UEFI File System Explorer

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Introduction

In this project, we were responsible for developing a UEFI program functioning as a file system explorer. Our primary goal was to design a user interface that allows for easy navigation and interaction with files and directories in the UEFI environment. This project involved a detailed study of UEFI specifications and understanding the principles of developing related applications. Utilizing the protocols available in the UEFI file system, we integrated files and directories. Additionally, developing the user interface, adding advanced features like file searching, filtering, and sorting, and developing error management mechanisms to handle potential exceptions and errors were part of the challenges of this project. Finally, we conducted extensive testing and validation of the program in various scenarios.

1 Prerequisites

Before starting, ensure your Linux distribution has the following packages installed:

- NASM (Netwide Assembler): An assembler and disassembler for the Intel x86 architecture.
- IASL (Intel ACPI Compiler/Decompiler): Used for Advanced Configuration and Power Interface (ACPI).
- UUID-Dev (Universally Unique ID Library): Essential for generating unique identifiers in UEFI.
- Python 3: Necessary for running build infrastructure scripts.

1.1 Installing Packages on Ubuntu

Run the following commands in your terminal:

```
sudo apt-get install -y nasm iasl uuid-dev python3
sudo apt-get install -y python3-distutils
```

1.2 Cloning and Preparing EDK2 Repository

```
git clone https://github.com/tianocore/edk2
cd edk2
git submodule update --init
```

1.3 Compiling EDK2 Build Tools

• Compile C Programs: EDK2 utilizes a combination of Python scripts and C programs located in the BaseTools directory.

```
make -C BaseTools
```

This command builds tools and libraries under BaseTools/Source/C/bin and BaseTools/Source/C/libs.

- Tool Wrappers and User Manuals:
 - EDK2 offers comprehensive wrappers for the use of build tools on both Linux and Windows platforms. For detailed guidance, refer to the corresponding directories within the EDK2 repository.
 - User manuals for various build tools are located under BaseTools/UserManuals.

1.4 Building EDKII

• Initialize Environment: Source the edksetup.sh script:

```
. edksetup.sh
```

• Building EDKII: Use the build command to compile EDKII packages.

1.5 Compiling OVMF (Open Virtual Machine Firmware)

• Building OVMF: Execute the following command to build OVMF:

```
build --platform=0vmfPkg/0vmfPkgX64.dsc --arch=X64 --buildtarget=
RELEASE --tagname=GCC5
```

Note: GCC version 5 or higher is required.

• Locating Build Artifacts: The build artifacts can be found in the directory structure: Build/{Platform Name}/{TARGET}_{TOOL_CHAIN_TAG}/FV.

1.6 Testing with QEMU

• **Install QEMU**: To install QEMU on your system, run the following command in the terminal:

```
sudo apt-get install qemu-system-x86_64
```

• Running OVMF in QEMU: To run OVMF with QEMU, use the following command:

qemu-system-x86_64 -drive if=pflash,format=raw,readonly,file=Build/
 OvmfX64/RELEASE_GCC5/FV/OVMF_CODE.fd \-drive if=pflash,format=
 raw,file=Build/OvmfX64/RELEASE_GCC5/V/OVMF_VARS.fd \-nographic
 \-net none

2 Command Processing Details (HelloWorld.c)

2.1 Commands

• Quit: When the user types "quit", the program uses the Print function to output a farewell message and then terminates by returning EFI_SUCCESS. This is a standard way in UEFI applications to indicate successful completion.

• List (ls):

- The "ls" command without flags calls PrintDirectoryInfo with a flag value of 0, which likely lists all items in the current directory.
- For "ls -n" and "ls -s", the program checks the flag character following "ls -" and calls PrintDirectoryInfo with different flag values (1 for 'n' and 2 for 's'). These flags presumably modify the listing behavior, perhaps altering sorting order or information detail level.
- Remove (rm): This command uses StrnCmp to compare the input buffer with "rm ", indicating a removal command. It then calls OpenFileOrDir to attempt to open the specified file or directory. If successful, DeleteFileOrDir is called to delete it.
- Make Directory (mkdir): This command checks if a directory with the specified name already exists using isThereFile. If it does not exist, MakeDirectory is called, which likely creates a new directory with the given name.
- Change Directory (cd): It uses OpenDirectory to try and open the directory specified after the "cd" command. If the directory is successfully opened, Current_Dir is updated to this new directory.
- Nano: This is a simple file editing functionality. The code first opens the file in readonly mode to check if it exists. If the file exists, it allows the user to read and potentially modify its content.
- File Info (info): This command opens a file in read-only mode and, if successful, calls PrintFileInfo to display its details.

- Concatenate (cat): Similar to "info", it opens a file and, upon success, reads its content and prints it to the screen.
- Copy and Cut: These commands use OpenFileOrDir to locate and open the specified file or directory. The Copy_Cut_Flag is set to 1 for copy and 2 for cut, indicating the action to be taken later (like in the "paste" command).
- Paste: This command checks the Copy_Cut_Flag. If a file or directory has been copied or cut, it uses CopyDirectoryRecursive to paste it into the current directory. If the Copy_Cut_Flag was 2 (cut), the original file/directory is deleted after pasting.
- Help: Likely displays a list of available commands and their usage.
- Search: It appears to search for files matching a given pattern and prints the results.
- Invalid Command: If a command is not recognized, it prints an error message and shows help.

2.2 help

```
void help(){
    Print(L"Supported commands are:\n");
    Print(L"ls - list all files and directories in the current
       directory\n");
    Print(L"ls -n - list all files and directories in the current
        directory with alphabetical order\n");
    Print(L"rm <file_name> - remove file or directory\n");
    Print(L"mkdir <directory_name> - create a new directory\n");
    Print(L"cd <directory_name> - change current directory\n");
    Print(L"nano <file_name> - create or edit a file\n");
    Print(L"info <file_name> - print name and size of a file\n");
    Print(L"cat <file_name> - print content of a file\n");
    Print(L"copy <file_name> - copy a file or directory\n");
    Print(L"cut <file_name> - cut a file or directory\n");
    Print(L"paste - paste a file or directory\n");
    Print(L"search <sub_name> - show files and directories that
       contains this substring\n");
    Print(L"quit - exit the program\n");
}
```

• The function help prints a list of supported commands to the console.

- Each command is accompanied by a brief description of its function, providing a user-friendly guide for interacting with the program.
- This function is crucial for usability, especially for new users who may not be familiar
 with the available commands.
- The function isSubString checks if a given substring is present within another string.
 - It uses the UEFI library function StrStr to search for the substring.
 - If the substring is found, the function returns TRUE, otherwise FALSE.
 - This function can be useful in commands where pattern matching or search functionality is required, such as the 'search' command listed in the 'help' function.

2.3 GetStringFromIndex

The function GetStringFromIndex is designed to read a string input from the console and store it in a buffer.

- Takes a buffer, its size, and a starting index as arguments.
- Reads key strokes using ReadKeyStroke and stores them in the buffer, handling delete keys and stopping when the enter key is pressed.
- Supports real-time deletion and echoing of characters.
- Returns EFI_SUCCESS on successful completion, and an error status if an error occurs during the key reading process.

2.4 PrintDirectoryInfo

PrintDirectoryInfo function takes a directory and a flag as input.

- It initializes two arrays to store names of files and directories.
- The function then reads each entry in the given directory, categorizing them into files and directories based on the result of is_name_file.
- If the flag is set to 1, it sorts both files and directories using the BubbleSortStrings function.

2.5 OpenFileOrDir

The function OpenFileOrDir is designed to open either a file or directory with read and write permissions, without specifying the file type.

• Returns an EFI status to indicate the outcome.

2.6 DeleteFileOrDir

The function DeleteFileOrDir takes a pointer to an EFI_FILE_PROTOCOL object representing either a file or a directory.

- It first checks if the object is a file using the is_file function.
- If it's a file, it directly deletes it.
- If it's a directory, the function iterates through all files and subdirectories within it (skipping the special entries "." and ".."), and recursively calls itself to delete each of them.
- After deleting all contents, it deletes the directory itself.
- The function returns an EFI_STATUS value indicating the success or failure of the delete operation.

2.7 MakeDirectory

The function MakeDirectory attempts to create a new directory with the given name in the current directory.

- Sets the mode to create, write, and read, specifying the file type as a directory.
- Returns the status of the directory creation attempt.

2.8 OpenDirectory

The function OpenDirectory opens a directory for reading and writing.

• Returns the status of the operation, indicating whether the directory was successfully opened or not.

2.9 PrintFileInfo

The function PrintFileInfo takes a pointer to an EFI_FILE_PROTOCOL object.

- Uses FileHandleGetInfo to retrieve file information stored in FileInfo.
- Prints the file size in bytes and the file name to the standard output using the Print function.
- This function could be extended to print additional file attributes by adding more Print statements.

2.10 CopyDirectoryRecursive

The function CopyDirectoryRecursive recursively copies files and directories from a source to a destination directory.

- It first checks whether the source is a file or a directory.
- If it's a file, it simply copies it to the destination directory.
- If it's a directory, the function creates a corresponding directory in the destination and then iterates through all the contents of the source directory.
- For each item in the source directory, it recursively calls itself to copy the item (be it a file or a subdirectory) to the newly created directory in the destination.
- This recursive approach ensures that the entire directory structure and its contents are copied.
- The function returns an EFI_STATUS to indicate the success or failure of the operation.

2.11 is file

The is_file function is used to determine whether the provided EFI_FILE_PROTOCOL object represents a file or a directory.

- It utilizes the FileHandleGetInfo function to retrieve file information.
- If the Attribute field of the FileInfo structure contains the EFI_FILE_DIRECTORY flag, it indicates a directory, and the function returns 0.
- Otherwise, it returns 1, indicating that the object represents a file.

10

2.12 PrintGetPosition

The PrintGetPosition function accepts an EFI_FILE_HANDLE object as its input.

- It retrieves the current position within the file using the FileHandleGetPosition function.
- Subsequently, it stores this position in the variable Result and proceeds to print it.
- This function is particularly useful for determining the read/write position within the file.

2.13 GetString

The GetString function is a straightforward wrapper around GetStringFromIndex.

- It initializes string reading from the beginning of the buffer (index 0).
- This function is useful for obtaining a new string input.

2.14 OpenOnlyRead

The OpenOnlyRead function opens a directory or file with read-only permissions.

• It is used when the intention is to check for existence or perform operations that do not require write permissions.

2.15 isThereFile

The isThereFile function checks whether a file or directory with the specified name exists in the current directory.

- This function uses OpenOnlyRead for this purpose.
- It returns TRUE if the file or directory exists; otherwise, it returns FALSE.

2.16 OpenFileOnlyRead

The OpenFileOnlyRead function is utilized to open a file with both read and write permissions, while specifying the file type as an archive.

• The status returned indicates whether the operation was successful or not.

2.17 OpenFileCreate

The OpenFileCreate function is employed to create a new file with both read and write permissions, classifying it as an archive.

• This function returns an EFI status that indicates the success or failure of the file creation operation.

2.18 GetSize

The GetSize function calculates the size of a string in bytes, including the null terminator.

• It iterates through each character until it encounters the null character and then returns the size in bytes.

2.19 is name file

The is_name_file function verifies whether a provided name corresponds to a file in the current directory.

• It attempts to open the file or directory and employs is_file to determine if it's a file. If the opening fails, it returns -1.

2.20 PrintFiles

The PrintFiles function iterates through an array of file names and prints each one, adding the prefix "file: ".

• This function is handy for displaying a list of files.

2.21 PrintDirectories

Similar to PrintFiles, the PrintDirectories function prints each directory name in an array, with the prefix "directory: ".

2.22 String Manipulation and Sorting

These functions are used for string manipulation and sorting.

- StringCompare compares two strings.
- SwapStrings swaps two string pointers.
- BubbleSortStrings implements the bubble sort algorithm to sort an array of strings based on their lexicographical order.

2.23 CopyFile

The CopyFile function accepts two EFI_FILE_PROTOCOL objects as parameters: one representing the source file and the other representing the destination file.

- Its purpose is to copy the contents from the source file to the destination file.
- This is achieved by reading data in chunks from the source file and subsequently writing that data to the destination file.
- The process iterates until all data is copied or an error occurs.
- This function is designed to handle files of any size by processing them in manageable chunks.
- It returns an EFI_STATUS to indicate the outcome of the copy operation.

2.24 SearchFiles

The SearchFiles function is designed to search for files and directories within the Current_Dir whose names contain the substring file_name.

- It maintains a list of paths for the found items in the founded_files array and keeps count of the number of found items in count.
- The function iterates over each item in Current_Dir, excluding special directories "."
 and "..".
- For each item, it checks if its name contains the specified substring. If a match is found, the path is added to the founded_files array.
- If the item is a directory (not a file), the function recursively calls itself to search within that directory.

- \bullet This recursive approach allows for a thorough search through all subdirectories.
- The function handles path concatenation and memory allocation for new paths.
- It returns an EFI_STATUS to indicate the success or failure of the search operation.

2.25 Check Test Results

```
mkdir final
>> mkdir final
Directory status: Success
cd final
>> cd final
Open Directory status: Success
>> 15
directory: .
directory: ..
help
>> help
Supported commands are:
ls - list all files and directories in the current directory
ls -n - list all files and directories in the current directory with alphabetical order
rm <file_name> - remove file or directory
mkdir <directory_name> - create a new directory cd <directory_name> - change current directory
nano <file name> - create or edit a file
info <file_name> - print name and size of a file
cat <file name> - print content of a file
copy <file name> - copy a file or directory
cut <file_name> - cut a file or directory
paste - paste a file or directory
search <sub name> - show files and directories that contains this substring
quit - exit the program
```

```
mkdir f1
>> mkdir f1
Directory status: Success
1s
>> 1s
directory: .
directory:
directory: f1
mkdir f2
>> mkdir f2
Directory status: Success
1s
>> 1s
directory: .
directory: ...
directory: f1
directory: f2
mkdir f1
>> mkdir f1
Already Exists
```

Figure 2: mkdir

```
cd f1
>> cd f1
Open Directory status: Success nano t1
>> nano t1
Open New File
Write whatever you want
this is a test
You Entered: this is a test
30
write status: Success
ls
>> ls
file: t1
directory: .
cat t1
>> cat t1
File Opened successfully
read status Success
Read from file: this is a test
```

```
Figure 1: help
```

```
>>> rm f2
cluster 0 used more than once
cluster 0 used more than once
Delete status: Success
ls
>>> ls
directory: .
directory: ..
directory: f1
```

```
Figure 3: rm
```

```
>> mkdir f2
Directory status: Success
cd f1
>> cd f1
Open Directory status: Success
ls
>> ls
directory: .
directory: .
cd ..
>> cd ..
Open Directory status: Success
ls
>> ls
directory: .
directory: f1
directory: f2
```

Figure 4: mkdir

Figure 5: nano, cat

Figure 6: info

Figure 7: nano, cat

```
nano t2
                                                              >> nano t2
                                                              Open New File
                                                              Write whatever you want
                                                              you deleted me, my friend??
You Entered: you deleted me, my friend??
                                                              write status :Success
                                                              nano t2
                                                              >> nano t2
Already Exists
ls
>> ls
                                                              Write on the file
                                                              you deleted me, my *so called friend?
You Entered: you deleted me, my fr*so called friend?
file: t1
file: t2
directory: .
                                                              write status :Success
directory: ..
                                                              cat t2
                                                              >> cat t2
rm t2
                                                              File Opened successfully read status Success Read from file: you deleted me, my fr*so called friend?
>> rm t2
Delete status: Success
```

Figure 8: rm

Figure 9: nano, cat

```
>> ls
file: t1
                                                                         file: t2
file: t3
                                                                         directory: ..
                                                                         mkdir f1
>> mkdir f1
                                                                                                                                        cd .
 >> nano t3
                                                                                                                                        >> cd ..
>> namo cs
Open New File
Write whatever you want
another test for god's sake
You Entered: another test for god's sake
                                                                         Directory status: Success
                                                                                                                                        Open Directory status: Success
                                                                          copy t3
                                                                         >> copy t3
File copied successfully
                                                                                                                                        >> ls
file: t1
56
write status :Success
nano t3
                                                                          1s
                                                                         >> ls
file: t1
                                                                                                                                        file: t2
naho t3
>> nano t3
Already Exists
Write on the file
I thought sake was Japanese wine
You Entered: I thought sake was Japanese wine
                                                                                                                                        file: t3
                                                                         file: t2
                                                                                                                                        directory: .
                                                                         file: t3
                                                                                                                                        directory: ..
directory: f1
                                                                         directory: .
                                                                         directory: ..
directory: f1
                                                                                                                                        copy t3
write status :Success
                                                                                                                                        >> copy t3
File copied successfully
write status :Success
nano t3
>> nano t3
Already Exists
Write on the file
I thought sake was Japanese
You Entered: I thought sake was Japanese
                                                                         cd f1
>> cd f1
                                                                                                                                        cd f1
                                                                         Open Directory status: Success
                                                                                                                                        >> cd f1
                                                                          paste
                                                                                                                                        Open Directory status: Success
                                                                          >> paste
                                                                          File Pasted successfully
                                                                                                                                        paste
56
write status :Success
cat t3
>> cat t3
File Opened successfully
read status Success
Read from file: I thought sake was Japanese
                                                                                                                                        >> paste
                                                                         1s
                                                                         >> ls
file: t3
                                                                                                                                        Already Exists
                                                                                                                                        paste
                                                                         directory: .
                                                                                                                                        >> paste
                                                                         directory: ..
                                                                                                                                        Already Exists
```

Figure 10: nano, cat

Figure 11: copy, paste

Figure 12: nano, cat

```
cd ...
                                       >> cd ..
                                       Open Directory status: Success
                                       1s
                                       >> 1s
>> cd ..
                                       directory: .
Open Directory status: Success
                                       directory: ...
cut t2
                                       directory: f1
>> cut t2
File cut successfully
                                       directory: f2
cd f1
                                       copy f2
>> cd f1
                                       >> copy f2
Open Directory status: Success
                                       File copied successfully
paste
.>> paste
File Pasted successfully
                                       cd f1
                                       >> cd f1
ls
                                       Open Directory status: Success
>> ls
file: t3
                                       paste
file: t2
                                       >> paste
directory: .
                                       Error in short name (-1)
directory: ..
                                       File Pasted successfully
cd ..
>> cd ..
                                       1s
                                       >> 1s
Open Directory status: Success
                                       file: t1
>> 1s
                                       file: t3
file: t1
                                       directory: .
file: t3
                                       directory: ...
directory: .
directory: ...
                                       directory: f1
directory: f1
                                       directory: f2
```

Figure 13: cut, paste

Figure 14: copy, paste

```
cd ..
>> cd ..
Open Directory status: Success
>> 1s
directory: .
directory: ..
directory: f1
directory: f2
 copy f1
                                                                                                          Open Directory status: Success
 >> copy f1
File copied successfully
                                                                                                         >> ls
file: SimplestApp.efi
cd f2
>> cd f2
                                                                                                         file: test2
file: to.txt
Open Directory status: Success
                                                                                                         file: test3.txt
file: hi.txt
paste
>> paste
                                                                                                          file: py3.txt
file: test
File Pasted successfully
                                                                                                          file: yek.txt
file: HelloWorld.efi
>> ls
directory: .
                                                                                                          file: lala.txt
directory: ..
                                                          search t1
                                                                                                         file: matin.txt
file: tp.txt
                                                         >> search t1
.\f1\t1
directory: f1
cd f1
>> cd f1
                                                                                                          file: py.txt
directory: t5
                                                         .\f3\f2\f1\t1
                                                         search t2

>> search t2

.\f1\f1\t2

.\f3\f2\f1\f1\t2

search f1
Open Directory status: Success
                                                                                                          directory: p2
                                                                                                          directory: p1
directory: shoja
>> ls
file: t1
                                                                                                          directory: shoaj
directory: khale
file: t3
                                                                                                         directory: nano_test
directory: t3
                                                         >> search f1
directory: .
                                                         .\f1
directory: ..
                                                          .\f1\f1
                                                                                                          directory: p3
directory: f1
                                                          .\f3\f2\f1
.\f3\f2\f1\f1
                                                                                                          directory: t1
directory: f2
                                                                                                          directory: t4
directory: final
```

Figure 15: copy, paste

Figure 16: search

Figure 17: ls

```
>> 1s
                                   directory: .
ls -n
                                   directory: ..
>> 1s -n
                                   directory: f1
file: HelloWorld.efi
                                   directory: f2
                                   cut f2
file: SimplestApp.efi
                                   >> cut f2
file: hi.txt
                                   File cut successfully
file: lala.txt
                                   mkdir f3
file: matin.txt
                                   >> mkdir f3
file: py.txt
                                   Directory status: Success
                                   cd f3
file: py3.txt
                                   >> cd f3
file: test
                                   Open Directory status: Success
file: test2
                                   paste
file: test3.txt
                                   >> paste
file: to.txt
                                   File Pasted successfully
                                   cluster 0 used more than once
file: tp.txt
                                   cluster 0 used more than once
file: yek.txt
                                   cluster 0 used more than once
directory: final
                                   cluster 0 used more than once
directory: khale
                                   cluster 0 used more than once
directory: nano test
                                   cluster 0 used more than once
                                   cluster 0 used more than once
directory: p1
                                   cluster 0 used more than once
directory: p2
                                   cd ..
directory: p3
                                   >> cd ..
directory: shoaj
                                   Open Directory status: Success
directory: shoja
                                   ls
directory: t1
                                   >> 1s
                                   directory: .
directory: t3
                                   directory: ..
directory: t4
                                   directory: f1
directory: f3
directory: t5
```

Figure 18: ls -n

Figure 19: cut, mkdir, paste, ls

3 UEFI application Configuration (HelloWorld.inf)

3.1 Defines

Sets constants and configurations for the build process.

- INF_VERSION: Version of the INF file format.
- BASE_NAME: Base name of the application, "HelloWorld".
- FILE_GUID: Globally unique identifier for the file.
- MODULE_TYPE: Type of the module, a UEFI application.
- VERSION_STRING: Application version.
- ENTRY_POINT: Entry function of the application, UefiMain.

3.2 Sources

Lists the source code file.

• HelloWorld.c: C language file containing the application source code.

3.3 Packages

Specifies required packages.

• MdePkg/MdePkg.dec: Package providing common UEFI library classes.

3.4 LibraryClasses

Lists used library classes.

- UefiApplicationEntryPoint: Provides the entry point for UEFI applications.
- UefiLib: Basic UEFI functions.
- UefiFileHandleLib: Working with UEFI file handles.
- MemoryAllocationLib: Memory allocation tasks.

3.5 Protocols

Lists UEFI protocols used by the application.

• gEfiSimpleFileSystemProtocolGuid: Protocol identifier for UEFI's Simple File System Protocol.

This configuration file sets up a UEFI application named "HelloWorld", detailing its dependencies, source files, and required libraries. The application begins execution from the UefiMain function in HelloWorld.c and utilizes specific UEFI protocols and libraries for file system and memory operations.

4 UEFI development Configuration (UefiLessonsPkg.dsc)

4.1 Defines

- DSC_SPECIFICATION: Version of the DSC file format.
- PLATFORM_GUID: Unique identifier for the platform.
- PLATFORM_VERSION: Version number of the platform.
- PLATFORM_NAME: Name of the package, "UefiLessonsPkg".
- SKUID_IDENTIFIER: SKU identifier, set to "DEFAULT".
- SUPPORTED_ARCHITECTURES: CPU architecture, here X64.
- BUILD_TARGETS: Build configuration, set to "RELEASE".

4.2 LibraryClasses

Lists the library classes with their paths. Examples include:

 UefiApplicationEntryPoint, UefiBootServicesTableLib, DebugLib, etc., from the MdePkg.

4.3 Components

Specifies UEFI applications or drivers in the package:

- UefiLessonsPkg/SimplestApp/SimplestApp.inf
- UefiLessonsPkg/HelloWorld/HelloWorld.inf

This file is a project configuration for UEFI development, specifying build settings, libraries, and components necessary to build UEFI applications within the "UefiLessonsPkg" package, targeting 64-bit architecture for a release build. It includes components like "SimplestApp" and "HelloWorld" and a variety of libraries for UEFI development functionalities.

5 Related Links

- https://github.com/tianocore/edk2
- https://uefi.org/specs/UEFI/2.10/13_Protocols_Media_Access.html
- https://github.com/Kostr/UEFI-Lessons

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