

ASUS Express Gate SSD

ASUS Express Gate SSD is an instant-on environment that gives you quick access to web, Skype, and viewing your pictures. Within a few seconds of powering on your computer, you will be at the Express Gate SSD menu where you can start the web browser, Skype, or other Express Gate applications.



- ASUS Express Gate supports SATA devices in **IDE or SATA mode** only.
- ASUS Express Gate supports HDDs or ODDs connected to **motherboard chipset-controlled onboard SATA ports** only. All onboard extended SATA ports and external SATA ports are NOT supported. See chapter 2 for the exact location of onboard SATA ports.

The First Screen

Express Gate SSD's first screen appears within a few seconds after you power on the computer. From here, you can immediately start the web browser or Skype.

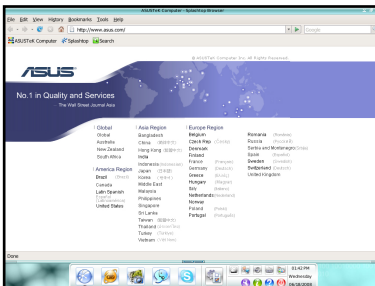
You can also choose to continue booting normally (e.g. to your installed OS such as Windows), enter BIOS setup, or power off.



If you don't make any selection, Express Gate SSD will automatically exit and boot to your normal OS after a certain amount of time. The timer countdown is shown on-screen inside the "boot to OS" button. As you move the mouse or type a key, the countdown stops and the timer disappears, so you can take your time to make a selection.

The Express Gate SSD Environment

The very first time you enter the Express Gate SSD environment (by launching either web or Skype from the first screen), a first time wizard will guide you through basic Express Gate SSD configurations. Basic configurations include language, date and time and screen resolution.



Once inside the Express Gate SSD environment, click on the icons on the LaunchBar, by default at bottom of the screen, to launch or switch between softwares. You can re-arrange, re-size and move windows. Bring a window to the foreground by clicking within it or by clicking on its corresponding software icon. Re-size a window by dragging any of its four corners. Move a window by dragging its title bar.

Besides using the LaunchBar, you can also switch between softwares by pressing <Alt> +<Tab> on the keyboard. You can also right-click anywhere on the desktop to bring up a menu of softwares.

The red triangle on an software icon in the LaunchBar denotes that the software is already running. This means that you can switch to it without any delay. In the rare case where an software stops responding, right-click on its icon to force close it.

Knowing the Express Gate hot-keys

Here is a list of common-used hot-keys for Express Gate.

In the First Screen:

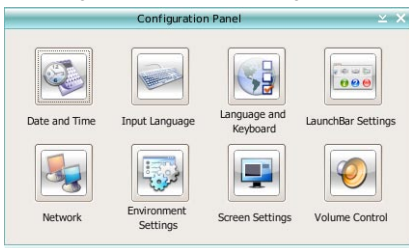
Key	Function
PAUSE/BREAK	Power-off
ESC/F8	Continue to boot OS
DEL	Enter BIOS setup

In the Express Gate Environment:

Key	Function
<Alt> + <Tab>	Switch between softwares
<Ctrl> + <Alt> + 	Bring up Power-Off dialog box
<Ctrl> + <Alt> + <Print Screen>	Save screen snapshot as picture to file

Using the Configuration Panel

Use the configuration panel to change various Express Gate SSD settings.



Click on an icon to open a particular configuration tool. The following tools are available:

- **Date and Time:** set current date and time as well as time zone.
- **Input Language:** choose your preferred input language and method.
- **Language and Keyboard:** choose your language and keyboard preferences.
- **LaunchBar Settings:** customize your LaunchBar (where it docks, whether it auto-hides, etc.)
- **Network:** Specify how your computer connects to the Internet. Enable all the network ports that you may use. LAN(s) refer to the RJ-45 network port(s) on your computer.



- The number of the LAN ports may differ from motherboards.
- You can connect the LAN cable to any RJ-45 port, and Express Gate SSD will automatically use the connected port.

Also specify whether each port uses DHCP (most common) or static IP. For PPPoE and wireless (optional), set the login credentials (user name, password, SSID, etc.) as well.

- **Environment Settings:** This function allows you to clear the Express Gate SSD settings, as well as any personal information stored by the web browser (Bookmarks, Cookies, History, etc.). The user data will be reset to the original default configuration.

After you click **Restore System**, a confirmation dialog box will open. If you click "Yes" in the confirmation dialog box, your system will immediately restart and then re-enter Express Gate SSD to finish clearing the settings. This is also useful in the rare case where settings might become corrupted.



The first-time Wizard will run again when you enter the Express Gate SSD environment after clearing its settings.

- **Screen Settings:** Choose the most optimal screen resolution for your display.
- **Volume Control:** Control the volume for your speaker output, microphone input, etc.

Using the LaunchBar

The LaunchBar has several system icons that show you various system statuses and let you configure individual Express Gate SSD settings. The LaunchBar can be configured to auto-hide, if you want more screen space for the softwares. It can also be configured to dock on any of the four sides of the screen.



Starts the **Web Browser** for quick access to the World Wide Web.



Accesses the **Online Games** feature of Express Gate SSD.



Starts the **Photo Manager** album / organizer tool.



Starts the **Chat** instant messaging tool.



Start the **Skype** software, which lets you call other people on Skype for free, as well as offering affordable, high quality voice communications to phones all over the world.



Opens **Configuration Panel**, which lets you specify network settings and other preferences.

In the rare case that one of the above softwares stops responding, you can right-click on its icon and then select **Close** to force it to close.

The smaller icons on the right side of the LaunchBar are:



Click on this icon to open the **File Manager** window, which lets you conveniently access the files on a USB drive. If a USB device is detected, the icon contains a green arrow.



- ASUS Express Gate supports file uploading and downloading from USB drives only.
- Only the image files in JPG, BMP, GIF, and PNG formats can be uploaded from SATA HDDs, ODDs and USB drives.



Shows network status; click to configure network.



Shows mute status; click to change volume.



Click to choose input language and method as well as keyboard shortcuts (Ctrl-Space by default).



Click to change LaunchBar options (auto-hide, docking position, etc).



Click to show the “ASUS Utility” panel (if supported).



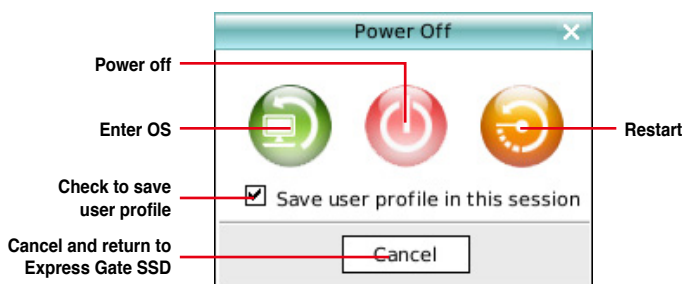
Click to show “About Express Gate SSD”.



Click to open Express Gate SSD Help.



Click to bring up power options window to boot to OS, restart or power down. This window is also shown when you press **Ctrl-Alt-Del** on the keyboard.



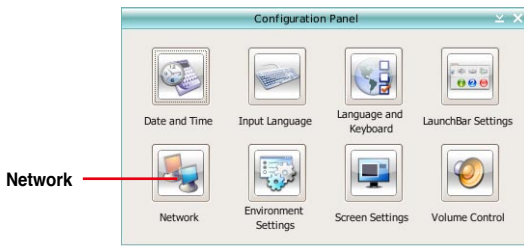
How Do I Get on to the Internet

If Internet doesn't seem to be working in the Express Gate SSD environment, check the following:

1. Open the Configuration Panel.



2. Open Network.



3. Make the proper network configurations.

Each network interface is enabled immediately when you check the box next to it.



- If you use a network cable connected to a home router (which is then connected to your DSL/cable modem), enable every LAN port(s). Express Gate SSD will automatically use whichever port is connected.



- The number of the LAN ports may differ from motherboards.
- If you plug the network cable into a different port while Express Gate SSD is running (e.g. move the cable from LAN1 to LAN2), you may need to restart Express Gate SSD in order for it to detect the change.
- The most common scenario is for your computer to automatically obtain network settings (i.e. DHCP). If this is the case, you don't need to click **Setup** for any LAN port. If this is not the case, click **Setup** to configure the static IP settings manually.
- If you have wireless network, click **Setup** for the WiFi option. In the **WiFi** tab of the **Advanced Network Settings** box, enter the name of your wireless access point in the **SSID** field. If your wireless access point has security enabled, select the corresponding security algorithm from the drop-down list (e.g. WEP/AUTO) in the **Encryption Type** field, and enter the password. Click **OK** to enable WiFi and establish the wireless connection.
- If you use a network cable connected directly to your DSL/cable modem (no router in between), click **Setup** for xDSL/cable dial-up. This method is also referred to as PPPoE. Choose whether the DSL/cable modem is connected to your computer's LAN port. Then enter the username and password for your dial-up account.

Click **OK** to enable xDSL/cable dial-up and establish the PPPoE connection. When PPPoE is enabled, the port it uses will automatically be unchecked and grayed out.

Using the Online Games

Express Gate SSD introduces a **Splashtop Gaming** portal site, which provides many interesting games in different categories. The game titles are updated from time to time. Enjoying these great games is just as easy as it gets!

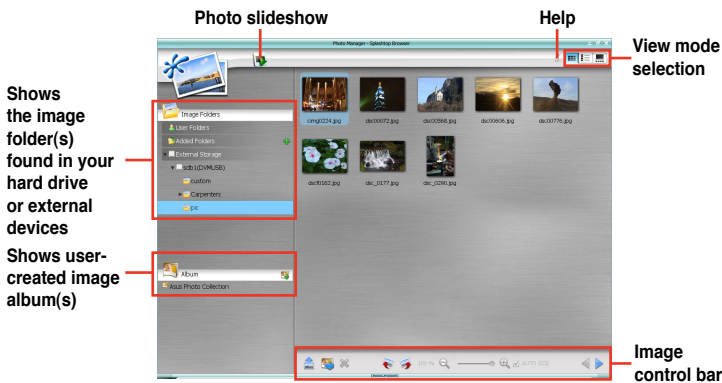


You have to enable the network connection to run the Online Games feature.



Using the Photo Manager

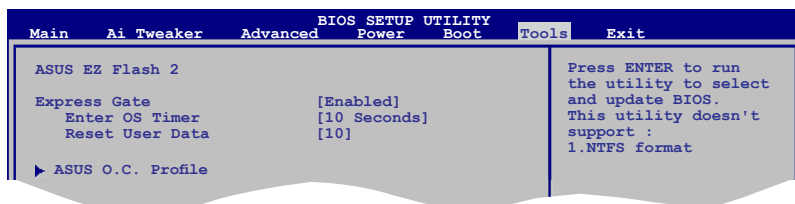
Express Gate SSD provides a easy-to-use **Photo Manager** that allows you to view pictures stored in your hard drive or external storage devices (such as USB dongles, card readers, or optical disks). You can view pictures in thumbnail view; in an enlarged view individually; in a filename/data list view; or play them in a slideshow with background music and fancy transition effects. JPEG, GIF, BMP, and PNG formats are supported. Refer to the on-line Help for detailed software operation.



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Configuring Express Gate in BIOS Setup

Enter BIOS setup by pressing DEL key after powering on or by clicking on the BIOS setup icon on Express Gate's first screen. Express Gate configuration options are under Tools configuration menu page. See page 4-35 for details.

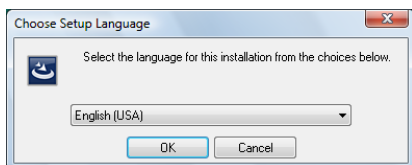


Express Gate Updater

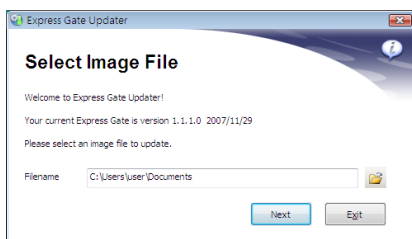
Use the Express Gate Updater to update your existing Express Gate software to new versions or to restore the Express Gate software if it is ever corrupted. You can find Express Gate Updater Installer on the support DVD or download it from the ASUS support website. It runs on Windows.

New versions of the Express Gate software will be released regularly, adding refinements or new applications. You can find original version of the software on the support DVD or download new versions from the ASUS support website. Express Gate software is released as an image file with .DFI extension.

To install the Express Gate Updater, launch the installer and follow on-screen prompts.



To use the Express Gate Updater, launch the application and follow on-screen prompts.



The Updater can preserve your Express Gate settings and personal data (web browser bookmarks, etc.) while doing an update. Use the checkbox “Keep user profile” to decide whether the Updater should do so.

Clearing the user data is useful in the rare case where corrupt settings prevent the Express Gate environment from launching properly.



The first time wizard will run again when you enter the Express Gate environment after clearing its settings.

