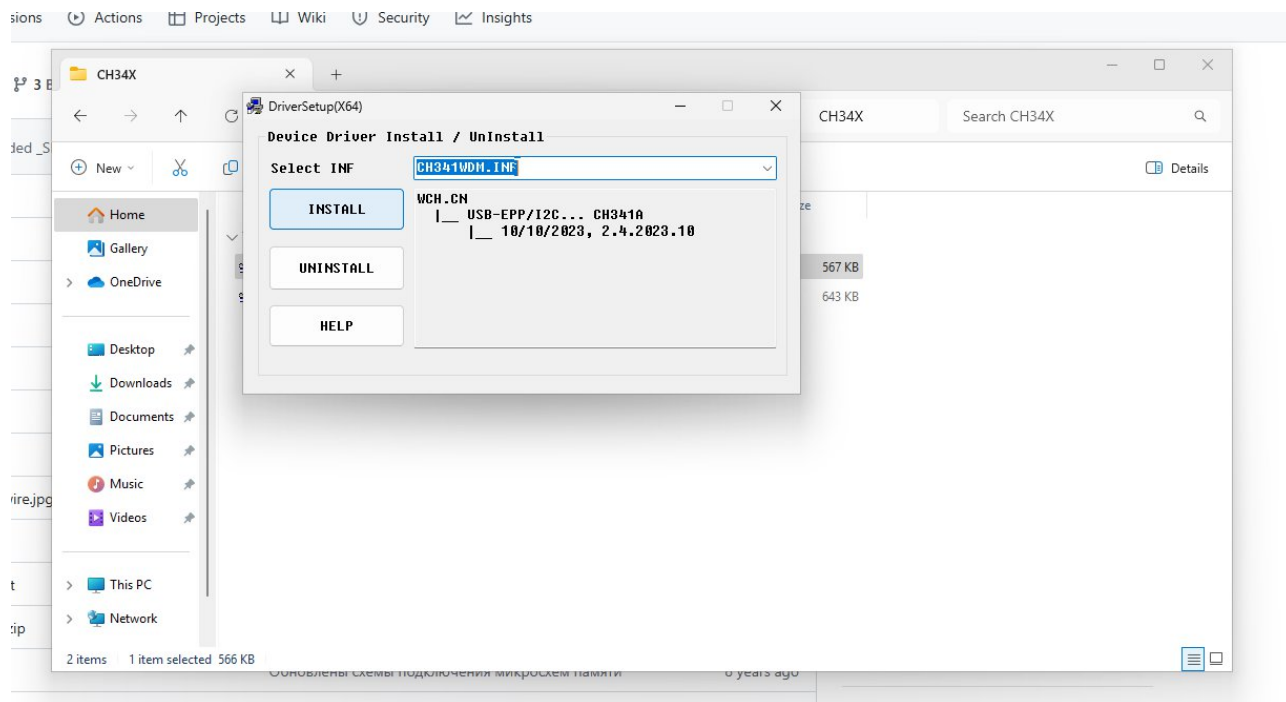
## 9. Double click 'CH34XPAR'



## 8. Accept the UAC prompt

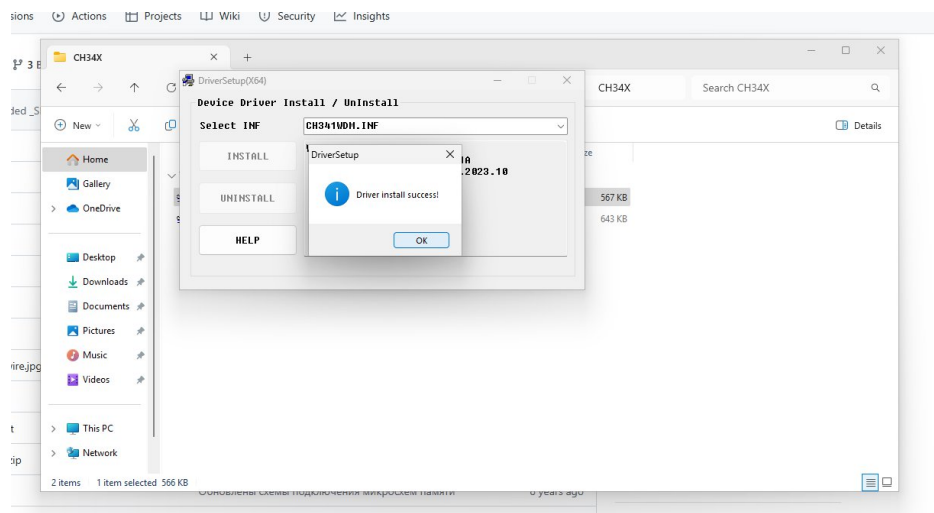


## 9. Select 'install'



10. Click 'OK' and exit from the 'Driver Setup (x64)' screen when done

*Note:* This may take a few seconds to complete



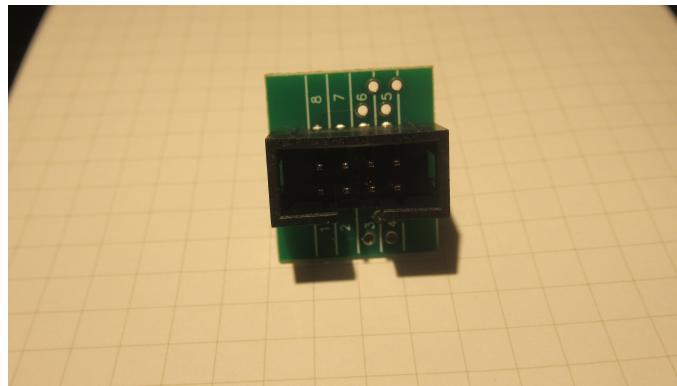
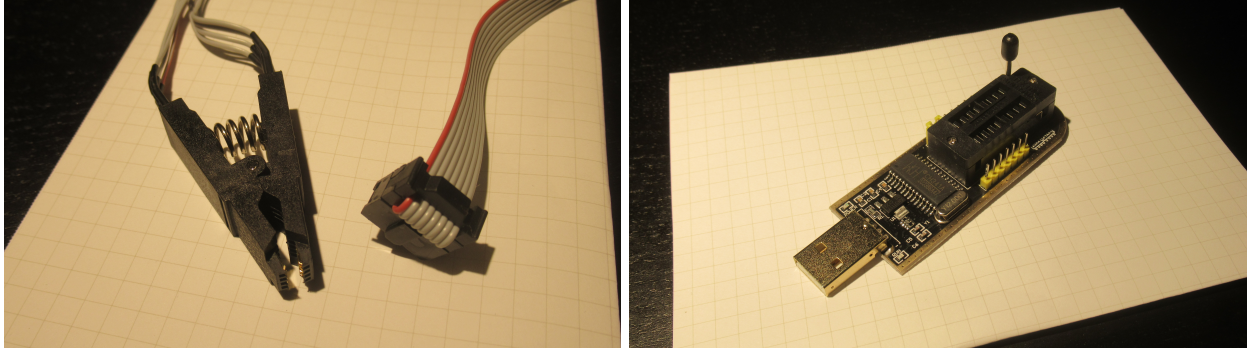
11. Repeat these steps with the 'CH341SER' file and restart your computer

This concludes the software and driver portion of step 2A. Proceed to step 2B to configure tools.

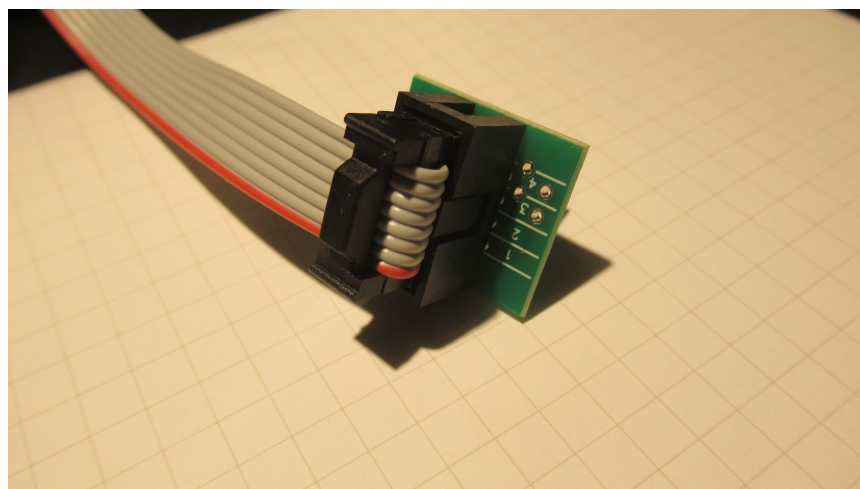
## Step 2B: Configure tools

The following will guide you on how to correctly attach the alligator clips to the programmer:

1. Gather the clips, pin adapter, and CH341a programmer



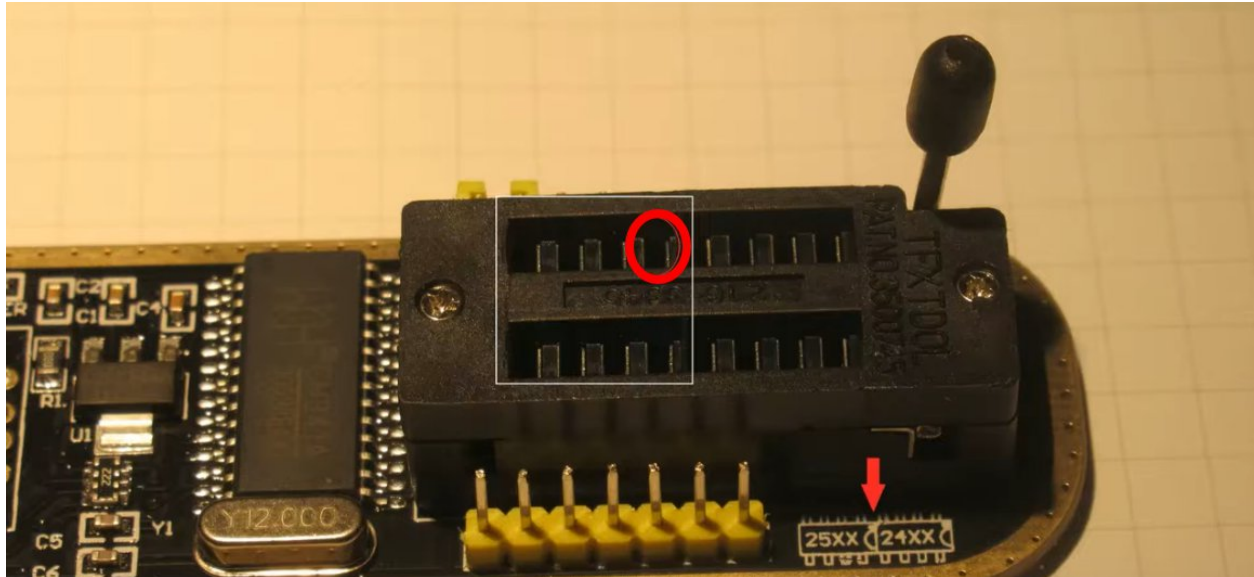
2. Connect the rectangular part of the alligator clips with the pin adapter as shown below



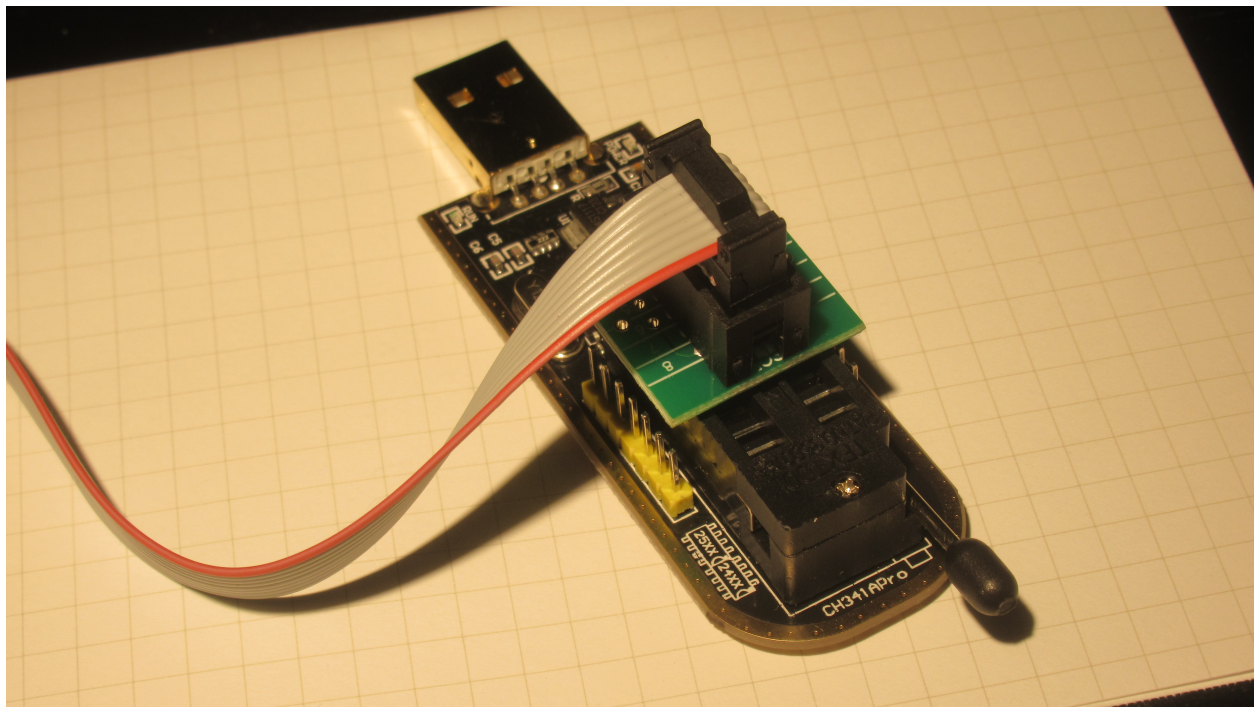
Ensure that the **red** wire aligns with the number '1'

You are now ready to connect the pins to the programmer.

3. Gather programmer and ensure the lever is positioned upright on the programmer.
4. Connect the pins so that the number '1' lines up with the red circle as shown below:



5. Pull down the lever to lock the adapter in place. You will now have the following:

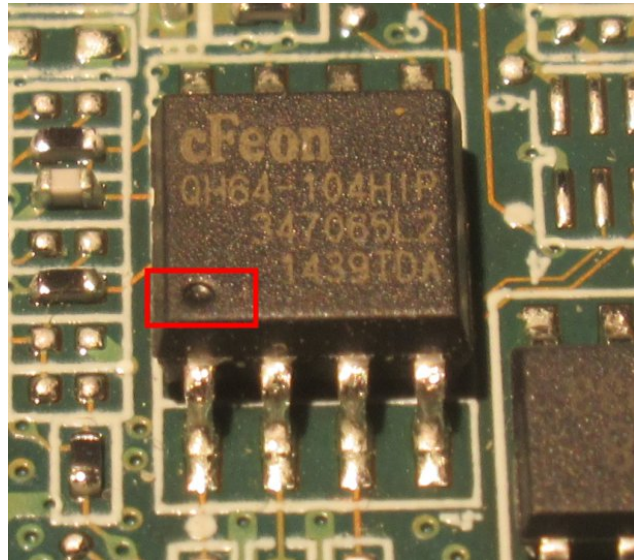


*Note:* The length on the alligator clips is **very** short. Now is a good time to assess if you need to purchase a USB extender to give yourself more room between the clips and computer.

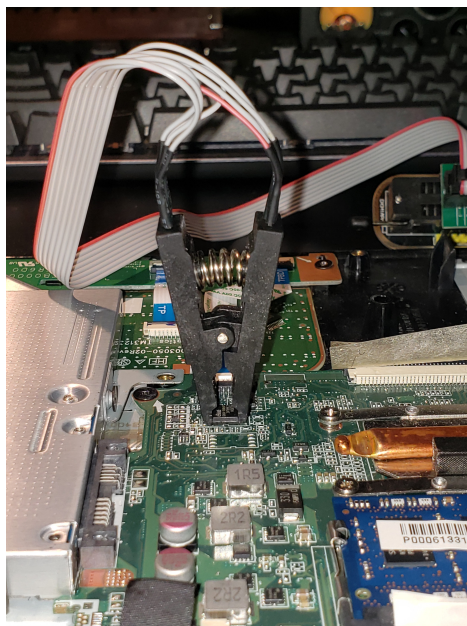
### Step 3: Backup current BIOS

Before you can flash the new BIOS, it is highly recommended that you backup what you currently have. This portion of the guide will demonstrate how to connect the alligator clips and use AsProgrammer to backup your current configuration.

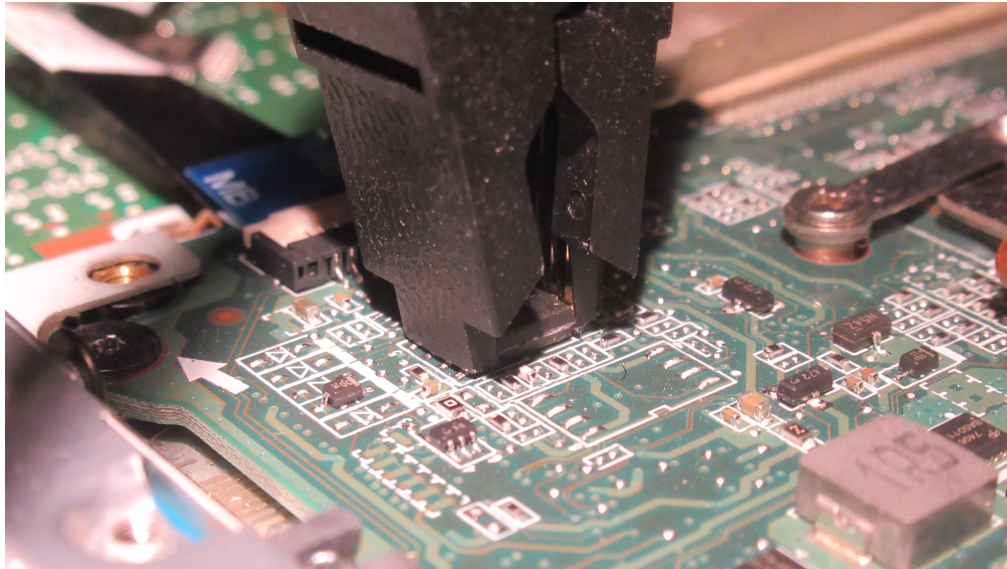
1. Identify the dimple on the cFeon chip. This will server as an indicator of where the red wire needs to latch onto.



2. Gently open and latch the clips onto the metal legs of the chip, ensure the red wire that runs down the clip ends up on the same side as the dimple that is on the cFeon chip.

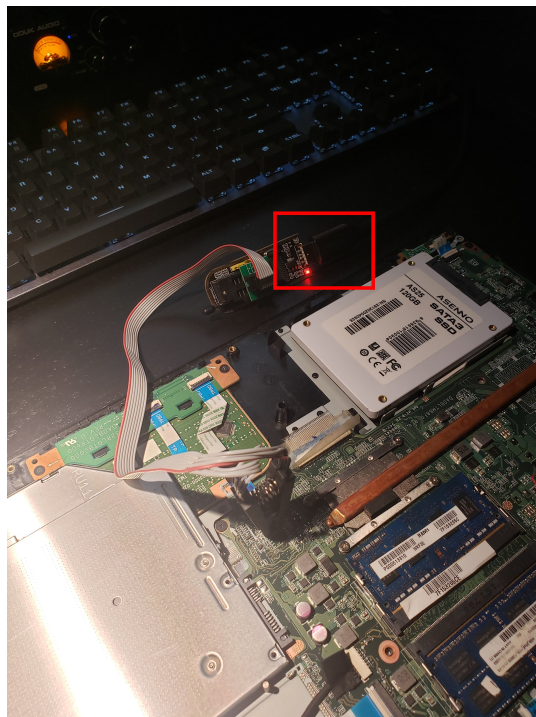


3. Ensure the clip is firmly attached to the chip as shown below:



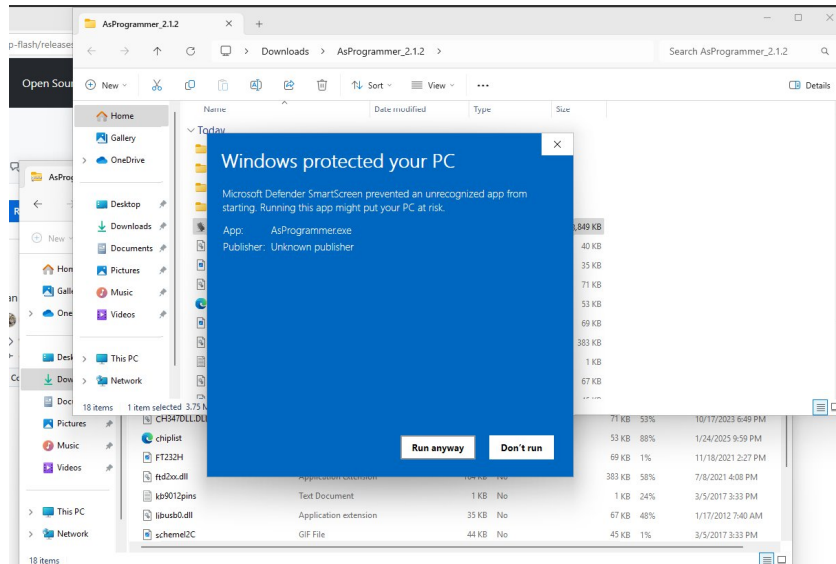
4. Connect the CH341a programmer to your computer

*Note:* If you are using the USB extender, connect the extender first to the computer and then the programmer. The thickness on the extender cable may move the programmer and possibly damage the clips.

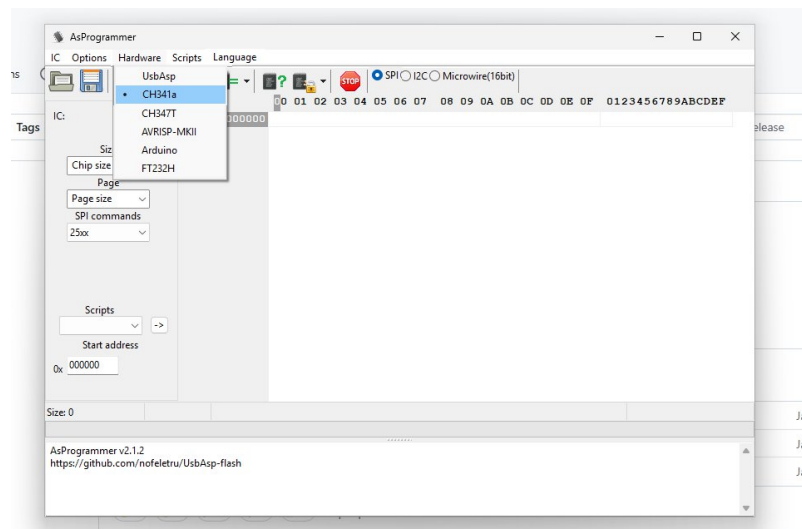


5. Navigate back to your computer and launch ‘AsProgrammer.exe’

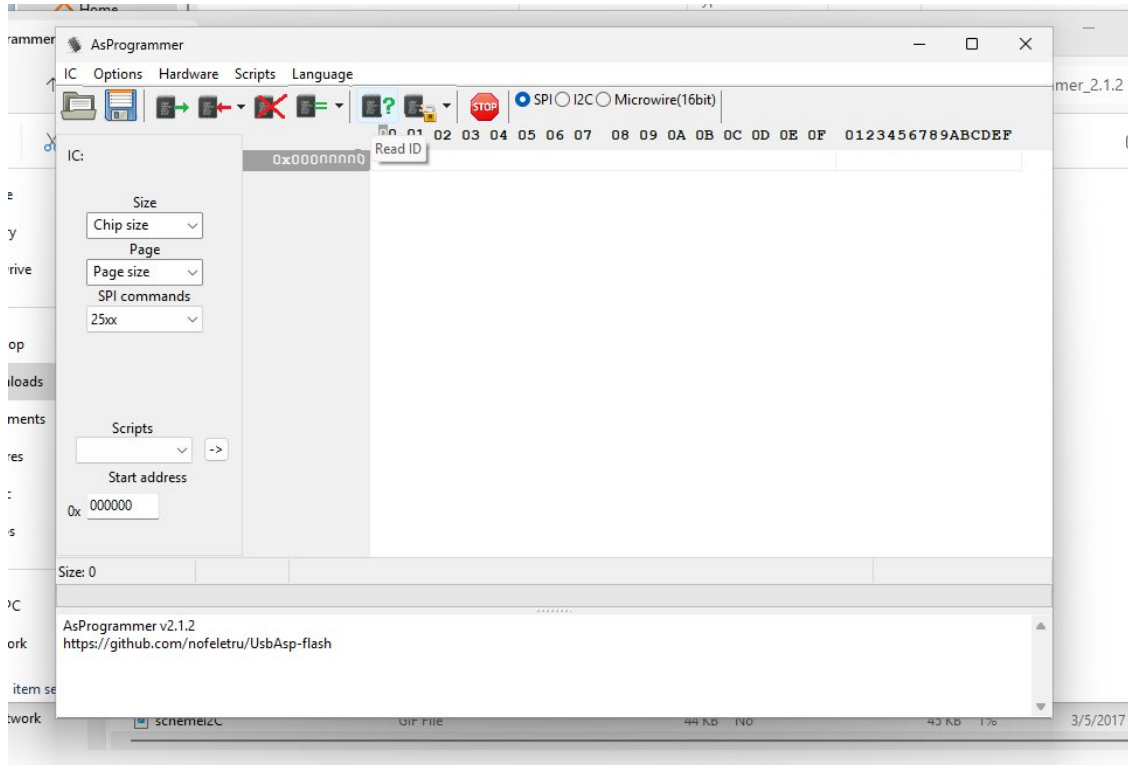
*Note:* A Microsoft Defender SmartScreen error may come up warning you that the program may put your computer at risk. You can safely ignore this and select ‘More info’ followed by ‘Run Anyway’. The code is open source and you can review this yourself from the Github repo if you choose to.



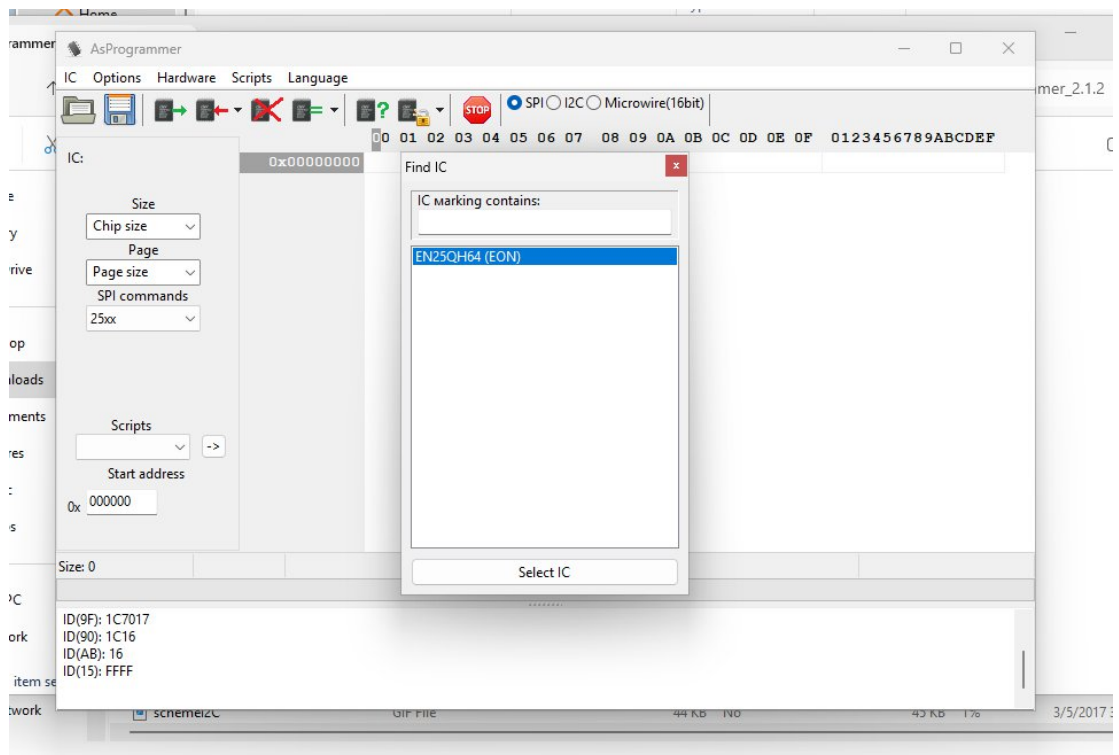
6. Navigate to the ‘Hardware’ tab and select ‘CH341a’ from the drop down list



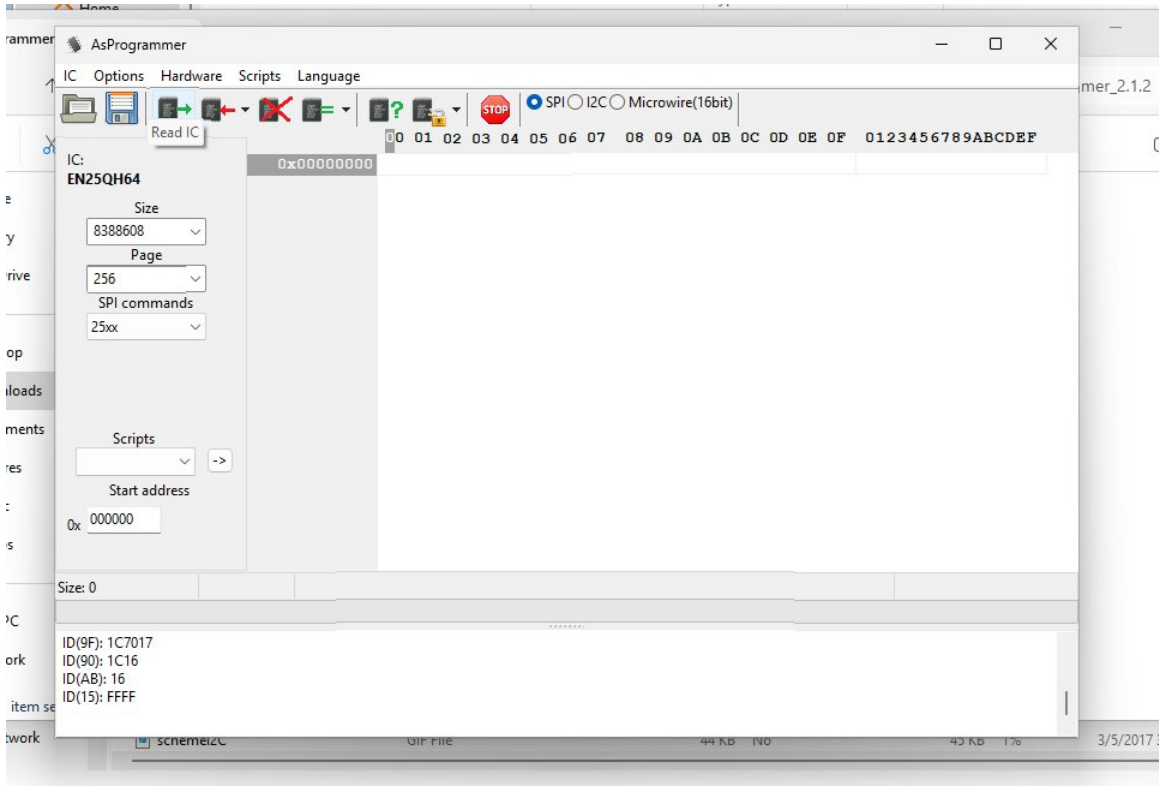
## 7. Select 'Read ID'



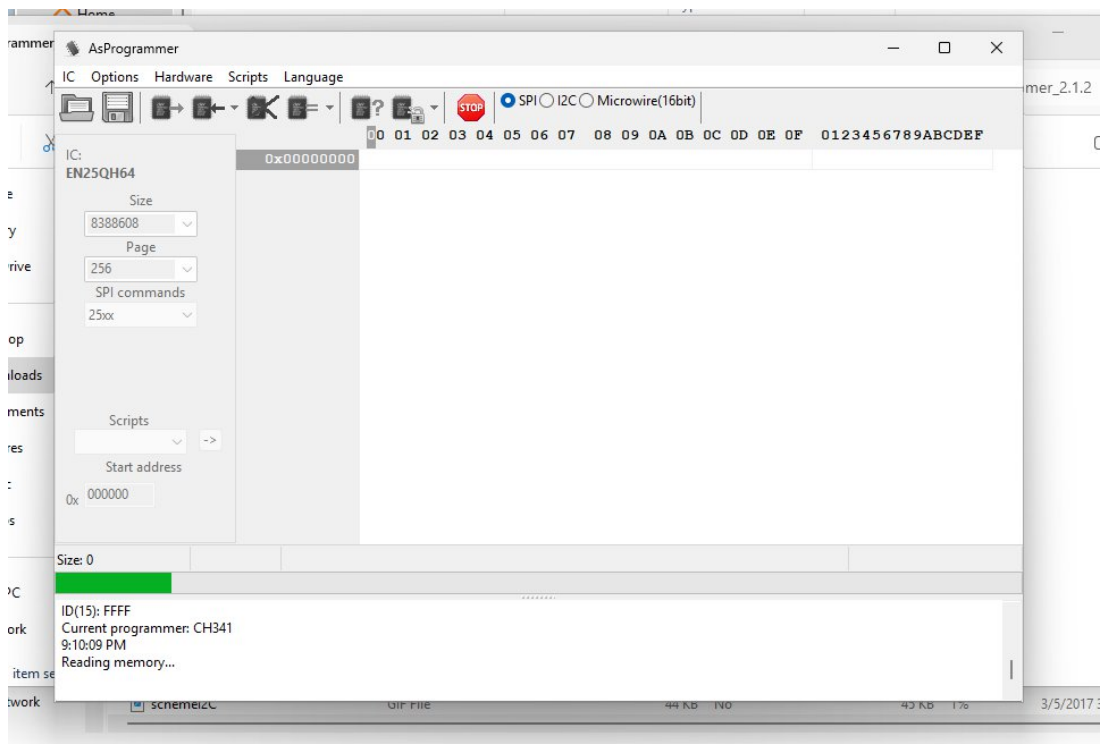
## 8. Click on the box labeled 'EON' and then 'Select IC'



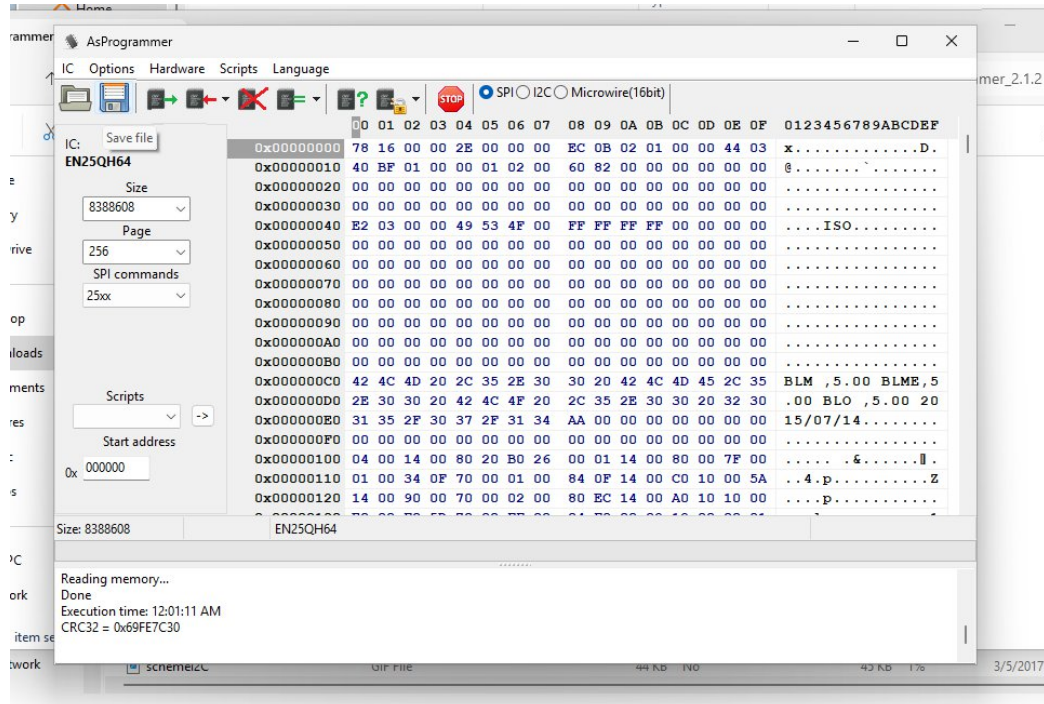
## 9. Click on 'Read IC'



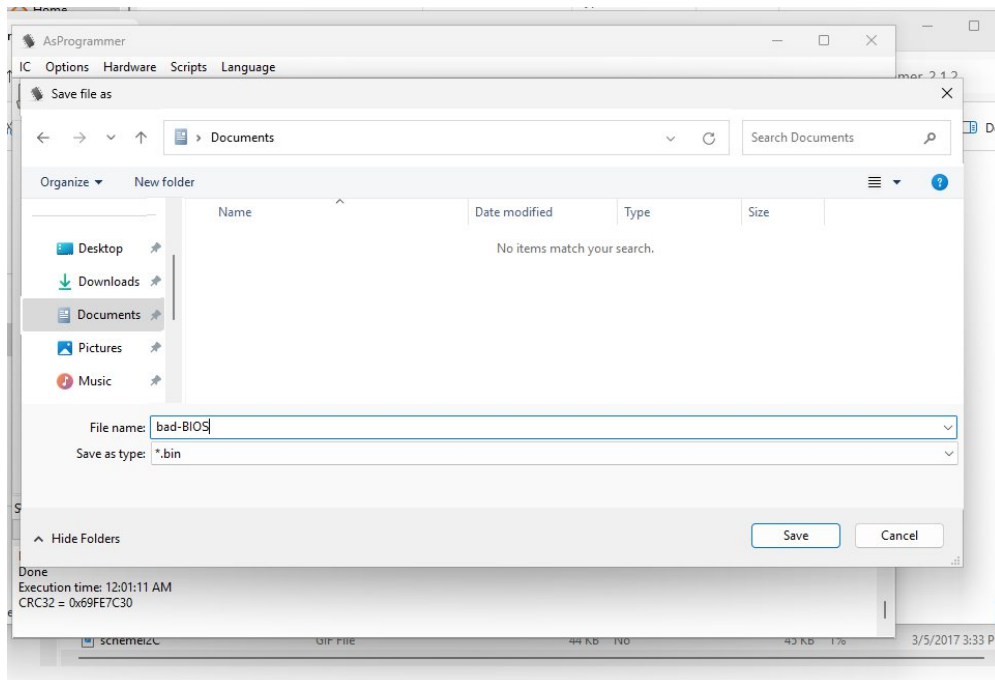
## 10. Wait for reading to finish



11. Select the floppy disk icon labeled 'Save file'



12. Name this 'bad-BIOS' and click 'Save'

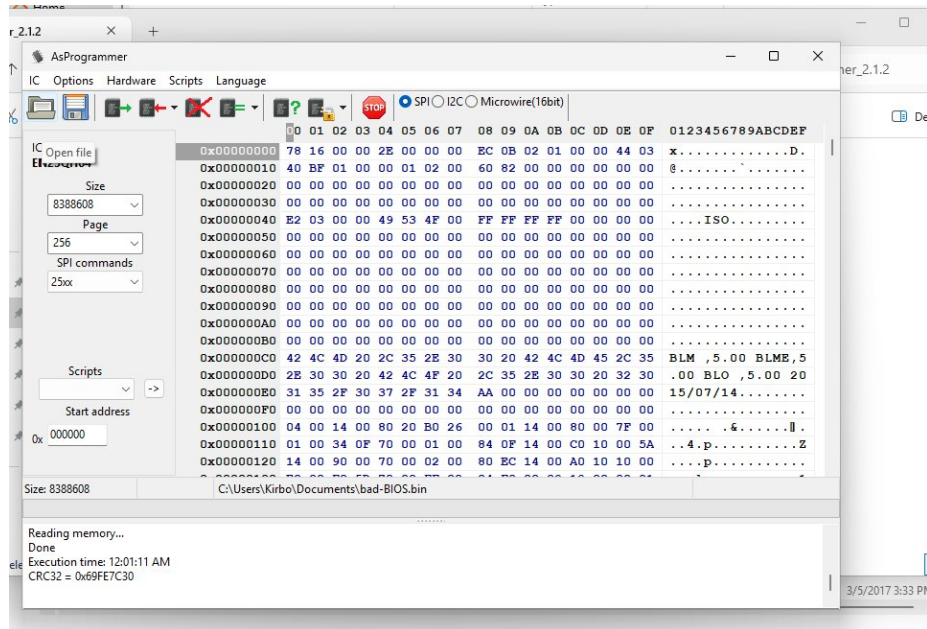


This concludes the backup portion of the guide.

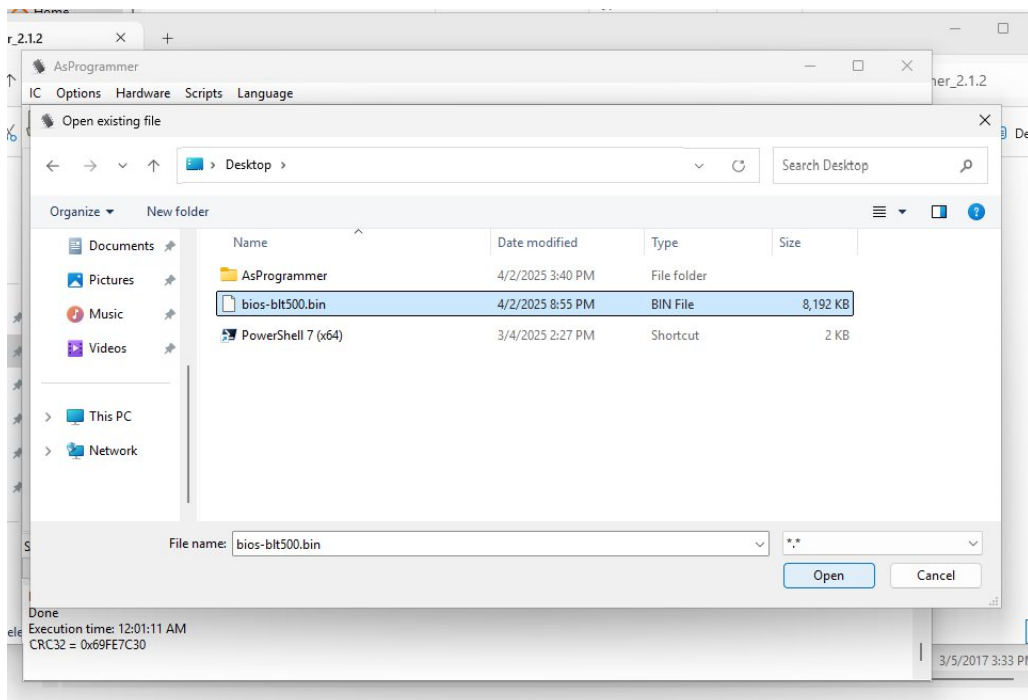
## Step 4: Flash new BIOS

The new BIOS can be obtained [here](#). This is a clean BIOS without a startup password. Once downloaded, go back to AsProgrammer and perform the following:

1. Click the folder icon in AsProgrammer to open a file.

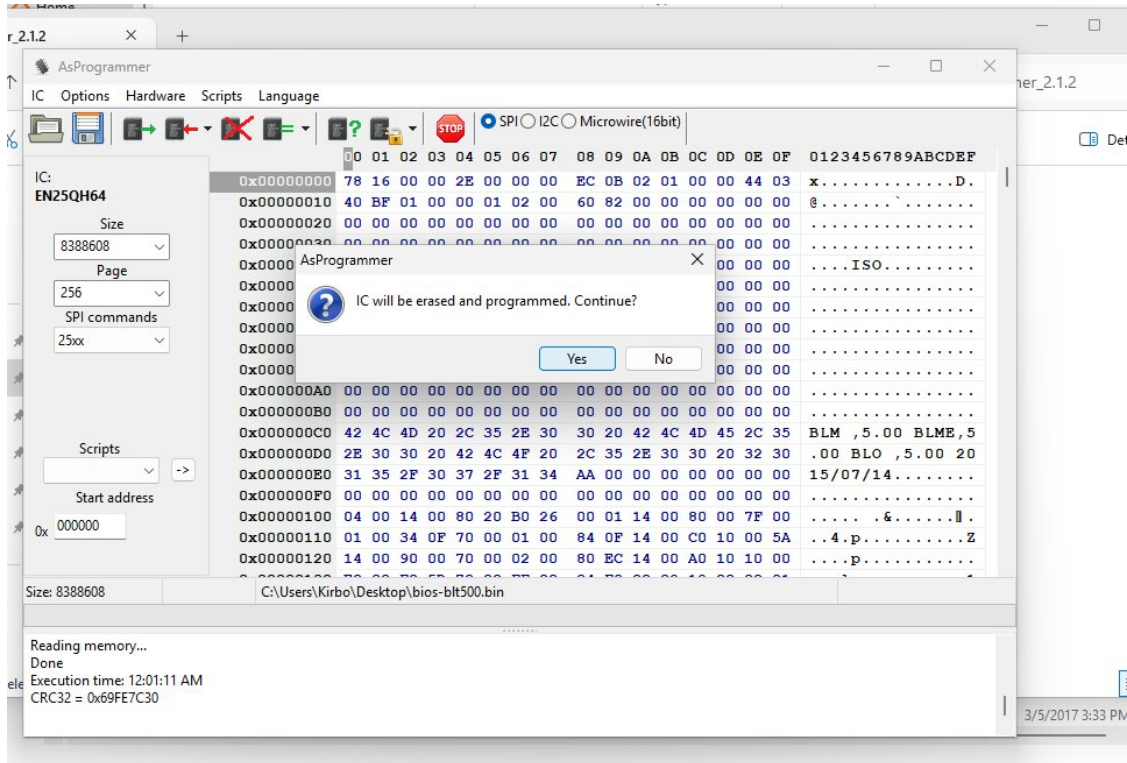


2. Navigate to where you saved the new BIOS file and click 'Open'

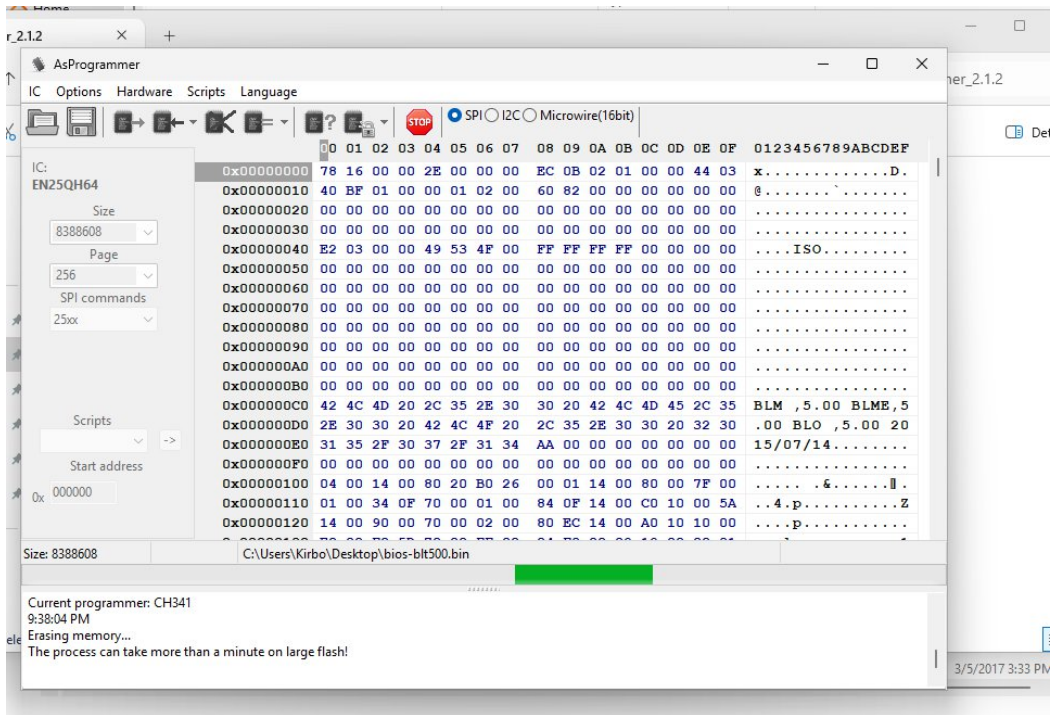




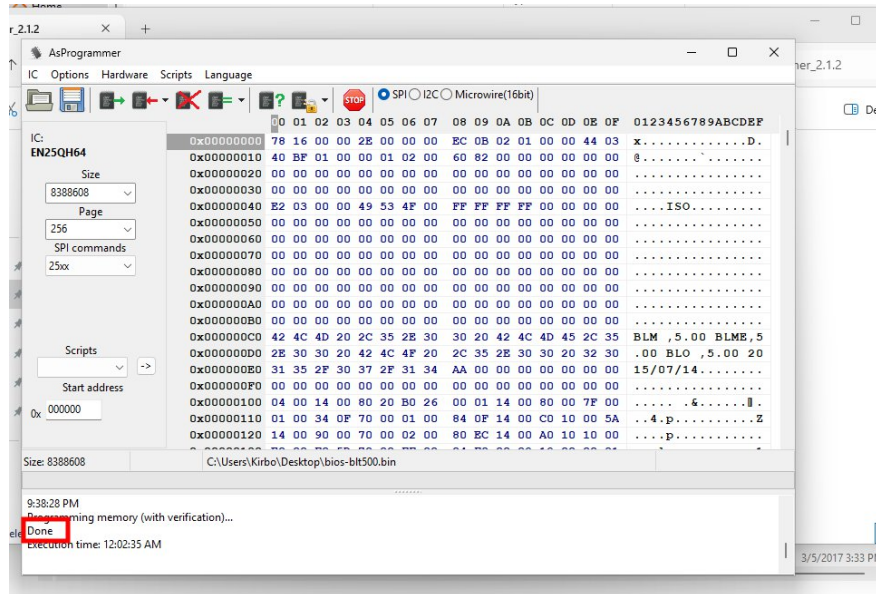
## 5. Select 'Yes'



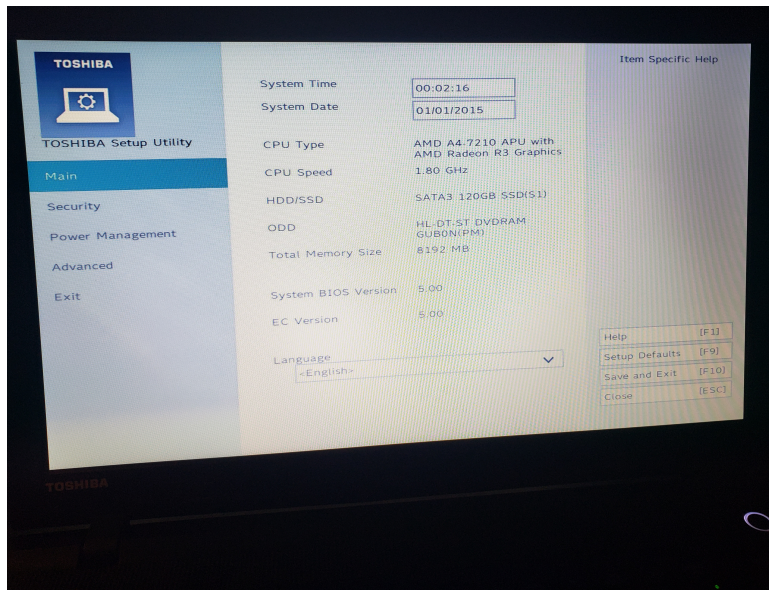
## 6. Wait for flash to complete



## 7. Confirm that AsProgrammer shows 'Done'



The new BIOS flash is now complete. You may now disconnect the programmer and reassemble the laptop. Upon next boot, you will be prompted to edit time and date and land on the new BIOS page as shown below:



The CH341a programmer is a fantastic tool that computer repair techs and DIYers alike can have in their arsenal. With a wide range of uses, even the most stubborn devices such as a Toshiba C55D-C5271 can be undertaken with ease.