



Astro PW64-Q2 User Guide





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Contents

ABOUT THIS GUIDE	5
1.0 Installing and upgrading your system	6
1.1 Unpacking your micro PC.....	6
1.2 Choosing a site for the system	7
1.3 Getting to know your Astro PW64-Q2 micro PC	8
1.4 Recovery from CIARA recovery DVD	10
1.4.1 Recovery from CIARA Window 11 Home recovery DVD.....	10
1.4.2 Recovery from CIARA Window 11 Pro recovery DVD.....	11
1.4.3 Windows Recovery from Startup Settings	12
1.4.4 Corrupted BIOS recovery	14
1.5 System maintenance	14
1.6 Using the CIARA Astro PW64-Q2	15
1.6.1 Introduction	15
1.6.2 A caution about viruses	15
1.6.3 Windows	15
1.6.4 Windows Server 2022 and 2025	15
1.7 Troubleshooting your system after first install.....	16
1.7.1 Helpful hints.....	16
1.8 Solving general problems	17
1.8.1 Solving hard drive problems	18
1.8.2 Solving display problems.....	19
1.8.3 Solving audio problems.....	20
1.8.4 Solving printer problems.....	20
1.8.5 Solving keyboard and mouse problems	21
1.8.6 Solving hardware installation problems.....	22
1.8.7 Solving memory problems	23
1.8.8 Solving processor problems	23
1.9 Component installation guide.....	24
1.9.1 Precautions against static electricity.....	24
1.9.2 Removing and replacing the cover.....	25
1.9.3 Installing an M.2 SSD.....	26
1.9.4 Installing a SATA SSD.....	27
1.9.5 Installation of the processor	28
1.9.6 Installation of the processor heatsink and fan.....	29
1.9.7 Installation of the memory modules.....	30
1.9.8 Installation of WiFi card	32
1.9.9 Chassis Characteristics	33
1.9.10 Installing the Micro PC to a VESA mount-compatible device.....	34
2.0 Certification and declaration	35
2.1 Radio interference precautions.....	35
2.2 Declaration of conformity	36
2.3 FCC Information to User	37
2.4 ENERGY STAR®	38
3.0 ONE YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY	39
3.1 Procedures to be followed for service during the warranty period	40
3.2 Limited Warranty	41
3.3 Documenting your computer.....	42

3.3.1 Base System Details	42
4.0 Technical product specification CIARA Astro PW64-Q2.....	43
4.1 Upgrading	45
4.2 Networking	46
4.3 The CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 BIOS	46
4.3.1 BIOS configuration and installation.....	46
4.3.2 BIOS set-up program function keys	47
4.3.3 Legacy USB support	47
4.3.4 BIOS updates.....	48
4.3.5 Language support	48
4.3.6 BIOS recovery	48
4.3.7 Boot options	48
4.3.8 Adjusting boot speed	49
4.3.9 BIOS security features.....	50
4.4 Motherboard configuration and layout	52
4.4.1 Back panel connectors	54
4.5 The PCI Express and PCI bus.....	54
4.6 Disk drives.....	55
4.6.1 Serial ATA interface	55
4.6.2 M.2 slots	55
4.7 Graphics subsystem	55
4.7.1 Integrated graphics.....	55
4.7.2 HDMI 2.1 port	55
4.7.3 DisplayPort 1.4.....	55
4.8 Audio subsystem	56
4.9 I/O Port set-up	56
4.10 LAN subsystem.....	56
4.10.1 Intel® i219-LM 1 Gigabit Ethernet controller	56
4.10.3 RJ-45 LAN connector LEDs	57
4.10.4 WiFi Module	57
4.11 Intel® vPro™ Technology	57
4.11.1 Intel® Active Management Technology	58
4.11.2 Intel® Virtualization Technology (Intel® VT)	58
4.11.3 Intel® Virtualisation Technology for Directed I/O (Intel® VT-d)	58
4.11.4 Intel® Trusted Execution Technology (Intel® TXT)	58
4.11.5 Intel® Identity Protection Technology.....	59
4.11.6 Intel® Anti-Theft Technology	59
4.12 Trusted Platform Module (TPM)	60
4.13 Replacing the system battery	60
4.14 Installing an upgrade CPU	60
4.15 Changing the motherboard or power supply.....	60
4.16 Configuration jumper block.....	61
4.16.1 Setting the BIOS configuration jumper	61
4.16.2 Clearing or changing passwords.....	60
4.17 Installing an upgrade flash BIOS.....	62
4.18 Spare parts.....	62
4.19 Media sanitization software	62
4.20 Latest version	62
GLOSSARY.....	63

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Please read this User's Guide before using your CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 Micro PC.

This User's Guide is divided into four chapters that provide information on Installation, trouble shooting, certification, detailed description and a Glossary. Please remember to fill out the Equipment Log and keep a copy in a safe place.

With proper care and operating procedures your CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 will give you many years of service and high performance computing.

1.0 Installing and upgrading your system

1.1 Unpacking your micro PC

Your micro PC is packed with ecologic moulded boxboard on four sides to keep it in place during transit.

Carefully unpack your micro PC and be sure to save all boxboards for future shipping and transportation.



1.2 Choosing a site for the system

All CIARA computers operate reliably in a typical office or home environment. Choose a location that is readily accessible and meets the following requirements :

- Is near a grounded, three pronged power outlet
- The socket-outlet shall be installed near the equipment and shall be easily accessible.
- Is clean and dust free
- Is well-ventilated and lighted and away from sources of heat
- Is isolated from strong electromagnetic fields produced by electrical devices
(*i.e. air conditioners, large fans, large electric motors, radio and TV transmitters*)
- Has an appropriate table or desk that will allow you to work without physical discomfort and strain.

The Astro PW64-Q2 micro PC can be placed horizontally on your desk or mounted behind the monitor with the VESA mounting kit.



The external power supply adapter must be :

- Input voltage : 100-240 Vac
- Input frequency : 50-60 Hz
- Rating output current : 22 A (300 W)
- Rating output voltage : 12 Vdc

The adapter cannot be disassembled and is recyclable. The power cord is also recyclable but must be disposed of separately in accordance with the EU WEEE Directive Annex VII.

A few general precautions should always be observed :

- Never connect any peripheral such as a monitor to the system unit if the power is turned "ON". Always shut down the system first.
- Never remove the casing cover if the power is turned "ON".

1.3 Getting to know your Astro PW64-Q2 micro PC

Front view



- 1- Power button
- 2- Headphone jack
- 3- USB 3.2 gen1 type A port
- 4- USB 3.2 gen1 type C port

Rear view



- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1- Kensington slot | 9- USB 10 Gb/s type C port |
| 2- Cover tumb screw | 10- USB 5 Gb/s type A port |
| 3- PS/2 port keyboard | 11- 2 USB 10 Gb/s type A ports |
| 4- PS/2 port mouse | 12- Audio out |
| 5- 2 USB 2.0 ports | 13- Audio in |
| 6- 2 DisplayPorts | 14- Microphone jack |
| 7- HDMI port | 15- DC power input |
| 8- RJ45 network port | 16- Discrete video card location |

1.4 Recovery from CIARA recovery DVD

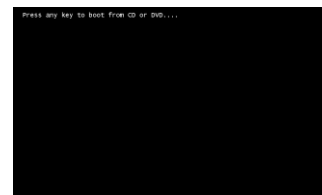
1.4.1 Recovery from CIARA Window 11 Home recovery DVD



Before you start this procedure, please back up all your important information, the recovery media will erase all data on HDD before installation.

Insert the Windows 11 Home Recovery DVD and restart the system.

- 1- When prompted, press any key to boot from the DVD.
The recovery image will then start.



- 2- Accept the EULA and press on Continue.



- 3- Select the OS version and press Start System Recovery.



- 4- A pop up will then open warning you that all the data will be lost.
If all your files are already saved, press OK.



- 5- The recovery will take around 30 minutes to complete. A window will show you the process of the recovery, once completed Eject the DVD then press OK. The system will then reboot.
NOTE: All drivers required for your system will be already installed except for components that were not part of your original purchase



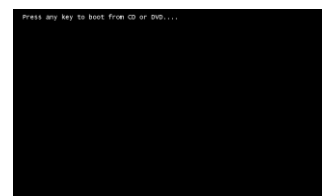
1.4.2 Recovery from CIARA Window 11 Pro recovery DVD



Before you start this procedure, please back up all your important information, the recovery media will erase all data on HDD before installation.

Insert the Windows 11 Pro Recovery DVD and restart the system.

- 1- When prompted, press any key to boot from the DVD.
The recovery image will then start.



- 2- Accept the EULA and press on Continue.



- 3- Select the OS version and press Start System Recovery



- 4- A pop up will then open warning you that all the data will be lost.
If all your files are already saved, press OK.



- 5- The recovery will take around 30 minutes to complete. A window will show you the process of the recovery, once completed Eject the DVD then press OK. The system will then reboot.

NOTE: All drivers required for your system will be already installed except for components that were not part of your original purchase



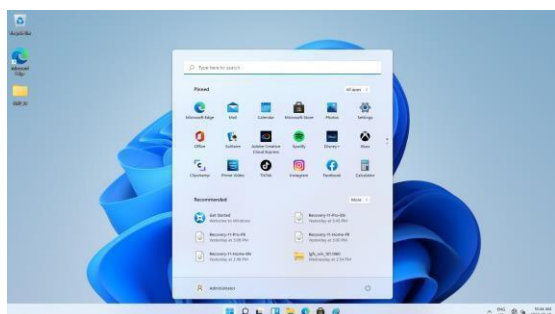
1.4.3 Windows Recovery from Startup Settings

1.4.3.1 Windows 11 Recovery from Startup Settings

With the Windows Startup Settings screen (formerly advanced boot options) you can start Windows in different advanced troubleshooting modes so you can find and fix problems on your PC. In previous versions of Windows, you could get to this screen by pressing F8 before Windows started up. Windows 11 PCs start up quickly so there's not enough time to press F8.

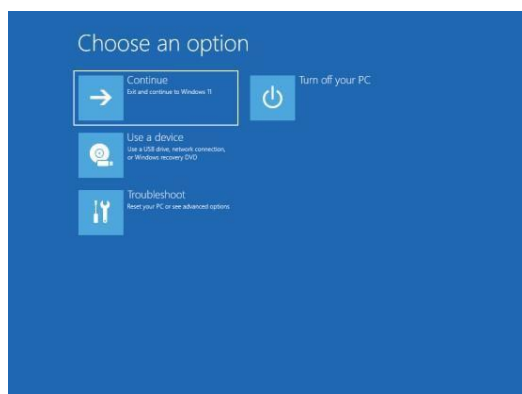
There are two ways to get to the Windows Startup Settings screen in Windows 11:

- If you're not signed in to Windows, tap or click the power icon  from the sign-in screen, hold **Shift**, and then tap or click **Restart**.

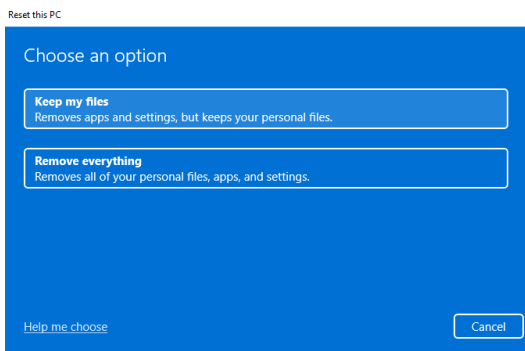


- Or, if you're already signed in:
 1. Click on the windows logo button, select **Settings**, and then select **System**.
 2. From the **Right side pane** select **Recovery**.
 3. Under **Recovery Options**, tap or click **Reset PC**.
 4. On the **pop-up screen**, tap or click **Remove Everything** then press **Next**.
 5. Select **Advanced Settings**, and then press **Change Settings**, then clean data to **Yes**, press **Confirm**.
 6. Tap or click **Restart**.
 7. Windows will restart and reset your PC to its initial state.
 8. Follow instructions at the Startup Settings screen and choose the startup setting you want.
 9. Sign in to your PC with a user account that has administrator rights.

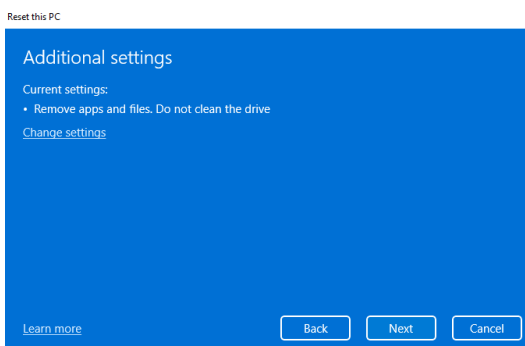
Choose **Continue**



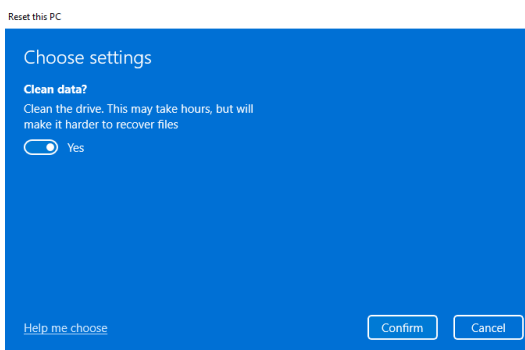
Choose **Remove everything**



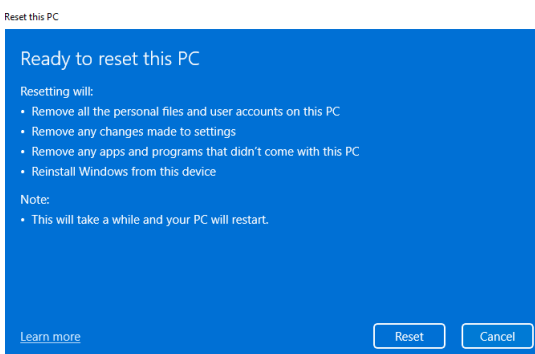
Press **Next**



Set **Clean data** to **Yes** and press **Confirm**



Press **Reset**



Then follow the regular Windows 11 Installation process.

1.4.4 Corrupted BIOS recovery

The ASUS CrashFree BIOS 3 is an auto recovery tool that allows you to restore the BIOS file when it fails or gets corrupted during the updating process. You can restore a corrupted BIOS file using the motherboard support USB flash drive that contains the updated BIOS file.

NOTE: Before using this utility, rename the BIOS file in the removable device into **PW64Q2.CAP**. Ask for the latest BIOS file at https://www.asus.com/ca-en/motherboards-components/motherboards/csm/pro-q870i-c-csm/helpdesk_bios?model2Name=Pro-Q870I-C-CSM.

Recovering the BIOS

To recover the BIOS :

1. Turn on the system.
2. Insert the support USB flash drive that contains the BIOS file to the USB port.
3. The utility automatically checks the devices for the BIOS file. When found, the utility reads the BIOS file and enters ASUS EZ Flash 2 utility automatically.
4. The system requires you to enter BIOS Setup to recover BIOS settings. To ensure system compatibility and stability, we recommend that you press <F5> to load default BIOS values.

DO NOT shut down or reset the system while updating the BIOS! Doing so can cause system boot failure.

1.5 System maintenance

Read and follow carefully all the instructions and warnings in this manual and on these products!

Only use a damp cloth to clean your system unit and monitor case. Do not use detergents!

Position your system unit, monitor and cables/wires away from direct sunlight, moisture, dust, oil, and thoroughfares.

Ensure that all ventilation outlets are always free from obstruction.

In the event of mechanical/power failure or damage, do not attempt to repair the system unit, monitors, cables /wires. Refer all such problems to experienced service personnel.

Ensure that the front of the system unit is at least 6" away from anything that might obstruct the ventilation outlets and cause overheating.

Ensure that the power source is grounded correctly. This product is equipped with a 3-wire grounding-type plug. This plug will only fit into a grounded power outlet.

1.6 Using the CIARA Astro PW64-Q2

1.6.1 Introduction

The CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 is a powerful micro PC that has the ability to run a variety of operating systems. Unless you have specified something different, your system comes configured with a Windows operating system pre-loaded onto the hard drive. Each operating system comes with its own user manuals, and you should refer to these for information specific to your system.

1.6.2 A caution about viruses

Due to the prevalence of computer viruses, we strongly recommend that you take precautions to protect your computer from them. Purchase and use a reputable virus-checking program. Ensure that the program is kept up to date by registering the program, and installing updates as they become available. Please be aware, however, that even the best virus checking programs cannot be regarded as the perfect solution. It is possible for even the best program to fail, particularly if it is not updated. Please contact your CIARA account representative for more information.

1.6.3 Windows

Windows is a Graphical User Interface (GUI) that provides a screen composed of icons. You select or “click” on the icons to run programs. As noted above, Windows has been installed on your computer. For further information about using Windows, please consult the appropriate Microsoft software manual provided with your CIARA Astro PW64-Q2.

1.6.4 Windows Server 2022 and 2025

Windows Server 2022 and Windows Server 2025 are operating systems that provide sophisticated networking capabilities to Windows based computers. The onboard Network Interface Controller (NIC) in the micro PC allows the user to connect the CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 to a network server computer running Windows Server 2022 or Windows Server 2025.

Microsoft and Linux provide workstations on the network with access to files and applications stored on the file server (a dedicated computer running the Windows Server 2022 or Windows Server 2025 operating systems), as well as access to shared printers on the network. Sophisticated tools are built into the Windows Server 2022 and Windows Server 2025 operating systems to manage the network, and to restrict access to resources on the file server.

For further information about Windows Server 2022 or Windows Server 2025, please consult the manuals provided with the network operating system (NOS), or speak to your service representative.

1.7 Troubleshooting your system after first install

1.7.1 Helpful hints

If you encounter some minor problems with the micro PC, monitor, or software, see the following list of general suggestions before taking further action :

- Check that the micro PC and monitor are plugged into a working electrical outlet.
- Check to see that the micro PC is turned on.
- Check to see that the monitor is turned on and the monitor light is on.
- Turn up the brightness and contrast controls of the monitor if the monitor is dim.
- Press and hold any key. If the system beeps, then the keyboard should be operating correctly.
- Check all cable connections for loose connections or incorrect connections.
- Wake the micro PC by pressing any key on the keyboard or pressing the power button. If the system remains in suspend mode, shut down the micro PC by pressing and holding the power button for at least four seconds then press the power button again to restart the micro PC. If the system will not shut down, unplug the power cord, wait a few seconds, and then plug it in again. The micro PC will restart if automatic start on power loss is set in the BIOS. If it does not restart, press the power button to start the micro PC.
- Be sure that all the needed device drivers have been installed. For example, if you are using a printer, you need a driver for that model of printer.
- If you have installed an operating system other than the factory-installed operating system, check to be sure that it is supported on the system.
- Your system can support four independent monitors using any of the three DisplayPort or the HDMI port.

1.8 Solving general problems

You should be able to easily resolve the general problems described in this section. If a problem persists and you are unable to resolve it, or if you feel uncomfortable about performing the operation, contact CIARA at 1-877-242-7272 and ask for the Customer Service department.

Solving general problems		
Problem	Cause	Solution
Micro PC appears locked up and will not turn off when the power button is pressed	Software control of the power switch is not functional.	Press and hold the power button for at least four seconds until the computer turns off.
Micro PC will not respond to USB keyboard or mouse.	Micro PC is in Last State mode.	Press the power button to resume from Last State mode.
CAUTION : When attempting to resume from Last State mode, do not hold down the power button for more than four seconds. Otherwise, the micro PC will shut down and you will lose your data.		
Micro PC date and time display is incorrect.	RTC (real-time clock) battery may need to be replaced. ► Connecting the computer to a live AC outlet prolongs the life of the RTC battery.	Reset the date and time under Control Panel (Computer Setup can also be used to update the RTC date and time). If the problem persists, replace the RTC battery.
Cursor will not move using the arrow keys on the keypad.	The Num Lock key may be on.	Press the Num Lock key. The Num Lock light should not be on if you want to use the arrow keys.
Poor performance is experienced	Processor is hot.	1. Make sure the airflow to the computer is not blocked. 2. Make sure the fans are connected and working properly (some fans only operate when needed) 3. Make sure the processor heat sink is installed properly. 4. The system might be infected with a virus and that it would need to be cleaned with an antivirus software
	Hard drive or SSD is full.	Transfer data from the hard drive or SSD to create more space on the drive.

1.8.1 Solving hard drive problems

Solving hard drive problems		
Problem	Cause	Solution
Hard drive error occurs.	Hard disk has bad sectors or has failed.	Use a utility to locate and block usage of bad sectors. If necessary, reformat the hard disk.
Disk transaction problem.	Either the directory structure is bad or there is a problem with a file.	In Windows, right-click Start, click Explore, and select a drive. Select File > Properties > Tools. Under Error-checking, click Check Now.
Drive not found.	Cable could be loose.	Check cable connections.
Micro PC seems to be locked up.	Program in use has stopped responding to commands.	Attempt the normal Windows "Shut Down" procedure. If this fails, press the power button for four or more seconds to turn off the power. To restart the micro PC, press the power button again.

1.8.2 Solving display problems

Solving display problems		
Problem	Cause	Solution
Blank screen (no video).	Monitor is not turned on and the monitor light is not on.	Turn on the monitor and check that the monitor light is on.
	The cable connections are not correct.	Check the cable connection from the monitor to the micro PC and to the electrical outlet. See section 1.3.
	You may have a screen blanking utility installed or energy saver features are enabled.	Press any key or click the mouse button and, if set, type your password.
	You are using a fixed-sync monitor and it will not sync at the resolution chosen.	Be sure that the monitor can accept the same horizontal scan rate as the resolution chosen.
	Micro PC is in Last State mode.	Press the power button to resume from Last State mode.
CAUTION : When attempting to resume from Last State mode, do not hold down the power button for more than four seconds. Otherwise, the micro PC will shut down and you will lose your data.		
Dim characters.	The brightness and contrast controls are not set properly.	Adjust the monitor brightness and contrast controls.
	Cables are not properly connected.	Check that the graphics cable is securely connected to the video port and the monitor. See section 1.3
Blurry video or requested resolution cannot be set.	If the graphics controller was upgraded, the correct graphics drivers may not be loaded.	Install the video drivers included in the upgrade kit.
	Monitor is not capable of displaying requested resolution.	Change requested resolution.
The picture is broken up, or it rolls, jitters, or flashes.	The monitor connections may be incomplete or the monitor may be incorrectly adjusted.	1. Be sure the monitor cable is securely connected to the micro PC. See section 1.3 2. In a two-monitor system or if another monitor is in close proximity, be sure the monitors are not interfering with each other's electromagnetic field by moving them apart. 3. Fluorescent lights or fans may be too close to the monitor.
High-pitched noise coming from inside a flat panel monitor.	Brightness and/or contrast settings are too high.	Lower brightness and/or contrast settings.

1.8.3 Solving audio problems

Solving audio problems		
Problem	Cause	Solution
Sound does not come out of the speaker or headphones.	Software volume control is turned down.	Double-click the Speaker icon on the taskbar, and then make sure that Mute is not selected and use the volume slider to adjust the volume.
	The external speakers are not turned on.	Turn on the external speakers.
	External speakers plugged into the wrong audio jack.	Only one of the two audio ports is reserved for speakers.
	Micro PC is in Last State mode.	Press the power button to resume from Last State mode.
CAUTION : When attempting to resume from Last State mode, do not hold down the power button for more than four seconds. Otherwise, the micro PC will shut down and you will lose your data.		
Sound cuts in and out.	Processor resources are being used by other open applications.	Shut down all open processor-intensive applications.
Micro PC appears to be locked up while recording audio.	The hard disk may be full.	Before recording, make sure there is enough free space on the hard disk. You can also try recording the audio file in a compressed format.

1.8.4 Solving printer problems

Printer prints garbled information.	The correct printer driver for the application is not installed.	Install the correct printer driver for the application.
	The cables may not be connected properly.	Reconnect all cables.
	Printer memory may be overloaded.	Reset the printer by turning it off for one minute and then turn it back on.
Printer is offline.	The printer may be out of paper.	Check the paper tray and refill it if it is empty. Select online.
Printer will not print.	Printer is not turned on and online.	Turn the printer on and make sure it is online.
	The correct printer drivers for the application are not installed.	Install the correct printer driver for the application.
	If you are on a network, you may not have made the connection to the printer.	Make the proper network connections to the printer.
	Printer may have failed.	Run printer self-test.
Printer will not turn on.	The cables may not be connected properly.	Reconnect all cables and check the power cord and electrical outlet.

1.8.5 Solving keyboard and mouse problems

Solving keyboard and mouse problems		
Problem	Cause	Solution
The micro PC does not recognize keyboard commands and typing.	Keyboard connector is not properly connected.	Connect keyboard correctly
	Keyboard needs repairs.	Contact CIARA so that we may proceed to repairs.
	Micro PC is in Last State mode.	Press the power button to resume from Last State mode.
CAUTION : When attempting to resume from Last State mode, do not hold down the power button for more than four seconds. Otherwise, the micro PC will shut down and you will lose your data.		
Cursor will not move using the arrow keys on the keypad.	The Num Lock key may be on.	Press the Num Lock key. The Num Lock light should not be on if you want to use the arrow keys.
Wireless / Bluetooth keyboard	After restarting the computer due to a Windows update or any other reason, the Bluetooth wireless keyboard is no longer paired after loading the operating system, locks up or is no longer available.	1. Check that the batteries are fresh and correctly inserted, and that the mouse and keyboard are switched on. 2. Remove and reinsert the receiver. 3. If connection problems persist, restart your computer. 4. Press and release the Bluetooth® button and receiver on the mouse. 5. Wait at least 20 seconds. 6. Press and release the Bluetooth button and receiver on the keyboard. 7. Check that Bluetooth is enabled in the BIOS.
Mouse does not respond to movement or is too slow.	Mouse connector is not properly plugged into the back of the computer.	Connect mouse properly.
	Mouse needs repairs.	Contact CIARA so that we may proceed to repairs.
	Micro PC is in Last State mode.	Press the power button to resume from Last State mode.
Wireless / Bluetooth mouse	After restarting the computer due to a Windows update or for any other reason, the Bluetooth wireless mouse is no longer paired after loading the operating system, locks up or is no longer available.	1. Check that the batteries are fresh and correctly inserted, and that the mouse and keyboard are switched on. 2. Remove and reinsert the receiver. 3. If connection problems persist, restart your computer. 4. Press and release the Bluetooth® button and receiver on the mouse. 5. Wait at least 20 seconds. 6. Press and release the Bluetooth button and receiver on the keyboard. 7. Check that Bluetooth is enabled in the BIOS.
CAUTION : When attempting to resume from Last State mode, do not hold down the power button for more than four seconds. Otherwise, the micro PC will shut down and you will lose your data.		

1.8.6 Solving hardware installation problems

Solving hardware installation problems		
Problem	Cause	Solution
A new device is not recognized as part of the system.	Device is not seated or connected properly.	Ensure that the device is properly and securely connected and that pins in the connector are not bent down.
	Cable(s) of new external device are loose or power cables are unplugged.	Ensure that all cables are properly and securely connected and that pins in the cable or connector are not bent down.
	Power switch of new external device is not turned on.	Turn off the computer, turn on the external device and then turn on the computer to integrate the device with the computer system.
	When the system advised you of changes to the configuration, you did not accept them.	Reboot the computer and follow the instructions for accepting the changes.
Power LED flashes six times, once every second, followed by a two second pause, and the micro PC beeps six times.	Memory is installed incorrectly or is bad.	1. Reseat DIMMs. Power on the system. 2. Replace DIMMs one at a time to isolate the faulty module. 3. If a faulty module is found, Contact CIARA for the replacement of the module. 4. If the problem persists, Contact CIARA for this may necessitate the replacement of the motherboard.

1.8.7 Solving memory problems

Solving memory problems		
Problem	Cause	Solution
System will not boot or does not function properly after installing additional memory modules.	Memory module is not the correct type or speed grade for the system or the new memory module is not seated properly.	Replace memory module with a module approved for your system. See Sections 1.6.6 of the present Guide to verify if you have installed memory modules compatible to your system and if they were installed correctly.
Out of memory error.	You have run out of memory to run the application.	Check the application documentation to determine the memory requirements.
Insufficient memory error during operation.	Too many programs are being used.	Close any programs that you do not need.
	You have run out of memory for the application.	Check the memory requirements for the application or add more memory to the computer.
Power LED flashes five times, once every second, followed by a two second pause, and the micro PC beeps three times.	Memory is installed incorrectly or is bad.	1. Reseat DIMMs. Power on the system. 2. Replace DIMMs one at a time to isolate the faulty module. 3. If a faulty module is found, Contact CIARA for the replacement of the module. 4. If the problem persists, Contact CIARA for this may necessitate the replacement of the motherboard.

1.8.8 Solving processor problems

Solving processor problems		
Problem	Cause	Solution
Poor performance is experienced.	Processor is hot.	1. Make sure the airflow to the computer is not blocked. 2. Make sure the fan is connected and working properly. 3. Make sure the processor thermal pipe is installed properly. 4. Make sure the processor fan connector is properly connected to the CPU_FAN header on the motherboard. 5. Make sure sufficient thermal compound has been applied on the processor before the thermal pipe is put in place. This ensures that heat is drawn away from the processor to the thermal pipe.

1.9 Component installation guide

1.9.1 Precautions against static electricity



ATTENTION: Components such as processors and memory may be permanently damaged by shocks arising from static electricity. It is hence important to wear antistatic, smock, gloves, shoes and ankle during the installation process. Here are a few examples of protective equipment.

Typical antistatic foot ground device.



Antistatic shoes with foot ground device.
Note that the floor surface is also antistatic.



Antistatic smock and gloves.
Note that the table surface is also antistatic.



1.9.2 Removing and replacing the cover

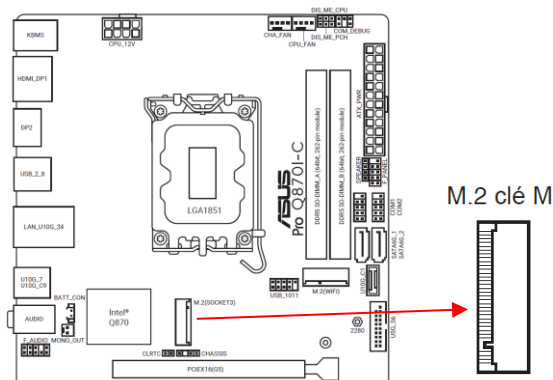
- 1- Completely loosen the thumb screw.
- 2- Lift the cover and remove it.



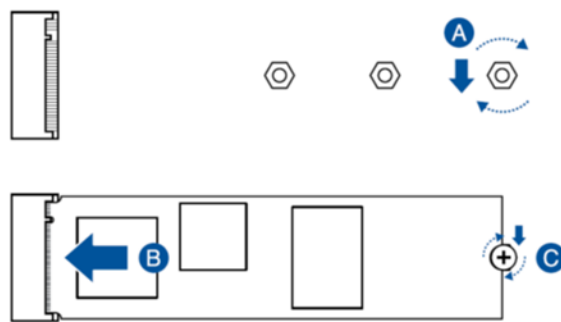
1.9.3 Installing an M.2 SSD

Astro PW64-Q2 micro PC comes with an M.2 M key slot in the chassis.

- 1- Locate slot M.2 M key



- A. Install the screw stand in the M.2 screw hole in which you wish to install your M.2 device.
- B. Install your M.2 device in the M.2 slot.
- C. Secure your M.2 device using the screw stand.



1.9.4 Installing a SATA SSD

The Astro PW64-Q2 micro PC features a 2.5" SSD bay.

- 1- Remove the disc holder from the case and secure the disc with 4 screws.



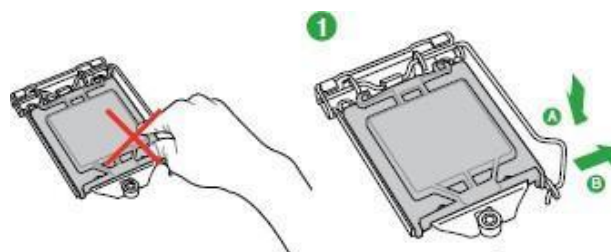
- 3- Re-insert the disc holder into the case, align the notches with the case's fixing pins, then connect the SATA and power cables.



1.9.5 Installation of the processor

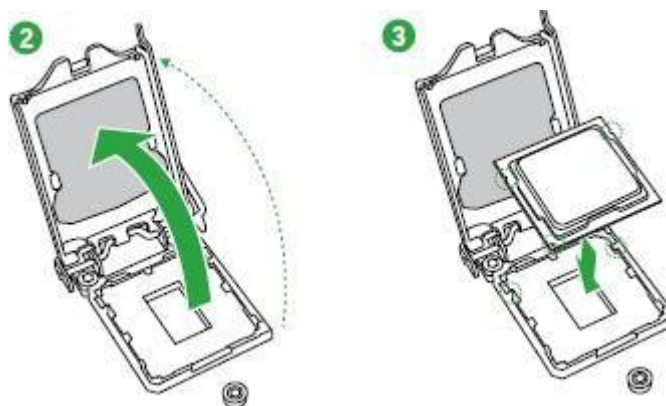
ATTENTION : Components such as the processor may be permanently damaged by shocks arising from static electricity. It is hence important to wear an antistatic bracelet during the installation process.

Open the socket lever by pushing the lever down and away from the socket, lift the load plate. Do not touch the socket contacts. Remove the processor from the protective processor cover.

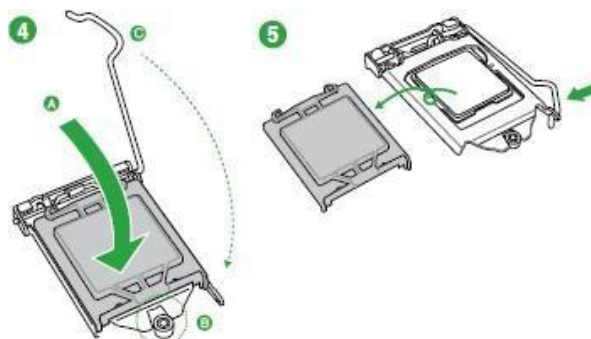


Hold the processor only at the edges, being careful not to touch the bottom of the processor.

The processor is to be placed onto the motherboard in its designated space while taking note of its specific processor pin orientation.

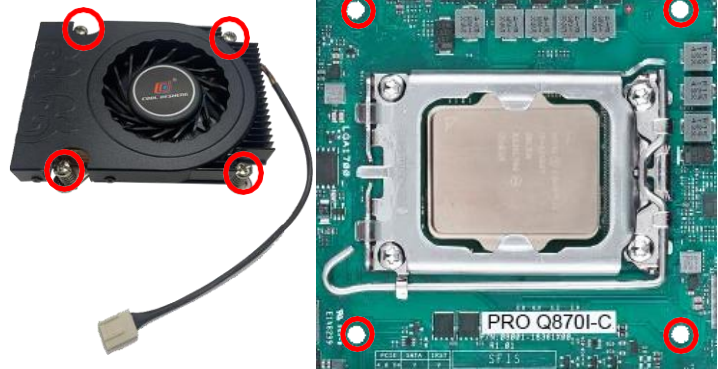


Once correctly installed, press down on the load plate, close and engage the socket lever.



1.9.6 Installation of the processor heatsink and fan

1. Align the 4 heatsink pins with the 4 holes on the motherboard.



- 2- Secure the heatsink with the 4 nuts supplied.



1.9.7 Installation of the memory modules

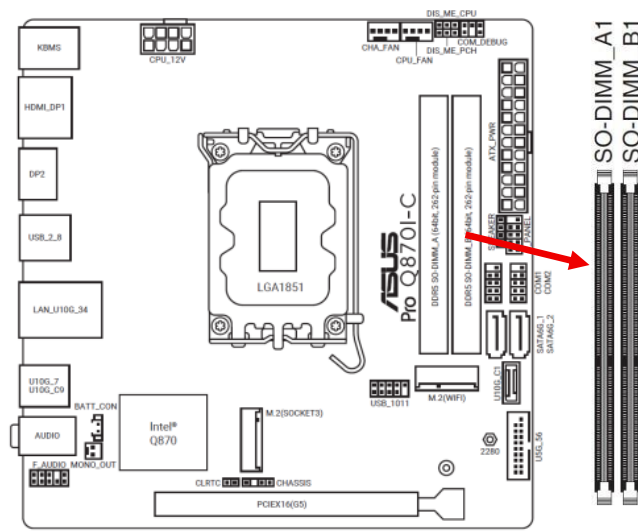
Increasing the amount of system memory is the most common "on-site" enhancement that is likely to be made to your CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PC. Increasing your computer's memory usually involves adding main memory. DDR5 Synchronous Dynamic Random Access Memory (DDR5 SDRAM) is packaged only in 262-pin Dual In-Line Memory Modules (SO-DIMMs).

Your CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 uses only SO-DIMM memory modules. Each SO-DIMM module can have a capacity of 8 GB, 16 GB, 32 GB or 64 GB. The minimum system capacity is 8 GB and the maximum system capacity is 128 GB. Your system supports only DDR5 6400 MT/s memory speeds. Furthermore, the memory has to be of the SPD type (Serial Presence Detect) to insure optimal operation. Only non- ECC memory is supported.

NOTE

If you are planning to increase your computer's memory please contact us to ensure that you select the memory that meets our specifications, otherwise errors could result.

Install one or two SO-DIMMs in the black socket of channel A (SO-DIMM A1) or channel B (SO-DIMM B1) as shown below. Always install the SO-DIMMs with the same CAS Latency. For an optimum compatibility, we recommend that you install memory modules of the same version or data code (D/C) from the same vendor.



You may install 8 GB, 16 GB, 32 GB or 64 GB unbuffered non-ECC DDR5 DIMMs into the SO-DIMM sockets.

Minimum memory configuration for the system is 8 GB. The maximum memory configuration is 128 GB.

Install a SO-DIMM module into a memory socket on the system main board, as follows :

First, make sure the power is turned Off and the power cord is unplugged. Then remove the case cover.

You may install varying memory sizes in Channel A and Channel B. The system maps the total size of the lower-sized channel for the dual-channel configuration. Any excess memory from the higher-sized channel is then mapped for single-channel operation.

Align the module so that the pin 1 marking on the module corresponds to the DIMM socket pin 1 marking. The module can only fit in the socket in one way ; you cannot insert the SO-DIMM incorrectly.

Slide the module into the socket at a 90-degree angle to the main board. (See figure below)

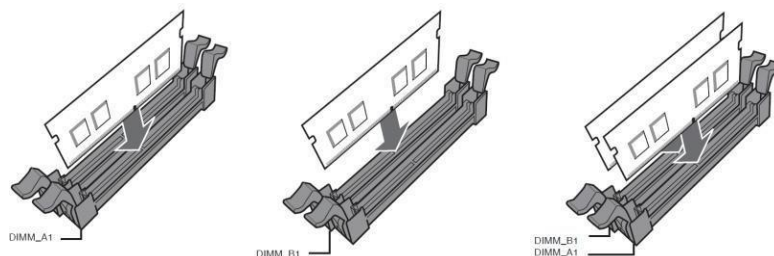
After inserting the SO-DIMM module completely into the socket, push up on the socket latches securing the SO-DIMM into place.

NOTE

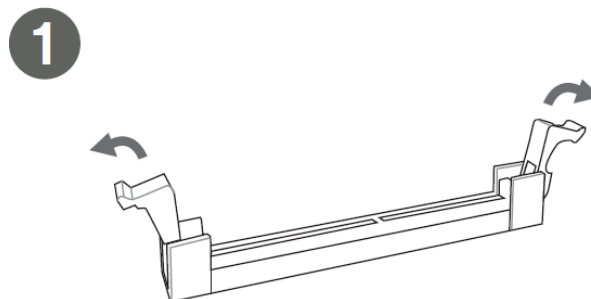
To release the memory module, push both latches down and carefully rock the module away from the main board. You should then be able to pull the module up and out of the socket.

ATTENTION : Components such as memory may be permanently damaged by shocks arising from static electricity. It is hence important to wear an antistatic bracelet during the installation process.

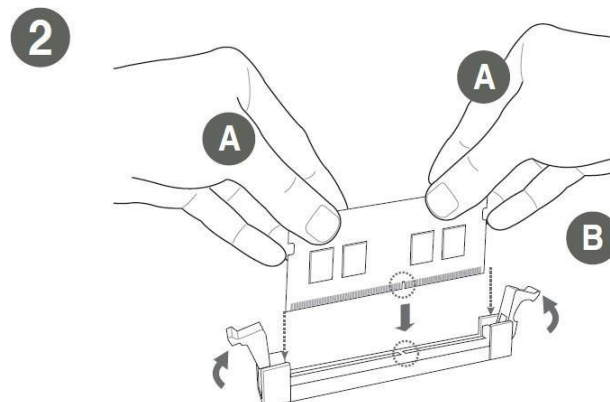
You can install one or two SO-DIMM of DDR5 memory.



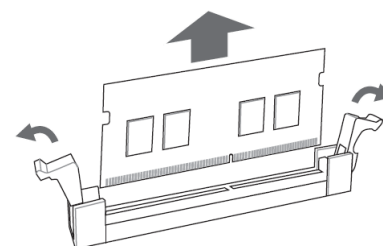
1. To install a SO-DIMM, first release the locking tabs.



2. Slide the module into the socket at a 90-degree angle to the main board. Align the module so that the pin 1 marking on the module corresponds to the SO-DIMM socket pin 1 marking. The module can only fit in the socket in one way ; you cannot insert the SO-DIMM incorrectly.



3. After inserting the SO-DIMM module completely into the socket, push up on the socket latches securing the SO-DIMM into place.



4. To remove a SO-DIMM, release the locking tabs and pull out the SO-DIMM.

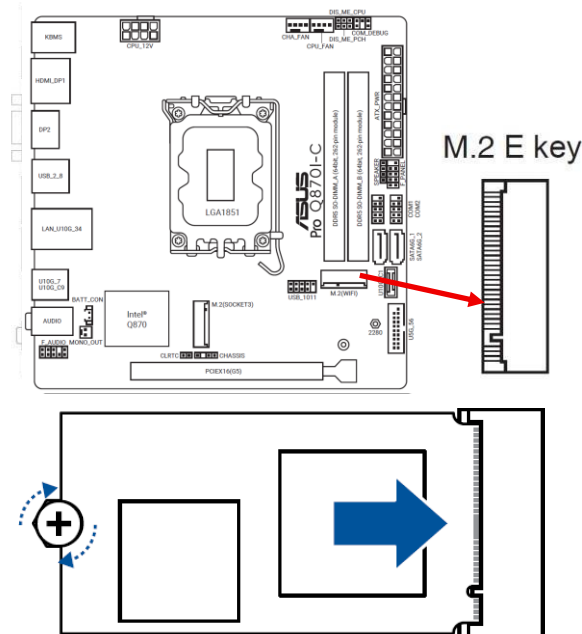
1.9.8 Installation of WiFi card

NOTE: Your Micro PC includes an M.2 slot for 2230 wireless and Bluetooth modules.

- 1- (optional) Remove the M.2 SSD if one is installed. To remove the M.2 SSD, remove the screw from the standoff, then remove the M.2 SSD.
- 2- Align and insert the wireless card into its slot inside the Micro PC.
- 3- Gently push down the wireless card on top of the standoff and fasten it using a screw.
- 4- Connect the antennas to your wireless card.
- 5- Organize your antenna cables with the cable holder clips.

NOTE:

- Connecting antennas to your wireless card may strengthen the wireless signal.
- A soft clicking sound indicates that the antenna has been securely attached to the wireless card.



1.9.9 Chassis Characteristics

CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 casing specifications	
Power Source :	External AC adapter 300 W, 12 V, 22 A
Dimensions : (W x D x H)	180 x 187 x 56.5 mm (1.9 L)
Processor cooling :	Heatsink and fan
Security :	Kensington slot
Casing material :	Recyclable metal
Monting :	Can be mounted at the rear of monitor with VESA mounting kit

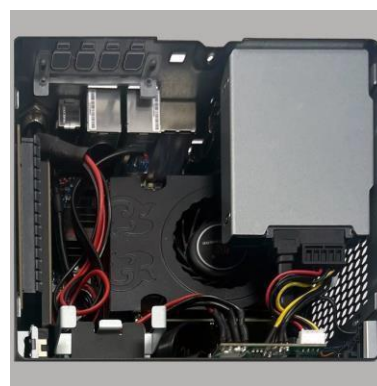
Front view



Rear view



Inside view



At the rear of monitor



Power adapter



Kensington lock slot



1.9.10 Installing the Micro PC to a VESA mount-compatible device

NOTE:

- If you are installing your Micro PC to a monitor, make sure that the monitor complies to VESA standards.
- Product and accessory images are for illustrative purposes only. The actual appearance and specifications may vary depending on model.

1. Place your Micro PC upside down on a flat and stable surface.



2. Place the mounting plate on the micro PC and secure it with the 4 screws supplied.



3. Peel off the protective film from the sticker and stick it to the monitor's monitor bracket.



2.0 Certification and declaration

All CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 models run the following operating systems software :

- Microsoft® Windows 11

CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 models will operate on Windows Server 2022 and Windows Server 2025 based networks, provided that appropriate application software have been installed.

CIARA is licensed to supply the Windows 11 operating systems software with its CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PCs. A package of the latest version of Windows software and a manual is included with the CIARA Astro PW64-Q2.

If you have purchased a Windows license with your CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 system, please abide by the Copyright and License terms and conditions that are enclosed with this software package. These require that the Windows software may only be used and installed on the CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PC with which they were purchased.

You may make copies of this Windows software solely for your own back-up purposes.

All CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 series micro PCs are certified by UL/ULC Canada and United States and meet or exceed the Class B limitations for Radio noise emissions from digital apparatus as set out in the Radio Interference Regulations of Industry Canada.

2.1 Radio interference precautions

To minimize the likelihood of interference being caused to any radio or TV equipment, CIARA recommends that shielded cables with metal RFI/EMI connector hoods be used to connect all peripheral devices to the CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PC.

In the event that perceptible interference occurs, then please ensure that a ground connection is made from any peripheral devices to the computer chassis. However, a separate ground connection is not necessary if a shielded cable is used to connect the computer with any peripheral device.

Very often, simply moving the computer equipment to another location a few feet away will remove any signs of interference to television reception.

Under no circumstances should any "radio-type" modems be attached to the computer, unless a license has been obtained from the appropriate regulatory authorities (in Canada - the Department of Communications of Industry Canada, and in the U.S.A. - the Federal Communications Commission).

2.2 Declaration of conformity

We, Manufacturer/Importer

CIARA
9300 Trans-Canada Highway
Montreal, Quebec H4S 1K5
Tel : (514) 798-8880
Fax : (514) 798-8889

Declare that the product

Micro PC System
CIARA Astro PW64-Q2

is in conformity with ICES-003 and Part 15 subpart B of the FCC Rules.

Simon Ahdoot, President
CIARA

2.3 FCC Information to User

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instruction guide, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there are no guarantees that radio interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.

Increase the distance between the equipment and the receiver.

Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.

Consult the vendor or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Warning

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by CIARA could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

This equipment is equipped with a shielded 3-wire power cord and plug. Use this power cord in conjunction with a properly grounded electrical outlet to avoid electrical shock and to reduce radio frequency interference that may emanate from the power cord.

We recommend you use shielded remote I/O cables, with properly grounded shields and metal connectors in order to reduce radio frequency interference, which may emanate from these cables.

2.4 ENERGY STAR®



CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PCs are ENERGY STAR® 8.0 qualified.

ENERGY STAR® is the trusted, government-backed symbol for energy efficiency helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy-efficient products and practices. Get more information at :

<http://www.energystar.gov/>

The ENERGY STAR® label was established to :

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants caused by the inefficient use of energy ; and
 - Make it easy for consumers to identify and purchase energy-efficient products that offer savings on energy bills without sacrificing performance, features, and comfort.
- To earn the ENERGY STAR® label CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PCs meet the energy efficiency requirements set forth in ENERGY STAR® product specifications. EPA establishes these specifications based on the following set of key guiding principles :
- The CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PCs contribute significant energy savings nationwide.
 - The CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PCs deliver the features and performance demanded by consumers, in addition to increased energy efficiency.
 - If the CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PCs cost more than a conventional, less-efficient computer, purchasers will recover their investment in increased energy efficiency through utility bill savings, within a reasonable period of time.
 - Energy efficiency can be achieved through broadly available, non-proprietary technologies offered by more than one manufacturer.
 - Product energy consumption and performance can be measured and verified with testing.
 - Labeling would effectively differentiate CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PCs and be visible for purchasers.

NOTE : The default power management settings have been selected for compliance with ENERGY STAR® (within 10 minutes of user inactivity for the display, within 30 minutes of user inactivity for the computer, within 20 minutes for hard disks drives and never for hibernate mode) and are recommended by the ENERGY STAR® program for optimal energy savings.

To awaken your computer from a Sleep mode, press any key on your keyboard.

To change power settings, do the following :

- Open Control Panel by Right-clicking the Start button to open the Start context menu.
1. Click **Control Panel**. View Control Panel using Large icons or Small icons, and then click **Power Options**.
 2. Follow the instructions on the screen.

3.0 ONE YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

CIARA customarily provides a one (1) year, 100% parts and labour non-transferable and limited warranty to all Original Purchasers of its Astro PW64-Q2 series micro PCs. The warranty terms are normally Return-to-Depot. This one-year limited warranty starts on the "Date of Delivery". The warranty covers any optional product(s) manufactured and sold by CIARA and installed by CIARA in an Astro PW64-Q2 series system unit. This one-year limited warranty, however, does not apply to any other item not internally installed in the System Unit by CIARA, or to any subsequent owners.

All CIARA customers may elect to purchase an extended three years warranty additional to the standard one year warranty. If you are interested in purchasing a warranty extension, please contact your CIARA representative within one month of receipt of your system. If you have purchased a different type of warranty, or an extension to the standard warranty, you will need to provide the CIARA Service Contract Number to the Customer Support representative when placing a call for service or support. It is advisable to affix this Contract Number to the machine in the event that service is required.

In lieu of either the On-Site or Return-to-Depot portions of the warranty, CIARA reserves the right to directly ship certain customer replaceable components as replacement products for failed components. When this option is invoked, the customer will be asked to replace the component(s) and return the original failed component to CIARA within five (5) working days.

3.1 Procedures to be followed for service during the warranty period:

Refer to the back of the casing and record the model number and serial number from the Machine Identification Label.

Make sure that you know the name and version number of the operating system that you are using, what accessory expansion cards you have installed in your system, and that you have the system Owner's and User's Guides ready at hand.

Call CIARA Support Centre at 877-242-7272.

Provide the computer system's model number and serial number. If you have purchased an extended warranty, please provide the Service Contract number as well. The Customer Service Representative will verify your warranty status immediately, and then pass the call to the dedicated PC Support Group for further action.

Answer any questions from the support personnel to the best of your ability: The support group may ask you to provide additional information, run specific commands, change or verify parameter settings, etc.

The service support personnel may be able to rectify the problem over the telephone, at which time you should ask for and record the unique call number for your own records. If the support group is unable to resolve the problem remotely, an On-Site call may be generated or additional information will be provided to you to obtain a Returned Merchandise Authorization Number (RMA), depending upon the type and current status of your warranty.

Make a back-up copy of all of the files on your hard disk before returning your computer for service. CIARA is not responsible for the loss or damage of any data on the returned system. In some cases, hard disks may need to be reformatted or replaced. It is the responsibility of the user to ensure data is backed up prior to shipment to CIARA.

Use the original box with its foam protective inserts whenever you return your computer to us for service. CIARA is not responsible for shipping damage due to poor packaging. Include your phone number and a list of times when you may be contacted.

If you have any questions please contact us using our site at:

<http://www.ciaratech.com>

3.2 Limited Warranty

CIARA warrants the product ("Product") you have purchased from CIARA or from an authorized CIARA reseller to be free from defects in materials and/or workmanship under normal use during the warranty period applicable to the product as defined by the standard warranty purchased with the Product, or any additional warranties and/or warranty extensions purchased through CIARA or an authorized CIARA reseller. The warranty period commences on the date of delivery. This warranty extends only to you, the original Purchaser. It is not transferable to anyone who subsequently purchases leases or otherwise obtains the Product from you. It excludes expendable (consumable) parts.

During the warranty period, CIARA will, at no additional charge, repair or replace defective parts with new or serviceable used parts that are equivalent to new parts in performance, form, fit and function. All exchanged parts and Products replaced under this warranty will become the property of CIARA. If after repeated efforts, CIARA is unable to restore the Product to good working order, you may claim the purchase price of the Product. This Limited Warranty also does not extend to any Product that has been damaged or rendered defective (i) as a result of the use of the Product other than for its intended use, failure to use the Product in accordance with the User's Guide which accompanies the Product or other misuse, abuse or negligence to the Product ; (ii) by the use of parts not manufactured or sold by CIARA ; (iii) by modification of the Product ; (iv) as a result of service by anyone other than CIARA or an Authorized CIARA Service Provider ; or (v) improper transportation or packaging when returning the Product to CIARA or an authorized CIARA Service Provider.

This Limited Warranty does not extend to expendable (consumable) parts. Expendable parts are those items that during the normal course of product usage will require periodic replacement, e.g., printer cartridges, batteries, diskette/tape head cleaning kits, etc.

Regarding any CIARA supplied software which accompanies the Product, CIARA warrants the media (e.g., hard disk, CD ROM) upon which this software is delivered to be free from defects in material and/or workmanship for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of purchase by the end-user. In the event of defective media, as your exclusive remedy and the sole liability of CIARA, CIARA will replace the defective media at no charge to you if you return the defective media, with prepaid shipping, to CIARA within the warranty period.

Except for this media warranty, this software is provided "As is" and CIARA disclaims any and all warranties, express or implied, including but not limited to any implied warranty of non-infringement of third party rights, merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. CIARA does not warrant that the operation of this software will be uninterrupted or error free or that this software will meet your requirements.

CIARA is not responsible for damage to or loss of any programs, data, or removable storage media. You are responsible for saving (backing up) any programs, data or removable storage media.

EXCEPT FOR THE WARRANTIES SET FORTH HEREIN, CIARA DISCLAIMS ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED OR STATUTORY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES THAT MAY BE IMPOSED BY APPLICABLE LAW ARE LIMITED TO THE TERMS OF THIS LIMITED WARRANTY. IN NO EVENT SHALL CIARA BE LIABLE FOR ANY INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO LOSS OF BUSINESS, PROFITS, DATA OR USE, WHETHER IN AN ACTION IN CONTRACT OR TORT OR BASED ON A WARRANTY, ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE OR PERFORMANCE OF THE PRODUCT OR ANY CIARA SUPPLIED SOFTWARE WHICH ACCOMPANIES THE PRODUCT, EVEN IF CIARA HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES. YOU AGREE THAT REPAIR, REPLACEMENT OR REFUND, AS APPLICABLE, UNDER THE WARRANTY SERVICES DESCRIBED HEREIN ARE YOUR SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDIES WITH RESPECT TO ANY BREACH OF THE CIARA LIMITED WARRANTY SET FORTH HEREIN.

Some provinces (or states) do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages for consumer products, and some provinces (or states) do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts. In such provinces (or states), the exclusions or limitations of this Limited Warranty may not apply to you.

This Limited Warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may also have other rights that vary from province to province and state to state. You are advised to consult applicable provincial or state laws for a full determination of your rights.

3.3 Documenting your computer

CIARA recommends that you record the information about your computer and keep a copy of this in a safe but readily accessible location.

Please keep your equipment log up to date and include a copy of it whenever your equipment is returned to **CIARA** for servicing.

The equipment log is also helpful if your **CIARA** computer is lost, stolen, or damaged. It can serve as your record of when the equipment was placed in service, and the dates of all equipment upgrades and configuration changes.

Record the model and serial numbers of the system components, dates of component removal and/or replacement. Be sure to include the same information for any components added to the system, such as fixed disk, add-in boards, or printers. Record the model and serial numbers of the **CIARA** System. The model and serial numbers of the System Unit are recorded on the label attached to the rear cover.

The location of serial numbers on add-in boards, fixed and floppy disk drives, and external equipment, such as video displays or printers, varies from one manufacturer to another, but should be easily recognizable.

3.3.1 Base System Details

Component	Purchase date	Model	Serial number
System Unit			
Memory			
Processor			
SATA SSD			
M.2 SSD			
Mouse			
Keyboard			
Monitor			
Power supply			

4.0 Technical product specification CIARA Astro PW64-Q2

The CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 is a series of micro PCs that use 15th generation Intel® Core™ Ultra 9, Core™ Ultra 7 or Core™ Ultra 5 (Series 2) type T processor, Intel® socket LGA1851. All versions have one M.2 slot PCIe type 2242/2260/2280 to accommodate NVMe SSD drive and one M.2, key E connector for wireless device.

All CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 versions use an Asus® BIOS, up to 128 GB of main memory DDR5 type, 6400 MT/s SO-DIMM. The Set-Up and Configuration procedures for all versions are identical.

All versions utilize essentially the same Set-Up and configuration procedures and the same Asus BIOS.

With care and proper operating procedure, all CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PCs will give many years of trouble-free service. The CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 can be configured for a wide range of special purpose, business, industrial and scientific applications.

The information provided in this guide is all that you should need to set up and use your CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PC. We offer Technical Reference Manuals for sale to knowledgeable users.

Please note that any modifications or additions not made by CIARA or our authorized personnel, to any CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 that is under Warranty, such as your insertion or removal of adapter cards not supplied and installed by CIARA could cause damage and may void the Warranty.

Please do not experiment if you are unsure, and remember we are ready to answer your questions. Please call us first.



Processor :	15 th generation Intel® Core™ Ultra 9, Core™ Ultra 7 or Core™ Ultra 5 (Series 2) type T processor, Intel® socket LGA1851
Motherboard :	Asus® PRO Q870I-C
Chipset :	Intel® Q870
BIOS :	Asus Flash BIOS standard, with ACPI, APM, ENERGY STAR®, DMI, Plug & Play and SMBIOS features.
RAM :	DDR5 262 pin Type 6400 MT/s SDRAM, Minimum 8 GB (1 SO-DIMM) and 128 GB (2 SO-DIMM) maximum. Two SO-DIMM sockets. SPD (Serial Presence Detect) memory is mandatory. Only Non-ECC memory is supported.
Front ports :	1 USB 10 Gb/s type C port 1 USB 5 Gb/s type A port 1 earphone jack
Rear ports :	2 USB 10 Gb/s type A ports 1 USB 10 Gb/s type C port 1 USB 5 Gb/s type A port 2 USB 2.0 2 DisplayPort 1.4 and 1 HDMI 2.1 1 RJ45 port 1 audio in and 1 audio out jacks 2 PS/2 ports
Internal ports	1 USB 5Gb/s port 2 USB 2.0 ports 1 serial port
TPM	1 TPM onboard
SSD drives :	Choice of SATA SSD drives (Two onboard SATA 6.0 Gb/s ports) ; Choice of M.2 type 2280 SSD drives.
Video :	Intel® FDI video interface, supports up to 3 displays simultaneously. (2 DisplayPorts 1.4, 1 HDMI 2.1 outputs)
Audio :	8 channel High Definition audio Realtek Codec controller.
Network :	1 Intel® i219-LM 1 Gb/s controller

4.1 Upgrading

As the purchaser of a powerful state of the art CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PC you have no doubt decided on the features and upgrade capabilities that you might wish to add to your computer. There are many exciting possibilities for upgrading your CIARA Astro PW64-Q2. CIARA has extensively tested a range of potential upgrade and enhancement options that range from hard disks to various optical drives. Some of these work much better than others and we are able to recommend the ones that work best with your CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 computer.

CIARA will be pleased to help you choose the most reliable and compatible system components when the time comes to upgrade and enhance your CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PC in a manner that will preserve the Warranty. Table below summarizes the general features of the various types of upgrades and enhancements that may be added to any CIARA Astro PW64-Q2.

UPGRADES AVAILABLE	CIARA Astro PW64-Q2
M.2 and SATA Solid State Disk Drives (SSD)	Several SSD ranging from 250 GB to 4 TB
Optical Drives	External Blu-ray drives, Blu-ray writers, DVD drives and DVD writers may be added.
System Memory	Up to 128 GB DDR5, 262 pin, 6400 MT/s.
Disk Controller	Two onboard SATA 6.0 Gb/s ports.
Hi Res. Monitors & Display Adapters	21.5 to 49 inches LCD monitors.

4.2 Networking

Among the more exciting applications for extending the power and utility of CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PCs is to connect them (using communication links and network ports) with other computer systems to form computer / communication networks in order to share software resources (such as databases) and hardware resources (such as printers and scanners). This is referred to as Local Area Networking (LAN) and Wide Area Networking (WAN).

All CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PCs can be networked running the Microsoft Windows and Linux Operating Systems.

CIARA System Integration and Networks Group would be pleased to provide you with turnkey solutions for all your Windows Server 2022, Windows Server 2025 and Linux networking needs. We have trained and certified experts on staff to help you.

4.3 The CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 BIOS

4.3.1 BIOS configuration and installation

The purpose of this section is to describe the procedures to set up the BIOS configuration options of your CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PC. All this work is done for you at the CIARA factory enabling the system to be ready to start on Power on. However, we are describing this procedure as a means of transparency.

Every CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 is now delivered with the latest version of the Asus BIOS (as of the manufacturing date). The Asus BIOS is a set of permanently recorded software that gives the CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 its fundamental operational characteristics.

The Asus BIOS is made up of code that provides the device-level control for the major I/O devices in the CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PC system. It contains a set of routines (called POST, for Power-On Self-Test) that tests your CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 system when you turn it on.

It will be necessary to run the Set-Up program if you replace the battery.

In any of these cases you must use the Set-Up program to modify the system parameters to reflect the options actually installed in your system.

To use the Set-Up program proceed as follows:

Turn on or re-boot (press simultaneously <Ctrl>, <Alt>,) your CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 system. After the Asus BIOS performs a series of diagnostic checks, the following message appears:

Press <Del or F2> to enter Set-Up.

Once in Bios Menu choose a Set-Up option with the arrow keys and press < ↵ > to select.

4.3.2 BIOS set-up program function keys

BIOS Set-up Program Function Key	Description
General Help	
→ ←:	Select Screen
↑ ↓:	Select Item
Enter:	Select
+/-:	Change Option
F1:	General Help
F2:	Previous Values
F5:	Optimized Defaults
F10:	Save
F12:	Print Screen
ESC:	Exit

4.3.3 Legacy USB support

Legacy USB support enables USB devices to be used even when the operating system's USB drivers are not yet available. Legacy USB support is used to access the BIOS Setup program, and to install an operating system that supports USB. By default, Legacy USB support is set to Enabled.

Legacy USB support operates as follows :

1. When you apply power to the computer, legacy support is disabled.
2. POST begins.
3. Legacy USB support is enabled by the BIOS allowing you to use a USB keyboard to enter and configure the BIOS Setup program and the maintenance menu.
4. POST completes.
5. The operating system loads. While the operating system is loading, USB keyboards and mice are recognized and may be used to configure the operating system. (Keyboards and mice are not recognized during this period if Legacy USB support was set to Disabled in the BIOS Setup program.)
6. After the operating system loads the USB drivers, all legacy and non-legacy USB devices are recognized by the operating system, and Legacy USB support from the BIOS is no longer used.

To install an operating system that supports USB, verify that Legacy USB support in the BIOS Setup program is set to Enabled and follow the operating system's installation instructions.

NOTE

It is recommended to connect USB keyboard and mouse devices to USB 2.0 ports (black) as the operating system installation may be interrupted if keyboard and mouse devices are connected to the SuperSpeed USB 5 Gb/s ports (blue) or SuperSpeed+ USB 10 Gb/s (green) due to the lack of native USB 3.2 driver support from the operating system. The device driver for the USB 3.2 host controller is installed separately and is required to be operational in the operating system.

4.3.4 BIOS updates

The BIOS can be updated using either of the following utilities :

- The ASUS BIOS Updater allows you to update BIOS in a DOS environment. This utility also allows you to copy the current BIOS file that you can use as a backup when the BIOS fails or gets corrupted during the updating process.
- The ASUS EZ Flash 2 feature allows you to update the BIOS without using an OS-based utility

NOTE

Review the instructions distributed with the upgrade utility before attempting a BIOS update.

4.3.5 Language support

The BIOS setup program and help messages are supported in English, French, Deutsch, Spanish and more.

4.3.6 BIOS recovery

It is unlikely that anything will interrupt a BIOS update; however, if an interruption occurs, the BIOS could be damaged. The following table lists the drives and media types that can and cannot be used for BIOS recovery. The BIOS recovery media does not need to be made bootable.

Acceptable Drives/Media Types for BIOS Recovery	
Media Type	Can be used for BIOS recovery?
DVD-ROM drive connected to an USB port	Yes
USB removable drive (a USB Flash Drive, for example)	Yes
USB hard disk drive	No

4.3.7 Boot options

In the BIOS Setup program, the user can choose to boot from a USB optical drive, hard drive, USB drive, USB flash drive or the network. The default setting is for the USB optical drive to be the first boot device, the hard drive second, and a removable drive third (such as USB drive, USB flash or USB floppy drive) and the network last.

NOTE

Optical devices, USB devices and network will only appear in the boot menu if they are enabled.

4.3.7.1 USB optical drive boot

Bootting from optical drive is supported in compliance to the El Torito bootable CD/DVD format specification. Under the Boot menu in the BIOS Setup program, a USB optical drive is listed as a boot device. Boot devices are defined in priority order. Accordingly, if there is no bootable CD or DVD in the optical drive, the system will attempt to boot from the next defined drive.

4.3.7.2 Network boot

The network can be selected as a boot device. This selection allows booting from the onboard LAN or a network add-in card with a remote boot ROM installed. Pressing the <F8> key during POST will display the boot device menu, then choose "PXE IPv4 Intel (R) Ethernet Connection ... " to force booting from the LAN. To use this key during POST with a user password set, the User Access Level in the BIOS Setup program's Security menu must be set to Full Access and the boot to Network option in the BIOS Setup program's Boot menu must be enabled.

4.3.7.3 Booting without attached devices

For use in embedded applications, the BIOS has been designed so that after passing the POST, the operating system loader is invoked even if the following devices are not present:

- Video adapter
- Keyboard
- Mouse

4.3.7.4 Changing the default boot device during POST

Pressing the <F8> key during POST causes a boot device menu to be displayed. This menu displays the list of available boot devices (as set in the BIOS setup program's Boot Device Priority Submenu). The following table lists the boot device menu options.

NOTE

All boot devices such as Optical, Removable and network will always appear in the <F8> boot menu unless an administrator password has been set, even if Boot to Optical Devices, Boot to Removable Devices and Boot to Network have been disabled in the BIOS Setup program's Boot menu.

Boot Device Menu Function Keys	Description
<↑> or <↓>	To move selection.
<↵>	To select boot device.
<Esc>	To boot using defaults.

4.3.8 Adjusting boot speed

This factor affects system boot speed

- Selecting and configuring peripherals properly

4.3.8.2 Peripheral selection and configuration

The following techniques help improve system boot speed:

- Select an optical drive with a fast initialization rate. This rate can influence POST execution time.
- Eliminate unnecessary add-in adapter features, such as logo displays, screen repaints, or mode changes in POST. These features may add time to the boot process.
- Try different monitors. Some monitors initialize and communicate with the BIOS more quickly, which enables the system to boot more quickly.

4.3.8.3 BIOS boot optimizations

Use of the following BIOS setup program settings reduces the POST execution time.

- In the Boot Menu, set the hard disk drive as the first boot device. As a result, the POST does not first seek an optical drive, which saves about one second from the POST execution time.
- In the Peripheral Configuration submenu, disable the LAN device if it will not be used. This can reduce up to four seconds of option ROM boot time.

4.3.9 BIOS security features

4.3.9.1 NIST compliance

The PRO Q870I-C motherboard has a secure UEFI which is NIST SP 800-147 compliant.

4.3.9.2 Verifying BIOS integrity and authenticity of BIOS updates

Asus enterprise motherboards support secure BIOS updates using digital signatures and validation mechanisms. This can include using Trusted Platform Modules (TPM) or other security mechanisms like the Intel Platform Trust Technology (PTT).

Digital signature and TPM support:

The PRO Q870I-C motherboard supports TPM (specifically TPM 2.0 in compliance with modern security standards), which means the system can verify the authenticity of the BIOS update before applying it, using the TPM's secure key storage for signature validation.

IT administrative control over updates:

Asus integrates features that allow IT departments to lock down BIOS update processes. This can include enabling a secure update feature where only users with the right administrative privileges can apply updates. In some cases, BIOS passwords and specific security settings may be used to limit who can perform BIOS updates.

ISO/IEC 19678:2015 compliance:

This particular standard is adhered to by Asus for security of the BIOS and firmware updates.

4.3.9.3 Embedded UEFI secure data isolation

Through the integration of TPM 2.0, Secure Boot, embedded encryption, and BIOS-level security features, these mechanisms ensure that sensitive data, such as encryption keys and other authentication information, are securely stored and isolated from unauthorized access or tampering.

4.3.9.4 “Self-healing” UEFI

The Self-healing UEFI process enables the system to detect BIOS corruption and automatically recover from a secure backup copy of the BIOS stored in a separate, protected location. This feature helps ensure that the system remains operational even after a BIOS corruption or tampering event, providing automatic recovery with minimal downtime. Additionally, the system provides notifications of BIOS corruption, ensuring administrators can quickly address any issues.

4.3.9.5 Pre-boot and multi-factor authentication set up

Asus motherboards supports pre-boot authentication and can be configured with multi-factor authentication (MFA). This includes integration with Windows Hello for biometric authentication, smart cards, and TPM-based solutions like BitLocker for full disk encryption. The system allows for a secure boot process and provides flexible options for IT administrators to enforce multi-factor authentication before the operating system loads, ensuring a robust security setup.

4.3.9.6 Encrypted containment of multi-factor credential data to facilitate single pre-boot authentication log in

Asus motherboards support encrypted containment of multi-factor credential data, ensuring that pre-boot authentication is both secure and efficient. By leveraging TPM 2.0, Windows Hello for Business, BitLocker, and smart card authentication, the system securely stores and manages MFA credentials for a single pre-boot authentication login. These credentials are encrypted and isolated, providing robust protection against unauthorized access while maintaining a seamless login experience.

4.3.9.7 BIOS security passwords

The BIOS includes security features that restrict access to the BIOS Setup program and who can boot the computer. A supervisor password and a user password can be set for the BIOS Setup program and for booting the computer, with the following restrictions :

- The supervisor password gives unrestricted access to view and change all the Setup options in the BIOS Setup program. This is the supervisor mode.
- The user password gives restricted access to view and change Setup options in the BIOS Setup program. This is the user mode.
- If only the supervisor password is set, pressing the <Enter> key at the password prompt of the BIOS Setup program allows the user restricted access to Setup.
- If both the supervisor and user passwords are set, users can enter either the supervisor password or the user password to access Setup. Users have access to Setup respective to which password is entered.
- Setting the user password restricts who can boot the computer. The password prompt will be displayed before the computer is booted. If only the supervisor password is set, the computer boots without asking for a password. If both passwords are set, the user can enter either password to boot the computer.
- For enhanced security, use different passwords for the supervisor and user passwords.
- Valid password characters are A-Z, a-z, and 0-9. Passwords may be up to 16 characters in length.

The following table shows the effects of setting the supervisor password and user password. This table is for reference only and is not displayed on the screen.

Supervisor and User Password Functions

Password Set	Supervisor Mode	User Mode	Setup Options	Password to Enter Setup	Password During Boot
Neither	Can change all options (Note)	Can change all options (Note)	None	None	None
Supervisor only	Can change all options	Can change a limited number of options	Supervisor Password	Supervisor	None
User only	N/A	Can change all options	Enter Password Clear User Password	User	User
Supervisor and user set	Can change all options	Can change a limited number of options	Supervisor Password Enter Password	Supervisor or user	Supervisor or user

Note: If no password is set, any user can change all Setup options.

4.4 Motherboard configuration and layout

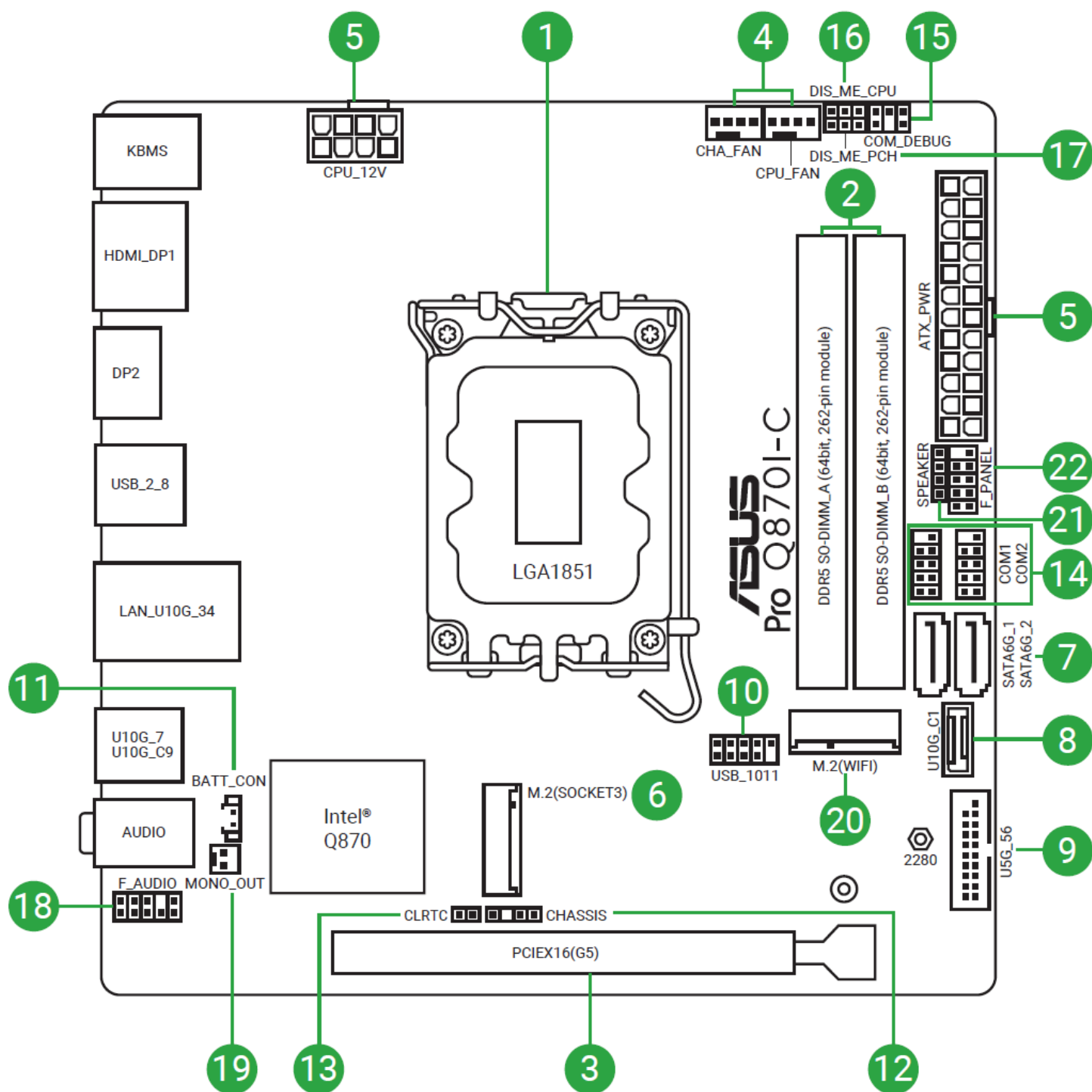
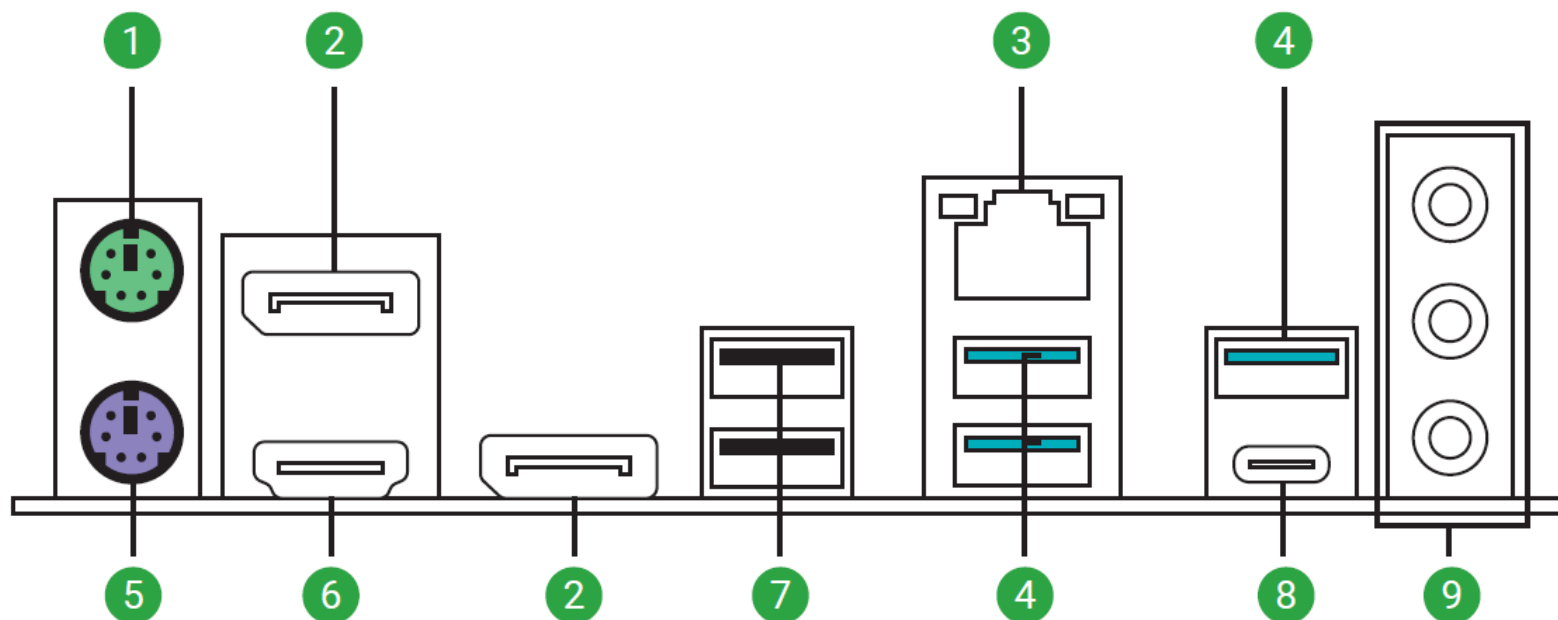


Figure 4.4 Major board components

	Description
1	CPU socket
2	SO-DIMM slots
3	Expansion slot
4	Fan headers
5	Power connectors
6	M.2 slot (Key M)
7	SATA 6Gb/s ports
8	USB 10Gbps Type-C® Front Panel connector
9	USB 5Gbps header
10	USB 2.0 header
11	RTC Battery header
12	Chassis Intrusion header
13	Clear CMOS header
14	COM Port header
15	COM Debug header
16	Intel® ME jumper - CPU
17	Intel® ME jumper - PCH
18	Front Panel Audio header
19	Mono-Out Audio header
20	M.2 slot (Key E)
21	Speaker header
22	Front Panel System header

4.4.1 Back panel connectors



Description	
1	PS/2 mouse (green) port
2	DisplayPort
3	Intel® 1Gb Ethernet port
4	USB 10Gbps (Teal blue) Type-A ports 3, 4, and 7
5	PS/2 keyboard (purple) port
6	HDMI™ port
7	USB 2.0 ports 2 and 8
8	USB 10Gbps Type-C® port C9
9	Audio jacks

4.5 The PCI Express and PCI bus

The board has the following add-in card connector :

- One PCI Express 5.0 x16 connector.

4.6 Disk drives

4.6.1 Serial ATA interface

The board provides two Serial ATA (SATA) 6.0 Gb/s connectors which support one device.

4.6.1.1 Serial ATA support

The PCH provides independent SATA ports with a theoretical maximum transfer rate of 6.0 Gb/s for one port.

The underlying SATA functionality is transparent to the operating system. The SATA controller can operate in both legacy and native modes. In legacy mode, standard IDE I/O and IRQ resources are assigned. In Native mode, standard PCI Conventional bus resource steering is used. Native mode is the preferred mode for configurations using the Windows® 10 operating system.

For more information, see : <http://www.serialata.org/>.

NOTE

Many Serial ATA drives use new low-voltage power connectors and require adapters or power supplies equipped with low-voltage power connectors.

4.6.2 M.2 slots

CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 system is equipped with one M.2 slot, M key, PCIe type 2242/2260/2280 to accommodate NVMe SSD drive and one M.2 slot, E key to accommodate a Wi-Fi controller.

4.7 Graphics subsystem

4.7.1 Integrated graphics

The board supports system graphics through Intel® FDI video interface integrated to the processor.

4.7.2 HDMI 2.1 port

The HDMI™ (High Definition Multimedia Interface) port supports a Full-HD device such as an LCD TV or monitor to allow viewing on a larger external display.

NOTE: When using only this port as a display output source, this port will support a resolution of up to 7680 x 4320 @60Hz. The resolution may also be affected by the cabling and output device.

4.7.3 DisplayPort 1.4

This port allows you to connect your Micro PC to an external display.

NOTE: When using only this port as a display output source, this port will support a resolution of up to 5120 x 2160 @60Hz. The resolution may also be affected by the cabling and output device.

4.8 Audio subsystem

The CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PC supports 8-channel Realtek® High Definition Audio CODEC.

The front audio port allows you to connect amplified speakers or headphones. You can also use this port to connect your headset or an external microphone.

Audio software and drivers are available from https://www.asus.com/motherboards-components/motherboards/csm/pro-q870i-c-csm/helpdesk_download?model2Name=Pro-Q870I-C-CSM.

4.9 I/O Port set-up

Each CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 micro PC system includes built-in multi-I/O capabilities. These provide your computer with one USB 10 Gb/s type C port, one USB 5 Gb/s type A port, one earphone jack at front panel and two USB 10 Gb/s type A ports, one USB 10 Gb/s type C port, one USB 5 Gb/s type A port, two USB 2.0 ports, two DisplayPort 1.4 and 1 HDMI 2.1 port, one RJ45 port, one audio in and one audio out jacks, two PS/2 ports at rear panel and one USB 5 Gb/s port header, one header for two USB 2.0 ports, one header for 2 serial ports.

To configure these I/O ports use the BIOS configuration screens. Please refer to the paragraphs in section 2.0, “BIOS Configuration and installation” for more information on this subject.

NOTE

All USB ports along with serial port can be enabled or disabled in the BIOS.

4.10 LAN subsystem

The LAN subsystem consists of the following :

- Intel i210AT 1 Gigabit Ethernet Controller (10/100/1000 Mbps/s)
- One RJ-45 LAN connectors with integrated status LEDs

4.10.1 Intel® i219-LM 1 Gigabit Ethernet controller

This PCI Express controller with Base-T copper networking interface, provides compact, single-port integrated gigabit (up to 1 Gb/s) - MDI (Copper) standard IEEE 802.3 Ethernet interface for 1000BASE-T, 100BASE-TX, 10BASE-TE connections (IEEE 802.3, 802.3u, 802.3ab).

- PCI Express 3.1 (5GT/s) x1 host interface
- MDI (Copper) standard IEEE 802.3 Ethernet interface up to 1 Gb/s
- Time Sensitive Networking (TSN) capability support
- Innovative power management features
- Support for Intel® Stable IT Platform Program

4.10.3 RJ-45 LAN connector LEDs

Two LEDs are built into the RJ-45 LAN connector located on the back panel (see Figure). These LEDs indicate the status of the LAN.

Tables describe the LED states when the board is powered up and the LAN subsystem is operating.

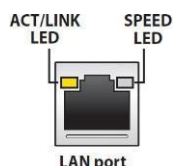


Table 4.10		Intel® i219-LM LAN Connector LED States	
Activity/Link LED		Speed LED	
Status	Description	Status	Description
Off	No link	Off	10 Mb/s connection
Orange	Linked	Orange	100 Mb/s connection
Orange (blinking)	Data activity	Green	1 Gb/s connection
Orange (blinking then steady)	Ready to wake up from S5 mode		

4.10.4 WiFi Module

The motherboard is equipped with an M.2 slot, E key that can receive an Intel® Wi-Fi 6 AX201 module with the following features :

- 802.11 ax 2x2
- Bluetooth® 5.2

4.11 Intel® vPro™ Technology

Intel® vPro™ Technology is a set of processor and platform capabilities designed to enable greater proactive security, enhanced maintenance, and improved remote management both inside and outside the corporate firewall.

These include :

- Intel® Turbo Boost Technology for increased performance and power efficiency
- Intel® Hyper-Threading Technology (Intel® HT) for higher performance
- Intel® Active Management Technology (Intel® AMT)
- Intel® Virtualization Technology (Intel® VT)
- Intel® Virtualization Technology for Directed I/O (Intel® VT-d)
- Intel® Trusted Execution Technology (Intel® TXT)
- Intel® Identity Protection Technology (Intel® IPT)
- Intel® Anti-Theft Technology (Intel® AT)

NOTE

Intel® vPro™ Technology requires the use of a vPro compatible processor. Intel® Core™ i7-13700T, Core™ i5-13600T and Core™ i5-13500T support Intel® vPro™ technology. Other processors may be supported in the future.

4.11.1 Intel® Active Management Technology

When used with third-party management and security applications, Intel® Active Management Technology (Intel® AMT) allows business owners and IT organizations to better discover, heal, and protect their networked computing assets.

Some of the features of Intel® AMT include :

- Out-of-band (OOB) system access, to discover assets even while PCs are powered off
- Remote trouble-shooting and recovery, which allows remote diagnosis and recovery of systems after OS failures
- Hardware-based agent presence checking that automatically detects and alerts when critical software agents have been stopped or are missing
- Proactive network defense, which uses filters to block incoming threats while isolating infected clients before they impact the network
- Remote hardware and software asset tracking, helping to track computer assets and keep virus protection up-to-date
- Keyboard, video and mouse (KVM) remote control, which allows redirection of a managed system's video to a remote console which can then interact with it using the console's own mouse and keyboard.

NOTE

Intel® AMT requires the computer system to have an Intel® AMT-enabled chipset, network hardware and software, as well as connection with a power source, a corporate network connection, and an Intel® AMT-enabled remote management console. Setup requires additional configuration of the platform.

4.11.2 Intel® Virtualization Technology (Intel® VT)

Intel® Virtualization Technology (Intel® VT) is a processor technology that enables a platform to run multiple operating systems and applications as independent machines, allowing one computer system to function as multiple "virtual" systems. It also provides the "assisted hardware virtualization" required by some operating systems for backward compatibility, such as Windows XP Mode for Windows 7.

NOTE

Intel® VT requires the use of a processor with Intel® VT support.

4.11.3 Intel® Virtualisation Technology for Directed I/O (Intel® VT-d)

Intel® Virtualization Technology for Directed I/O (Intel VT-d) compliments Intel® VT by providing the ability to isolate and restrict device accesses to the resources owned by the virtual partition managing the device.

NOTE

Requires an Intel processor that supports Intel VT.

4.11.4 Intel® Trusted Execution Technology (Intel® TXT)

Intel® Trusted Execution Technology (Intel® TXT) is a hardware security solution that protects systems against software-based attacks by validating the behavior of key components at startup against a known good source. It requires that Intel VT be enabled and the presence of a TPM.

NOTE

Intel® TXT requires the use of a processor with Intel TXT support. Additionally, third party software may also be required.

4.11.5 Intel® Identity Protection Technology

Intel® Identity Protection Technology (Intel® IPT) provides a simple way for websites and enterprises to validate that a user is logging in from a trusted computer. This is accomplished by using the Intel® Manageability Engine embedded in the chipset to generate a six-digit number that, when coupled with a username and password, will generate a One-Time Password (OTP) when visiting Intel IPT-enabled websites. Intel® IPT eliminates the need for the additional token or key fob required previously for two-factor authentication.

4.11.6 Intel® Anti-Theft Technology

Intel® Anti-Theft (Intel® AT) provides local, tamper-resistant defense that works like a poison pill that disables the computer and access to its data even if the operating system (OS) is reimaged, a new hard drive is installed, or the computer is disconnected from the network.

NOTE

No computer system can provide absolute security under all conditions. Intel® AT requires the computer system to have an Intel® AT-enabled chipset, BIOS, firmware release, software, and an Intel® AT-capable Service Provider/ISV application and service subscription. The detection (triggers), response (actions), and recovery mechanisms only work after the Intel® AT functionality has been activated and configured. Certain functionality may not be offered by some ISVs or service providers and may not be available in all countries. Intel assumes no liability for lost or stolen data and/or systems or any other damages resulting thereof.

4.12 Trusted Platform Module (TPM)

The TPM module version 2.0 component is specifically designed to enhance platform security above-and-beyond the capabilities of today's software by providing a protected space for key operations and other security critical tasks. Using both hardware and software, the TPM protects encryption and signature keys at their most vulnerable stages—operations when the keys are being used unencrypted in plain-text form. The TPM shields unencrypted keys and platform authentication information from software-based attacks.

NOTE

The Intel® TPM uses the onboard coin-cell battery (CR2032) to maintain its monotonic counters. One major function of the monotonic counters is for anti-replay protection of the internal Intel® TPM data. If the battery is removed or exhausted, the Intel® TPM data will be deleted in accordance with Trusted Computing Group guidelines. Please back-up TPM keys and data before removing the battery.

4.13 Replacing the system battery

In all CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 models the battery is a custom 3 V Lithium battery model CR-2032U made by Asus that can be installed only by CIARA. This type of battery should last at least 3 years, if the system is not in use. When the computer is plugged in, the standby current from the power supply extends the life of the battery. If the battery wears out, your system will no longer retain BIOS information when turned off. For example, you will get a message stating that the time and date are invalid. If this happens, you should replace the battery, or call your CIARA service representative.

CAUTION :

There is a danger of explosion if the battery is incorrectly replaced. If it has to be replaced, it can be done only by a qualified CIARA technician. The disposal of used batteries is subject to environment issues and this work should be done by a qualified CIARA technician who will dispose safely of the used battery.

NOTE

The Intel TPM uses the onboard coin-cell battery (CR2032) to maintain its monotonic counters. One major function of the monotonic counters is for anti-replay protection of the internal Intel TPM data. If the battery is removed or exhausted, the Intel TPM data will be deleted in accordance with Trusted Computing Group guidelines. Please back-up TPM keys and data before removing the battery.

4.14 Installing an upgrade CPU

All CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 models may be enhanced by the installation of a higher performing CPU. Since this upgrade necessitates a lot of care and attention, it should be carried out by a CIARA authorized service centre. Please take a note that the CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 models use exclusively LGA1700 processor technologies and are not compatible with other types of processors.

4.15 Changing the motherboard or power supply

CIARA does not allow end users to change the motherboard or the power supply. Any such change will void your warranty. All end users needing to change the motherboard or power supply need to contact the CIARA service department and place a service call. For those end users who have a system out of warranty, please contact the CIARA service department for instructions as to how to change the motherboard or the power supply.

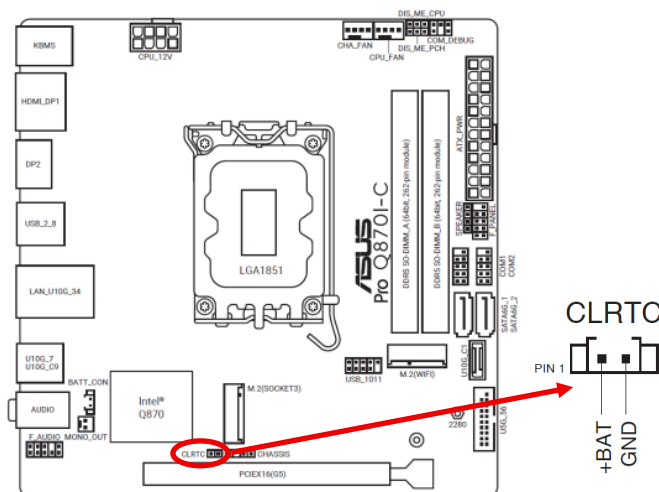
4.16 Configuration jumper block

NOTE

Always turn off the power and unplug the power cord from the computer before shorting the two pins. Shorting the pins with the power on may result in unreliable computer operation.

4.16.1 Setting the BIOS configuration jumper

Figure shows the location of the Desktop Board's BIOS configuration header.



Location of the BIOS Configuration Jumper Block

The two-pin BIOS header enables all board configurations to be done in the BIOS Setup program. Table below shows the jumper settings for the BIOS Setup program modes.

4.16.2 Clearing or changing passwords

Clear RTC RAM (2-pin CLRTC)

This jumper allows you to clear the Real Time Clock (RTC) RAM in CMOS. You can clear the CMOS memory of date, time, and system setup parameters by erasing the CMOS RTC RAM data. The onboard button cell battery powers the RAM data in CMOS, which include system setup information such as system passwords.

To erase the RTC RAM :

1. Turn OFF the computer and unplug the power cord.
2. Use a metal object such as a screwdriver to short the two pins.
3. Plug the power cord and turn ON the computer.
4. Hold down the key during the boot process and enter BIOS setup to reenter data.

Except when clearing the RTC RAM, never short the pins on CLRTC header. Shorting the pins will cause system boot failure!

4.17 Installing an upgrade flash BIOS

Before any new BIOS is programmed into the system, be very careful to ensure that the BIOS is intended for use with your specific system board. If not, you may completely disable your system, and require CIARA service assistance to restore the system to working order.

You may obtain the latest BIOS revision for your CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 system from https://www.asus.com/motherboards-components/motherboards/csm/pro-q870i-c-csm/helpdesk_bios?model2Name=Pro-Q870I-C-CSM.

Several methods exist to update the BIOS of your CIARA Astro PW64-Q2 system, and they are as follows :

- Recovery BIOS Update - A .CAP file to be used for BIOS recovery process, regardless of operating system. In the unlikely event that a BIOS update is interrupted, it is possible the BIOS may be left in an unusable state. Use the Recovery BIOS update to recover from this condition. It requires a blank CD and a read/writeable CD drive or a USB flash device.
- The ASUS EZ Flash 2 feature allows you to update the BIOS without using an OS-based utility. This function supports USB flash disks formatted using FAT32/16 on a single partition only.
- Bupdater.exe BIOS Update / Integrator Toolkit BIOS ZIP Files - A DOS-based utility to update the BIOS regardless of operating system. It requires a CD and a read/writeable CD drive or a USB flash device.

Make sure to download the appropriate BIOS update file, and follow the installation instructions found in the readme file for the BIOS update. It is also recommended to read the release notes file for the BIOS update to know the changes that have been made in the version of the BIOS.

4.18 Spare parts

Spare parts for the Astro PW64-Q2 are available as follows:

1. Casing
2. DC power adapter
3. Motherboard¹
4. Processor fan and heatsink
5. Memory
6. SSD drive
7. WiFi module

These spare parts will either correspond to the components in your system or will be a replacement equivalent or better than what you had in your system. You can procure these spare parts at any time by contacting CIARA at <http://www.ciaratech.com> or by phone at 1-877-242-7272.

¹ The motherboard is scheduled for end of life in 2026 and cannot be replaced after 2028. All other spare parts are available until at least 2028 and afterwards will be subject to availability of our suppliers.

4.19 Media sanitization software

You can download a media sanitization software from the web at the following URL: <http://killdisk.com/downloads/KillDisk-Freeware-Setup.exe>

This tool is an easy-to use and compact utility that allows to sanitize storage media with the One Pass Zeros data sanitizing standard. It permanently erases all data on Hard Disks, Solid State Drives, Memory Cards & USB drives, SCSI storage & RAID disk arrays and even two disks in parallel.

4.20 Latest version

To download the latest version of this User Guide, please go to <http://ciaratech.com/download/21139/>

GLOSSARY

32-Bit -- In computer architecture, 32-bit integers, memory addresses, or other data units are those that are at most 32 bits (4 octets) wide. Also, 32-bit CPU and ALU architectures are those that are based on registers, address buses, or data buses of that size. 32-bit is also a term given to a generation of computers in which 32-bit processors were the norm.

The range of integer values that can be stored in 32 bits is 0 through 4,294,967,295 or -2,147,483,648 through 2,147,483,647 using two's complement encoding. Hence, a processor with 32-bit memory addresses can directly access 4 GB of byte-addressable memory. The external address and data buses are often wider than 32 bits but both of these are stored and manipulated internally in the processor as 32-bit quantities.

64-Bit -- In computer architecture, 64-bit integers, memory addresses, or other data units are those that are at most 64 bits (8 octets) wide. Also, 64-bit CPU and ALU architectures are those that are based on registers, address buses, or data buses of that size. 64-bit is also a term given to a generation of computers in which 64-bit processors were the norm.

Without further qualification, a 64-bit computer architecture generally has integer and addressing registers that are 64 bits wide, allowing direct support for 64-bit data types and addresses. However, a CPU might have external data buses or address buses with different sizes than the registers, even larger (the 32-bit Pentium had a 64-bit data bus, for instance). The term may also refer to the size of low-level data types, such as 64-bit floating-point numbers.

Adapter card -- A printed circuit board that gives your computer some added capability, such as more memory, or control of a new device. A card plugs into an expansion slot on the system board.

Analog monitor -- A type of video display that uses a continuously variable analog voltage to display a large number of colours at resolutions up to 1024 x 768 and beyond. The voltage levels on the red, green and blue lines on the VGA connector determine colours.

Auto switching -- The ability of a video display to detect the video display mode for a given application program and automatically switch to that mode.

BIOS -- Basic Input Output System. Programs permanently stored in the system board's ROM chips that provide the fundamental processes or functions of the system, such as the Power On Self Test (POST). The VGA circuitry has its own video BIOS. See also ROM.

Bit -- A bit is the basic unit of information in computing and telecommunications ; it is the amount of information that can be stored by a digital device or other physical system that can normally exist in only two distinct states. In computing, a bit can also be defined as a variable or computed quantity that can have only two possible values. These two values are often interpreted as binary digits and are usually denoted by the Arabic numerical digits 0 and 1. Indeed, the term "bit" is a contraction of binary digit. The two values can also be interpreted as logical values (true/false, yes/no), algebraic signs (+/-), activation states (on/off), or any other two-valued attribute. In several popular programming languages, numeric 0 is equivalent (or convertible) to logical false, and 1 to true. The correspondence between these values and the physical states of the underlying storage or device is a matter of convention, and different assignments may be used even within the same device or program.

Bus -- A set of address or data lines used to transfer information between different components within a computer (such as memory, the microprocessor, and slots).

Cache -- A device that contains high-speed memory and permits higher speed accesses than general-purpose memory.

Cache hit rate -- The percentage of time data is delivered from the cache rather than from main memory.

Central processing unit (CPU) -- An integrated circuit chip that performs the actual computing functions of the computer. Other chips perform support functions like storing data and controlling peripherals. See also microprocessor.

Chip -- An electronic device that combines thousands of transistors on a small sliver of silicon. See also integrated circuit.

Chip set -- The logic devices on the motherboard that connects the microprocessor and other board functions.

Clock -- A circuit that sends a consistent, periodic signal that is used to step logic information through a computer circuit.

CMOS RAM -- Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor. CMOS RAM stores basic configuration information about your computer.

Colour display -- A video display capable of displaying colours based on the RGB (Red, Green, and Blue) colour-mixing scheme.

Configuration -- The way in which a computer and peripheral equipment (such as printers and display monitors) are interconnected and programmed to operate as a system.

Default -- The initial setting when the system left the factory.

Digital monitor -- A type of monitor in which display colour is controlled by digital colour control lines that switch on and off ; the number of colours that can be displayed depends on the selected display mode.

DIMM -- Dual In-Line Memory Module. RAM chips installed on a small circuit board module, having a single row of connectors (240 pins) on the bottom of the module where it is plugged into the main system board.

DisplayPort -- A digital display interface standard put forth by the Video Electronics Standards Association (VESA) since 2006. It defines a new royalty-free, digital audio/video interconnect, intended to be used primarily between a computer and its display monitor, or a computer and a home-theater system.

DMA (Direct Memory Address) -- A method for transferring data directly to and from system memory, bypassing the microprocessor.

DVI-D and DVI-I -- (Digital Visual Interface- integrated) is the connection, or interface used between monitors and computers or home theatre systems. DVI-I is used to interface with an LCD monitor display for digital video output. DVI-I supports both digital and analog. However, it will not use both at the same time. DVI-I detects and chooses digital or analog depending on the connected display. Contrast with DVI-D, which is a digital-only interface and DVI-A which is an analog-only interface.

Driver -- A utility program accompanying the motherboard that permits application programs to use the extended resolutions of the VGA circuitry.

Expansion slot -- A connector on the motherboard for holding an adapter card.

Gigahertz (GHz) -- A frequency of 1 billion cycles per second.

Hertz (Hz) -- A unit of frequency equal to one cycle per second.

Horizontal frequency -- The rate, at which monitor displays each scan line, usually measured in kilohertz (kHz).

I/O -- An abbreviation for "input/output", a generic term that refers to the devices and processes involved in the computer's reading and writing data.

Integrated circuit -- An electronic device that combines thousands of transistors on a small chip of silicon. Such devices are the building blocks of computers.

Interleaving -- A technique for improving the performance of system memory by splitting the memory into two or four sections that alternately process information. While one memory section goes through a refresh cycle, the microprocessor sends information to another section for processing.

Jumper -- On a printed circuit board, a patch connector, wire, or cable used to establish a circuit.

LCD -- A liquid crystal display (LCD) is a thin, flat electronic visual display that uses the light modulating properties of liquid crystals (LCs). LCs do not emit light directly. As LCD panels produce no light of their own, they require an external lighting mechanism to be easily visible. On most displays, this consists of a cold cathode fluorescent lamp that is situated behind the LCD panel. Passive-matrix displays are usually not backlit, but active-matrix displays almost always are. Recently, two types of LED backlit LCD displays have appeared in some screens as an alternative to conventional backlit LCDs. In one scheme, the LEDs are used to backlight the entire LCD panel. In another scheme, a set of red, green and blue LEDs is used to illuminate a small cluster of pixels, which can improve contrast and black level in some situations. For example, the LEDs in one section of the screen can be dimmed to produce a dark section of the image while the LEDs in another section are kept bright. Both schemes also allows for a slimmer panel than on conventional displays.

LED -- A light-emitting diode is a semiconductor light source. LEDs are used as indicator lamps in many devices, and are increasingly used for lighting.

M.2 -- M.2 (pronounced *M dot two*), formerly known as the Next Generation Form Factor (NGFF), is a specification for internally mounted computer expansion cards and associated connectors. It replaces the mSATA standard, which uses the PCI Express Mini Card physical card layout and connectors. M.2's more flexible physical specification allows different module widths and lengths, and, paired with the availability of more advanced interfacing features, makes the M.2 more suitable than mSATA for solid-state storage applications in general and particularly for the use in small devices such as ultrabooks or tablets.

Megahertz (MHz) -- A frequency of 1 million cycles per second.

Memory -- Semiconductor chips used to hold information and programs while they are being accessed by the microprocessor. See also RAM and ROM.

Microprocessor -- An integrated circuit that contains the circuits the computer needs to calculate and to communicate with the other parts of the system. See also central processing unit.

Multi-frequency monitor -- A monitor (also known by the trade names MultiSync or MultiScan) that, due to its ability to scan at various horizontal and vertical frequencies, is capable of displaying a wide variety of resolution modes.

Parity bit -- An additional non-informational bit appended to a group of bits to make the number of ones in the group of bits either an odd or even number ; an elementary mechanism for error checking.

Peripheral -- A hardware device (such as a keyboard, monitor, or printer) that connects to a computer.

Pin -- Any of the leads on a device, such as a chip, that plug into a socket and connect it to a system.

Pixel -- Short for "picture element", the smallest single dot displayable on the display.

Power-On Self Test (POST) -- Internal test procedures that the BIOS runs automatically when the system is turned on. These procedures verify that the entire computer's hardware is functioning properly. If the test detects problems, the computer displays error codes before (or instead of) starting the operating system. The error codes can help a service person determine what is wrong with your computer.

RAM -- An acronym for "random-access memory." The type of computer memory used to store information while a program is running. All data stored in RAM is lost when the computer is turned off or power is lost.

Refresh -- Periodic rewrite of system memory contents to the same memory locations by the microprocessor so that the contents do not decay beyond redemption.

Resolution -- A measure of the quality of the image that can be shown on a particular display ; usually expressed as the number of pixels that can be displayed horizontally across the display screen by the number of pixels that can be displayed vertically on the display screen.

ROM -- An acronym for "read-only memory." The type of computer memory that is used to permanently store the information vital to computer operation, including some parts of the operating system. ROM is permanent and the contents will not be lost when the computer is turned off.

SATA or Serial ATA -- Serial ATA (SATA) is a computer bus interface for connecting host bus adapters to mass storage devices such as hard disk drives and optical drives. Serial ATA was designed to replace the older ATA (AT Attachment) standard (also known as EIDE). It is able to use the same low level commands, but serial ATA host-adapters and devices communicate via a high-speed serial cable over two pairs of conductors. In contrast, the parallel ATA (the redesignation for the legacy ATA specifications) used 16 data conductors each operating at a much lower speed. First-generation SATA interfaces, now known as SATA 1.5 Gb/s, communicate at a rate of 1.5 Gb/s (150 MB/s). Second generation SATA interfaces running at 3.0 Gb/s (300 MB/s) are prevalent in all SATA disk drives and the majority of PC and server chipsets. The SATA III standard (6 Gb/s) (peak throughput about 600 MB/s) was released on May 27, 2009.

Serial interface -- An interface that transmits and receives data in a serial manner, transmitting or receiving data one bit at a time.

Set-up -- The arrangement of connections between an assembly of individual computing units, and the adjustments needed for the computer to operate.

SRAM -- Static Random Access Memory. A type of memory that does not need to be refreshed. Data stored in the SRAM remains until changed or until the computer is turned off.

System -- An assembly of components united by some form of regulated interaction to form an organized whole.

System board -- The large printed-circuit board in a computer on which most electronic devices are mounted ; the primary board in a computer. All other interfaces receive control signals or information from the system board. Also commonly referred to as a "motherboard" or "main board".

USB -- Universal Serial Bus. USB 1.1 is a hot pluggable daisy chained 1.5 or 12 Mb/s (1.5 MB/s) serial bus. USB 2.0 is a hot pluggable daisy chained 480 Mb/s (60 MB /s) serial buses. USB 3.0 is a hot pluggable daisy chained 4.8 Gb/s (600 MB /s) serial buses. USB 3.0 receptacles are electrically compatible with USB 2.0 device plugs if they can physically match. Most combinations will work, but there are a few physical incompatibilities. However, only USB 3.0 Standard-A receptacles can accept USB 3.0 Standard-A device plugs. Devices may be plugged in or out without turning off the system. USB devices include mice, scanners, keyboards, and digital cameras.

Wait states -- A delay in the computer's information processing cycle caused by a difference in speed between a faster processor and slower memory, which holds data. Zero wait states means the processor does not have to "wait" for memory, and can access data as fast as it is needed.

Word -- The set of bits comprising the largest unit that the computer can handle in a single operation.

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 28 horizontal black lines spaced evenly across the page, typical of standard notebook paper. The lines are thin and extend from the left edge to the right edge. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

