OpenCore

Reference Manual (0.0.2.3)

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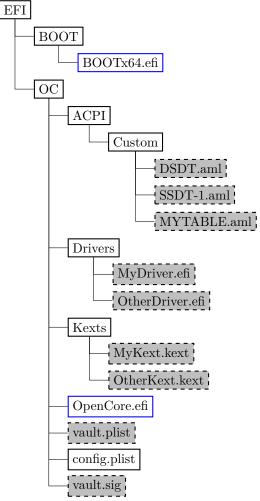


Figure 1. Directory Structure

3.5 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. Extra information about particular kernel extensions may be found in Lilu's Known Plugins table. 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. DuetPkg is one of the known UEFI environment providers for legacy systems. While it is known to be possible to run OpenCore on such a legacy system, configuration and use of DuetPkg is currently out of the scope of this document.

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.

3.6 Contribution

OpenCore can be compiled as an ordinary EDK II package with EDK II. 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 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 EfiPkg, MacInfoPkg, and OcSupportPkg.

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/tianocore/cdk2 -b UDK2018 UDK
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/OcSupportPkg
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

NOOPT or DEBUG build modes instead of RELEASE can produce a lot more debug output. With NOOPT source level debugging with GDB or IDA Pro is also available. For GDB check OcSupport Debug page. For IDA Pro you will need IDA Pro 7.3 or newer.

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/Include/X64
 -I/UefiPackages/EfiPkg
 -I/UefiPackages/EfiPkg/Include
 -I/UefiPackages/EfiPkg/Include/X64
 -I/UefiPackages/AptioFixPkg/Include
 -I/UefiPackages/AppleSupportPkg/Include
 -I/UefiPackages/OpenCorePkg/Include
 -I/UefiPackages/OcSupportPkg/Include
 -I/UefiPackages/MacInfoPkg/Include
 -I/UefiPackages/UefiCpuPkg/Include
 -IInclude
 -include
 /UefiPackages/MdePkg/Include/Uefi.h
- -fshort-wchar
- -Wall
- -Wextra
- -Wno-unused-parameter

-I/UefiPackages/MdePkg

-I/UefiPackages/MdePkg/Include

- $\hbox{-Wno-missing-braces}$
- $-Wno\mbox{-}missing\mbox{-}field\mbox{-}initializers$
- Wno-tautological-compare
- -Wno-sign-compare
- $\hbox{-Wno-varargs}$
- -Wno-unused-const-variable

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.

Default value: false

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

2. IgnoreForWindowsType: plist booleanDefault value: falseDescription: Disable all sorts of ACPI modifications when booting Windows operating system.

This flag implements a quick workaround for those, who made their ACPI tables incompatible with Windows, but need it right now. Not recommended, as ACPI tables must be compatible with any operating system regardless of the changes.

Note: This option may be removed in the future.

3. NormalizeHeaders

Type: plist boolean Default value: 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).

4. RebaseRegions

Type: plist boolean Default value: 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.

5. ResetLogoStatus

Type: plist boolean Default value: false

Description: Reset BGRT table Displayed status field to false.

This works around firmwares that provide BGRT table but fail to handle screen updates afterwards.

6 Kernel

6.1 Introduction

This section allows to apply different kinds of kernelspace modifications on Apple Kernel (XNU). The modifications currently provide driver (kext) injection, kernel and driver patching, and driver blocking.

6.2 Properties

1. Add

Type: plist array Default value: Empty

Description: Load selected kernel drivers from OC/Kexts directory.

Designed to be filled with plist dict values, describing each driver. See Add Properties section below. Kernel driver load order follows the item order in the array, thus the dependencies should be written prior to their consumers.

2. Block

Type: plist array Default value: Empty

Description: Remove selected kernel drivers from prelinked kernel.

Designed to be filled with plist dictionary values, describing each blocked driver. See Block Properties section below.

3. Emulate

Type: plist dict

Description: Emulate select hardware in kernelspace via parameters described in Emulate Properties section below.

4. Patch

Type: plist array Default value: Empty

Description: Perform binary patches in kernel and drivers prior to driver addition and removal.

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

5. Quirks

Type: plist dict

Description: Apply individual kernel and driver quirks described in Quirks Properties section below.

6.3 Add Properties

1. BundlePath

Type: plist string

Default value: Empty string

Description: Kext bundle path (e.g. Lilu.kext or MyKext.kext/Contents/PlugIns/MySubKext.kext).

2. Comment

Type: plist string

Default value: 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 Default value: false

Description: This kernel driver will not be added unless set to true.

4. ExecutablePath

Type: plist string

Default value: Empty string

Description: Kext executable path relative to bundle (e.g. Contents/MacOS/Lilu).

5. MatchKernel

Type: plist string

Default value: Empty string

Description: Blocks kernel driver on selected macOS version only. The selection happens based on prefix match with the kernel version, i.e. 16.7.0 will match macOS 10.12.6 and 16. will match any macOS 10.12.x version.

6. PlistPath

Type: plist string

Default value: Empty string

Description: Kext Info.plist path relative to bundle (e.g. Contents/Info.plist).

6.4 Block Properties

1. Comment

Type: plist string

Default value: 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 Default value: false

Description: This kernel driver will not be blocked unless set to true.

3. Identifier

Type: plist string

Default value: Empty string

Description: Kext bundle identifier (e.g. com.apple.driver.AppleTyMCEDriver).

4. MatchKernel

Type: plist string

Default value: Empty string

Description: Blocks kernel driver on selected macOS version only. The selection happens based on prefix match with the kernel version, i.e. 16.7.0 will match macOS 10.12.6 and 16. will match any macOS 10.12.x version.

6.5 Emulate Properties

1. Cpuid1Data

Type: plist data, 32 bytes Default value: All zero

Description: Sequence of EAX, EBX, ECX, EDX values in Little Endian order to replace CPUID (1) call in XNU kernel.

2. Cpuid1Mask

Type: plist data, 32 bytes Default value: All zero

Description: Bit mask of active bits in Cpuid1Data. When each Cpuid1Mask is set to 0, the original CPU bit

is used, otherwise.

6.6 Patch Properties

1. Base

Type: plist string

Default value: Empty string

Description: Selects symbol-matched base for patch lookup (or immediate replacement) by obtaining the address of provided symbol name. Can be set to empty string to be ignored.

2. Comment

Type: plist string

Description: Disables PKG_CST_CONFIG_CONTROL (0xE2) MSR modification in AppleIntelCPUPowerManagement.kext, commonly causing early kernel panic, when it is locked from writing.

Note: This option should avoided whenever possible. Modern firmwares provide CFG Lock setting, disabling which is much cleaner. More details about the issue can be found in VerifyMsrE2 notes.

$2. \ {\tt AppleXcpmCfgLock}$

Type: plist boolean Default value: 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 avoided whenever possible. Modern firmwares provide CFG Lock setting, disabling which is much cleaner. More details about the issue can be found in VerifyMsrE2 notes.

3. AppleXcpmExtraMsrs

Type: plist boolean Default value: false

Description: Disables multiple MSR access critical for select CPUs, which have no native XCPM support. This is normally used in conjunction with Emulate. More details on the XCPM patches are outlined in acidanther-a/bugtracker#365.

4. CustomSMBIOSGuid

Type: plist boolean Default value: false

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

5. DisableIoMapper

Type: plist boolean Default value: false

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

Note: This option is a preferred alternative to dropping 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.

6. ExternalDiskIcons

Type: plist boolean
Default value: false

Description: Apply icon type patches to IOAHCIPort.kext to force internal disk icons for all AHCI disks.

Note: This option should avoided whenever possible. Modern firmwares usually have compatible AHCI controllers.

7. LapicKernelPanic

Type: plist boolean Default value: false

Description: Disables kernel panic on AP core lapic interrupt. For BSP core lapic interrupt lapic dont_panic=1 kernel boot argument is to be used when debug kernel boot argument is present.

8. PanicNoKextDump

Type: plist boolean Default value: false

Description: Prevent kernel from printing kext dump in the panic log preventing from observing panic details. Affects 10.13 and above.

9. ThirdPartyTrim

Type: plist boolean Default value: false

Description: Patch IOAHCIFamily.kext to force TRIM command support on AHCI SSDs.

Note: This option should avoided whenever possible. NVMe SSDs are compatible without the change. For AHCI SSDs on modern macOS version there is a dedicated built-in utility called trimforce.

7 Misc

7.1 Introduction

This section contains miscellaneous configuration entries for OpenCore behaviour that does not go to any other sections

7.2 Properties

1. Boot

Type: plist dict

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

2. Debug

Type: plist dict

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

3. Security

Type: plist dict

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

4. Tools

Type: plist array

Description: Add new entries to boot picker.

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

Note: Select tools, for example, UEFI Shell or NVRAM cleaning 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.

7.3 Boot Properties

1. ConsoleMode

Type: plist string

Default value: 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.

 $2. \ {\tt ConsoleBehaviourOs}$

Type: plist string

Default value: Empty string

Description: Set console control behaviour upon operating system load.

Console control is a legacy protocol used for switching between text and graphics screen output. Some firmwares do not provide it, yet select operating systems require its presence, which is what ConsoleControl UEFI protocol is for.

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

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

Hints:

- Unless empty works, firstly try to set ConsoleBehaviourOs to Graphics and ConsoleBehaviourUi to Text.
- On APTIO IV (Haswell and earlier) it is usually enough to have ConsoleBehaviourOs set to Graphics and ConsoleBehaviourUi set to ForceText to avoid visual glitches.

- On APTIO V (Broadwell and newer) ConsoleBehaviourOs set to ForceGraphics and ConsoleBehaviourUi set to TextForceText usually works best.
- On Apple firmwares ConsoleBehaviourOs set to Graphics and ConsoleBehaviourUi set to Text is supposed to work best.

Note: IgnoreTextInGraphics may need to be enabled for select firmware implementations.

 $3. \ \, \underbrace{\text{ConsoleBehaviourUi}}_{-}$

Type: plist string

Default value: Empty string

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

4. HideSelf

Type: plist boolean Default value: false

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

5. Resolution

Type: plist string

Default value: Empty string

Description: Sets console output screen resolution.

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

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

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

 $6. \; {\tt ShowPicker}$

Type: plist boolean Default value: false

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

7. Timeout

Type: plist integer, 32 bit

Default value: 0

Description: Timeout in seconds in boot picker before automatic booting of the default boot entry.

8. UsePicker

Type: plist boolean Default value: false

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

UsePicker set to false entirely disables all boot management in OpenCore except policy enforcement. In this case a custom user interface may utilise OcSupportPkg OcBootManagementLib to implement a user friendly boot picker oneself.

Note: By default OpenCore built-in boot picker loads the default discovered option, this can be changed by setting ShowPicker to true.

7.4 Debug Properties

1. DisableWatchDog

Type: plist boolean Default value: NO • OC_SCAN_ALLOW_DEVICE_NVME

7.6 Tools Properties

1. Comment

Type: plist string

Default value: 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. Name

Type: plist string

Default value: Empty string

Description: Human readable tool name displayed in boot picker.

3. Path

Type: plist string

Default value: Empty string

Description: File path to select UEFI tool relative to OC/Tools directory.

8.4 Recommended Variables

The following variables are recommended for faster startup or other improvements:

- 7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:csr-active-config 32-bit System Integrity Protection bitmask. Declared in XNU source code in csr.h.
- 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:ExtendedFirmwareFeatures

 Combined FirmwareFeatures and ExtendedFirmwareFeatures. Present on newer Macs to avoid extra parsing of SMBIOS tables
- 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
- 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 on AppleLife. Using non-latin keyboard on 10.14 will not enable ABC keyboard, unlike previous macOS versions, and is thus not recommended.

 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 8-bit integer defining boot.efi user interface scaling. Should be 1 for normal screens and 2 for HDPI screens.

8.5 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=0xFFFFFFF (implies ACPI_ALL_COMPONENTS)
 cpus=VALUE
 debug=VALUE
 io=VALUE
 keepsyms=1
 kextlog=VALUE
 nvda_drv=1
 lapic_dont_panic=1
 slide=VALUE
 -nehalem_error_disable
 -no_compat_check
 -s
 -v
- 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 prefix primarily for logging control:

- log=VALUE
 - $*\ 1 AppleLoggingConOutOrErrSet/AppleLoggingConOutOrErrPrint\ (classical\ ConOut/StdErr)$

- Overwrite Overwrite existing gEfiSmbiosTableGuid and gEfiSmbiosTable3Guid data if it fits new size. Abort with unspecified state otherwise.
- Custom Write first SMBIOS table (gEfiSmbiosTableGuid) to gOcCustomSmbiosTableGuid to workaround firmwares overwriting SMBIOS contents at ExitBootServices. Otherwise equivalent to Create. Requires patching AppleSmbios.kext and AppleACPIPlatform.kext to read from another GUID: "EB9D2D31" > "EB9D2D35" (in ASCII), done automatically by CustomSMBIOSGuid quirk.
- 6. Generic

Type: plist 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.

 $9. \ \mathtt{SMBIOS}$

Type: plist dictonary

Optional: When Automatic is true

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

9.2 Generic Properties

1. SpoofVendor

Type: plist boolean Default value: 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. SystemProductName

Type: plist string
Default value: MacPro6,1

Description: Refer to SMBIOS SystemProductName.

3. SystemSerialNumber Type: plist string

Default value: OPENCORE_SN1

Description: Refer to SMBIOS SystemSerialNumber.

4. SystemUUID

Type: plist string, GUID

Default value: OEM specified

Description: Refer to SMBIOS SystemUUID.

 $5. \ \mathrm{MLB}$

Type: plist string

Default value: OPENCORE_MLB_SN11

Description: Refer to SMBIOS BoardSerialNumber.

6. ROM

Type: plist data, 6 bytes Default value: all zero

 $\mathbf{Description} \colon \mathsf{Refer} \ \mathsf{to} \ \mathsf{4D1EDE05}\text{--}\mathsf{38C7}\text{--}\mathsf{4A6A}\text{--}\mathsf{9CC6}\text{--}\mathsf{4BCCA8B38C14}\text{:} \mathsf{ROM}.$