

# **OpenCore**

Reference Manual (0.5.8.9)

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# 1 Introduction

This document provides information on OpenCore user configuration file format used to setup the correct functioning of macOS operating system. It is to be read as the official clarification of expected OpenCore behaviour. All deviations, if found in published OpenCore releases, shall be considered documentation or implementation bugs, and are requested to be reported through Acidanthera Bugtracker. All other sources or translations of this document are unofficial and may contain errors.

This document is structured as a specification, and is not meant to provide a step by step algorithm for configuring end-user board support package (BSP). Any third-party The intended audience of the document are programmers and engineers with basic understanding of macOS internals and UEFI functioning. For these reasons this document is available exclusively in English, and all other sources or translations of this document are unofficial and may contain errors.

Third-party articles, tools, books, etc., providing such material and alike may be more useful for a wider audience as they could provide guide-like material. However, they are prone to their authors' preferences, tastes, this document misinterpretation, and essential obsolescence. In case you still—use these sources, for example, ()Dortania's OpenCore Desktop Guide and related material, please ensure following to follow this document for every made decision and judging judge its consequences. Regardless

Be warned that regardless of the sources used you are required to fully understand every dedicated OpenCore configuration option and concept prior to reporting any issues in Acidanthera Bugtracker.

# 1.1 Generic Terms

- plist Subset of ASCII Property List format written in XML, also know as XML plist format version 1. Uniform Type Identifier (UTI): com.apple.property-list. Plists consist of plist objects, which are combined to form a hierarchical structure. Due to plist format not being well-defined, all the definitions of this document may only be applied after plist is considered valid by running plutil -lint. External references: https://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd, man plutil.
- plist type plist collections (plist array, plist dictionary, plist key) and primitives (plist string, plist data, plist date, plist boolean, plist integer, plist real).
- plist object definite realisation of plist type, which may be interpreted as value.
- plist array array-like collection, conforms to array. Consists of zero or more plist objects.
- plist dictionary map-like (associative array) collection, conforms to dict. Consists of zero or more plist keys.
- plist key contains one plist object going by the name of plist key, conforms to key. Consists of printable 7-bit ASCII characters.
- plist string printable 7-bit ASCII string, conforms to string.
- plist data base64-encoded blob, conforms to data.
- plist date ISO-8601 date, conforms to date, unsupported.
- plist boolean logical state object, which is either true (1) or false (0), conforms to true and false.
- plist integer possibly signed integer number in base 10, conforms to integer. Fits in 64-bit unsigned integer in two's complement representation, unless a smaller signed or unsigned integral type is explicitly mentioned in specific plist object description.
- plist real floating point number, conforms to real, unsupported.
- plist metadata value cast to data by the implementation. Permits passing plist string, in which case the result is represented by a null-terminated sequence of bytes (aka C string), plist integer, in which case the result is represented by 32-bit little endian sequence of bytes in two's complement representation, plist boolean, in which case the value is one byte: 01 for true and 00 for false, and plist data itself. All other types or larger integers invoke undefined behaviour.

Type	Value
plist integer plist boolean plist tristate	0 ( <integer>0</integer> ) False ( <false></false> ) False ( <false></false> )

# 2.3 Configuration Structure

OC config is separated into following sections, which are described in separate sections of this document. By default it is tried to not enable anything and optionally provide kill switches with Enable property for plist dict entries. In general the configuration is written idiomatically to group similar actions in subsections:

- Add provides support for data addition. Existing data will not be overridden, and needs to be handled separately with Delete if necessary.
- BlockDelete provides support for data removalor ignorance.
- Patch provides support for data modification.
- Quirks provides support for specific hacks.

Root configuration entries consist of the following:

- ACPI
- Booter
- DeviceProperties
- Kernel
- Misc
- NVRAM
- PlatformInfo
- UEFI

*Note*: Currently most properties try to have defined values even if not specified in the configuration for safety reasons. This behaviour should not be relied upon, and all fields must be properly specified in the configuration.

# 3 Setup

# 3.1 Directory Structure



When directory boot is used the directory structure used should follow the description on Directory Structure figure. Available entries include:

#### • BOOTx64.efi Initial booter and Bootstrap.efi

Initial bootstrap loaders, which loads OpenCore.efi unless it was already started as a driver. BOOTx64.efi is loaded by the firmware by default according to UEFI specification, and Bootstrap.efi can be registered as a custom option to let OpenCore coexist with operating systems using BOOTx64.efi as their own loaders (e.g. Windows), see BootProtect for more details.

#### boot

Duet bootstrap loader, which initialises UEFI environment on legacy BIOS firmwares and loads OpenCore.efi similarly to other bootstrap loaders. Modern Duet bootstrap loader will default to OpenCore.efi on the same partition when present.

#### • ACPI

Directory used for storing supplemental ACPI information for ACPI section.

#### • Drivers

Directory used for storing supplemental UEFI drivers for UEFI section.

#### Kexts

Directory used for storing supplemental kernel information for Kernel section.

#### • Resources

Directory used for storing media resources, such as audio files for screen reader support. See UEFI Audio Properties section for more details. This directory also contains image files for graphical user interface. See OpenCanopy section for more details.

#### • Tools

Directory used for storing supplemental tools.

# • OpenCore.efi

Main booter driver responsible for operating system loading.

# • vault.plist

Hashes for all files potentially loadable by OC Config.

• config.plist

OC Config.

• vault.sig

Signature for vault.plist.

• nvram.plist

OpenCore variable import file.

- opencore-YYYY-MM-DD-HHMMSS.txt OpenCore log file.
- panic-YYYY-MM-DD-HHMMSS.txt Kernel panic log file.

*Note*: It is not guaranteed that paths longer than OC\_STORAGE\_SAFE\_PATH\_MAX (128 characters including 0-termnator) will be accessible within OpenCore.

# 3.2 Installation and Upgrade

To install OpenCore reflect the Configuration Structure described in the previous section on a EFI volume of a GPT partition. While corresponding sections of this document do provide some information in regards to external resources like ACPI tables, UEFI drivers, or kernel extensions (kexts), completeness of the matter is out of the scope of this document. Information about kernel extensions may be found in a separate Kext List document available in OpenCore repository. Vaulting information is provided in Security Properties section of this document.

OC config, just like any property lists can be edited with any stock textual editor (e.g. nano, vim), but specialised software may provide better experience. On macOS the preferred GUI application is Xcode. For a lightweight cross-platform and open-source alternative ProperTree editor can be utilised.

For BIOS booting a third-party UEFI environment provider will have to be used. <code>DuetPkgOpenDuetPkg</code> is one of the known UEFI environment providers for legacy systems. To run OpenCore on such a legacy system you can install <code>DuetPkgOpenDuetPkg</code> with a dedicated tool BootInstall (bundled with OpenCore).

For upgrade purposes refer to Differences.pdf document, providing the information about the changes affecting

the configuration compared to the previous release, and Changelog.md document, containing the list of modifications across all published updates.

# 3.3 Contribution

OpenCore can be compiled as an ordinary EDK II package. Since UDK development was abandoned by TianoCore, OpenCore requires the use of EDK II Stable. Currently supported EDK II release (potentially with patches enhancing the experience) is hosted in acidanthera/audk. The required patches for the package are present in Patches directory.

The only officially supported toolchain is XCODE5. Other toolchains might work, but are neither supported, nor recommended. Contribution of clean patches is welcome. Please do follow EDK II C Codestyle.

# Required external package dependencies include and .

To compile with XCODE5, besides Xcode, one should also install NASM and MTOC. The latest Xcode version is recommended for use despite the toolchain name. Example command sequence may look as follows:

```
git clone https://github.com/acidanthera/audk UDK
cd UDK
git clone https://github.com/acidanthera/EfiPkg
git clone https://github.com/acidanthera/MacInfoPkg
git clone https://github.com/acidanthera/OpenCorePkg
source edksetup.sh
make -C BaseTools
build -a X64 -b RELEASE -t XCODE5 -p OpenCorePkg/OpenCorePkg.dsc
```

Listing 1: Compilation Commands

For IDE usage Xcode projects are available in the root of the repositories. Another approach could be Sublime Text with EasyClangComplete plugin. Add .clang\_complete file with similar content to your UDK root:

```
-I/UefiPackages/MdePkg
-I/UefiPackages/MdePkg/Include
-I/UefiPackages/MdePkg/Include/X64
-I/UefiPackages/MdeModulePkg
-I/UefiPackages/MdeModulePkg/Include
-I/UefiPackages/MdeModulePkg/Include/X64
-I/UefiPackages/EfiPkg
-I/UefiPackages/EfiPkg/Include
-I/UefiPackages/EfiPkg/Include/X64
-I/UefiPackages/AppleSupportPkg/Include
-I/UefiPackages/OpenCorePkg/Include
-I/UefiPackages/MacInfoPkg/Include
-I/UefiPackages/OpenCorePkg/Include/AMI
-I/UefiPackages/OpenCorePkg/Include/Acidanthera
-I/UefiPackages/OpenCorePkg/Include/Apple
-I/UefiPackages/OpenCorePkg/Include/Apple/X64
-I/UefiPackages/OpenCorePkg/Include/Duet
-I/UefiPackages/OpenCorePkg/Include/Generic
-I/UefiPackages/OpenCorePkg/Include/Intel
-I/UefiPackages/OpenCorePkg/Include/Microsoft
-I/UefiPackages/OpenCorePkg/Include/VMware
-I/UefiPackages/OvmfPkg/Include
-I/UefiPackages/UefiCpuPkg/Include
-IInclude
-include
/UefiPackages/MdePkg/Include/Uefi.h
-fshort-wchar
-Wall
```

- -Wextra
- -Wno-unused-parameter
- -Wno-missing-braces
- -Wno-missing-field-initializers
- -Wno-tautological-compare
- -Wno-sign-compare
- -Wno-varargs
- -Wno-unused-const-variable
- -DOC TARGET NOOPT=1
- -DNO\_MSABI\_VA\_FUNCS=1

Listing 2: ECC Configuration

Warning: Tool developers modifying config.plist or any other OpenCore files must ensure that their tool checks for opencore-version NVRAM variable (see Debug Properties section below) and warn the user if the version listed is unsupported or prerelease. OpenCore configuration may change across the releases and the tool shall ensure that it carefully follows this document. Failure to do so may result in this tool to be considered as malware and blocked with all possible means.

# 3.4 Coding conventions

Just like any other project we have conventions that we follow during the development. All third-party contributors are highly recommended to read and follow the conventions listed below before submitting their patches. In general it is also recommended to firstly discuss the issue in Acidanthera Bugtracker before sending the patch to ensure no double work and to avoid your patch being rejected.

Organisation. The codebase is structured in multiple repositories which contain separate EDK II packages. AppleSupportPkg and contained in OpenCorePkg are primary packages, and EfiPkg, MacInfoPkg.dsc) are dependent packages. repository, which is the primary EDK II package.

- Whenever changes are required in multiple repositories, separate pull requests should be sent to each.
- Committing the changes should happen firstly to dependent repositories, secondly to primary repositories to avoid automatic build errors.
- Each unique commit should compile with XCODE5 and preferably with other toolchains. In the majority of the cases it can be checked by accessing the CI interface. Ensuring that static analysis finds no warnings is preferred.
- External pull requests and tagged commits must be validated. That said, commits in master may build but may not necessarily work.
- Internal branches should be named as follows: author-name-date, e.g. vit9696-ballooning-20191026.
- Commit messages should be prefixed with the primary module (e.g. library or code module) the changes were
  made in. For example, OcGuardLib: Add OC\_ALIGNED macro. For non-library changes Docs or Build prefixes
  are used.

**Design**. The codebase is written in a subset of freestanding C11 (C17) supported by most modern toolchains used by EDK II. Applying common software development practices or requesting clarification is recommended if any particular case is not discussed below.

- Never rely on undefined behaviour and try to avoid implementation defined behaviour unless explicitly covered below (feel free to create an issue when a relevant case is not present).
- Use OcGuardLib to ensure safe integral arithmetics avoiding overflows. Unsigned wraparound should be relied on with care and reduced to the necessary amount.
- Check pointers for correct alignment with OcGuardLib and do not rely on the architecture being able to dereference unaligned pointers.
- Use flexible array members instead of zero-length or one-length arrays where necessary.
- Use static assertions (STATIC\_ASSERT) for type and value assumptions, and runtime assertions (ASSERT) for
  precondition and invariant sanity checking. Do not use runtime assertions to check for errors as they should never
  alter control flow and potentially be excluded.
- Assume UINT32/INT32 to be int-sized and use %u, %d, and %x to print them.
- Assume UINTN/INTN to be of unspecified size, and cast them to UINT64/INT64 for printing with %Lu, %Ld and so
  on as normal.

- Do not rely on integer promotions for numeric literals. Use explicit casts when the type is implementation-dependent or suffixes when type size is known. Assume U for UINT32 and ULL for UINT64.
- Do ensure unsigned arithmetics especially in bitwise maths, shifts in particular.
- sizeof operator should take variables instead of types where possible to be error prone. Use ARRAY\_SIZE to obtain array size in elements. Use L\_STR\_LEN and L\_STR\_SIZE macros from OcStringLib to obtain string literal sizes to ensure compiler optimisation.
- Do not use goto keyword. Prefer early return, break, or continue after failing to pass error checking instead of nesting conditionals.
- Use EFIAPI, force UEFI calling convention, only in protocols, external callbacks between modules, and functions with variadic arguments.
- Provide inline documentation to every added function, at least describing its inputs, outputs, precondition, postcondition, and giving a brief description.
- Do not use RETURN\_STATUS. Assume EFI\_STATUS to be a matching superset that is to be always used when BOOLEAN is not enough.
- Security violations should halt the system or cause a forced reboot.

Codestyle. The codebase follows EDK II codestyle with few changes and clarifications.

- Write inline documentation for the functions and variables only once: in headers, where a header prototype is available, and inline for static variables and functions.
- Use line length of 120 characters or less, preferably 100 characters.
- Use spaces after casts, e.g. (VOID \*)(UINTN) Variable.
- Use SPDX license headers as shown in acidanthera/bugtracker#483.

# Debugging.

# 3.5 Debugging

The codebase incorporates EDK II debugging and few custom features to improve the experience.

- Use module prefixes, 2-5 letters followed by a colon (:), for debug messages. For OpenCorePkg use OC:, for libraries and drivers use their own unique prefixes.
- Do not use dots (.) in the end of debug messages and separate EFI\_STATUS, printed by %r, with a hyphen (e.g. OCRAM: Allocation of %u bytes failed %r\n).
- Use DEBUG\_CODE\_BEGIN () and DEBUG\_CODE\_END () constructions to guard debug checks that may potentially reduce the performance of release builds and are otherwise unnecessary.
- Use DEBUG macro to print debug messages during normal functioning, and RUNTIME\_DEBUG for debugging after EXIT\_BOOT\_SERVICES.
- Use DEBUG\_VERBOSE debug level to leave debug messages for future debugging of the code, which are currently not necessary. By default DEBUG\_VERBOSE messages are ignored even in DEBUG builds.
- Use DEBUG\_INFO debug level for all non critical messages (including errors) and DEBUG\_BULK\_INFO for extensive messages that should not appear in NVRAM log that is heavily limited in size. These messages are ignored in RELEASE builds.
- Use DEBUG\_ERROR to print critical human visible messages that may potentially halt the boot process, and DEBUG WARN for all other human visible errors, RELEASE builds included.

When trying to find the problematic change it is useful to rely on git-bisect functionality.

# 4 ACPI

#### 4.1 Introduction

ACPI (Advanced Configuration and Power Interface) is an open standard to discover and configure computer hardware. ACPI specification defines the standard tables (e.g. DSDT, SSDT, FACS, DMAR) and various methods (e.g. \_DSM, \_PRW) for implementation. Modern hardware needs little changes to maintain ACPI compatibility, yet some of those are provided as a part of OpenCore.

To compile and disassemble ACPI tables iASL compiler can be used developed by ACPICA. GUI front-end to iASL compiler can be downloaded from Acidanthera/MaciASL.

ACPI changes apply globally (to every operating system) with the following effective order:

- Patch is processed.
- Delete is processed.
- Add is processed.
- Quirks are processed.

Applying the changes globally resolves the problems of incorrect operating system detection, which is not possible before the operating system boots according to the ACPI specification, operating system chainloading, and harder ACPI debugging. For this reason it may be required to carefully use \_OSI method when writing the changes.

Applying the patches early makes it possible to write so called "proxy" patches, where the original method is patched in the original table and is implemented in the patched table.

# 4.2 Properties

1. Add

Type: plist array Failsafe: Empty

**Description**: Load selected tables from OC/ACPI directory.

Designed to be filled with plist dict values, describing each block add entry. See Add Properties section below.

2. BlockDelete

Type: plist array Failsafe: Empty

**Description**: Remove selected tables from ACPI stack.

Designed to be filled with plist dict values, describing each block\_delete entry. See Delete Properties section below.

3. Patch

Type: plist array Failsafe: Empty

**Description:** Perform binary patches in ACPI tables before table addition or removal.

Designed to be filled with plist dictionary values describing each patch entry. See Patch Properties section below.

4. Quirks

Type: plist dict

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

# 4.3 Add Properties

1. Comment

Type: plist string Failsafe: Empty string

**Description**: Arbitrary ASCII string used to provide human readable reference for the entry. It is implementation defined whether this value is used.

# 2. Enabled

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: This ACPI table will not be added unless set to true.

# 3. Path

Type: plist string Failsafe: Empty string

Description: File paths meant to be loaded as ACPI tables. Example values include DSDT.aml, SubDir/SSDT-8.aml,

SSDT-USBX.aml, etc.

ACPI table load order follows the item order in the array. All ACPI tables load from OC/ACPI directory.

**Note**: All tables but tables with DSDT table identifier (determined by parsing data not by filename) insert new tables into ACPI stack. DSDT, unlike the rest, performs replacement of DSDT table.

# 4.4 Block Delete Properties

#### 1. All

 $\mathbf{Type} \hbox{: plist boolean}$ 

Failsafe: false

**Description**: If set to true, all ACPI tables matching the condition will be droppeddeleted. Otherwise only first matched table.

# 2. Comment

Type: plist string Failsafe: Empty string

**Description**: Arbitrary ASCII string used to provide human readable reference for the entry. It is implementation defined whether this value is used.

#### 3. Enabled

Type: plist boolean Failsafe: false

**Description**: This ACPI table will not be removed unless set to true.

# 4. OemTableId

Type: plist data, 8 bytes

Failsafe: All zero

**Description**: Match table OEM ID to be equal to this value unless all zero.

#### 5. TableLength

Type: plist integer

Failsafe: 0

**Description**: Match table size to be equal to this value unless 0.

### 6. TableSignature

Type: plist data, 4 bytes

Failsafe: All zero

**Description**: Match table signature to be equal to this value unless all zero.

*Note*: Make sure not to specify table signature when the sequence needs to be replaced in multiple places. Especially when performing different kinds of renames.

# 4.5 Patch Properties

#### 1. Comment

Type: plist string Failsafe: Empty string

**Description**: Arbitrary ASCII string used to provide human readable reference for the entry. It is implementation defined whether this value is used.

# 2. Count

Type: plist integer

• Try to avoid hacky changes like renaming \_PRW or \_DSM whenever possible.

Several cases, where patching actually does make sense, include:

- Refreshing HPET (or another device) method header to avoid compatibility checks by \_OSI on legacy hardware. \_STA method with if ((OSFL () == Zero)) { If (HPTE) ... Return (Zero) content may be forced to always return 0xF by replacing AO 10 93 4F 53 46 4C 00 with A4 0A 0F A3 A3 A3 A3 A3.
- To provide custom method implementation with in an SSDT, for instance, to report functional key presses on a laptop, the original method can be replaced with a dummy name by patching \_Q11 with XQ11.

Tianocore AcpiAml.h source file may help understanding ACPI opcodes.

Note: Patches of different Find and Replace lengths are unsupported as they may corrupt ACPI tables and make you system unstable due to area relocation. If you need such changes you may utilities "proxy" patching or NOP the remaining area.

# 4.6 Quirks Properties

# 1. FadtEnableReset

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Provide reset register and flag in FADT table to enable reboot and shutdown on legacy hardware. Not recommended unless required.

#### 2. NormalizeHeaders

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Cleanup ACPI header fields to workaround macOS ACPI implementation bug causing boot crashes. Reference: Debugging AppleACPIPlatform on 10.13 by Alex James aka theracermaster. The issue is fixed in macOS Mojave (10.14).

# 3. RebaseRegions

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Attempt to heuristically relocate ACPI memory regions. Not recommended.

ACPI tables are often generated dynamically by underlying firmware implementation. Among the position-independent code, ACPI tables may contain physical addresses of MMIO areas used for device configuration, usually grouped in regions (e.g. OperationRegion). Changing firmware settings or hardware configuration, upgrading or patching the firmware inevitably leads to changes in dynamically generated ACPI code, which sometimes lead to the shift of the addresses in aforementioned OperationRegion constructions.

For this reason it is very dangerous to apply any kind of modifications to ACPI tables. The most reasonable approach is to make as few as possible changes to ACPI and try to not replace any tables, especially DSDT. When this is not possible, then at least attempt to ensure that custom DSDT is based on the most recent DSDT or remove writes and reads for the affected areas.

When nothing else helps this option could be tried to avoid stalls at PCI Configuration Begin phase of macOS booting by attempting to fix the ACPI addresses. It does not do magic, and only works with most common cases. Do not use unless absolutely required.

# 4. ResetHwSig

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Reset FACS table HardwareSignature value to 0.

This works around firmwares that fail to maintain hardware signature across the reboots and cause issues with waking from hibernation.

# 5. ResetLogoStatus

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Reset BGRT table Displayed status field to false.

# 5 Booter

#### 5.1 Introduction

This section allows to apply different kinds of UEFI modifications on Apple bootloader (boot.efi). The modifications currently provide various patches and environment alterations for different firmwares. Some of these features were originally implemented as a part of AptioMemoryFix.efi, which is no longer maintained. See Tips and Tricks section for migration steps.

If you are using this for the first time on a customised firmware, there is a list of checks to do first. Prior to starting please ensure that you have:

- Most up-to-date UEFI firmware (check your motherboard vendor website).
- Fast Boot and Hardware Fast Boot disabled in firmware settings if present.
- Above 4G Decoding or similar enabled in firmware settings if present. Note, that on some motherboards (notably ASUS WS-X299-PRO) this option causes adverse effects, and must be disabled. While no other motherboards with the same issue are known, consider this option to be first to check if you have erratic boot failures.
- DisableIoMapper quirk enabled, or VT-d disabled in firmware settings if present, or ACPI DMAR table droppeddeleted.
- No 'slide' boot argument present in NVRAM or anywhere else. It is not necessary unless you cannot boot at all or see No slide values are usable! Use custom slide! message in the log.
- CFG Lock (MSR 0xE2 write protection) disabled in firmware settings if present. Consider patching it if you have enough skills and no option is available. See VerifyMsrE2 notes for more details.
- CSM (Compatibility Support Module) disabled in firmware settings if present. You may need to flash GOP ROM on NVIDIA 6xx/AMD 2xx or older. Use GopUpdate (see the second post) or AMD UEFI GOP MAKER in case you are not sure how.
- EHCI/XHCI Hand-off enabled in firmware settings only if boot stalls unless USB devices are disconnected.
- VT-x, Hyper Threading, Execute Disable Bit enabled in firmware settings if present.
- While it may not be required, sometimes you have to disable Thunderbolt support, Intel SGX, and Intel Platform Trust in firmware settings present.

When debugging sleep issues you may want to (temporarily) disable Power Nap and automatic power off, which appear to sometimes cause wake to black screen or boot loop issues on older platforms. The particular issues may vary, but in general you should check ACPI tables first. Here is an example of a bug found in some Z68 motherboards. To turn Power Nap and the others off run the following commands in Terminal:

```
sudo pmset autopoweroff 0
sudo pmset powernap 0
sudo pmset standby 0
```

*Note*: These settings may reset at hardware change and in certain other circumstances. To view their current state use pmset -g command in Terminal.

# 5.2 Properties

1. MmioWhitelist

Type: plist array

**Description**: Designed to be filled with plist dict values, describing addresses critical for particular firmware functioning when DevirtualiseMmio quirk is in use. See MmioWhitelist Properties section below.

2. Quirks

Type: plist dict

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

# 5.3 MmioWhitelist Properties

1. Address

Type: plist integer

Failsafe: 0

**Description:** Exceptional MMIO address, which memory descriptor should be left virtualised (unchanged) by

#### 10. ProtectSecureBoot

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Protect UEFI Secure Boot variables from being written.

Reports security violation during attempts to write to db, dbx, PK, and KEK variables from the operating system.

Note: This quirk mainly attempts to avoid issues with NVRAM implementations with problematic defragmentation, such as select Insyde or MacPro5,1.

# 11. ProtectUefiServices

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Protect UEFI services from being overridden by the firmware.

Some modern firmwares including both hardware and virtual machines, like VMware, may update pointers to UEFI services during driver loading and related actions. Consequentially this directly breaks other quirks that affect memory management, like DevirtualiseMmio, ProtectCsmRegionProtectMemoryRegions, or ShrinkMemoryMapRebuildAppleMemoryMap, and may also break other quirks depending on the effects of these.

Note: On VMware the need for this quirk may be diagnosed by "Your Mac OS guest might run unreliably with more than one virtual core." message.

#### 12. ProvideCustomSlide

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Provide custom KASLR slide on low memory.

This option performs memory map analysis of your firmware and checks whether all slides (from 1 to 255) can be used. As boot.efi generates this value randomly with rdrand or pseudo randomly rdtsc, there is a chance of boot failure when it chooses a conflicting slide. In case potential conflicts exist, this option forces macOS to use a pseudo random value among the available ones. This also ensures that slide= argument is never passed to the operating system for security reasons.

*Note*: The necessity of this quirk is determined by OCABC: Only N/256 slide values are usable! message in the debug log. If the message is present, this option is to be enabled.

#### 13. RebuildAppleMemoryMap

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Generate Memory Map compatible with macOS.

Apple kernel has several limitations in parsing UEFI memory map:

- Memory map size must not exceed 4096 bytes as Apple kernel maps it as a single 4K page. Since some firmwares have very large memory maps (approximately over 100 entries) Apple kernel will crash at boot.
- Memory attributes table is ignored. EfiRuntimeServicesCode memory statically gets RX permissions, and all other memory types get RW permissions. Since some firmware drivers may write to global variables at runtime, Apple kernel will crash at calling UEFI runtime services, unless driver .data section has EfiRuntimeServicesData type.

To workaround these limitations this quirk applies memory attributes table permissions to memory map passed to Apple kernel and optionally attempts to unify contiguous slots of similar types if the resulting memory map exceeds 4 KB.

Note 1: Since many firmwares come with incorrect memory protection table this quirk often comes in pair with SyncRuntimePermissions.

Note 2: The necessity of this quirk is determined by early boot failures. This quirk replaces EnableWriteUnprotector on firmwares supporting memory attributes table (MAT).

#### 14. SetupVirtualMap

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Setup virtual memory at SetVirtualAddresses.

# 6 DeviceProperties

# 6.1 Introduction

Device configuration is provided to macOS with a dedicated buffer, called EfiDevicePathPropertyDatabase. This buffer is a serialised map of DevicePaths to a map of property names and their values.

Property data can be debugged with gfxutil. To obtain current property data use the following command in macOS:

```
ioreg -lw0 -p IODeviceTree -n efi -r -x | grep device-properties |
  sed 's/.*<//;s/>.*//' > /tmp/device-properties.hex &&
  gfxutil /tmp/device-properties.hex /tmp/device-properties.plist &&
  cat /tmp/device-properties.plist
```

# 6.2 Properties

#### 1. Add

Type: plist dict

**Description**: Sets device properties from a map (plist dict) of deivce paths to a map (plist dict) of variable names and their values in plist metadata format. Device paths must be provided in canonic string format (e.g. PciRoot(0x0)/Pci(0x1,0x0)/Pci(0x0,0x0)). Properties will only be set if not present and not blockeddeleted.

*Note*: Currently properties may only be (formerly) added by the original driver, so unless a separate driver was installed, there is no reason to block delete the variables.

# 2. BlockDelete

Type: plist dict

**Description**: Removes device properties from a map (plist dict) of deivce paths to an array (plist array) of variable names in plist string format.

# 6.3 Common Properties

Some known properties include:

• device-id

User-specified device identifier used for I/O Kit matching. Has 4 byte data type.

• vendor-id

User-specified vendor identifier used for I/O Kit matching. Has 4 byte data type.

• AAPL, ig-platform-id

Intel GPU framebuffer identifier used for framebuffer selection on Ivy Bridge and newer. Has 4 byte data type.

• AAPL, snb-platform-id

Intel GPU framebuffer identifier used for framebuffer selection on Sandy Bridge. Has 4 byte data type.

• layout-id

Audio layout used for AppleHDA layout selection. Has 4 byte data type.

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Disables PKG\_CST\_CONFIG\_CONTROL (0xE2) MSR modification in AppleIntelCPUPowerManagement.kext, commonly causing early kernel panic, when it is locked from writing.

Certain firmwares lock PKG\_CST\_CONFIG\_CONTROL MSR register. To check its state one can use bundled VerifyMsrE2 tool. Select firmwares have this register locked on some cores only.

As modern firmwares provide CFG Lock setting, which allows configuring PKG\_CST\_CONFIG\_CONTROL MSR register lock, this option should be avoided whenever possible. For several APTIO firmwares not displaying CFG Lock setting in the GUI it is possible to access the option directly:

- (a) Download UEFITool and IFR-Extractor.
- (b) Open your firmware image in UEFITool and find CFG Lock unicode string. If it is not present, your firmware may not have this option and you should stop.
- (c) Extract the Setup.bin PE32 Image Section (the one UEFITool found) through Extract Body menu option.
- (d) Run IFR-Extractor on the extracted file (e.g. ./ifrextract Setup.bin Setup.txt).
- (e) Find CFG Lock, VarStoreInfo (VarOffset/VarName): in Setup.txt and remember the offset right after it (e.g. 0x123).
- (f) Download and run Modified GRUB Shell compiled by brainsucker or use a newer version by datasone.
- (g) Enter setup\_var 0x123 0x00 command, where 0x123 should be replaced by your actual offset, and reboot.

**WARNING**: Variable offsets are unique not only to each motherboard but even to its firmware version. Never ever try to use an offset without checking.

# 2. AppleXcpmCfgLock

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Disables PKG\_CST\_CONFIG\_CONTROL (0xE2) MSR modification in XNU kernel, commonly causing early kernel panic, when it is locked from writing (XCPM power management).

Note: This option should be avoided whenever possible. See AppleCpuPmCfgLock description for more details.

# $3. \ {\tt AppleXcpmExtraMsrs}$

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Disables multiple MSR access critical for select CPUs, which have no native XCPM support.

This is normally used in conjunction with Emulate section on Haswell-E, Broadwell-E, Skylake-XSkylake-SP, and similar CPUs. More details on the XCPM patches are outlined in acidanthera/bugtracker#365.

*Note*: Additional not provided patches will be required for Ivy Bridge or Pentium CPUs. It is recommended to use AppleIntelCpuPowerManagement.kext for the former.

# 4. AppleXcpmForceBoost

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Forces maximum performance in XCPM mode.

This patch writes 0xFF00 to  $MSR_IA32_PERF_CONTROL$  (0x199), effectively setting maximum multiplier for all the time.

*Note*: While this may increase the performance, this patch is strongly discouraged on all systems but those explicitly dedicated to scientific or media calculations. In general only certain Xeon models benefit from the patch.

# 5. CustomSMBIOSGuid

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Performs GUID patching for UpdateSMBIOSMode Custom mode. Usually relevant for Dell laptops.

### 6. DisableIoMapper

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Disables IOMapper support in XNU (VT-d), which may conflict with the firmware implementation.

# 8 Misc

#### 8.1 Introduction

This section contains miscellaneous configuration entries for OpenCore behaviour that does not go to any other sections affecting OpenCore operating system loading behaviour as well as other entries, which do not go to any other section.

OpenCore tries to follow "bless" model also known as "Apple Boot Policy". The primary specialty of "bless" model is to allow embedding boot options within the file system (and be accessible through a specialised driver) as well as supporting a broader range of predefined boot paths compared to the removable media list found in the UEFI specification.

Each partition will only be used for booting when it corresponds to "Scan policy": a set of restrictions to only use partitions with specific file systems and from specific device types. Scan policy behaviour is discussed in ScanPolicy property description.

Scan process starts with obtaining all the partitions filtered with "Scan policy". Each partition may produce multiple primary and alternate options. Primary options describe operating systems installed on this media. Alternate options describe recovery options for the operating systems on the media. It is possible for alternate options to exist without primary options and vice versa. Be warned that the options may not necessarily describe the operating systems on the same partition. Each primary and alternate option can be an auxiliary option or not, refer to HideAuxiliary for more details. Algorithm to determine boot options behaves as follows:

- 1. Obtain all available partition handles filtered by "Scan policy" (and driver availability).
- 2. Obtain all available boot options from BootOrder UEFI variable.
- 3. For each found boot option:
  - Retrieve device path of the boot option.
  - Perform fixups (e.g. NVMe subtype correction) and expansion (e.g. for Boot Camp) of the device path.
  - Obtain device handle by locating device path of the resulting device path (ignore it on failure).
  - Find device handle in the list of partition handles (ignore it if missing).
  - For disk device paths (not specifying a bootloader) execute "bless" (may return > 1 entry).
  - For file device paths check presence on the file system directly.
  - Exclude options with blacklisted filenames (refer to BlacklistAppleUpdate option).
  - On OpenCore boot partition exclude all OpenCore bootstrap files by header checks.
  - Mark device handle as *used* in the list of partition handles if any.
  - Register the resulting entries as primary options and determine their types.

    The option will become auxiliary for some types (e.g. Apple HFS recovery).
- 4. For each partition handle:
  - If partition handle is marked as *unused* execute "bless" primary option list retrieval.

    In case BlessOverride list is set, not only standard "bless" paths will be found but also custom ones.
  - Exclude options with blacklisted filenames (refer to
  - BlacklistAppleUpdate option).
  - On OpenCore boot partition exclude all OpenCore bootstrap files by header checks.
  - Register the resulting entries as primary options and determine their types if found.

    The option will become auxiliary for some types (e.g. Apple HFS recovery).
  - If partition already has primary options of "Apple Recovery" type proceed to next handle.
  - Lookup alternate entries by "bless" recovery option list retrieval and predefined paths.
  - Register the resulting entries as alternate auxiliary options and determine their types if found.
- 5. Custom entries and tools are added as primary options without any checks with respect to Auxiliary.
- 6. System entries (e.g. Reset NVRAM) are added as primary auxiliary options.

The display order of the boot options in the picker and the boot process are determined separately from the scanning algorithm. The display order as follows:

- Alternate options follow corresponding primary options, i.e. Apple recovery will be following the relevant macOS option whenever possible.
- Options will be listed in file system handle firmware order to maintain an established order across the reboots regardless of the chosen operating system for loading.
- Custom entries, tools, and system entries will be added after all other options.
- Auxiliary options will only show upon entering "Advanced Mode" in the picker (usually by pressing "Space").

The boot process is as follows:

- Try looking up first valid primary option through BootNext UEFI variable.
- On failure looking up first valid primary option through BootOrder UEFI variable.
- Mark the option as the default option to boot.
- Boot option through the picker or without it depending on the ShowPicker option.
- Show picker on failure otherwise.

Note 1: This process is meant to work reliably only when RequestBootVarRouting option is enabled or the firmware does not control UEFI boot options (OpenDuetPkg or custom BDS). Without BootProtect it also is possible that other operating systems overwrite OpenCore, make sure to enable it if you plan to use them.

Note 2: UEFI variable boot options' boot arguments will be removed if present as they may contain arguments compromising the operating system, which is undesired once secure boot is enabled.

Note 3: Some operating systems, namely Windows, will create their boot option and mark it as top most upon first boot or after NVRAM Reset. When this happens default boot entry choice will update till next manual reconfiguration.

# 8.2 Properties

1. Boot

Type: plist dict

**Description**: Apply boot configuration described in Boot Properties section below.

2. BlessOverride

Type: plist array

**Description**: Add custom scanning paths through bless model.

Designed to be filled with plist string entries containing absolute UEFI paths to customised bootloaders, for example, \EFI\Microsoft\Boot\bootmgfw.efi for Microsoft bootloader. This allows unusual boot paths to be automatically discovered by the boot picker. Designwise they are equivalent to predefined blessed path, such as \System\Library\CoreServices\boot.efi, but unlike predefined bless paths they have highest priority.

3. Debug

Type: plist dict

**Description**: Apply debug configuration described in Debug Properties section below.

4. Entries

Type: plist array

**Description**: Add boot entries to boot picker.

Designed to be filled with plist dict values, describing each load entry. See Entry Properties section below.

5. Security

Type: plist dict

**Description**: Apply security configuration described in Security Properties section below.

6. Tools

Type: plist array

**Description**: Add tool entries to boot picker.

Designed to be filled with plist dict values, describing each load entry. See Entry Properties section below.

*Note*: Select tools, for example, UEFI Shell, are very dangerous and **MUST NOT** appear in production configurations, especially in vaulted ones and protected with secure boot, as they may be used to easily bypass secure boot chain.

# 8.3 Boot Properties

1. ConsoleAttributes

Type: plist integer

Failsafe: 0

**Description**: Sets specific attributes for console.

Text renderer supports colour arguments as a sum of foreground and background colors according to UEFI specification. The value of black background and black foreground (0) is reserved. List of colour names:

- 0x00 EFI\_BLACK
- 0x01 EFI\_BLUE
- 0x02 EFI\_GREEN
- 0x03 EFI\_CYAN
- 0x04 EFI RED
- OxO5 EFI\_MAGENTA
- 0x06 EFI\_BROWN
- 0x07 EFI\_LIGHTGRAY
- 0x08 EFI DARKGRAY
- 0x09 EFI LIGHTBLUE
- OxOA EFI\_LIGHTGREEN
- OxOB EFI\_LIGHTCYAN
- OxOC EFI\_LIGHTRED
- OxOD EFI\_LIGHTMAGENTA
- OxOE EFI\_YELLOW
- OxOF EFI WHITE
- 0x00 EFI\_BACKGROUND\_BLACK
- 0x10 EFI\_BACKGROUND\_BLUE
- 0x20 EFI\_BACKGROUND\_GREEN
- 0x30 EFI\_BACKGROUND\_CYAN
- 0x40 EFI\_BACKGROUND\_RED
- 0x50 EFI\_BACKGROUND\_MAGENTA
- 0x60 EFI BACKGROUND BROWN
- 0x70 EFI BACKGROUND LIGHTGRAY

*Note*: This option may not work well with System text renderer. Setting a background different from black could help testing proper GOP functioning.

#### 2. 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.

# 3. HideAuxiliary

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Hides auxiliary entries from picker menu by default.

An entry is considered auxiliary when at least one of the following applies:

- Entry is macOS recovery.
- Entry is macOS Time Machine.
- Entry is explicitly marked as Auxiliary.
- Entry is system (e.g. Clean NVRAM).

To see all entries picker menu needs to be reloaded in extended mode by pressing Spacebar key. Hiding auxiliary entries may increase boot performance for multidisk systems.

- 4. HideSelfType: plist booleanFailsafe: falseDescription: 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.
- 5. PickerAttributes

Type: plist integer

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Enable boot.efi debug log saving to OpenCore log.

*Note*: This option only applies to 10.15.4 and newer.

2. ApplePanic

Type: plist boolean Failsafe: false

**Description**: Save macOS kernel panic to OpenCore root partition.

The file is saved as panic-YYYY-MM-DD-HHMMSS.txt. It is strongly recommended to have keepsyms=1 boot argument to see debug symbols in the panic log. In case it was not present kpdescribe.sh utility (bundled with OpenCore) may be used to partially recover the stacktrace.

Development and debug kernels produce more helpful kernel panics. Consider downloading and installing KernelDebugKit from developer.apple.com when debugging a problem. To activate a development kernel you will need to add a kcsuffix=development boot argument. Use uname -a command to ensure that your current loaded kernel is a development (or a debug) kernel.

In case OpenCore kernel panic saving mechanism was not used, kernel panics may still be found in /Library/Logs/Diagnosti directory. Starting with macOS Catalina kernel panics are stored in JSON format, so they need to be preprocessed before passing to kpdescribe.sh:

```
cat Kernel.panic | grep macOSProcessedStackshotData |
  python -c 'import json,sys;print(json.load(sys.stdin)["macOSPanicString"])'
```

# 3. DisableWatchDog

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Select firmwares may not succeed in quickly booting the operating system, especially in debug mode, which results in watch dog timer aborting the process. This option turns off watch dog timer.

4. DisplayDelay

Type: plist integer

Failsafe: 0

**Description**: Delay in microseconds performed after every printed line visible onscreen (i.e. console).

5. DisplayLevel

 $\mathbf{Type}$ : plist integer,  $64 \ \mathrm{bit}$ 

Failsafe: 0

**Description**: EDK II debug level bitmask (sum) showed onscreen. Unless Target enables console (onscreen) printing, onscreen debug output will not be visible. The following levels are supported (discover more in DebugLib.h):

- 0x00000002 (bit 1) DEBUG\_WARN in DEBUG, NOOPT, RELEASE.
- 0x00000040 (bit 6) DEBUG INFO in DEBUG, NOOPT.
- 0x00400000 (bit 22) DEBUG VERBOSE in custom builds.
- 0x80000000 (bit 31) DEBUG ERROR in DEBUG, NOOPT, RELEASE.
- 6. Target

Type: plist integer

Failsafe: 0

**Description**: A bitmask (sum) of enabled logging targets. By default all the logging output is hidden, so this option is required to be set when debugging is necessary.

The following logging targets are supported:

- 0x01 (bit 0) Enable logging, otherwise all log is discarded.
- 0x02 (bit 1) Enable basic console (onscreen) logging.
- 0x04 (bit 2) Enable logging to Data Hub.
- 0x08 (bit 3) Enable serial port logging.
- 0x10 (bit 4) Enable UEFI variable logging.
- 0x20 (bit 5) Enable non-volatile UEFI variable logging.

• 0x40 (bit 6) — Enable logging to file.

Console logging prints less than all the other variants. Depending on the build type (RELEASE, DEBUG, or NOOPT) different amount of logging may be read (from least to most).

Data Hub log will not log kernel and kext patches. To obtain Data Hub log use the following command in macOS:

```
ioreg -lw0 -p IODeviceTree | grep boot-log | sort | sed 's/.*<\(.*\)>.*/\1/' | xxd -r -p
```

UEFI variable log does not include some messages and has no performance data. For safety reasons log size is limited to 32 kilobytes. Some firmwares may truncate it much earlier or drop completely if they have no memory. 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:

```
nvram 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

 $\mathbf{Type}:$  plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Allow CMD+OPT+P+R handling and enable showing NVRAM Reset entry in boot picker.

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

 $\mathbf{Type}:$  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 fdesetup 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. BlacklistAppleUpdate

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Ignore boot options trying to update Apple peripheral firmware (e.g. MultiUpdater.efi).

5. BootProtect

Type: plist string

Failsafe: None

**Description**: Attempt to provide bootloader persistence.

#### Valid values:

- None do nothing.
- Bootstrap create or update top-priority \EFI\OC\Bootstrap\Bootstrap.efi boot option (Boot9696) in UEFI variable storage at bootloader startup. For this option to work RequestBootVarRouting is required to be enabled.

This option provides integration with third-party operating system installation and upgrade at the times they overwrite \EFI\B00T\B00Tx64.efi file. By creating a custom option in Bootstrap mode this file path becomes no longer used for bootstraping OpenCore.

Note 1: Some firmewares may have broken NVRAM, no boot option support, or various other incompatibilities of any kind. While unlikely, the use of this option may even cause boot failure. Use at your own risk on boards known to be compatible.

Note 2: Be warned that NVRAM reset will also while NVRAM reset executed from OpenCore should not erase the boot option created in Bootstrapmode, executing NVRAM reset prior to loading OpenCore will remove it.

# 6. 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:

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

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

```
u=$(nvram 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:

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

To obtain OEM information use the following commands in macOS:

```
      nvram
      4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102:oem-product
      # SMBIOS
      Type1
      ProductName

      nvram
      4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102:oem-vendor
      # SMBIOS
      Type2
      Manufacturer

      nvram
      4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102:oem-board
      # SMBIOS
      Type2
      ProductName
```

# 7. 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.

# 8. Vault

Type: plist string Failsafe: Secure

**Description**: Enables vaulting mechanism in OpenCore.

Valid values:

- Optional require nothing, no vault is enforced, insecure.
- Basic require vault.plist file present in OC directory. This provides basic filesystem integrity verification and may protect from unintentional filesystem corruption.

# 9 NVRAM

#### 9.1 Introduction

Has plist dict type and allows to set volatile UEFI variables commonly referred as NVRAM variables. Refer to man nvram for more details. macOS extensively uses NVRAM variables for OS — Bootloader — Firmware intercommunication, and thus supplying several NVRAM is required for proper macOS functioning.

Each NVRAM variable consists of its name, value, attributes (refer to UEFI specification), and its GUID, representing which 'section' NVRAM variable belongs to. macOS uses several GUIDs, including but not limited to:

- 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14 (APPLE\_VENDOR\_VARIABLE\_GUID)
- 7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82 (APPLE\_BOOT\_VARIABLE\_GUID)
- 8BE4DF61-93CA-11D2-AAOD-00E098032B8C (EFI\_GLOBAL\_VARIABLE\_GUID)
- 4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102 (OC\_VENDOR\_VARIABLE\_GUID)

*Note*: Some of the variables may be added by PlatformNVRAM or Generic subsections of PlatformInfo section. Please ensure that variables of this section never collide with them, as behaviour is undefined otherwise.

For proper macOS functioning it is often required to use OC\_FIRMWARE\_RUNTIME protocol implementation currently offered as a part of OpenRuntime driver. While it brings any benefits, there are certain limitations which arise depending on the use.

1. Not all tools may be aware of protected namespaces.

When RequestBootVarRouting is used Boot-prefixed variable access is restricted and protected in a separate namespace. To access the original variables tools have to be aware of OC\_FIRMWARE\_RUNTIME logic.

2. Assigned NVRAM variables are not always allowed to exceed 512 bytes. This is true for Boot-prefixed variables when RequestBootVarFallback is used, and for overwriting volatile variables with non-volatile on UEFI 2.8 non-conformant firmwares.

# 9.2 Properties

# 1. Add

Type: plist dict

**Description**: Sets NVRAM variables from a map (plist dict) of GUIDs to a map (plist dict) of variable names and their values in plist metadata format. GUIDs must be provided in canonic string format in upper or lower case (e.g. 8BE4DF61-93CA-11D2-AAOD-00E098032B8C).

Created variables get EFI\_VARIABLE\_BOOTSERVICE\_ACCESS and EFI\_VARIABLE\_RUNTIME\_ACCESS attributes set. Variables will only be set if not present or <a href="blocked-deleted">blocked-deleted</a>. I.e. to overwrite an existing variable value add the variable name to the <a href="BlockDelete">BlockDelete</a> section. This approach enables to provide default values till the operating system takes the lead.

Note: If plist key does not conform to GUID format, behaviour is undefined.

# 2. BlockDelete

Type: plist dict

**Description**: Removes NVRAM variables from a map (plist dict) of GUIDs to an array (plist array) of variable names in plist string format.

# 3. LegacyEnable

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Enables loading of NVRAM variable file named nvram.plist from EFI volume root.

This file must have root plist dictionary type and contain two fields:

- Version plist integer, file version, must be set to 1.
- Add plist dictionary, equivalent to Add from config.plist.

Variable loading happens prior to **BlockDelete** (and Add) phases. Unless LegacyOverwrite is enabled, it will not overwrite any existing variable. Variables allowed to be set must be specified in LegacySchema. Third-party scripts may be used to create nvram.plist file. An example of such script can be found in Utilities. The use of

- 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:ExtendedFirmwareFeaturesMask

  Combined FirmwareFeaturesMask and ExtendedFirmwareFeaturesMask. Present on newer Macs to avoid extra parsing of SMBIOS tables.
- 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:HW\_BID Hardware BoardProduct (e.g. Mac-35C1E88140C3E6CF). Not present on real Macs, but used to avoid extra parsing of SMBIOS tables, especially in boot.efi.
- 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:HW\_MLB

Hardware BoardSerialNumber. Override for MLB. Present on newer Macs (2013+ at least).

• 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:HW\_ROM

Hardware ROM. Override for ROM. Present on newer Macs (2013+ at least).

• 7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:prev-lang:kbd

ASCII string defining default keyboard layout. Format is lang-COUNTRY:keyboard, e.g. ru-RU:252 for Russian locale and ABC keyboard. Also accepts short forms: ru:252 or ru:0 (U.S. keyboard, compatible with 10.9). Full decoded keyboard list from AppleKeyboardLayouts-L.dat can be found here. Using non-latin keyboard on 10.14 will not enable ABC keyboard, unlike previous and subsequent macOS versions, and is thus not recommended in case you need 10.14.

• 7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:security-mode

ASCII string defining FireWire security mode. Legacy, can be found in IOFireWireFamily source code in IOFireWireController.cpp. It is recommended not to set this variable, which may speedup system startup. Setting to full is equivalent to not setting the variable and none disables FireWire security.

- 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:UIScale
  One-byte data defining boot.efi user interface scaling. Should be **01** for normal screens and **02** for HiDPI screens.
- 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14: DefaultBackgroundColor
   Four-byte RGBABGRA data defining boot.efi user interface background colour. Standard colours include BF BF
   BF 00 (Light Gray) and 00 00 00 (Syrah Black). Other colours may be set at user's preference.

#### 9.5 Other Variables

The following variables may be useful for certain configurations or troubleshooting:

• 7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:boot-args

Kernel arguments, used to pass configuration to Apple kernel and drivers. There are many arguments, which may be found by looking for the use of PE\_parse\_boot\_argn function in the kernel or driver code. Some of the known boot arguments include:

- acpi\_layer=0xFFFFFFF
- acpi level=0xFFFF5F (implies ACPI ALL COMPONENTS)
- batman=VALUE (AppleSmartBatteryManager debug mask)
- batman-nosmc=1 (disable AppleSmartBatteryManager SMC interface)
- cpus=VALUE (maximum number of CPUs used)
- debug=VALUE (debug mask)
- io=VALUE (IOKit debug mask)
- keepsyms=1 (show panic log debug symbols)
- kextlog=VALUE (kernel extension loading debug mask)
- nv disable=1 (disables NVIDIA GPU acceleration)
- nvda drv=1 (legacy way to enable NVIDIA web driver, removed in 10.12)
- npci=0x2000 (legacy, disables kIOPCIConfiguratorPFM64)
- lapic\_dont\_panic=1
- slide=VALUE (manually set KASLR slide)
- smcdebug=VALUE (AppleSMC debug mask)
- -amd\_no\_dgpu\_accel (alternative to WhateverGreen's -radvesa for new GPUs)
- -nehalem\_error\_disable
- -no\_compat\_check (disable model checking)
- -s (single mode)
- -v (verbose mode)
- -x (safe mode)

There are multiple external places summarising macOS argument lists: example 1, example 2.

• 7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:bootercfg

Booter arguments, similar to boot-args but for boot.efi. Accepts a set of arguments, which are hexadecimal 64-bit values with or without 0x. At different stages boot.efi will request different debugging (logging) modes (e.g. after ExitBootServices it will only print to serial). Several booter arguments control whether these requests will succeed. The list of known requests is covered below:

```
- 0x00 - INIT.
- 0x01 - VERBOSE (e.g. -v, force console logging).
- 0x02 - EXIT.
- 0x03 - RESET: OK.
- 0x04 - RESET: FAIL (e.g. unknown board-id, hibernate mismatch, panic loop, etc.).
- 0x05 - RESET: RECOVERY.

 0x06 - RECOVERY.

- 0x07 - REAN:START.
- 0x08 - REAN:END.
- 0x09 - DT (can no longer log to DeviceTree).
- 0x0A - EXITBS:START (forced serial only).

    0x0B - EXITBS: END (forced serial only).

- OxOC - UNKNOWN.
```

of a new debug protocol. Some of the arguments and their values below may not be valid for versions prior to 10.15.4. The list of known arguments is covered below:

```
In 10.15 debugging support was mostly broken before 10.15.4 due to some kind of refactoring and introduction

    boot-save-log=VALUE — debug log save mode for normal boot.

       * 0
       * 1
       * 2 — (default).
       * 3
       * 4 — (save to file).

    wake-save-log=VALUE — debug log save mode for hibernation wake.

       * 0 — disabled.
       * 1
       * 2 — (default).
       * 3 — (unavailable).
       * 4 — (save to file, unavailable).
  - breakpoint=VALUE — enables debug breaks (missing in production boot.efi).
       * 0 — disables debug breaks on errors (default).
       * 1 — enables debug breaks on errors.

    console=VALUE — enables console logging.

       * 0 — disables console logging.
       * 1 — enables console logging when debug protocol is missing (default).
       * 2 — enables console logging unconditionally (unavailable).

    embed-log-dt=VALUE — enables DeviceTree logging.

       * 0 — disables DeviceTree logging (default).
       * 1 — enables DeviceTree logging.
  - kc-read-size=VALUE — Chunk size used for buffered I/O from network or disk for prelinkedkernel reading
    and related. Set to 1MB (0x100000) by default, can be tuned for faster booting.

    log-level=VALUE — log level bitmask.

       * 0x01 — enables trace logging (default).

    serial=VALUE — enables serial logging.

       * 0 — disables serial logging (default).
       * 1 — enables serial logging for EXITBS: END onwards.
       * 1 — enables serial logging for EXITBS:START onwards.
       * 3 — enables serial logging when debug protocol is missing.
       * 4 — enables serial logging unconditionally.
  - timestamps=VALUE — enables timestamp logging.
       * 0 — disables timestamp logging.
       * 1 — enables timestamp logging (default).
  - log=VALUE — deprecated starting from 10.15.
```

\* 1 — AppleLoggingConOutOrErrSet/AppleLoggingConOutOrErrPrint (classical ConOut/StdErr)

# 10 PlatformInfo

Platform information is comprised of several identification fields generated or filled manually to be compatible with macOS services. The base part of the configuration may be obtained from packageAppleModels, which itself generates a set of interfaces based on a database in YAML format. These fields are written to three select destinations:

- SMBIOS
- Data Hub
- NVRAM

Most of the fields specify the overrides in SMBIOS, and their field names conform to EDK2 SmBios.h header file. However, several important fields reside in Data Hub and NVRAM. Some of the values can be found in more than one field and/or destination, so there are two ways to control their update process: manual, where one specifies all the values (the default), and semi-automatic, where (Automatic) only select values are specified, and later used for system configuration.

To inspect SMBIOS contents dmidecode utility can be used. Version with macOS specific enhancements can be downloaded from Acidanthera/dmidecode.

# 10.1 Properties

#### 1. Automatic

Type: plist boolean Failsafe: false

Description: Generate PlatformInfo based on Generic section instead of using values from DataHub, NVRAM, and SMBIOS sections.

Enabling this option is useful when Generic section is flexible enough. When enabled SMBIOS, DataHub, and PlatformNVRAM data is unused.

# 2. UpdateDataHub

Type: plist boolean Failsafe: false

Description: Update Data Hub fields. These fields are read from Generic or DataHub sections depending on Automatic value.

#### 3. UpdateNVRAM

Type: plist boolean Failsafe: false

**Description**: Update NVRAM fields related to platform information.

These fields are read from Generic or PlatformNVRAM sections depending on Automatic value. All the other fields are to be specified with NVRAM section.

If UpdateNVRAM is set to false the aforementioned variables can be updated with NVRAM section. If UpdateNVRAM is set to true the behaviour is undefined when any of the fields are present in NVRAM section.

# 4. UpdateSMBIOS

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Update SMBIOS fields. These fields are read from **Generic** or **SMBIOS** sections depending on **Automatic** value.

#### 5. UpdateSMBIOSMode

Type: plist string Failsafe: Create

**Description**: Update SMBIOS fields approach:

- TryOverwrite Overwrite if new size is <= than the page-aligned original and there are no issues with legacy region unlock. Create otherwise. Has issues with some firmwares.
- Create Replace the tables with newly allocated EfiReservedMemoryType at AllocateMaxAddress without
  any fallbacks.

- Overwrite Overwrite existing gEfiSmbiosTableGuid and gEfiSmbiosTable3Guid data if it fits new size. Abort with unspecified state otherwise.
- Custom Write SMBIOS tables (gEfiSmbios(3)TableGuid) to gOcCustomSmbios(3)TableGuid 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.

*Note*: A side effect of using Custom approach is making SMBIOS updates exclusive to macOS, avoiding a collission with existing Windows activation and custom OEM software but potentially breaking Apple-specific tools.

6. Generic

Type: plist dictonary

Optional: When Automatic is false

Description: Update all fields. This section is read only when Automatic is active.

7. DataHub

Type: plist dictonary

Optional: When Automatic is true

Description: Update Data Hub fields. This section is read only when Automatic is not active.

8. PlatformNVRAM

Type: plist dictonary

Optional: When Automatic is true

Description: Update platform NVRAM fields. This section is read only when Automatic is not active.

9. SMBIOS

Type: plist dictonary

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. AdviseWindows

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Forces 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.
- 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.

# 10.4 PlatformNVRAM Properties

1. BID

Type: plist string Failsafe: Not installed

Description: Specifies the value of NVRAM variable 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:HW\_BID.

2. ROM

Type: plist data, 6 bytes Failsafe: Not installed

 $\textbf{Description:} \ \ \textbf{Specifies the values of NVRAM variables 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:HW\_ROM and and all the properties of the values of NVRAM variables and the properties of the values of NVRAM variables and the properties of the values of NVRAM variables are considered as a superior of the properties of the values of NVRAM variables are considered as a superior of the properties of the values of NVRAM variables are considered as a superior of the properties of the values of NVRAM variables are considered as a superior of the properties of the values of NVRAM variables are considered as a superior of the properties of$ 

4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:ROM.

3. MLB

Type: plist string Failsafe: Not installed

Description: Specifies the values of NVRAM variables 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:HW\_MLB and

4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:MLB.

4. FirmwareFeatures

Type: plist data, 8 bytes Failsafe: Not installed

Description: This variable comes in pair with FirmwareFeaturesMask. Specifies the values of NVRAM variables:

• 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:FirmwareFeatures

• 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:ExtendedFirmwareFeatures

5. FirmwareFeaturesMask

Type: plist data, 8 bytes Failsafe: Not installed

Description: This variable comes in pair with FirmwareFeatures. Specifies the values of NVRAM variables:

• 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:FirmwareFeaturesMask

 $\bullet \ 4 \texttt{D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:} \\ \texttt{ExtendedFirmwareFeaturesMask} \\$ 

# 10.5 SMBIOS Properties

 $1. \ {\tt BIOSVendor}$ 

Type: plist string Failsafe: OEM specified

**SMBIOS**: BIOS Information (Type 0) — Vendor

**Description**: BIOS Vendor. All rules of SystemManufacturer do apply.

2. BIOSVersion

Type: plist string Failsafe: OEM specified

**SMBIOS**: BIOS Information (Type 0) — BIOS Version

**Description**: Firmware version. This value gets updated and takes part in update delivery configuration and macOS version compatibility. This value could look like MM71.88Z.0234.B00.1809171422 in older firmwares, and is described in BiosId.h. In newer firmwares it should look like 236.0.0.0.0 or 220.230.16.0.0 (iBridge: 16.16.2542.0.0,0). iBridge version is read from BridgeOSVersion variable, and is only present on macs with

T2.

Apple ROM Version

BIOS ID: MBP151.88Z.F000.B00.1811142212

Model: MBP151

EFI Version: 220.230.16.0.0 Built by: root@quinoa

Date: Wed Nov 14 22:12:53 2018

Revision: 220.230.16 (B&I)

ROM Version: F000\_B00

Build Type: Official Build, RELEASE

Compiler: Apple LLVM version 10.0.0 (clang-1000.2.42)

UUID: E5D1475B-29FF-32BA-8552-682622BA42E1 UUID: 151B0907-10F9-3271-87CD-4BF5DBECACF5

#### 3. BIOSReleaseDate

Type: plist string Failsafe: OEM specified

**SMBIOS**: BIOS Information (Type 0) — BIOS Release Date

Description: Firmware release date. Similar to BIOSVersion. May look like 12/08/2017.

# $4. \ {\tt SystemManufacturer}$

Type: plist string Failsafe: OEM specified

**SMBIOS**: System Information (Type 1) — Manufacturer

**Description**: OEM manufacturer of the particular board. Shall not be specified unless strictly required. Should *not* contain Apple Inc., as this confuses numerous services present in the operating system, such as firmware updates, eficheck, as well as kernel extensions developed in Acidanthera, such as Lilu and its plugins. In addition it will also make some operating systems like Linux unbootable.

# 5. SystemProductName

Type: plist string Failsafe: OEM specified

SMBIOS: System Information (Type 1), Product Name

**Description**: Preferred Mac model used to mark the device as supported by the operating system. This value must be specified by any configuration for later automatic generation of the related values in this and other SMBIOS tables and related configuration parameters. If SystemProductName is not compatible with the target operating system, -no\_compat\_check boot argument may be used as an override.

Note: If SystemProductName is unknown, and related fields are unspecified, default values should be assumed as being set to MacPro6,1 data. The list of known products can be found in MacInfoPkgAppleModels.

# 6. SystemVersion

Type: plist string Failsafe: OEM specified

**SMBIOS**: System Information (Type 1) — Version

**Description**: Product iteration version number. May look like 1.1.

#### 7. SystemSerialNumber

Type: plist string
Failsafe: OEM specified

**SMBIOS**: System Information (Type 1) — Serial Number

**Description**: Product serial number in defined format. Known formats are described in macserial.

#### 8. SystemUUID

Type: plist string, GUID Failsafe: OEM specified

**SMBIOS**: System Information (Type 1) — UUID

**Description**: A UUID is an identifier that is designed to be unique across both time and space. It requires no central registration process.

#### 9. SystemSKUNumber

Type: plist string Failsafe: OEM specified

**SMBIOS**: System Information (Type 1) — SKU Number

**Description**: Mac Board ID (board-id). May look like Mac-7BA5B2D9E42DDD94 or Mac-F221BEC8 in older models. Sometimes it can be just empty.

# 10. SystemFamily

Type: plist string Failsafe: OEM specified

**SMBIOS**: System Information (Type 1) — Family **Description**: Family name. May look like iMac Pro.

#### 21. ChassisSerialNumber

Type: plist string Failsafe: OEM specified

**SMBIOS**: System Enclosure or Chassis (Type 3) — Version

Description: Should match SystemSerialNumber.

# 22. ChassisAssetTag

Type: plist string Failsafe: OEM specified

**SMBIOS**: System Enclosure or Chassis (Type 3) — Asset Tag Number

Description: Chassis type name. Varies, could be empty or MacBook-Aluminum.

### 23. PlatformFeature

Type: plist integer, 32-bit

Failsafe: 0xFFFFFFF

SMBIOS: APPLE\_SMBIOS\_TABLE\_TYPE133 - PlatformFeature

 $\textbf{Description:} \ \ \text{Platform features bitmask.} \ \ \text{Refer to AppleFeatures.h for more details.} \ \ \text{Use 0xFFFFFFF value to} \\$ 

not provide this table.

#### 24. SmcVersion

Type: plist data, 16 bytes

Failsafe: All zero

SMBIOS: APPLE\_SMBIOS\_TABLE\_TYPE134 - Version

**Description**: ASCII string containing SMC version in upper case. Missing on T2 based Macs. Ignored when

zero.

#### 25. FirmwareFeatures

Type: plist data, 8 bytes

Failsafe: 0

SMBIOS: APPLE\_SMBIOS\_TABLE\_TYPE128 - FirmwareFeatures and ExtendedFirmwareFeatures

**Description**: 64-bit firmware features bitmask. Refer to AppleFeatures.h for more details. Lower 32 bits match

 ${\tt Firmware Features.}\ \ {\tt Upper}\ 64\ {\tt bits}\ {\tt match}\ {\tt Extended Firmware Features}.$ 

### 26. FirmwareFeaturesMask

Type: plist data, 8 bytes

Failsafe: 0

SMBIOS: APPLE\_SMBIOS\_TABLE\_TYPE128 - FirmwareFeaturesMask and ExtendedFirmwareFeaturesMask

**Description**: Supported bits of extended firmware features bitmask. Refer to AppleFeatures.h for more details. Lower 32 bits match FirmwareFeaturesMask. Upper 64 bits match ExtendedFirmwareFeaturesMask.

# 27. ProcessorType

Type: plist integer, 16-bit

Failsafe: Automatic

SMBIOS: APPLE\_SMBIOS\_TABLE\_TYPE131 - ProcessorType **Description**: Combined of Processor Major and Minor types.

# 28. MemoryFormFactor

Type: plist integer, 8-bit Failsafe: OEM specified

**SMBIOS**: Memory Device (Type 17) — Form Factor

**Description**: Memory form factor. On Macs it should be DIMM or SODIMM.

# 11 UEFI

# 11.1 Introduction

UEFI (Unified Extensible Firmware Interface) is a specification that defines a software interface between an operating system and platform firmware. This section allows to load additional UEFI modules and/or apply tweaks for the onboard firmware. To inspect firmware contents, apply modifications and perform upgrades UEFITool and supplementary utilities can be used.

# 11.2 Drivers

XhciDxe\*

Depending on the firmware a different set of drivers may be required. Loading an incompatible driver may lead your system to unbootable state or even cause permanent firmware damage. Some of the known drivers are listed below:

3	0
AudioDxe	HDA audio support driver in UEFI firmwares for most Intel and some other analog audio controllers. Refer Staging driver, refer to acidanthera/bugtracker#740 for known issues in
	AudioDxe.
ExFatDxe	Proprietary ExFAT file system driver for Bootcamp support commonly found in Apple
	firmwares. For Sandy Bridge and earlier CPUs ExFatDxeLegacy driver should be used due
	to the lack of RDRAND instruction support.
HfsPlus	Proprietary HFS file system driver with bless support commonly found in Apple firmwares.
	For Sandy Bridge and earlier CPUs HfsPlusLegacy driver should be used due to the lack of
	RDRAND instruction support.
HiiDatabase*	HII services support driver from MdeModulePkg. This driver is included in most firmwares
	starting with Ivy Bridge generation. Some applications with the GUI like UEFI Shell may
	need this driver to work properly.
EnhancedFatDxe	FAT filesystem driver from FatPkg. This driver is embedded in all UEFI firmwares, and
	cannot be used from OpenCore. It is known that multiple firmwares have a bug in their FAT
	support implementation, which leads to corrupted filesystems on write attempt. Embedding
	this driver within the firmware may be required in case writing to EFI partition is needed
	during the boot process.
NvmExpressDxe*	NVMe support driver from MdeModulePkg. This driver is included in most firmwares starting
	with Broadwell generation. For Haswell and earlier embedding it within the firmware may be
0 0 *	more favourable in case a NVMe SSD drive is installed.
OpenCanopy* OpenRuntime*	OpenCore plugin implementing graphical interface.  OpenCore plugin implementing OC_FIRMWARE_RUNTIME protocol.
OpenUsbKbDxe*	USB keyboard driver adding the support of AppleKeyMapAggregator protocols on top of a
ореповруютие	custom USB keyboard driver implementation. This is an alternative to builtin KeySupport,
	which may work better or worse depending on the firmware.
Ps2KeyboardDxe*	PS/2 keyboard driver from MdeModulePkg. DuetPkg OpenDuetPkg and some firmwares
1 22110 ) 2 0 0 1 0 2 110	may not include this driver, but it is necessary for PS/2 keyboard to work. Note, un-
	like OpenUsbKbDxe this driver has no AppleKeyMapAggregator support and thus requires
	KeySupport to be enabled.
Ps2MouseDxe*	PS/2 mouse driver from MdeModulePkg. Some very old laptop firmwares may not include
	this driver, but it is necessary for touchpad to work in UEFI graphical interfaces, such as
	OpenCanopy.
UsbMouseDxe*	USB mouse driver from MdeModulePkg. Some virtual machine firmwares like OVMF may not
	include this driver, but it is necessary for mouse to work in UEFI graphical interfaces, such
	as OpenCanopy.
VBoxHfs	HFS file system driver with bless support. This driver is an alternative to a closed source

Driver marked with \* are bundled with OpenCore. To compile the drivers from UDK (EDK II) use the same command you normally use for OpenCore compilation, but choose a corresponding package:

may be used to support external USB 3.0 PCI cards.

approximately 3 times slower and is yet to undergo a security audit.

HfsPlus driver commonly found in Apple firmwares. While it is feature complete, it is

XHCI USB controller support driver from MdeModulePkg. This driver is included in most firmwares starting with Sandy Bridge generation. For earlier firmwares or legacy systems it

- Selected Selected item (mandatory).
- Selector Selecting item (mandatory).
- HardDrive Generic OS (mandatory).
- Apple Apple OS.
- AppleRecv Apple Recovery OS.
- AppleTM Apple Time Machine.
- Windows Windows.
- Other Custom entry (see Entries).
- ResetNVRAM Reset NVRAM system action or tool.
- Shell Entry with UEFI Shell name (e.g. OpenShell).
- Tool Any other tool.

Predefined labels are put to \EFI\OC\Resources\Label directory. Each label has .1bl or .12x suffix to represent the scaling level. Full list of labels is provided below. All labels are mandatory.

- EFIBoot Generic OS.
- Apple Apple OS.
- AppleRecv Apple Recovery OS.
- AppleTM Apple Time Machine.
- Windows Windows.
- Other Custom entry (see Entries).
- ResetNVRAM Reset NVRAM system action or tool.
- Shell Entry with UEFI Shell name (e.g. OpenShell).
- Tool Any other tool.

Label and icon generation can be performed with bundled utilities: disklabel and icnspack. Please refer to sample data for the details about the dimensions. Font is Helvetica 12 pt times scale factor.

Font format corresponds to AngelCode binary BMF. While there are many utilities to generate font files, currently it is recommended to use dpFontBaker to generate bitmap font (using CoreText produces best results) and fonverter to export it to binary format.

WARNING: OpenCanopy is currently considered experimental and is not recommended for everyday use. Refer to acidanthera/bugtracker#759 for more details regarding the current limitations.

# 11.5 OpenRuntime

OpenRuntime is an OpenCore plugin implementing OC\_FIRMWARE\_RUNTIME protocol. This protocol implements multiple features required for OpenCore that are otherwise not possible to implement in OpenCore itself as they are needed to work in runtime, i.e. during operating system functioning. Feature highlights:

- NVRAM namespaces, allowing to isolate operating systems from accessing select variables (e.g. RequestBootVarRouting or ProtectSecureBoot).
- $\bullet \ \ NVRAM\ proxying, allowing\ to\ manipulate\ multiple\ variables\ on\ variable\ updates\ (e.g.\ Request Boot Var Fallback).$
- Read-only and write-only NVRAM variables, enhancing the security of OpenCore, Lilu, and Lilu plugins, like VirtualSMC, which implements AuthRestart support.
- NVRAM isolation, allowing to protect all variables from being written from an untrusted operating system (e.g. DisableVariableWrite).
- UEFI Runtime Services memory protection management to workaround read-only mapping (e.g. EnableWriteUnprotector).

# 11.6 Properties

1. APFS

Type: plist dict Failsafe: None

**Description**: Provide APFS support as configured in APFS Properties section below.

# 2. Audio

Type: plist dict Failsafe: None

**Description**: Configure audio backend support described in Audio Properties section below.

Audio support provides a way for upstream protocols to interact with the selected hardware and audio resources. All audio resources should reside in \EFI\OC\Resources\Audio directory. Currently the only supported audio file format is WAVE PCM. While it is driver-dependent which audio stream format is supported, most common audio cards support 16-bit signed stereo audio at 44100 or 48000 Hz.

Audio file path is determined by audio type, audio localisation, and audio path. Each filename looks as follows: [audio type]\_[audio localisation]\_[audio path].wav. For unlocalised files filename does not include the language code and looks as follows: [audio type]\_[audio path].wav.

- Audio type can be OCEFIAudio for OpenCore audio files or AXEFIAudio for macOS bootloader audio files.
- Audio localisation is a two letter language code (e.g. en) with an exception for Chinese, Spanish, and Portuguese. Refer to APPLE\_VOICE\_OVER\_LANGUAGE\_CODE definition for the list of all supported localisations.
- Audio path is the base filename corresponding to a file identifier. For macOS bootloader audio paths refer to APPLE\_VOICE\_OVER\_AUDIO\_FILE definition. For OpenCore audio paths refer to OC\_VOICE\_OVER\_AUDIO\_FILE definition. The only exception is OpenCore boot chime file, which is OCEFIAudio\_VoiceOver\_Boot.wav.

Audio localisation is determined separately for macOS bootloader and OpenCore. For macOS bootloader it is set in preferences.efires archive in systemLanguage.utf8 file and is controlled by the operating system. For OpenCore the value of prev-lang:kbd variable is used. When native audio localisation of a particular file is missing, English language (en) localisation is used. Sample audio files can be found in OcBinaryData repository.

# 3. ConnectDrivers

 $\mathbf{Type}:$  plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Perform UEFI controller connection after driver loading.

This option is useful for loading drivers following UEFI driver model as they may not start by themselves. Examples of such drivers are filesystem or audio drivers. While effective, this option may not be necessary for drivers performing automatic connection, and may slightly slowdown the boot.

*Note*: Some firmwares, made by Apple in particular, only connect the boot drive to speedup the boot process. Enable this option to be able to see all the boot options when having multiple drives.

#### 4. Drivers

Type: plist array Failsafe: None

**Description**: Load selected drivers from OC/Drivers directory.

Designed to be filled with string filenames meant to be loaded as UEFI drivers.

#### 5. Input

Type: plist dict Failsafe: None

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

# 6. Output

Type: plist dict Failsafe: None

**Description**: Apply individual settings designed for output (text and graphics) in Output Properties section below.

# 7. ProtocolOverrides

Type: plist dict Failsafe: None

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

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

support a different set of options. It is recommended to use Builtin renderer, as it supports HiDPI mode and uses full screen resolution.

UEFI firmwares generally support ConsoleControl with two rendering modes: Graphics and Text. Some firmwares do not support ConsoleControl and rendering modes. OpenCore and macOS expect text to only be shown in Graphics mode and graphics to be drawn in any mode. Since this is not required by UEFI specification, exact behaviour varies.

Valid values are combinations of text renderer and rendering mode:

- BuiltinGraphics Switch to Graphics mode and use Builtin renderer with custom ConsoleControl.
- SystemGraphics Switch to Graphics mode and use System renderer with custom ConsoleControl.
- SystemText Switch to Text mode and use System renderer with custom ConsoleControl.
- SystemGeneric Use System renderer with system ConsoleControl assuming it behaves correctly.

The use of BuiltinGraphics is generally straightforward. For most platforms it is necessary to enable ProvideConsoleGop, set Resolution to Max.

The use of System protocols is more complicated. In general the preferred setting is SystemGraphics or SystemText. Enabling ProvideConsoleGop, setting Resolution to Max, enabling ReplaceTabWithSpace is useful on almost all platforms. SanitiseClearScreen, IgnoreTextInGraphics, and ClearScreenOnModeSwitch are more specific, and their use depends on the firmware.

*Note*: Some Macs, namely MacPro5,1, may have broken console output with newer GPUs, and thus only BuiltinGraphics may work for them.

# 2. ConsoleMode

Type: plist string Failsafe: Empty string

Description: Sets console output mode as specified with the WxH (e.g. 80x24) formatted string.

Set to empty string not to change console mode. Set to Max to try to use largest available console mode. Currently Builtin text renderer supports only one console mode, so this option is ignored.

Note: This field is best to be left empty on most firmwares.

#### 3. 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 Builtin text renderer, 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 set to true.

#### 4. ClearScreenOnModeSwitch

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Some firmwares clear only part of screen when switching from graphics to text mode, leaving a fragment of previously drawn image visible. This option fills the entire graphics screen with black color before switching to text mode.

*Note*: This option only applies to System renderer.

5. DirectGopCacheModeType: plist stringFailsafe: Empty stringDescription: Cache mode for builtin graphics output protocol framebuffer.

Tuning cache mode may provide better rendering performance on some firmwares. Providing empty string leaves cache control settings to the firmware. Valid non-empty values are: Uncacheable, WriteCombining, and WriteThrough.

Note: This option is not supported on most hardware (see for more details).

# $6. \ {\tt DirectGopRendering}$

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Use builtin graphics output protocol renderer for console.

On some firmwares this may provide better performance or even fix rendering issues, like on MacPro5,1. However, it is recommended not to use this option unless there is an obvious benefit as it may even result in slower scrolling.

# 7. IgnoreTextInGraphics

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Select firmwares output text onscreen in both graphics and text mode. This is normally unexpected, because random text may appear over graphical images and cause UI corruption. Setting this option to true will discard all text output when console control is in mode different from Text.

*Note*: This option only applies to System renderer.

# 8. ReplaceTabWithSpace

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Some firmwares do not print tab characters or even everything that follows them, causing difficulties or inability to use the UEFI Shell builtin text editor to edit property lists and other documents. This option makes the console output spaces instead of tabs.

*Note*: This option only applies to System renderer.

# 9. ProvideConsoleGop

 $\mathbf{Type}:$  plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Ensure GOP (Graphics Output Protocol) on console handle.

macOS bootloader requires GOP to be present on console handle, yet the exact location of GOP is not covered by the UEFI specification. This option will ensure GOP is installed on console handle if it is present.

Note: This option will also replace broken GOP protocol on console handle, which may be the case on MacPro5,1 with newer GPUs.

# $10. \ {\tt ReconnectOnResChange}$

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Reconnect console controllers after changing screen resolution.

On some firmwares when screen resolution is changed via GOP, it is required to reconnect the controllers, which produce the console protocols (simple text out). Otherwise they will not produce text based on the new resolution.

*Note*: On several boards this logic may result in black screen when launching OpenCore from Shell and thus it is optional. In versions prior to 0.5.2 this option was mandatory and not configurable. Please do not use this unless required.

#### 11. SanitiseClearScreen

 $\mathbf{Type} \colon \mathtt{plist} \ \mathtt{boolean}$ 

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Some firmwares reset screen resolution to a failsafe value (like 1024x768) on the attempts to clear screen contents when large display (e.g. 2K or 4K) is used. This option attempts to apply a workaround.

*Note*: This option only applies to System renderer. On all known affected systems ConsoleMode had to be set to empty string for this to work.

#### 9. AppleUserInterfaceTheme

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Reinstalls Apple User Interface Theme protocol with a builtin version.

#### 10. DataHub

Type: plist boolean Failsafe: false

**Description**: Reinstalls Data Hub protocol with a builtin version. This will drop\_delete all previous properties

if the protocol was already installed.

# 11. DeviceProperties

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Reinstalls Device Property protocol with a builtin version. This will drop delete all previous properties if it was already installed. This may be used to ensure full compatibility on VMs or legacy Macs.

#### 12. FirmwareVolume

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Forcibly wraps Firmware Volume protocols or installs new to support custom cursor images for File Vault 2. Should be set to **true** to ensure File Vault 2 compatibility on everything but VMs and legacy Macs.

*Note*: Several virtual machines including VMware may have corrupted cursor image in HiDPI mode and thus may also require this setting to be enabled.

#### 13. HashServices

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description:** Forcibly reinstalls Hash Services protocols with builtin versions. Should be set to **true** to ensure File Vault 2 compatibility on platforms providing broken SHA-1 hashing. Can be diagnosed by invalid cursor size with UIScale set to 02, in general platforms prior to APTIO V (Haswell and older) are affected.

# 14. OSInfo

Type: plist boolean Failsafe: false

**Description**: Forcibly reinstalls OS Info protocol with builtin versions. This protocol is generally used to receive notifications from macOS bootloader, by the firmware or by other applications.

# 15. UnicodeCollation

 $\mathbf{Type}:$  plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Forcibly reinstalls unicode collation services with builtin version. Should be set to **true** to ensure UEFI Shell compatibility on platforms providing broken unicode collation. In general legacy Insyde and APTIO platforms on Ivy Bridge and earlier are affected.

# 11.12 Quirks Properties

# 1. ExitBootServicesDelayDeduplicateBootOrder

Type: plist integerFailsafe: ODescription: Adds delay in microseconds after EXIT\_BOOT\_SERVICES event.

This is a very ugly quirk to circumvent "Still waiting for root device" message on select APTIO IV firmwares, namely ASUS Z87-Pro, when using FileVault 2 in particular. It seems that for some reason they execute code in parallel to EXIT\_BOOT\_SERVICES, which results in SATA controller being inaccessible from macOS. A better approach should be found in some future. Expect 3-5 seconds to be enough in case the quirk is needed.

### 2. IgnoreInvalidFlexRatioType: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Select firmwares, namely APTIO IV, may contain invalid values in Remove duplicate entries in MSR\_FLEX\_RATIOBOOtOrder (0x194) MSR register. These values may cause macOS boot failure on Intel platforms.

*Note*: While the option is not supposed to induce harm on unaffected firmwares, its usage is not recommended when it is not required.

- 3. ReleaseUsb0wnershipType: plist booleanFailsafe: falseDescription: Attempt to detach USB controller ownership from the firmware driver. While most firmwares manage to properly do that, or at least have an option for, select firmwares do not. As a result, operating system may freeze upon boot. Not recommended unless required.
- 4. RequestBootVarFallbackType: plist booleanFailsafe: falseDescription: Request fallback of some Boot prefixed variables from OC\_VENDOR\_VARIABLE\_GUID to variable in EFI\_GLOBAL\_VARIABLE\_GUID.

This quirk requires RequestBootVarRouting to be enabled and therefore OC\_FIRMWARE\_RUNTIME protocol implemented in OpenRuntime.efi.

By redirecting Boot prefixed variables to a separate GUID namespace with the help of RequestBootVarRouting quirk we achieve multiple goals:

- Operating systems are jailed and only controlled by OpenCore boot environment to enhance security.
- Operating systems do not mess with OpenCore boot priority, and guarantee fluent updates and hibernation wakes for cases that require reboots with OpenCore in the middle.
- Potentially incompatible boot entries, such as macOS entries, are not deleted or anyhow corrupted.

However, some firmwares do their own boot option scanning upon startup by checking file presence on the available disks. Quite often this scanning includes non-standard locations, such as Windows Bootloader paths. Normally it is not an issue, but some firmwares, ASUS firmwares on APTIO V in particular, have bugs. For them scanning is implemented improperly, and firmware preferences may get accidentally corrupted due to BootOrder entry duplication (each option will be added twice) making it impossible to boot without cleaning NVRAM.

To trigger the bug one should have some valid boot options (e.g. OpenCore) and then install Windows with RequestBootVarRouting enabled. As Windows bootloader option will not be created by Windows installer, the firmware will attempt to create it itself, and then corrupt its boot option list.

This quirk forwards all UEFI specification valid boot options, that are not related to macOS, to the firmware into BootF### and removes all duplicates in BootOrder variables upon write. As the entries are added to the end of BootOrder, this does not break boot priority, but ensures that the firmware does not try to append a new option on its own after Windows installation for instance. variable attempting to resolve the consequences of the bugs upon OpenCore loading. It is recommended to use this key along with BootProtect option.

#### 5. ExitBootServicesDelay

Type: plist integer

Failsafe: 0

**Description**: Adds delay in microseconds after EXIT\_BOOT\_SERVICES event.

This is a very ugly quirk to circumvent "Still waiting for root device" message on select APTIO IV firmwares, namely ASUS Z87-Pro, when using FileVault 2 in particular. It seems that for some reason they execute code in parallel to EXIT\_BOOT\_SERVICES, which results in SATA controller being inaccessible from macOS. A better approach should be found in some future. Expect 3-5 seconds to be enough in case the quirk is needed.

# 6. IgnoreInvalidFlexRatio

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Select firmwares, namely APTIO IV, may contain invalid values in MSR\_FLEX\_RATIO (0x194) MSR register. These values may cause macOS boot failure on Intel platforms.

*Note*: While the option is not supposed to induce harm on unaffected firmwares, its usage is not recommended when it is not required.

# 7. ReleaseUsbOwnership

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

**Description**: Attempt to detach USB controller ownership from the firmware driver. While most firmwares manage to properly do that, or at least have an option for, select firmwares do not. As a result, operating system may freeze upon boot. Not recommended unless required.

- Logging is enabled (1) and shown onscreen (2):  $Misc \rightarrow Debug \rightarrow Target = 3$ .
- Logged messages from at least DEBUG\_ERROR (0x8000000), DEBUG\_WARN (0x00000002), and DEBUG\_INFO (0x000000040) levels are visible onscreen: Misc → Debug → DisplayLevel = 0x80000042.
- Critical error messages, like DEBUG\_ERROR, stop booting: Misc → Security → HaltLevel = 0x80000000.
- Watch Dog is disabled to prevent automatic reboot: Misc → Debug → DisableWatchDog = true.
- Boot Picker (entry selector) is enabled:  $Misc \rightarrow Boot \rightarrow ShowPicker = true$ .

If there is no obvious error, check the available hacks in Quirks sections one by one. For early boot troubleshooting, for instance, when OpenCore menu does not appear, using UEFI Shell (bundled with OpenCore) may help to see early debug messages.

# 2. How to debug macOS boot failure?

- Refer to boot-args values like debug=0x100, keepsyms=1, -v, and similar.
- Do not forget about AppleDebug and ApplePanic properties.
- Take care of Booter, Kernel, and UEFI quirks.
- Consider using serial port to inspect early kernel boot failures. For this you may need debug=0x108, serial=5, and msgbuf=1048576 arguments. Refer to the patches in Sample.plist when dying before serial init.
- Always read the logs carefully.

# 3. How to customise boot entries?

OpenCore follows standard Apple Bless model and extracts the entry name from .contentDetails and .disk\_label.contentDetails files in the booter directory if present. These files contain an ASCII string with an entry title, which may then be customised by the user.

# 4. How to choose the default boot entry?

OpenCore uses the primary UEFI boot option to select the default entry. This choice can be altered from UEFI Setup, with the macOS Startup Disk preference, or the Windows Boot Camp Control Panel. Since choosing OpenCore's BOOTx64.EFI as a primary boot option limits this functionality in addition to several firmwares deleting incompatible boot options, potentially including those created by macOS, you are strongly encouraged to use the RequestBootVarRouting quirk, which will preserve your selection made in the operating system within the OpenCore variable space. Note, that RequestBootVarRouting requires a separate driver for functioning.

# 5. What is the simplest way to install macOS?

Copy online recovery image (\*.dmg and \*.chunklist files) to com.apple.recovery.boot directory on a FAT32 partition with OpenCore. Load OpenCore Boot Picker and choose the entry, it will have a (dmg) suffix. Custom name may be created by providing .contentDetails file.

To download recovery online you may use toolfrom macrecovery.py, builtin tool.

For offline installation refer to How to create a bootable installer for macOS article. Apart from App Store and softwareupdate utility there also are third-party tools to download an offline image.

# 6. Why do online recovery images (\*.dmg) fail to load?

This may be caused by missing HFS+ driver, as all presently known recovery volumes have HFS+ filesystem.

# 7. Can I use this on Apple hardware or virtual machines?

Sure, most relatively modern Mac models including MacPro5,1 and virtual machines are fully supported. Even though there are little to none specific details relevant to Mac hardware, some ongoing instructions can be found in on MacRumors.com.

# 8. Why do Find&Replace patches must equal in length?

For machine code (x86 code) it is not possible to do differently sized replacements due to relative addressing. For ACPI code this is risky, and is technically equivalent to ACPI table replacement, thus not implemented. More detailed explanation can be found on AppleLife.ru or in the ACPI section of this document.

# 9. How can I migrate from AptioMemoryFixdecide which Booter quirks to use?

Behaviour similar to that of These quirks originate from AptioMemoryFix can be obtained by installing OpenRuntime driver and enabling the quirks listed below. Please note, that most of these are not necessary to be enabled.

Refer to their individual descriptions in this document for more details. driver but provide a wider set of changes specific to modern systems. Note, that OpenRuntime driver is required for most configurations. To get a configuration similar to AptioMemoryFix you may try enabling the following set of quirks:

- ProvideConsoleGop (UEFI quirk)
- AvoidRuntimeDefrag
- DiscardHibernateMap
- EnableSafeModeSlide
- EnableWriteUnprotector
- ForceExitBootServices
- ProtectMemoryRegions
- ProvideCustomSlide
- SetupVirtualMapRebuildAppleMemoryMap
- ShrinkMemoryMapSetupVirtualMap

However, as of today such set is strongly discouraged as some of these quirks are not necessary to be enabled or need additional quirks. For example, DevirtualiseMmio and ProtectUefiServices are often required, while DiscardHibernateMap and ForceExitBootServices are rarely necessary.

Unfortunately for some quirks like RebuildAppleMemoryMap, EnableWriteUnprotector, ProtectMemoryRegions, RebuildAppleMemoryMap, SetupVirtualMap, and SyncRuntimePermissions there is no definite approach even on similar systems, so trying all their combinations may be required for optimal setup. Refer to individual quirk descriptions in this document for more details.