



# OpenCore

Reference Manual (0.6.~~3~~.4)

[2020.11.30]

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 firmware 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. The directory `OpenCore.efi` resides is called the root directory. By default root directory is set to `EFI\OC`, however, when launching `OpenCore.efi` directly or through `Bootstrap.efi`, other directories containing `OpenCore.efi` can also be supported.
- **config.plist**  
OC Config.
- **vault.plist**  
Hashes for all files potentially loadable by OC Config.
- **vault.sig**  
Signature for `vault.plist`.
- **SysReport**  
Directory containing system reports generated by `SysReport` option.
- **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-terminator) 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 regarding external resources such as 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. `OpenDuetPkg` is one of the known UEFI environment providers for legacy systems. To run OpenCore on such a legacy system, `OpenDuetPkg` can be installed with a dedicated tool — `BootInstall` (bundled with OpenCore). Third-party utilities can be used to perform this on systems other than macOS.

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

DevirtualiseMmio. This means that the firmware will be able to directly communicate with this memory region during operating system functioning, because the region this value is in will be assigned a virtual address.

The addresses written here must be part of the memory map, have `EfiMemoryMappedIO` type and `EFI_MEMORY_RUNTIME` attribute (highest bit) set. To find the list of the candidates the debug log can be used.

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 address will be devirtualised unless set to `true`.

## 5.4 Quirks Properties

1. [AllowRelocationBlock](#)

**Type:** plist boolean

**Failsafe:** false

**Description:** Allows booting macOS through a relocation block.

Relocation block is a scratch buffer allocated in lower 4 GB to be used for loading the kernel and related structures by EfiBoot on firmwares where lower memory is otherwise occupied by the (assumed to be) non-runtime data. Right before kernel startup the relocation block is copied back to lower addresses. Similarly all the other addresses pointing to relocation block are also carefully adjusted. Relocation block can be used when:

- No better slide exists (all the memory is used)
- slide=0 is forced (by an argument or safe mode)
- KASLR (slide) is unsupported (this is macOS 10.7 or older)

This quirk requires `ProvideCustomSlide` to also be enabled and generally needs `AvoidRuntimeDefrag` to work correctly. Hibernation is not supported when booting with a relocation block (but relocation block is not always used when the quirk is enabled).

*Note:* While this quirk is required to run older macOS versions on platforms with used lower memory it is not compatible with some hardware and macOS 11. In this case you may try to use `EnableSafeModeSlide` instead.

2. [AvoidRuntimeDefrag](#)

**Type:** plist boolean

**Failsafe:** false

**Description:** Protect from boot.efi runtime memory defragmentation.

This option fixes UEFI runtime services (date, time, NVRAM, power control, etc.) support on firmware that uses SMM backing for select services such as variable storage. SMM may try to access physical addresses, but they get moved by boot.efi.

*Note:* Most types of firmware, apart from Apple and VMware, need this quirk.

3. DevirtualiseMmio

**Type:** plist boolean

**Failsafe:** false

**Description:** Remove runtime attribute from select MMIO regions.

This option reduces stolen memory footprint from the memory map by removing runtime bit for known memory regions. This quirk may result in the increase of KASLR slides available, but is not necessarily compatible with the target board without additional measures. In general this frees from 64 to 256 megabytes of memory (present in the debug log), and on some platforms it is the only way to boot macOS, which otherwise fails with allocation error at bootloader stage.

6. **DisableIoMapper**  
**Type:** plist boolean  
**Failsafe:** false  
**Requirement:** 10.8 (not required for older)  
**Description:** Disables `IOMapper` support in XNU (VT-d), which may conflict with the firmware implementation.  
*Note:* This option is a preferred alternative to deleting DMAR ACPI table and disabling VT-d in firmware preferences, which does not break VT-d support in other systems in case they need it.
7. **DisableLinkeditJettison**  
**Type:** plist boolean  
**Failsafe:** false  
**Requirement:** ~~11.0~~[11](#)  
**Description:** Disables `__LINKEDIT` jettison code.  
  
This option lets `Lilu.kext` and possibly some others function in macOS Big Sur with best performance without `keepsyms=1` boot argument.
8. **DisableRtcChecksum**  
**Type:** plist boolean  
**Failsafe:** false  
**Requirement:** 10.4  
**Description:** Disables primary checksum (0x58-0x59) writing in AppleRTC.  
  
*Note 1:* This option will not protect other areas from being overwritten, see `RTCMemoryFixup` kernel extension if this is desired.  
  
*Note 2:* This option will not protect areas from being overwritten at firmware stage (e.g. macOS bootloader), see `AppleRtcRam` protocol description if this is desired.
9. **ExtendBTFeatureFlags**  
**Type:** plist boolean  
**Failsafe:** false  
**Requirement:** 10.8  
**Description:** Set `FeatureFlags` to 0x0F for full functionality of Bluetooth, including Continuity.  
  
*Note:* This option is a substitution for `BT4LEContinuityFixup.kext`, which does not function properly due to late patching progress.
10. **ExternalDiskIcons**  
**Type:** plist boolean  
**Failsafe:** false  
**Requirement:** 10.4  
**Description:** Apply icon type patches to `AppleAHCIPort.kext` to force internal disk icons for all AHCI disks.  
  
*Note:* This option should be avoided whenever possible. Modern firmware usually have compatible AHCI controllers.
11. **ForceSecureBootScheme**  
**Type:** plist boolean  
**Failsafe:** false  
**Requirement:** ~~11.0~~[11](#)  
**Description:** Force x86 scheme for IMG4 verification.  
  
*Note:* This option is required on virtual machines when using `SecureBootModel` different from `x86legacy`.
12. **IncreasePciBarSize**  
**Type:** plist boolean  
**Failsafe:** false  
**Requirement:** 10.10  
**Description:** Increases 32-bit PCI bar size in `IOPCIFamily` from 1 to 4 GBs.  
  
*Note:* This option should be avoided whenever possible. In general the necessity of this option means misconfigured or broken firmware.

Model	10.6 (minimal)	10.6 (client)	10.6 (server)	10.7 (any)
Macmini	4,x (Mid 2010)	5,x (Mid 2011)	4,x (Mid 2010)	3,x (Early 2009)
MacBook	Unsupported	Unsupported	Unsupported	5,x (2009/09)
MacBookAir	Unsupported	Unsupported	Unsupported	2,x (Late 2008)
MacBookPro	4,x (Early 2008)	8,x (Early 2011)	8,x (Early 2011)	3,x (Mid 2007)
iMac	8,x (Early 2008)	12,x (Mid 2011)	12,x (Mid 2011)	7,x (Mid 2007)
MacPro	3,x (Early 2008)	5,x (Mid 2010)	3,x (Early 2008)	3,x (Early 2008)
Xserve	2,x (Early 2008)	2,x (Early 2008)	2,x (Early 2008)	2,x (Early 2008)

*Note:* 3+2 and 6+4 hotkeys to choose the preferred architecture are unsupported due to being handled by EfiBoot and thus being hard to properly detect.

### 3. KernelCache

**Type:** plist string

**Failsafe:** Auto

**Description:** Prefer specified kernel cache type (Auto, Cacheless, Mkext, Prelinked) when available.

Different variants of macOS support different kernel caching variants designed to improve boot performance. This setting prevents the use of faster kernel caching variants if slower variants are available for debugging and stability reasons. I.e., by specifying **Mkext**, **Prelinked** will be disabled for e.g. 10.6 but not for 10.7.

The list of available kernel caching types and its current support in OpenCore is listed below.

macOS	i386 NC	i386 MK	i386 PK	x86_64 NC	x86_64 MK	x86_64 PK	x86_64 KC
10.4	YES	YES (V1)	NO (V1)	—	—	—	—
10.5	YES	YES (V1)	NO (V1)	—	—	—	—
10.6	YES	YES (V2)	YES (V2)	YES	YES (V2)	YES (V2)	—
10.7	YES	—	YES (V3)	YES	—	YES (V3)	—
10.8-10.9	—	—	—	YES	—	YES (V3)	—
10.10-10.15	—	—	—	—	—	YES (V3)	—
11.0+ <del>11.0</del> 11+	—	—	—	—	—	YES (V3)	YES

*Note:* First version (V1) of 32-bit **prelinkedkernel** is unsupported due to kext symbol tables being corrupted by the tools. On these versions **Auto** will block **prelinkedkernel** booting. This also makes **keepsyms=1** for kext frames broken on these systems.

*Note 1:* It is known that some Lenovo laptops have a firmware bug, which makes them unbootable after performing NVRAM reset. See [acidanthera/bugtracker#995](#) for more details.

*Note 2:* Resetting NVRAM will also erase all the boot options otherwise not backed up with bless (e.g. Linux).

## 2. AllowSetDefault

**Type:** plist boolean

**Failsafe:** false

**Description:** Allow CTRL+Enter and CTRL+Index handling to set the default boot option in boot picker.

## 3. ApECID

**Type:** plist integer, 64 bit

**Failsafe:** 0

**Description:** Apple Enclave Identifier.

Setting this value to any non-zero 64-bit integer will allow using personalised Apple Secure Boot identifiers. To use this setting, make sure to generate a random 64-bit number with a cryptographically secure random number generator. As an alternative, first 8 bytes of `SystemUUID` can be used for `ApECID`, this is found in macOS ~~11.0~~11 for Macs without the T2 chip.

With this value set and `SecureBootModel` valid and not `Disabled` it is possible to achieve `Full Security` of Apple Secure Boot.

To start using personalised Apple Secure Boot, the operating system will have to be reinstalled or personalised. Unless the operating system is personalised, macOS DMG recovery cannot be loaded. If DMG recovery is missing, it can be downloaded with `macrecovery` utility and put to `com.apple.recovery.boot` as explained in Tips and Tricks section. Note that DMG loading needs to be set to `Signed` to use any DMG with Apple Secure Boot.

To personalise an existing operating system use `bless` command after loading to macOS DMG recovery. Mount the system volume partition, unless it has already been mounted, and execute the following command:

---

```
bless bless --folder "/Volumes/Macintosh HD/System/Library/CoreServices" \  
--bootefi --personalize
```

---

Before macOS ~~11.0~~11, which introduced a dedicated `x86legacy` model for models without the T2 chip, personalised Apple Secure Boot may not work as expected. When reinstalling the operating system, macOS Installer from macOS 10.15 and older, will usually run out of free memory on the `/var/tmp` partition when trying to install macOS with the personalised Apple Secure Boot. Soon after downloading the macOS installer image an `Unable to verify macOS` error message will appear. To workaround this issue allocate a dedicated RAM disk of 2 MBs for macOS personalisation by entering the following commands in macOS recovery terminal before starting the installation:

---

```
disk=$(hdiutil attach -nomount ram://4096)  
diskutil erasevolume HFS+ SecureBoot $disk  
diskutil unmount $disk  
mkdir /var/tmp/OSPersonalizationTemp  
diskutil mount -mountpoint /var/tmp/OSPersonalizationTemp $disk
```

---

## 4. AuthRestart

**Type:** plist boolean

**Failsafe:** false

**Description:** Enable `VirtualSMC`-compatible authenticated restart.

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

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

## 5. [BlacklistAppleUpdate](#)

**Type:** plist boolean

**Failsafe:** `false`

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

*Note:* This option exists due to some operating systems, namely macOS Big Sur, being incapable of disabling firmware updates with the NVRAM variable (`run-efi-updater`).

## 6. `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.
- `BootstrapShort` — create a short boot option instead of a complete one, otherwise equivalent to `Bootstrap`. This variant is useful for some Insyde firmwares, which cannot handle full device paths.

This option provides integration with third-party operating system installation and upgrade at the times they overwrite `\EFI\BOOT\BOOTx64.efi` file. By creating a custom option in `Bootstrap` mode this file path becomes no longer used for bootstrapping `OpenCore`.

*Note 1:* Some types of firmware may have faulty NVRAM, no boot option support, or other incompatibilities. While unlikely, the use of this option may even cause boot failures. This option should be used without any warranty exclusively on the boards known to be compatible. Check [acidanthera/bugtracker#1222](#) for some known issues with Haswell and other boards.

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

## 7. `DmgLoading`

**Type:** `plist string`

**Failsafe:** `Signed`

**Description:** Define Disk Image (DMG) loading policy used for macOS Recovery.

Valid values:

- `Disabled` — loading DMG images will fail. `Disabled` policy will still let macOS Recovery to load in most cases as there usually are `boot.efi` files compatible with Apple Secure Boot. Manually downloaded DMG images stored in `com.apple.recovery.boot` directories will not load, however.
- `Signed` — only Apple-signed DMG images will load. Due to Apple Secure Boot design `Signed` policy will let any Apple-signed macOS Recovery to load regardless of Apple Secure Boot state, which may not always be desired.
- `Any` — any DMG images will mount as normal filesystems. `Any` policy is strongly not recommended and will cause a boot failure when Apple Secure Boot is activated.

## 8. `EnablePassword`

**Type:** `plist boolean`

**Failsafe:** `false`

**Description:** Enable password protection to allow sensitive operations.

Password protection ensures that sensitive operations such as booting a non-default operating system (e.g. macOS recovery or a tool), resetting NVRAM storage, trying to boot into a non-default mode (e.g. verbose mode or safe mode) are not allowed without explicit user authentication by a custom password. Currently password and salt are hashed with 5000000 iterations of SHA-512.

*Note:* This functionality is currently in development and is not ready for daily usage.

## 9. `ExposeSensitiveData`

**Type:** `plist integer`

**Failsafe:** `0x6`

**Description:** Sensitive data exposure bitmask (sum) to operating system.

- 0x00100000 (bit 20) — OC\_SCAN\_ALLOW\_DEVICE\_ATAPI, allow scanning CD/DVD devices and old SATA.
- 0x00200000 (bit 21) — OC\_SCAN\_ALLOW\_DEVICE\_USB, allow scanning USB devices.
- 0x00400000 (bit 22) — OC\_SCAN\_ALLOW\_DEVICE\_FIREWIRE, allow scanning FireWire devices.
- 0x00800000 (bit 23) — OC\_SCAN\_ALLOW\_DEVICE\_SDCARD, allow scanning card reader devices.
- 0x01000000 (bit 24) — OC\_SCAN\_ALLOW\_DEVICE\_PCI, allow scanning devices directly connected to PCI bus (e.g. VIRTIO).

*Note:* Given the above description, 0xF0103 value is expected to allow scanning of SATA, SAS, SCSI, and NVMe devices with APFS file system, and prevent scanning of any devices with HFS or FAT32 file systems in addition to not scanning APFS file systems on USB, CD, and FireWire drives. The combination reads as:

- OC\_SCAN\_FILE\_SYSTEM\_LOCK
- OC\_SCAN\_DEVICE\_LOCK
- OC\_SCAN\_ALLOW\_FS\_APFS
- OC\_SCAN\_ALLOW\_DEVICE\_SATA
- OC\_SCAN\_ALLOW\_DEVICE\_SASEX
- OC\_SCAN\_ALLOW\_DEVICE\_SCSI
- OC\_SCAN\_ALLOW\_DEVICE\_NVME

## 15. SecureBootModel

**Type:** plist string

**Failsafe:** Default

**Description:** Apple Secure Boot hardware model.

Sets Apple Secure Boot hardware model and policy. Specifying this value defines which operating systems will be bootable. Operating systems shipped before the specified model was released will not boot. Valid values:

- **Default** — Recent available model, currently set to j137.
- **Disabled** — No model, Secure Boot will be disabled.
- j137 — iMacPro1,1 (December 2017) minimum macOS 10.13.2 (17C2111)
- j680 — MacBookPro15,1 (July 2018) minimum macOS 10.13.6 (17G2112)
- j132 — MacBookPro15,2 (July 2018) minimum macOS 10.13.6 (17G2112)
- j174 — Macmini8,1 (October 2018) minimum macOS 10.14 (18A2063)
- j140k — MacBookAir8,1 (October 2018) minimum macOS 10.14.1 (18B2084)
- j780 — MacBookPro15,3 (May 2019) minimum macOS 10.14.5 (18F132)
- j213 — MacBookPro15,4 (July 2019) minimum macOS 10.14.5 (18F2058)
- j140a — MacBookAir8,2 (July 2019) minimum macOS 10.14.5 (18F2058)
- j152f — MacBookPro16,1 (November 2019) minimum macOS 10.15.1 (19B2093)
- j160 — MacPro7,1 (December 2019) minimum macOS 10.15.1 (19B88)
- j230k — MacBookAir9,1 (March 2020) minimum macOS 10.15.3 (19D2064)
- j214k — MacBookPro16,2 (May 2020) minimum macOS 10.15.4 (19E2269)
- j223 — MacBookPro16,3 (May 2020) minimum macOS 10.15.4 (19E2265)
- j215 — MacBookPro16,4 (June 2020) minimum macOS 10.15.5 (19F96)
- j185 — iMac20,1 (August 2020) minimum macOS 10.15.6 (19G2005)
- j185f — iMac20,2 (August 2020) minimum macOS 10.15.6 (19G2005)
- x86legacy — Macs and VMs without T2 chip minimum macOS 11.0.1 ([20B29](#))

Apple Secure Boot appeared in macOS 10.13 on models with T2 chips. Since PlatformInfo and SecureBootModel are independent, Apple Secure Boot can be used with any SMBIOS with and without T2. Setting SecureBootModel to any valid value but Disabled is equivalent to Medium Security of Apple Secure Boot. The ApECID value must also be specified to achieve Full Security. Check ForceSecureBootScheme when using Apple Secure Boot on a virtual machine.

[Installing macOS with Apple Secure Boot enabled is not possible while using HFS+ target volume. This may include HFS+ formatted drives when no spare APFS drive is available.](#)

Enabling Apple Secure Boot is more demanding to incorrect configurations, buggy macOS installations, and unsupported setups. Things to consider:

- As with T2 Macs, unsigned kernel drivers and several signed kernel drivers, including NVIDIA Web Drivers, cannot be installed.



- (b) The list of cached drivers may be different, resulting in the need to change the list of **Added** or **Forced** kernel drivers. For example, **I080211Family** cannot be injected in this case.
- (c) System volume alterations on operating systems with sealing, such as macOS 11, may result in the operating system being unbootable. Do not try to disable system volume encryption unless Apple Secure Boot is disabled.
- (d) If the platform requires certain settings, but they were not enabled, because the obvious issues did not trigger before, boot failure might occur. Be extra careful with **IgnoreInvalidFlexRatio** or **HashServices**.
- (e) Operating systems released before Apple Secure Boot landed (e.g. macOS 10.12 or earlier) will still boot until UEFI Secure Boot is enabled. This is so, because from Apple Secure Boot point they are treated as incompatible and are assumed to be handled by the firmware as Microsoft Windows is.
- (f) On older CPUs (e.g. before Sandy Bridge) enabling Apple Secure Boot might cause slightly slower loading by up to 1 second.
- (g) Since **Default** value will increase with time to support the latest major release operating system, it is not recommended to use **ApECID** and **Default** value together.

Sometimes the already installed operating system may have outdated Apple Secure Boot manifests on the **Preboot** partition causing boot failure. If there is “OCB: Apple Secure Boot prohibits this boot entry, enforcing!” message, it is likely the case. When this happens, either reinstall the operating system or copy the manifests (files with **.im4m** extension, such as **boot.efi.j137.im4m**) from **/usr/standalone/i386** to **/Volumes/Preboot/<UUID>/System/Library/CoreServices**. Here **<UUID>** is the system volume identifier. On HFS+ installations the manifests should be copied to **/System/Library/CoreServices** on the system volume.

For more details on how to configure Apple Secure Boot with UEFI Secure Boot refer to UEFI Secure Boot section.

## 8.6 Entry Properties

### 1. Arguments

**Type:** **plist string**

**Failsafe:** Empty string

**Description:** Arbitrary ASCII string used as boot arguments (load options) of the specified entry.

### 2. Auxiliary

**Type:** **plist boolean**

**Failsafe:** **false**

**Description:** This entry will not be listed by default when **HideAuxiliary** is set to **true**.

### 3. 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.

### 4. Enabled

**Type:** **plist boolean**

**Failsafe:** **false**

**Description:** This entry will not be listed unless set to **true**.

### 5. Name

**Type:** **plist string**

**Failsafe:** Empty string

**Description:** Human readable entry name displayed in boot picker.

### 6. Path

**Type:** **plist string**

**Failsafe:** Empty string

**Description:** Entry location depending on entry type.

- **Entries** specify external boot options, and therefore take device paths in **Path** key. These values are not checked, thus be extremely careful. Example: **PciRoot(0x0)/Pci(0x1,0x1)/.../EFI/C00L.EFI**
- **Tools** specify internal boot options, which are part of bootloader vault, and therefore take file paths relative to **OC/Tools** directory. Example: **OpenShell.efi**.

7. RealPath

Type: `plist boolean`

Failsafe: `false`

Description: Pass full path to the tool when launching.

Passing tool directory may be unsafe for tool accidentally trying to access files without checking their integrity and thus should generally be disabled. Reason to enable this property may include cases where tools cannot work without external files or may need them for better function (e.g. `memtest86` for logging and configuration or `Shell` for automatic script execution).

*Note:* This property is only valid for **Tools**. For **Entries** this property cannot be specified and is always `true`.

8. TextMode

Type: `plist boolean`

Failsafe: `false`

Description: Run the entry in text mode instead of graphics mode.

This setting may be beneficial to some older tools that require text output. By default all the tools are launched in graphics mode. Read more about text modes in [Output Properties](#) section below.

- `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 10.14 is needed.
- `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 BGRA data defining `boot.efi` user interface background colour. Standard colours include `BF BF BF 00` (Light Gray) and `00 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=0xFFFFFFFF`
  - `acpi_level=0xFFFFF5F` (implies `ACPI_ALL_COMPONENTS`)
  - `arch=i386` (force kernel architecture to `i386`, see `KernelArch`)
  - `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)
  - `nvram-log=1` ([enables AppleEFINVRAM logs](#))
  - `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 on 10.7+)
  - `-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