



OpenCore

Reference Manual (0.5.~~4~~.5)

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When console control is available, OpenCore can be made console control aware, and set different modes for the operating system booter (`ConsoleBehaviourOs`), which normally runs in graphics mode, and its own user interface (`ConsoleBehaviourUi`), which normally runs in text mode. Possible behaviours, set as values of these options, include:

- Empty string — Do not modify console control mode.
- `Text` — Switch to text mode.
- `Graphics` — Switch to graphics mode.
- `ForceText` — Switch to text mode and preserve it (requires `ConsoleControl`).
- `ForceGraphics` — Switch to graphics mode and preserve it (require `ConsoleControl`).

Hints:

- Unless empty works, firstly try to set `ConsoleBehaviourOs` to `Graphics` and `ConsoleBehaviourUi` to `Text`.
- On APTIO IV (Haswell and earlier) it is usually enough to have `ConsoleBehaviourOs` set to `Graphics` and `ConsoleBehaviourUi` set to `ForceText` to avoid visual glitches.
- On APTIO V (Broadwell and newer) `ConsoleBehaviourOs` set to `ForceGraphics` and `ConsoleBehaviourUi` set to `ForceText` usually works best.
- On Apple firmwares `ConsoleBehaviourOs` set to `Graphics` and `ConsoleBehaviourUi` set to `Text` is supposed to work best.

Note: `IgnoreTextInGraphics` and `SanitiseClearScreen` may need to be enabled for select firmware implementations. Particularly APTIO firmwares.

3. `ConsoleBehaviourUi`

Type: plist string

Failsafe: Empty string

Description: Set console control behaviour upon OpenCore user interface load. Refer to `ConsoleBehaviourOs` description for details.

4. `HibernateMode`

Type: plist string

Failsafe: None

Description: Hibernation detection mode. The following modes are supported:

- `None` — Avoid hibernation for your own good.
- `Auto` — Use RTC and NVRAM detection.
- `RTC` — Use RTC detection.
- `NVRAM` — Use NVRAM detection.

5. `HideSelf`

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Hides own boot entry from boot picker. This may potentially hide other entries, for instance, when another UEFI OS is installed on the same volume and driver boot is used.

6. `PollAppleHotKeys`

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Enable ~~modifier hotkey~~ action hotkeys handling in boot picker.

In addition to ~~action hotkeys~~ action hotkeys, which are partially described in `UsePicker` section and are normally handled by Apple BDS, there exist modifier keys, which are handled by operating system bootloader, namely `boot.efi`. These keys allow to change operating system behaviour by providing different boot modes.

On some firmwares it may be problematic to use modifier keys due to driver incompatibilities. To workaround this problem this option allows registering select hotkeys in a more permissive manner from within boot picker. Such extensions include the support of tapping on keys in addition to holding and pressing `Shift` along with other keys instead of just `Shift` alone, which is not detectible on many PS/2 keyboards. This list of known ~~hotkeys~~ hotkeys ~~modifier hotkeys~~ includes:

- `CMD+C+MINUS` — disable board compatibility checking.
- `CMD+K` — boot release kernel, similar to `kcsuffix=release`.

- **CMD+S** — single user mode.
- **CMD+S+MINUS** — disable KASLR slide, requires disabled SIP.
- **CMD+V** — verbose mode.
- **Shift** — safe mode.

7. Resolution

Type: plist string

Failsafe: Empty string

Description: Sets console output screen resolution.

- Set to **WxH@Bpp** (e.g. 1920x1080@32) or **WxH** (e.g. 1920x1080) formatted string to request custom resolution from GOP if available.
- Set to empty string not to change screen resolution.
- Set to **Max** to try to use largest available screen resolution.

On HiDPI screens **APPLE_VENDOR_VARIABLE_GUID UIScale** NVRAM variable may need to be set to **02** to enable HiDPI scaling in FileVault 2 UEFI password interface and boot screen logo. Refer to Recommended Variables section for more details.

Note: This will fail when console handle has no GOP protocol. When the firmware does not provide it, it can be added with **ProvideConsoleGop** UEFI quirk set to **true**.

8. ShowPicker

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Show simple boot picker to allow boot entry selection.

9. TakeoffDelay

Type: plist integer, 32 bit

Failsafe: 0

Description: Delay in microseconds performed before handling picker startup and action hotkeys.

Introducing a delay may give extra time to hold the right action hotkey sequence to e.g. boot to recovery mode. On some platforms setting this option to at least 5000-10000 microseconds may be necessary to access action hotkeys at all due to the nature of the keyboard driver.

10. Timeout

Type: plist integer, 32 bit

Failsafe: 0

Description: Timeout in seconds in boot picker before automatic booting of the default boot entry. Use 0 to disable timer.

11. UsePicker

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Use OpenCore built-in boot picker for boot management.

UsePicker set to **false** entirely disables all boot management in OpenCore except policy enforcement. In this case a custom user interface may utilise **OcSupportPkg OcBootManagementLib** to implement a user friendly boot picker oneself. Reference example of external graphics interface is provided in **ExternalUi** test driver.

OpenCore built-in boot picker contains a set of actions chosen during the boot process. The list of supported actions is similar to Apple BDS and ~~currently consists of the following options~~in general can be accessed by holding action hotkeys during boot process. Currently the following actions are considered:

- **Default** — this is the default option, and it lets OpenCore built-in boot picker to loads the default boot option as specified in Startup Disk preference pane.
- **ShowPicker** — this option forces picker to show. Normally it can be achieved by holding **OPT** key during boot. Setting **ShowPicker** to **true** will make **ShowPicker** the default option.
- **ResetNvram** — this option performs select UEFI variable erase and is normally achieved by holding **CMD+OPT+P+R** key combination during boot. Another way to erase UEFI variables is to choose **Reset NVRAM** in the picker. This option requires **AllowNvramReset** to be set to **true**.

Using non-volatile flag will write the log to NVRAM flash after every printed line. To obtain UEFI variable log use the following command in macOS:

```
nvrnm 4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102:boot-log |  
awk '{gsub(/%0d%0a%00/, ""); gsub(/%0d%0a/, "\n"); }1'
```

Warning: Some firmwares are reported to have broken NVRAM garbage collection. This means that they may not be able to always free space after variable deletion. Do not use non-volatile NVRAM logging without extra need on such devices.

While OpenCore boot log already contains basic version information with build type and date, this data may also be found in NVRAM in `opencore-version` variable even with boot log disabled.

File logging will create a file named `opencore-YYYY-MM-DD-HHMMSS.txt` at EFI volume root with log contents (the upper case letter sequence is replaced with date and time from the firmware). Please be warned that some file system drivers present in firmwares are not reliable, and may corrupt data when writing files through UEFI. Log is attempted to be written in the safest manner, and thus is very slow. Ensure that `DisableWatchDog` is set to `true` when you use a slow drive.

8.5 Security Properties

1. `AllowNvramReset`
Type: plist boolean
Failsafe: false
Description: Allow CMD+OPT+P+R handling and enable showing NVRAM `Reset` entry in boot picker.
2. `AllowSetDefault`
Type: plist boolean
Failsafe: false
Description: Allow CTRL+Enter and CTRL+Index handling to set the default boot option in boot picker.
3. `AuthRestart`
Type: plist boolean
Failsafe: false
Description: Enable VirtualSMC-compatible authenticated restart.

Authenticated restart is a way to reboot FileVault 2 enabled macOS without entering the password. To perform authenticated restart one can use a dedicated terminal command: `sudo fdsetup authrestart`. It is also used when installing operating system updates.

VirtualSMC performs authenticated restart by saving disk encryption key split in NVRAM and RTC, which despite being removed as soon as OpenCore starts, may be considered a security risk and thus is optional.

4. `ExposeSensitiveData`
Type: plist integer
Failsafe: 0x6
Description: Sensitive data exposure bitmask (sum) to operating system.
 - 0x01 — Expose printable booter path as an UEFI variable.
 - 0x02 — Expose OpenCore version as an UEFI variable.
 - 0x04 — Expose OpenCore version in boot picker menu title.
 - 0x08 — [Expose OEM information as a set of UEFI variables.](#)

Exposed booter path points to OpenCore.efi or its booter depending on the load order. To obtain booter path use the following command in macOS:

```
nvrnm 4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102:boot-path
```

To use booter path for mounting booter volume use the following command in macOS:

```
u=$(nvrnm 4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102:boot-path | sed 's/.*GPT,\([^,]*\)\\.*/\1/'); \  
if [ "$u" != "" ]; then sudo diskutil mount $u ; fi
```

To obtain OpenCore version use the following command in macOS:

```
nvrw 4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102:opencore-version
```

To obtain OEM information use the following commands in macOS:

```
nvrw 4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102:oem-product # SMBIOS Type1 ProductName
nvrw 4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102:oem-vendor  # SMBIOS Type2 Manufacturer
nvrw 4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102:oem-board   # SMBIOS Type2 ProductName
```

5. HaltLevel

Type: plist integer, 64 bit

Failsafe: 0x80000000 (DEBUG_ERROR)

Description: EDK II debug level bitmask (sum) causing CPU to halt (stop execution) after obtaining a message of HaltLevel. Possible values match DisplayLevel values.

6. RequireSignature

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: true

Description: Require vault.sig signature file for vault.plist in OC directory.

This file should contain a raw 256 byte RSA-2048 signature from SHA-256 hash of vault.plist. The signature is verified against the public key embedded into OpenCore.efi.

To embed the public key you should do either of the following:

- Provide public key during the OpenCore.efi compilation in OpenCoreVault.c file.
- Binary patch OpenCore.efi replacing zeroes with the public key between =BEGIN OC VAULT= and ==END OC VAULT== ASCII markers.

RSA public key 520 byte format description can be found in Chromium OS documentation. To convert public key from X.509 certificate or from PEM file use RsaTool.

Note: vault.sig is used regardless of this option when public key is embedded into OpenCore.efi. Setting it to true will only ensure configuration sanity, and abort the boot process when public key is not set but was supposed to be used for verification.

7. RequireVault

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: true

Description: Require vault.plist file present in OC directory.

This file should contain SHA-256 hashes for all files used by OpenCore. Presence of this file is highly recommended to ensure that unintentional file modifications (including filesystem corruption) do not happen unnoticed. To create this file automatically use create_vault.sh script.

Regardless of the underlying filesystem, path name and case must match between config.plist and vault.plist.

Note: vault.plist is tried to be read regardless of the value of this option, but setting it to true will ensure configuration sanity, and abort the boot process.

The complete set of commands to:

- Create vault.plist.
- Create a new RSA key (always do this to avoid loading old configuration).
- Embed RSA key into OpenCore.efi.
- Create vault.sig.

Can look as follows:

```
cd /Volumes/EFI/EFI/OC
/path/to/create_vault.sh .
/path/to/RsaTool -sign vault.plist vault.sig vault.pub
off=$((($(strings -a -t d OpenCore.efi | grep "=BEGIN OC VAULT=" | cut -f1 -d' ')+16))
dd of=OpenCore.efi if=vault.pub bs=1 seek=$off count=528 conv=notrunc
```

- **Overwrite** — Overwrite existing gEfiSmbiosTableGuid and gEfiSmbiosTable3Guid data if it fits new size. Abort with unspecified state otherwise.
 - **Custom** — Write first SMBIOS table (gEfiSmbiosTableGuid) to gOcCustomSmbiosTableGuid to workaround firmwares overwriting SMBIOS contents at ExitBootServices. Otherwise equivalent to **Create**. Requires patching AppleSmbios.kext and AppleACPIPlatform.kext to read from another GUID: "EB9D2D31" - "EB9D2D35" (in ASCII), done automatically by CustomSMBIOSGuid quirk.
6. **Generic**
Type: plist dictionary
Optional: When Automatic is false
Description: Update all fields. This section is read only when Automatic is active.
 7. **DataHub**
Type: plist dictionary
Optional: When Automatic is true
Description: Update Data Hub fields. This section is read only when Automatic is not active.
 8. **PlatformNVRAM**
Type: plist dictionary
Optional: When Automatic is true
Description: Update platform NVRAM fields. This section is read only when Automatic is not active.
 9. **SMBIOS**
Type: plist dictionary
Optional: When Automatic is true
Description: Update SMBIOS fields. This section is read only when Automatic is not active.

10.2 Generic Properties

1. **SpoofVendor**
Type: plist boolean
Failsafe: false
Description: Sets SMBIOS vendor fields to Acidanthera.

It is dangerous to use Apple in SMBIOS vendor fields for reasons given in **SystemManufacturer** description. However, certain firmwares may not provide valid values otherwise, which could break some software.
2. **SupportsCsmAdviseWindows**
Type: plist boolean
Failsafe: false
Description: Forces **CSM-Windows** support in **FirmwareFeatures**.
Added bits to FirmwareFeatures:
 - FW_FEATURE_SUPPORTS_CSM_LEGACY_MODE (0x1) - Without this bit it is not possible to reboot to Windows installed on a drive with EFI partition being not the first partition on the disk.
 - FW_FEATURE_SUPPORTS_UEFI_WINDOWS_BOOT (0x20000000) - Without this bit it is not possible to reboot to Windows installed on a drive with EFI partition being the first partition on the disk.

Note: This was enabled unconditionally in older OpenCore versions.—
3. **SystemProductName**
Type: plist string
Failsafe: MacPro6,1
Description: Refer to SMBIOS SystemProductName.
4. **SystemSerialNumber**
Type: plist string
Failsafe: OPENCORE_SN1
Description: Refer to SMBIOS SystemSerialNumber.
5. **SystemUUID**
Type: plist string, GUID

3. Input

Type: plist dict

Failsafe: None

Description: Apply individual settings designed for input (keyboard and mouse) in Input Properties section below.
4. Protocols

Type: plist dict

Failsafe: None

Description: Force builtin versions of select protocols described in Protocols Properties section below.

Note: all protocol instances are installed prior to driver loading.
5. Quirks

Type: plist dict

Failsafe: None

Description: Apply individual firmware quirks described in Quirks Properties section below.

11.3 Input Properties

1. KeyForgetThreshold

Type: plist integer

Failsafe: 0

Description: Remove key unless it was submitted during this timeout in milliseconds.

AppleKeyMapAggregator protocol is supposed to contain a fixed length buffer of currently pressed keys. However, the majority of the drivers only report key presses as interrupts and pressing and holding the key on the keyboard results in subsequent submissions of this key with some defined time interval. As a result we use a timeout to remove once pressed keys from the buffer once the timeout expires and no new submission of this key happened.

This option allows to set this timeout based on your platform. The recommended value that works on the majority of the platforms is 5 milliseconds. For reference, holding one key on VMware will repeat it roughly every 2 milliseconds and the same value for APTIO V is 3-4 milliseconds. Thus it is possible to set a slightly lower value on faster platforms and slightly higher value on slower platforms for more responsive input.

2. KeyMergeThreshold

Type: plist integer

Failsafe: 0

Description: Assume simultaneous combination for keys submitted within this timeout in milliseconds.

Similarly to KeyForgetThreshold, this option works around the sequential nature of key submission. To be able to recognise simultaneously pressed keys in the situation when all keys arrive sequentially, we are required to set a timeout within which we assume the keys were pressed together.

Holding multiple keys results in reports every 2 and 1 milliseconds for VMware and APTIO V respectively. Pressing keys one after the other results in delays of at least 6 and 10 milliseconds for the same platforms. The recommended value for this option is 2 milliseconds, but it may be decreased for faster platforms and increased for slower.

3. KeySupport

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Enable internal keyboard input translation to AppleKeyMapAggregator protocol.

This option activates the internal keyboard interceptor driver, based on AppleGenericInput aka ([AptioInputFix](#)[AptioInput](#)) to fill AppleKeyMapAggregator database for input functioning. In case a separate driver is used, such as AppleUsbKbdxe, this option should never be enabled.

4. KeySupportMode

Type: plist string

Failsafe: empty string

Description: Set internal keyboard input translation to AppleKeyMapAggregator protocol mode.

 - Auto — Performs automatic choice as available with the following preference: AMI, V2, V1.