

OpenCore

Reference Manual

[2019.04.08]

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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.

1.1 Known defects

For OpenCore issues please refer to Acidanthera Bugtracker. Currently this file has the following entries not completed:

- Known UEFI driver list is incomplete.
- Not all NVRAM variables are properly described (e.g. boot-args).
- Misc section is missing.

2 Generic Terms

- **plist** — Subset of ASCII Property List format written in XML, also known 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.

3 Configuration Overview

3.1 Configuration Terms

- **OC config** — OpenCore Configuration file in **plist** format named **config.plist**. It has to provide extensible way to configure OpenCore and is structured to be separated into multiple named sections situated in the root **plist** dictionary. These sections are permitted to have **plist array** or **plist dictionary** types and are described in corresponding sections of this document.
- **valid key** — **plist key** object of **OC config** described in this document or its future revisions. Besides explicitly described **valid keys**, keys starting with **#** symbol (e.g. **#Hello**) are also considered **valid keys** and behave as comments, effectively discarding their value, which is still required to be a **valid plist object**. All other **plist keys** are not valid, and their presence yields to **undefined behaviour**.
- **valid value** — **valid plist object** of **OC config** described in this document that matches all the additional requirements in specific **plist object** description if any.
- **invalid value** — **valid plist object** of **OC config** described in this document that is of other **plist type**, does not conform to additional requirements found in specific **plist object** description (e.g. value range), or missing from the corresponding collection. **Invalid value** is read with or without an error message as any possible value of this **plist object** in an undetermined manner (i.e. the values may not be same across the reboots). Whilst reading an **invalid value** is equivalent to reading certain defined **valid value**, applying incompatible value to the host system may yield to **undefined behaviour**.
- **optional value** — **valid value** of **OC config** described in this document that reads in a certain defined manner provided in specific **plist object** description (instead of **invalid value**) when not present in **OC config**. All other cases of **invalid value** do still apply. Unless explicitly marked as **optional value**, any other value is required to be present and reads to **invalid value** if missing.
- **fatal behaviour** — behaviour leading to boot termination. Implementation must stop the boot process from going any further until next host system boot. It is allowed but not required to perform cold reboot or show any warning message.
- **undefined behaviour** — behaviour not prescribed by this document. Implementation is allowed to take any measures including but not limited to **fatal behaviour**, assuming any states or values, or ignoring, unless these measures negatively affect system security in general.

3.2 Configuration Processing

OC config is guaranteed to be processed at least once if it was found. Depending on OpenCore bootstrapping mechanism multiple **OC config** files may lead to reading any of them. No **OC Config** may be present on disk, in which case all the values read follow the rules of **invalid value** and **optional value**.

OC config has size, nesting, and key amount limitations. **OC config** size does not exceed 16 MBs. **OC config** has no more than 8 nesting levels. **OC config** has up to 16384 XML nodes (i.e. one **plist dictionary** item is counted as a pair of nodes) within each **plist object**.

Reading malformed **OC config** file leads to **undefined behaviour**. Examples of malformed **OC config** cover at least the following cases:

- files non-conformant to **plist DTD**
- files with unsupported or non-conformant **plist objects** found in this document
- files violating size, nesting, and key amount limitations

It is recommended but not required to abort loading malformed **OC config** and continue as if no **OC config** was present. For forward compatibility it is recommended but not required for the implementation to warn about the use of **invalid values**. Recommended practice of interpreting **invalid values** is to conform to the following convention where applicable:

Type	Value
plist string	Empty string (<string></string>)
plist data	Empty data (<data></data>)

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

3.3 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.
- `Block` provides support for data removal or ignorance.
- `Patch` provides support for data modification.
- `Quirks` provides support for specific hacks.

Root configuration entries consist of the following:

- `ACPI`
- `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.

3.4 Directory Structure

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

- `B00Tx64.efi`
Initial booter, which loads `OpenCore.efi` unless it was already started as a driver.
- `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.
- `OpenCore.efi`
Main booter driver responsible for operating system loading.
- `config.hash`
Hashes for all files potentially loadable by OC `Config`.
- `config.plist`
OC `Config`.
- `config.sig`
Signature for `config.hash`.

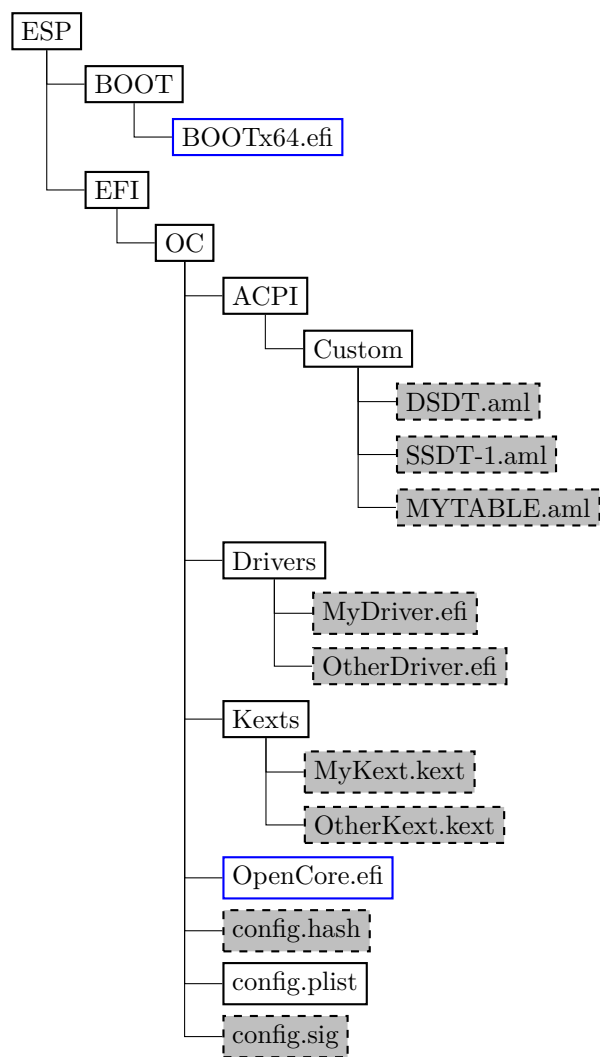


Figure 1: Directory Structure

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`, `_PWR`) for implementation. Modern hardware needs little changes to maintain ACPI compatibility, yet some of those are provided as a part of OpenCore.

4.2 Properties

1. Add

Type: `plist array`

Default value: Empty

Description: Load selected tables from `OC/ACPI/Custom` directory.

Designed to be filled with string filenames meant to be loaded as ACPI tables. Example values include `DSDT.aml`, `SSDT-8.aml`, `SSDT-USBX.aml`, etc. ACPI table load order follows the item order in the array.

Note: all values but `DSDT.aml` insert new ables into ACPI stack. `DSDT.aml`, unlike the rest, performs replacement of `DSDT` table.

2. Block

Type: `plist array`

Default value: Empty

Description: Remove selected tables from ACPI stack.

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

3. Patch

Type: `plist array`

Default value: Empty

Description: Perform binary patches in ACPI tables after table addition and 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 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 ACPI table will not be removed unless set to `true`.

3. Signature

Type: `plist data`, 4 bytes

Default value: All zero

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

4. OemTableId

Type: `plist data`, 8 bytes

Default value: All zero

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

- 5. Size
Type: plist integer
Default value: 0
Description: Match table size to be equal to this value unless 0.

4.4 Patch 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. Count
Type: plist integer
Default value: 0
Description: Number of patch occurrences to apply. 0 applies the patch to all occurrences found.
- 3. Enabled
Type: plist boolean
Default value: false
Description: This ACPI patch will not be used unless set to **true**.
- 4. Find
Type: plist data
Default value: Empty data
Description: Data to find. Must equal to **Replace** in size.
- 5. Limit
Type: plist integer
Default value: 0
Description: Maximum number of bytes to search for. Can be set to 0 to look through the whole ACPI table.
- 6. Mask
Type: plist data
Default value: Empty data
Description: Data bitwise mask used during find comparison. Allows fuzzy search by ignoring not masked (set to zero) bits. Can be set to empty data to be ignored. Must equal to **Replace** in size otherwise.
- 7. OemTableId
Type: plist data, 8 bytes
Default value: All zero
Description: Match table OEM ID to be equal to this value unless all zero.
- 8. Replace
Type: plist data
Default value: Empty data
Description: Replacement data of one or more bytes.
- 9. ReplaceMask
Type: plist data
Default value: Empty data
Description: Data bitwise mask used during replacement. Allows fuzzy replacement by updating masked (set to non-zero) bits. Can be set to empty data to be ignored. Must equal to **Replace** in size otherwise.
- 10. Skip
Type: plist integer
Default value: 0
Description: Number of found occurrences to be skipped before replacement is done.
- 11. TableLength
Type: plist integer

Default value: 0

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

12. TableSignature

Type:

textttplist data, 4 bytes

Default value: All zero

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

In the majority of the cases ACPI patches are not useful and harmful:

- Avoid renaming devices with ACPI patches. This may fail or perform improper renaming of unrelated devices (e.g. EC and EC0), be unnecessary, or even fail to rename devices in select tables. For ACPI consistency it is much safer to rename devices at I/O Registry level, as done by WhateverGreen.
- Avoid patching `_OSI` to support a higher level of feature sets unless absolutely required. Commonly this enables a number of hacks on APTIO firmwares, which result in the need to add more patches. Modern firmwares generally do not need it at all, and those that do are fine with much smaller patches.
- Try to avoid hacky changes like renaming `_PWR` 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 `A0 10 93 4F 53 46 4C 00` with `A4 0A 0F 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.

4.5 Quirks Properties

1. FadtEnableReset

Type: plist boolean

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. IgnoreForWindows

Type: plist boolean

Default value: false

Description: 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 DeviceProperties

5.1 Introduction

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

5.2 Properties

1. Add

Type: `plist dict`

Description: Sets device properties from a map (`plist dict`) of device 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 blocked.

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 the variables.

2. Block

Type: `plist dict`

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

3. Quirks

Type: `plist dict`

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

5.3 Quirks Properties

1. ReinstallProtocol

Type: `plist boolean`

Default value: `false`

Description: Reinstalls device property protocol (and drops all previous properties) if it was already installed.

5.4 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.

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.

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. Patch

Type: plist array

Default value: Empty

Description: Perform binary patches in kernel and drivers prior to driver addition and removal (FIXME: consistency with ACPI?).

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

4. Quirks

Type: plist dict

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

6.3 Add Properties

1. BundleName

Type: plist string

Default value: Empty string

Description: Kext bundle name (e.g. `Lilu.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 added 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 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

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. Count

Type: plist integer

Default value: 0

Description: Number of patch occurrences to apply. 0 applies the patch to all occurrences found.

4. Enabled

Type: plist boolean

Default value: false

Description: This kernel patch will not be used unless set to true.

5. Find

Type: plist data

Default value: Empty data

Description: Data to find. Can be set to empty for immediate replacement at Base. Must equal to Replace in size otherwise.

6. Identifier
Type: plist string
Default value: Empty string
Description: Kext bundle identifier (e.g. `com.apple.driver.AppleHDA`) or `kernel` for kernel patch.
7. Limit
Type: plist integer
Default value: 0
Description: Maximum number of bytes to search for. Can be set to 0 to look through the whole kext or kernel.
8. Mask
Type: plist data
Default value: Empty data
Description: Data bitwise mask used during find comparison. Allows fuzzy search by ignoring not masked (set to zero) bits. Can be set to empty data to be ignored. Must equal to **Replace** in size otherwise.
9. 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.
10. Replace
Type: plist data
Default value: Empty data
Description: Replacement data of one or more bytes.
11. ReplaceMask
Type: plist data
Default value: Empty data
Description: Data bitwise mask used during replacement. Allows fuzzy replacement by updating masked (set to non-zero) bits. Can be set to empty data to be ignored. Must equal to **Replace** in size otherwise.
12. Skip
Type: plist integer
Default value: 0
Description: Number of found occurrences to be skipped before replacement is done.

6.6 Quirks Properties

1. AppleCpuPmCfgLock
Type: plist boolean
Default value: false
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. 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.
3. 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`.

4. XhciPortLimit

Type: plist boolean

Default value: false

Description: Patch various kexts (AppleUSBXHCI.kext, AppleUSBXHCIPCI.kext, IOUSBHostFamily.kext) to remove USB port count limit of 15 ports.

Note: This option should avoided whenever possible. USB port limit is imposed by the amount of used bits in locationID format and there is no possible way to workaround this without heavy OS modification. The only valid solution is to limit the amount of used ports to 15 (discarding some). More details can be found on AppleLife.ru.

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

FIXME

8 NVRAM

8.1 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-AA0D-00E098032B8C (EFI_GLOBAL_VARIABLE_GUID)

8.2 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-AA0D-00E098032B8C).

Created variables get `EFI_VARIABLE_BOOTSERVICE_ACCESS` and `EFI_VARIABLE_RUNTIME_ACCESS` attributes set. Variables will only be set if not present and not blocked. To overwrite a variable add it to `Block` 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. Block

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.

To read NVRAM variable value from macOS one could use `nvram` by concatenating variable GUID and name separated by `:` symbol. For example, `nvram 7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:boot-args`.

A continuously updated variable list can be found in a corresponding document: [NVRAM Variables](#).

8.3 Mandatory Variables

The following variables are mandatory for macOS functioning:

- 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:FirmwareFeatures
32-bit `FirmwareFeatures`. Present on all Macs to avoid extra parsing of SMBIOS tables
- 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:FirmwareFeaturesMask
32-bit `FirmwareFeaturesMask`. Present on all Macs to avoid extra parsing of SMBIOS tables.
- 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:MLB
`BoardSerialNumber`. Present on newer Macs (2013+ at least) to avoid extra parsing of SMBIOS tables, especially in `boot.efi`.
- 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:ROM
Primary network adapter MAC address or replacement value. Present on newer Macs (2013+ at least) to avoid accessing special memory region, especially in `boot.efi`.

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:19456` for Mac keyboard. Also accepts short forms: `ru:19456` or `ru:0`. Full decoded list of keyboards in `AppleKeyboardLayouts-L.dat` can be found on [AppleLife](#).
- `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.
 - `FIXME`: document several known values! `debug`, `keepsyms`, `slide`, `-v`, `-s`, `-x`, `cpus=x`, `io=x`, `kextlog=x`, `-nehalem_error_disable` `-no_compat_check` `nvidia_drv=1`, etc?
- `7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:booterconfig`
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`)
 - * 2 — `AppleLoggingStdErrSet/AppleLoggingStdErrPrint` (`StdErr` or `serial`?)
 - * 4 — `AppleLoggingFileSet/AppleLoggingFilePrint` (`BOOTER.LOG/BOOTER.OLD` file on EFI partition)
 - `debug=VALUE`
 - * 1 — enables print something to `BOOTER.LOG` (stripped code implies there may be a crash)
 - * 2 — enables perf logging to `/efi/debug-log` in the device three
 - * 4 — enables timestamp printing for styled `printf` calls
 - `level=VALUE` — Verbosity level of `DEBUG` output. Everything but `0x80000000` is stripped from the binary, and this is the default value.
 - `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.
- `7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:booterconfig-once`
Booter arguments override removed after first launch. Otherwise equivalent to `booterconfig`.
- `7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:firm-computer-name`
- `7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:nvidia_drv`

9 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 `MacInfoPkg` package, 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.

9.1 Properties

1. `Automatic`

Type: plist boolean

Default value: 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` and `DataHub` data is unused.

FIXME: Currently unsupported.

2. `UpdateDataHub`

Type: plist boolean

Default value: false

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

3. `UpdateNVRAM`

Type: plist boolean

Default value: 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

Default value: false

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

5. `UpdateSMBIOSMode`

Type: plist string

Default value: Auto

Description: Update SMBIOS fields approach:

- `Auto` — `Overwrite` if new size is \leq than the page-aligned original and there are no issues with legacy region unlock. `Create` otherwise.
- `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 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).

6. Generic

Type: plist dictionary

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

7. DataHub

Type: plist dictionary

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

8. PlatformNVRAM

Type: plist dictionary

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

9. SMBIOS

Type: plist dictionary

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

9.2 Generic Properties

1. SystemProductName

Type: plist string

Default value: MacPro6,1

Description: Refer to SMBIOS SystemProductName.

2. SystemSerialNumber

Type: plist string

Default value: OPENCORE_SN1

Description: Refer to SMBIOS SystemSerialNumber.

3. SystemUUID

Type: plist string, GUID

Default value: OEM specified

Description: Refer to SMBIOS SystemUUID.

4. MLB

Type: plist string

Default value: OPENCORE_MLB_SN11

Description: Refer to SMBIOS BoardSerialNumber.

5. ROM

Type: plist data, 6 bytes

Default value: all zero

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

9.3 DataHub Properties

1. PlatformName

Type: plist string

Default value: Not installed

Description: Sets name in `gEfiMiscSubClassGuid`. Value found on Macs is **platform** in ASCII.

2. SystemProductName

Type: plist string

Default value: Not installed

Description: Sets Model in `gEfiMiscSubClassGuid`. Value found on Macs is equal to SMBIOS SystemProductName in Unicode.

3. SystemSerialNumber

Type: plist string

Default value: Not installed

Description: Sets `SystemSerialNumber` in `gEfiMiscSubClassGuid`. Value found on Macs is equal to SMBIOS `SystemSerialNumber` in Unicode.

4. `SystemUUID`

Type: plist string, GUID

Default value: Not installed

Description: Sets `system-id` in `gEfiMiscSubClassGuid`. Value found on Macs is equal to SMBIOS `SystemUUID`.

5. `BoardProduct`

Type: plist string

Default value: Not installed

Description: Sets `board-id` in `gEfiMiscSubClassGuid`. Value found on Macs is equal to SMBIOS `BoardProduct` in ASCII.

6. `BoardRevision`

Type: plist data, 1 byte

Default value: 0

Description: Sets `board-rev` in `gEfiMiscSubClassGuid`. Value found on Macs seems to correspond to internal board revision (e.g. 01).

7. `StartupPowerEvents`

Type: plist integer, 64-bit

Default value: 0

Description: Sets `StartupPowerEvents` in `gEfiMiscSubClassGuid`. Value found on Macs is power management state bitmask, normally 0. Known bits read by `X86PlatformPlugin.kext`:

- 0x00000001 — Shutdown cause was a PWROK event (Same as `GEN_PMCN_2` bit 0)
- 0x00000002 — Shutdown cause was a SYS_PWROK event (Same as `GEN_PMCN_2` bit 1)
- 0x00000004 — Shutdown cause was a THRMTRIP# event (Same as `GEN_PMCN_2` bit 3)
- 0x00000008 — Rebooted due to a SYS_RESET# event (Same as `GEN_PMCN_2` bit 4)
- 0x00000010 — Power Failure (Same as `GEN_PMCN_3` bit 1 `PWR_FLR`)
- 0x00000020 — Loss of RTC Well Power (Same as `GEN_PMCN_3` bit 2 `RTC_PWR_STS`)
- 0x00000040 — General Reset Status (Same as `GEN_PMCN_3` bit 9 `GEN_RST_STS`)
- 0xffffffff80 — SUS Well Power Loss (Same as `GEN_PMCN_3` bit 14)
- 0x00010000 — Wake cause was a ME Wake event (Same as `PRSTS` bit 0, `ME_WAKE_STS`)
- 0x00020000 — Cold Reboot was ME Induced event (Same as `PRSTS` bit 1 `ME_HRST_COLD_STS`)
- 0x00040000 — Warm Reboot was ME Induced event (Same as `PRSTS` bit 2 `ME_HRST_WARM_STS`)
- 0x00080000 — Shutdown was ME Induced event (Same as `PRSTS` bit 3 `ME_HOST_PWRDN`)
- 0x00100000 — Global reset ME Watchdog Timer event (Same as `PRSTS` bit 6)
- 0x00200000 — Global reset PowerManagement Watchdog Timer event (Same as `PRSTS` bit 15)

8. `InitialTSC`

Type: plist integer, 64-bit

Default value: 0

Description: Sets `InitialTSC` in `gEfiProcessorSubClassGuid`. Sets initial TSC value, normally 0.

9. `FSBFrequency`

Type: plist integer, 64-bit

Default value: Automatic

Description: Sets `FSBFrequency` in `gEfiProcessorSubClassGuid`. Sets CPU FSB frequency.

10. `ARTFrequency`

Type: plist integer, 64-bit

Default value: Not installed

Description: Sets `ARTFrequency` in `gEfiProcessorSubClassGuid`. Sets CPU ART frequency, Skylake and newer.

11. `DevicePathsSupported`

Type: plist data, 1 byte

Default value: Not installed

Description: Sets DevicePathsSupported in gEfiMiscSubClassGuid. Value found on Macs is 01. Read by AppleACPIPlatform.kext.

12. SmcRevision

Type: plist data, 6 bytes

Default value: Not installed

Description: Sets REV in gEfiMiscSubClassGuid. Custom property read by VirtualSMC or FakeSMC to generate SMC REV key.

13. SmcBranch

Type: plist data, 8 bytes

Default value: Not installed

Description: Sets RBr in gEfiMiscSubClassGuid. Custom property read by VirtualSMC or FakeSMC to generate SMC RBr key.

14. SmcPlatform

Type: plist data, 8 bytes

Default value: Not installed

Description: Sets RPlt in gEfiMiscSubClassGuid. Custom property read by VirtualSMC or FakeSMC to generate SMC RPlt key.

9.4 PlatformNVRAM Properties

1. BID

Type: plist string

Default value: Not installed

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

2. ROM

Type: plist data, 6 bytes

Default value: Not installed

Description: Specifies the values of of NVRAM variables 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:HW_ROM and 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:ROM.

3. MLB

Type: plist string

Default value: Not installed

Description: Specifies the values of NVRAM variables 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:HW_MLB and 4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:MLB.

9.5 SMBIOS Properties

1. BIOSVendor

Type: plist string

Default value: OEM specified

SMBIOS: BIOS Information (Type 0) — Vendor

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

2. BIOSVersion

Type: plist string

Default value: 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

Default value: OEM specified

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

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

4. SystemManufacturer

Type: plist string

Default value: 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, efichk, as well as kernel extensions developed in Acidanthera, such as Lilu and its plugins.

5. SystemProductName

Type: plist string

Default value: 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 MacInfoPkg.

6. SystemVersion

Type: plist string

Default value: OEM specified

SMBIOS: System Information (Type 1) — Version

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

7. SystemSerialNumber

Type: plist string

Default value: 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

Default value: 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

Default value: 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
Default value: OEM specified
SMBIOS: System Information (Type 1) — Family
Description: Family name. May look like `iMac Pro`.
11. **BoardManufacturer**
Type: plist string
Default value: OEM specified
SMBIOS: Baseboard (or Module) Information (Type 2) - Manufacturer
Description: Board manufacturer. All rules of **SystemManufacturer** do apply.
12. **BoardProduct**
Type: plist string
Default value: OEM specified
SMBIOS: Baseboard (or Module) Information (Type 2) - Product
Description: Mac Board ID (`board-id`). May look like `Mac-7BA5B2D9E42DDD94` or `Mac-F221BEC8` in older models.
13. **BoardVersion**
Type: plist string
Default value: OEM specified
SMBIOS: Baseboard (or Module) Information (Type 2) - Version
Description: Board version number. Varies, may match **SystemProductName** or **SystemProductVersion**.
14. **BoardSerialNumber**
Type: plist string
Default value: OEM specified
SMBIOS: Baseboard (or Module) Information (Type 2) — Serial Number
Description: Board serial number in defined format. Known formats are described in `macserial`.
15. **BoardAssetTag**
Type: plist string
Default value: OEM specified
SMBIOS: Baseboard (or Module) Information (Type 2) — Asset Tag
Description: Asset tag number. Varies, may be empty or **Type2 - Board Asset Tag**.
16. **BoardType**
Type: plist integer
Default value: OEM specified
SMBIOS: Baseboard (or Module) Information (Type 2) — Board Type
Description: Either `0xA` (Motherboard (includes processor, memory, and I/O) or `0xB` (Processor/Memory Module), refer to Table 15 – Baseboard: Board Type for more details.
17. **BoardLocationInChassis**
Type: plist string
Default value: OEM specified
SMBIOS: Baseboard (or Module) Information (Type 2) — Location in Chassis
Description: Varies, may be empty or **Part Component**.
18. **ChassisManufacturer**
Type: plist string
Default value: OEM specified
SMBIOS: System Enclosure or Chassis (Type 3) — Manufacturer
Description: Board manufacturer. All rules of **SystemManufacturer** do apply.
19. **ChassisType**
Type: plist integer
Default value: OEM specified
SMBIOS: System Enclosure or Chassis (Type 3) — Type
Description: Chassis type, refer to Table 17 — System Enclosure or Chassis Types for more details.

- 20. ChassisVersion
 - Type:** plist string
 - Default value:** OEM specified
 - SMBIOS:** System Enclosure or Chassis (Type 3) — Version
 - Description:** Should match BoardProduct.
- 21. ChassisSerialNumber
 - Type:** plist string
 - Default value:** OEM specified
 - SMBIOS:** System Enclosure or Chassis (Type 3) — Version
 - Description:** Should match SystemSerialNumber.
- 22. ChassisAssetTag
 - Type:** plist string
 - Default value:** 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
 - Default value:** 0
 - SMBIOS:** APPLE_SMBIOS_TABLE_TYPE133 - PlatformFeature
 - Description:** Platform features bitmask. Refer to AppleFeatures.h for more details.
- 24. FirmwareFeatures
 - Type:** plist integer, 64-bit
 - Default value:** 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 FirmwareFeatures. Upper 64 bits match ExtendedFirmwareFeatures.
- 25. FirmwareFeaturesMask
 - Type:** plist integer, 64-bit
 - Default value:** 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.
- 26. ProcessorType
 - Type:** plist integer, 16-bit
 - Default value:** Automatic
 - SMBIOS:** APPLE_SMBIOS_TABLE_TYPE131 - ProcessorType
 - Description:** Combined of Processor Major and Minor types.
- 27. MemoryFormFactor
 - Type:** plist integer, 8-bit
 - Default value:** OEM specified
 - SMBIOS:** Memory Device (Type 17) — Form Factor
 - Description:** Memory form factor. On Macs it should be DIMM or SODIMM.

10 UEFI

10.1 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.

10.2 Properties

1. ConnectDrivers

Type: plist boolean

Default value: NO

Description: Perform UEFI controller connection after driver loading. This option is useful for loading filesystem drivers, which usually follow UEFI driver model, and may not start by themselves. While effective, this option is not necessary with e.g. APFS loader driver, and may slightly slowdown the boot.

2. Drivers

Type: plist array

Default value: None

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

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

FIXME: Write

3. Quirks

Type: plist dict

Default value: None

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

10.3 Quirks Properties

1. DisableWatchDog

Type: plist boolean

Default value: NO

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

Note: This option is believed to be unnecessary on modern firmwares, yet may be safer to turn on as system performance across the boots is not constant.

2. IgnoreInvalidFlexRatio

Type: plist boolean

Default value: NO

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.

3. ProvideConsoleGop

Type: plist boolean

Default value: NO

Description: macOS bootloader requires GOP (Graphics Output Protocol) to be present on console handle. This option will install it if missing.

Note: Some drivers, like AptioMemoryFix, may provide equivalent functionality. These drivers are not guaranteed to adhere to the same logic, and if a quirk is necessary, this option is preferred.

11 Troubleshooting

Good luck.