

OpenCore

Reference Manual (0.6.90.7.0)

[2021.05.15]

• Enabling XCPM support for an unsupported CPU variant.

Note 1: It may also be the case that the CPU model is supported but there is no power management supported (e.g. virtual machines). In this case, MinKernel and MaxKernel can be set to restrict CPU virtualisation and dummy power management patches to the particular macOS kernel version.

Note 2: Only the value of EAX, which represents the full CPUID, typically needs to be accounted for and remaining bytes should be left as zeroes. The byte order is Little Endian. For example, C3 06 03 00 stands for CPUID 0x0306C3 (Haswell).

Note 3: For XCPM support it is recommended to use the following combinations.

• Haswell-E (0x0306F2) to Haswell (0x0306C3):

• Broadwell-E (0x0406F1) to Broadwell (0x0306D4):

• Rocket Lake (0x0A0670) to Comet Lake (0x0906EB):

• Comet Lake U62 (0x0A0660) to Comet Lake U42 (0x0806EC):

Note 4: Be aware that the following configurations are unsupported by XCPM (at least out of the box):

- Consumer Ivy Bridge (0x0306A9) as Apple disabled XCPM for Ivy Bridge and recommends legacy power management for these CPUs. _xcpm_bootstrap should manually be patched to enforce XCPM on these CPUs instead of this option.
- Low-end CPUs (e.g. Haswell+ Pentium) as they are not supported properly by macOS. Legacy workarounds for older models can be found in the Special NOTES section of acidanthera/bugtracker#365.

2. Cpuid1Mask

Type: plist data, 16 bytes

Failsafe: All zero

Description: Bit mask of active bits in Cpuid1Data.

When each Cpuid1Mask bit is set to 0, the original CPU bit is used, otherwise set bits take the value of Cpuid1Data.

3. DummyPowerManagement

Type: plist boolean Failsafe: false Requirement: 10.4

Description: Disables AppleIntelCpuPowerManagement.

Note 1: This option is a preferred alternative to NullCpuPowerManagement.kext for CPUs without native power management driver in macOS.

Note 2: While this option is typically needed to disable AppleIntelCpuPowerManagement on unsupported platforms, it can also be used to disable this kext in other situations (e.g. with Cpuid1Data left blank).

4. MaxKernel

Type: plist string Failsafe: Empty

Description: Emulates CPUID and applies DummyPowerManagement on specified macOS version or older.

Note: Refer to the Add MaxKernel description for matching logic.

5. MinKernel

Type: plist string Failsafe: Empty

Description: Emulates CPUID and applies DummyPowerManagement on specified macOS version or newer.

Note: Refer to the Add MaxKernel description for matching logic.

- BootApple this options performs booting to the first Apple operating system found unless the chosen default operating system is one from Apple. Hold the X key down to choose this option.
- BootAppleRecovery this option performs booting into the Apple operating system recovery partition. This is either that related to the default chosen operating system, or first one found when the chosen default operating system is not from Apple or does not have a recovery partition. Hold the CMD+R key combination down to choose this option.

Note 1: On non-Apple firmware KeySupport, OpenUsbKbDxe, or similar drivers are required for key handling. However, not all of the key handling functions can be implemented on several types of firmware.

Note 2: In addition to OPT, OpenCore supports using both the Escape and Zero keys to enter the OpenCore picker when ShowPicker is disabled. Escape exists to support co-existence with the Apple picker (including OpenCore Apple picker mode) and to support firmware that fails to report held OPT key, as on some PS/2 keyboards. In addition, Zero is provided to support systems on which Escape is already assigned to some other pre-boot firmware feature. In systems which do not require KeySupport, pressing and holding one of these keys from after power on until the picker appears should always be successful. The same should apply when using KeySupport mode if it is correctly configured for the system, i.e. with a long enough KeyForgetThreshold. If pressing and holding the key is not successful to reliably enter the picker, multiple repeated keypresses may be tried instead.

Note 3: On Macs with problematic GOP, it may be difficult to access the Apple picker. The BootKicker utility can be blessed to workaround this problem even without loading OpenCore. On some Macs however, the BootKicker utility cannot be run from OpenCore.

13. PickerVariant

Type: plist string Failsafe: Auto

Description: Choose specific icon set to be used for boot management.

The following values are supported An icon set is a directory path relative to Resources\Image, where the icons and an optional manifest are located. It is recommended for the artists to use provide their sets in the Vendor\Set format, e.g. Acidanthera\GoldenGate.

Sample resources provided as a part of OcBinaryData repository provide the following icon set:

- AutoAcidanthera\GoldenGate Automatically select one setof icons based on the DefaultBackground colourmacOS 11 styled icon set.
- DefaultAcidanthera\Syrah Normal icon set(without prefix)macOS 10.10 styled icon set.
- OldAcidanthera\Chardonnay Vintage icon set(Old filename prefix). macOS 10.4 styled icon set.

For convenience purposes there also are predefined aliases:

- Modern Auto Nouveau icon set (Automatically select one set of icons based on the Modern Default Background filename prefix) colour: Acidanthera Golden Gate for Syrah Black and Acidanthera Chardonnay for Light Gray.
- Other value Default Custom icon set if supported by installed resources Acidanthera \Golden Gate.

8.4 Debug Properties

1. AppleDebug

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Enable writing the boot.efi debug log to the OpenCore log.

Note: This option only applies to 10.15.4 and newer.

2. ApplePanic

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Save macOS kernel panic output to the OpenCore root partition.

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

- OCUI OpenCanopy
- OC OpenCore main, also OcMainLib
- VMOPT VerifyMemOpt

Libraries:

- AAPL OcDebugLogLib, Apple EfiBoot logging
- OCABC OcAfterBootCompatLib
- OCAE OcAppleEventLib
- OCAK OcAppleKernelLib
- ullet OCAU OcAudioLib
- OCA OcAcpiLib
- OCBP OcAppleBootPolicyLib
- OCB OcBootManagementLib
- OCLBT OcBlitLib
- OCCL OcAppleChunkListLib
- OCCPU OcCpuLib
- OCC OcConsoleLib
- OCDC OcDriverConnectionLib
- OCDH OcDataHubLib
- OCDI OcAppleDiskImageLib
- OCDM OcDeviceMiscLib
- OCFS OcFileLib
- OCFV OcFirmwareVolumeLib
- OCHS OcHashServicesLib
- OCI4 OcAppleImg4Lib
- OCIC OcImageConversionLib
- OCII OcInputLib
- OCJS OcApfsLib
- OCKM OcAppleKeyMapLib
- OCL OcDebugLogLib
- OCM OcMiscLib
- OCMCO OcMachoLib
- OCME OcHeciLib
- OCMM OcMemoryLib
- OCPE OcPeCoffLib, OcPeCoffExtLib
- OCPI OcFileLib, partition info
- OCPNG OcPngLib
- OCRAM OcAppleRamDiskLib
- OCRTC OcRtcLib
- OCSB OcAppleSecureBootLib
- OCSMB OcSmbiosLib
- OCSMC OcSmcLib
- OCST OcStorageLib
- OCTPL OcTemplateLib
- $\bullet \ \ \mathtt{OCUC} \mathrm{OcUnicodeCollationLib} \\$
- OCUT OcAppleUserInterfaceThemeLib
- OCXML OcXmlLib

8.5 Security Properties

1. AllowNvramReset

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

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

Note 1: It is known that some Lenovo laptops have a firmware bug, which makes them unbootable after performing NVRAM reset. Refer to acidanthera/bugtracker#995 for details.

- 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).

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

Serial number. 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 ${f 01}$ for normal screens and ${f 02}$ for HiDPI screens

- 7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:ForceDisplayRotationInEFI 32-bit integer defining display rotation. Can be **0** for no rotation or any of 90, 180, 270 for matching rotation in degrees.
- 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 (Syrah Black). Other colours may be set at user's preference.

9.5 Other Variables

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

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

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

- acpi layer=0xFFFFFFF
- acpi_level=0xFFFF5F (implies ACPI_ALL_COMPONENTS)
- 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)
- ioaccel_debug=VALUE (IOAccelerator 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)
- $\ \mathtt{npci=0x2000} \ (\mathrm{legacy}, \ \mathrm{disables} \ \mathtt{kIOPCIConfiguratorPFM64})$

Tools and Applications 11.3

Standalone tools may help to debug firmware and hardware. Some of the known tools are listed below. While some tools can be launched from within OpenCore (Refer to the Tools subsection for more details), most should be run separately either directly or from Shell.

To boot into OpenShell or any other tool directly save OpenShell.efi under the name of EFI\BOOT\BOOTX64.EFI on a FAT32 partition. It is typically unimportant whether the partition scheme is GPT or MBR.

While the previous approach works both on Macs and other computers, an alternative Mac-only approach to bless the tool on an HFS+ or APFS volume:

```
sudo bless --verbose --file /Volumes/VOLNAME/DIR/OpenShell.efi \
  --folder /Volumes/VOLNAME/DIR/ --setBoot
```

Listing 3: Blessing tool

- Note 1: /System/Library/CoreServices/BridgeVersion.bin should be copied to /Volumes/VOLNAME/DIR.
- Note 2: To be able to use the bless command, disabling System Integrity Protection is necessary.
- Note 3: To be able to boot Secure Boot might be disabled if present.

Some of the known tools are listed below (builtin tools are marked with *):

BootKicker*	Enter Apple BootPicker menu (exclusive for Macs with compatible GPUs).
${ t ChipTune*}$	Test BeepGen protocol and generate audio signals of different style and length.
CleanNvram*	Reset NVRAM alternative bundled as a standalone tool.
GopStop*	Test GraphicsOutput protocol with a simple scenario.
KeyTester*	Test keyboard input in SimpleText mode.
MemTest86	Memory testing utility.
OpenControl*	Unlock and lock back NVRAM protection for other tools to be able to get full NVRAM
	access when launching from OpenCore.
OpenShell*	OpenCore-configured UEFI Shell for compatibility with a broad range of firmware.
PavpProvision	Perform EPID provisioning (requires certificate data configuration).
ResetSystem*	Utility to perform system reset. Takes reset type as an argument: coldreset, firmware,
	shutdown, warmreset. Defaults to coldreset.
D+ cD-+*	Utility to good and write PTC (CMOS) mamory

RtcRw* Utility to read and write RTC (CMOS) memory.

Check CFG Lock (MSR 0xE2 write protection) consistency across all cores and change such ControlMsrE2*

hidden options on selected platforms.

11.4 **OpenCanopy**

OpenCanopy is a graphical OpenCore user interface that runs in External PickerMode and relies on OpenCorePkg OcBootManagementLib similar to the builtin text interface.

OpenCanopy requires graphical resources located in Resources directory to run. Sample resources (fonts and images) can be found in OcBinaryData repository. Customised icons can be found over the internet (e.g. here or there).

OpenCanopy provides full support for PickerAttributes and offers a configurable builtin icon set. The default chosen icon set depends may depend on the DefaultBackgroundColor variable value. For Light Gray Refer to Oldicon set will be used, for other colours -- the one without a prefixPickerVariant for more details.

Predefined icons are saved in the PickerVariant-derived subdirectory of the \EFI\OC\Resources\Image directory. A full list of supported icons (in .icns format) is provided below. When optional icons are missing, the closest available icon will be used. External entries will use Ext-prefixed icon if available (e.g. OldExtHardDrive.icns).

Note: In the following all dimensions are normative for the 1x scaling level and shall be scaled accordingly for other levels.

- Cursor Mouse cursor (mandatory, up to 144x144).
- Selected Selected item (mandatory, 144x144).
- Selector Selecting item (mandatory, up to 144x40).
- Left Scrolling left (mandatory, 40x40).
- Right Scrolling right (mandatory, 40x40).

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

Note: Some Macs, such as the MacPro5,1, may have incompatible console output when using modern GPUs, and thus only BuiltinGraphics may work for them in such cases. NVIDIA GPUs may require additional firmware upgrades.

2. ConsoleMode

Type: plist string

Failsafe: Empty (Maintain current console mode)

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

Set to Max to attempt using the largest available console mode. This option is currently ignored as the Builtin text renderer only supports one console mode.

Note: This field is best left empty on most types of firmware.

3. Resolution

Type: plist string

Failsafe: Empty (Maintain current screen resolution)

Description: Sets console output screen resolution.

- Set to WxH@Bpp (e.g. 1920x1080@32) or WxH (e.g. 1920x1080) formatted string to request custom resolution from GOP if available.
- Set to Max to attempt using the largest available screen resolution.

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

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

4. ForceResolution

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Forces Resolution to be set in cases where the desired resolution is not available by default, such as on legacy Intel GMA and first generation Intel HD Graphics (Ironlake/Arrandale). Setting Resolution to Max will try to pull the largest available resolution from the connected display's EDID.

Note: This option depends on the OC_FORCE_RESOLUTION_PROTOCOL protocol being present. This protocol is currently only supported by OpenDuetPkg. The OpenDuetPkg implementation currently only supports Intel iGPUs.

5. ClearScreenOnModeSwitch

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Some types of firmware only clear part of the screen when switching from graphics to text mode, leaving a fragment of previously drawn images visible. This option fills the entire graphics screen with black colour before switching to text mode.

Note: This option only applies to System renderer.

6. DirectGopRendering

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Use builtin graphics output protocol renderer for console.

On certain firmware, such as on the MacPro5,1, this may provide better performance or fix rendering issues. However, this option is not recommended unless there is an obvious benefit as it may result in issues such as slower scrolling.

This renderer fully supports AppleEg2Info protocol and will provide screen rotation for all EFI applications. In order to provide seamless rotation compatibility with EfiBoot, builtin AppleFramebufferInfo should also be used, i.e. it may need to be overridden on Mac EFI.

7. GopPassThrough

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Provide GOP protocol instances on top of UGA protocol instances.

This option provides the GOP protocol via a UGA-based proxy for firmware that do not implement the protocol.

Note: This option requires ProvideConsoleGop to be enabled.

8. IgnoreTextInGraphics

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Some types of firmware output text onscreen in both graphics and text mode. This is typically unexpected as random text may appear over graphical images and cause UI corruption. Setting this option to true will discard all text output when console control is in a different mode from Text.

Note: This option only applies to the System renderer.

9. ReplaceTabWithSpace

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Some types of firmware do not print tab characters or everything that follows them, causing difficulties in using the UEFI Shell's builtin text editor to edit property lists and other documents. This option makes the console output spaces instead of tabs.

Note: This option only applies to System renderer.

10. ProvideConsoleGop

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

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

macOS bootloader requires GOP or UGA (for 10.4 EfiBoot) to be present on console handle, yet the exact location of the graphics protocol is not covered by the UEFI specification. This option will ensure GOP and UGA, if present, are available on the console handle.

Note: This option will also replace incompatible implementations of GOP on the console handle, as may be the case on the MacPro5,1 when using modern GPUs.

11. ReconnectOnResChange

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Reconnect console controllers after changing screen resolution.

On certain firmware, the controllers that produce the console protocols (simple text out) must be reconnected when the screen resolution is changed via GOP. Otherwise, they will not produce text based on the new resolution.

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

12. SanitiseClearScreen

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Some types of firmware reset screen resolutions to a failsafe value (such as 1024x768) on the attempts to clear screen contents when large display (e.g. 2K or 4K) is used. This option attempts to apply a workaround.

Note: This option only applies to the System renderer. On all known affected systems, ConsoleMode must be set to an empty string for this option to work.

13. UgaPassThrough

 \mathbf{Type} : plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Provide UGA protocol instances on top of GOP protocol instances.

Some types of firmware do not implement the legacy UGA protocol but this may be required for screen output by older EFI applications such as EfiBoot from 10.4.

11.12 ProtocolOverrides Properties

1. AppleAudio

Type: plist boolean Failsafe: false

Description: Replaces Apple audio protocols with builtin versions.

Apple audio protocols allow OpenCore and the macOS bootloader to play sounds and signals for screen reading or audible error reporting. Supported protocols are beep generation and VoiceOver. The VoiceOver protocol is specific to Gibraltar machines (T2) and is not supported before macOS High Sierra (10.13). Older macOS versions use the AppleHDA protocol (which is not currently implemented) instead.

Only one set of audio protocols can be available at a time, so this setting should be enabled in order to enable audio playback in the OpenCore user interface on Mac systems implementing some of these protocols.

Note: The backend audio driver needs to be configured in UEFI Audio section for these protocols to be able to stream audio.

2. AppleBootPolicy

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Replaces the Apple Boot Policy protocol with a builtin version. This may be used to ensure APFS compatibility on VMs and legacy Macs.

Note: This option is advisable on certain Macs, such as the MacPro5,1, that are APFS compatible but on which the Apple Boot Policy protocol has recovery detection issues.

3. AppleDebugLog

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Replaces the Apple Debug Log protocol with a builtin version.

4. AppleEg2Info

Type: plist boolean Failsafe: false

Description: Replaces the Apple EFI Graphics 2 protocol with a builtin version.

Note: This protocol allows newer EfiBoot versions (at least 10.15) to expose screen rotation to macOS. Refer to ForceDisplayRotationInEFI variable description on how to set screen rotation angle.

5. AppleFramebufferInfo

Type: plist boolean Failsafe: false

Description: Replaces the Apple Framebuffer Info protocol with a builtin version. This may be used to override framebuffer information on VMs and legacy Macs to improve compatibility with legacy EfiBoot such as the one in macOS 10.4.

Note: The current implementation of this property results in it only being active when GOP is available (it is always equivalent to false otherwise).

6. AppleImageConversion

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Replaces the Apple Image Conversion protocol with a builtin version.