

# \_DSD (Device Specific Data) Implementation Guide

UEFI ACPI Specification Working Group

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# Chapter 1. Introduction

This is the ACPI \_DSD Implementation Guide. This guide and its associated documents provide recommendations on the use of the \_DSD (Device Specific Data) object as defined in the ACPI Specification [ACPI]. The \_DSD object is a device specific configuration object, intended for firmware and software engineers implementing \_DSD or designing software that will use information supplied by the object.

The \_DSD, as defined by the ACPI Specification, returns a Package, the first and every odd element of which is a Universal Unique Identifier (UUID) and every even element of which is a Package (Data Structure), where each of the UUIDs dictates the format of the Data Structure immediately following it. The well-known UUIDs to use in the \_DSD output and the Data Structure formats associated with them are also specified in this document.

## 1.1. Copyright and License Information

The \_DSD Implementation Guide is © 2021, Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI) Forum, Inc. More specifically, content is under the purview of the ACPI Specification Working Group (ASWG) <[aswg@uefi.org](mailto:aswg@uefi.org)>.

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## 1.2. Change Log

- Version 2.0
  - Initial conversion to asciidoc from original v1.2.
  - General text rewrites and reformatting.
  - Expand the Terms section.
  - Add a licensing section.
  - Add a bibliography and references section.
  - Add in process and naming recommendations.

## 1.3. Terms

The key words **MUST**, **MUST NOT**, **REQUIRED**, **SHALL**, **SHALL NOT**, **SHOULD**, **SHOULD NOT**, **RECOMMENDED**, **MAY**, and **OPTIONAL** in this document are to be interpreted as described in IETF [RFC2119].

The following additional terms are used in this document:

### ACPI

Advanced Configuration and Power Interface specification.

## ASWG

ACPI Specification Working Group

## Device

Hardware component or set of interrelated hardware registers.

## Device ID

Plug and Play ID or ACPI ID of a device.

## GUID

Globally Unique Identifier. A 128-bit value used to uniquely name entities. A unique GUID can be generated by an individual without the help of a centralized authority. This allows the generation of names that will never conflict, even among multiple, unrelated parties.

## OSPM

Operating System Power Management

## PNP

Plug and Play

## UEFI

Unified Extensible Firmware Interface

## UUID

Universal Unique Identifier, a synonym for GUID.

# 1.4. Conventions

The following typographic conventions are used:

### Computer Text

`monospace text` is used to represent computer inputs or outputs.

### Stress

**bold text** is used to add emphasis to terms.

### Terms

*italic text* is used to highlight important terminology.

# 1.5. References

- [ACPI] Advanced Configuration and Power Interface (ACPI) Specification, Version 6.3, January 2019. Copyright (c) 2018, Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI) Forum, Inc.  
<https://uefi.org/specifications>
- [RFC2119] <https://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>

# Chapter 2. General Recommendations

## 2.1. Using `_DSD` versus `_DSM`

Although in principle the `_DSM` (Device Specific Method) may be used to implement the functionality provided by `_DSD`, it is not recommended to do so. Since `_DSD` is better suited for providing device configuration data, it should be used for this purpose where applicable. However, there are situations in which where using `_DSM` instead of `_DSD` needs to be considered. Generally, all situations in which it would be necessary to implement `_DSD` as a `Method()` for technical reasons fall into this category, but in particular `_DSD` should not write into device registers in addition to returning the data. In addition to that, `_DSD` must return the same data every time it is evaluated, so if that cannot be guaranteed, `_DSM` has to be used instead.

## 2.2. General `_DSD` Definition Template

Wherever possible, it is recommended to implement `_DSD` as a `Name()` as opposed to a `Method()` in order to avoid possible programmatic errors and computational overhead that are sometimes associated with the execution of AML (ASL Machine Language) code. In that case the definition of `_DSD` should follow this template:

*General `_DSD` Template*

```
Name (_DSD, Package () {  
    ToUUID("UUID1"),  
    Package () {  
        ...  
    },  
  
    ToUUID("UUID2"),  
    Package () {  
        ...  
    },  
  
    ...  
  
    ToUUID("UUIDn"),  
    Package () {  
        ...  
    }  
})
```

As noted in the introduction, `_DSD` returns a `Package()` with one or more pairs of elements. The first element of each pair — i.e., the first and every following odd element of the total `Package()` — is a Universal Unique Identifier (UUID). The second element of each pair — and every even element of the total `Package()` — is another `Package()` Data Structure. Each UUID dictates the format and content of the Data Structure immediately following it.

Only the well-known UUIDs and their corresponding Data Structures defined in this guide should be used. The behavior of any other UUIDs and Data Structures are **undefined**.

# Chapter 3. Well-Known **\_DSD** UUIDs and Data Structure Formats

## 3.1. Device Properties UUID

This section specifies the data format associated with UUID:

**daffd814-6eba-4d8c-8a91-bc9bbf4aa301**

(Device Properties UUID) for the **\_DSD** (Device Specific Data) ACPI device configuration object.

### 3.1.1. Data Format Definition

The device properties UUID:

**daffd814-6eba-4d8c-8a91-bc9bbf4aa301**

defines the data format for the **Package()** (Data Structure) immediately following it as a list of Packages of length two (2), known as Properties. The first element of each Property (the Key) must be a String and the second element (the Value) must be:

- an Integer,
- a String,
- a Reference, or
- a Package consisting entirely of Integer, String, or Reference objects (and specifically not containing a nested Package).

The list of valid Keys, and the format and interpretation of the corresponding Values, depends on the PNP or ACPI device ID (e.g., **\_HID**) of the Device containing the **\_DSD**. For instance, the PNP device ID returned by **\_HID** for Device object **MDEV** below will determine the list of valid Keys and the corresponding Value data formats for that Device object's **\_DSD**.

```
Device (MDEV) {
    Name (_HID, "PNP####")

    Name (_DSD, Package () {
        ToUUID("daffd814-6eba-4d8c-8a91-bc9bbf4aa301"),
        Package () {
            Package (2) {...},      // Property 1
            Package (2) {...},      // Property 2
            ...
            Package (2) {...}        // Property n
        }
    })
    ...
}
```

In the context of the Device Properties UUID, each Property is a characteristic of the hardware itself or the way it is used in the system in which it is incorporated, as opposed to software configuration data. As such, the list of valid property Keys and Value data formats associated with them must be defined by the device vendor in a way that is independent of the firmware interface to be used on any given platform.

Multiple Properties with the same Key in a single Data Structure associated with the Device Properties UUID are not permitted.

### 3.1.2. Device Properties UUID Rules

Properties described in a Device Properties UUID `_DSD` are intended to be used in addition to, and not instead of, the existing mechanisms defined by the ACPI specification. For this reason, as a rule, Device Properties should only be used if the ACPI specification does not make direct provisions for handling the underlying use case. ACPI provides a number of generic interfaces to operating systems kernels, and these should continue to function without requiring the kernels to directly parse a device properties `_DSD`. For example, properties that describe how to turn voltage regulators, or clocks, on and off, should not be used, as these should be managed via power resource `_ON/_OFF` methods, or device `_PSx` methods.

It is not permitted to use Properties in a data structure associated with the Device Properties UUID to provide the OSPM and device drivers with the same information that can be provided as device resources via `_CRS` (Current Resource Settings). In case of any conflicts between such Properties and the information returned by `_CRS`, the latter always takes precedence.

Properties of a Device may depend on the order of the resources provided via `_CRS` or the order of the resources of a particular type. For instance, a Property may identify an IRQ via an index into the IRQ resources provided via `_CRS` rather than providing an absolute IRQ number. This avoids duplication between the Properties and `_CRS`, making it easier to change the resources of a Device in one place.

### 3.1.3. Property Naming

While the Key for a Property may be any String, there is the possibility of name collision. For example, two vendors could use the String `"interrupts"` as a Key. The problem is that each vendor may have very different use cases for the Value. One use case could be a Boolean value (`"yes"` means interrupts are supported, `"no"` means the device must be polled). A second use case could be a list of valid IRQs for the device (`Package() {1, 2, 3}`).

It is highly recommended that each vendor prefix their Key name with their registered PNP or ACPI vendor ID in order to avoid name collisions. For example, use `abcd-interrupts` instead of `interrupts`, especially if the word is known to be in common use in the kernel.

### 3.1.4. Examples

#### Example Valid Property Representations

The following examples illustrate valid Property Value data types for the Device Properties UUID.



```
Package (2) {"length", 16}
Package (2) {"device", \_SB.F00.BAZ}
Package (2) {"sizes", Package (3) {16, 32, 0}}
Package (2) {"labels", Package (4) {"foo", _SB.F00, "bar", __SB.BAR}}
Package (2) {"default-state", "on"}
```

### 3.1.5. **\_DSD** Dependency on **\_CRS**

The following example illustrates a dependency of Properties returned by **\_DSD** (with the Device Properties UUID) on device resources returned by **\_CRS**. In this particular case, the "gpios" Properties returned by the **\_DSD** for devices **LEDH** and **LEDM** contain references to **GpioIo** resources in the **\_CRS** of device **LEDS**.

Each of these references consists of a path to the device object containing the **\_CRS** in question and three integer numbers. The first two of these numbers are indexes to the **\_CRS** content. Specifically, they are the index of the **GpioIo** resource and the index of the pin in that resource's GPIO pin list pointed to by the given reference, respectively. The fourth number is an additional parameter to be consumed by the driver of the **LEDS** device.

This means that the "gpios" Property of device **LEDH** in this example points to the first (index 0) **GpioIo** resource in the **\_CRS** of device **LEDS** and to the first (index 0) pin in its GPIO pin list (pin 10). In turn, the "gpios" Property of device **LEDM** points to the second (index 1) **GpioIo** resource in the **\_CRS** of device **LEDS** and to the first (index 0) pin in its GPIO pin list (pin 11).

```

Scope (\_SB.PCI0.LPC)
{
    Device (LEDS)
    {
        Name (_HID, "PNP####")

        Name (_CRS, ResourceTemplate ()
        {
            GpioIo (Exclusive, PullDown, 0, 0, IoRestrictionOutputOnly,
                "\\_SB.PCI0.LPC", 0, ResourceConsumer,,) { 10 }
            GpioIo (Exclusive, PullUp, 0, 0, IoRestrictionInputOnly,
                "\\_SB.PCI0.LPC", 0, ResourceConsumer,,) { 11 }
        })

        Device (LEDH)
        {
            Name (_HID, "PNP####")
            Name (_DSD, Package () {
                ToUUID("daffd814-6eba-4d8c-8a91-bc9bbf4aa301"),
                Package () {
                    Package (2) {"label", "Heartbeat"},
                    Package (2) {"gpios", Package (4) {
                        \\_SB.PCI0.LPC.LEDS, 0, 0, 1
                    }},
                    Package (2) {"default-trigger", "heartbeat"},
                    Package (2) {"default-state", "on"},
                    Package (2) {"retain-state-suspended", 1},
                }
            })
        }

        Device (LEDM)
        {
            Name (_HID, "PNP####")

            Name (_DSD, Package () {
                ToUUID("daffd814-6eba-4d8c-8a91-bc9bbf4aa301"),
                Package () {
                    Package (2) {"label", "MMC0 Activity"},
                    Package (2) {"gpios", Package (4) {
                        \\_SB.PCI0.LPC.LEDS, 1, 0, 1
                    }},
                    Package (2) {"default-trigger", "mmc0"},
                    Package (2) {"default-state", "on"},
                    Package (2) {"retain-state-suspended", 1},
                }
            })
        }
    }
}

```

## 3.2. Hierarchical Data Extension UUID

This section specifies the data format associated with UUID:

**dbb8e3e6-5886-4ba6-8795-1319f52a966b**

(Hierarchical Data Extension UUID) for the `_DSD` (Device Specific Data) ACPI device configuration object.

### 3.2.1. Data Format Definition

The Hierarchical Data Extension UUID:

**dbb8e3e6-5886-4ba6-8795-1319f52a966b**

defines the data format for the `Package()` (Data Structure) immediately following it as a list of Packages of length two (2), known as Sub-node Links. The first element of each Sub-node Link (the Key) must be a String and the second element (the Target) must be either a String encoding the name of the referenced ACPI object or a reference to the ACPI object. That name can be a fully qualified path, a relative path, or a simple name segment utilizing the ACPI namespace search rules as defined by the ACPI specification [\[ACPI\]](#) (Section 5.3 “ACPI Namespace”, Section 19.2.2 “ASL Name and Pathname Terms” and Section 19.3.2.2 “Strings”).

Moreover, the ACPI object pointed to by the Target (the Target Object) must evaluate to a Package formatted in accordance with the `_DSD` return value format defined by the ACPI specification (Section 6.2.5). Also, like `_DSD`, it must return the same data every time it is evaluated and the meaning of those data is the same as for analogous data returned by `_DSD`.

The Key of each Sub-node Link must be unique within the enclosing Data Structure. That is, it is invalid to put two Sub-node Links with identical Keys into one enclosing Package.

This allows hierarchical device configuration information to be represented as a hierarchy of ACPI objects returning Packages following the `_DSD` data Package formatting rules. Then, each of those objects may be regarded as a Data-only Subnode of the Device object holding the `_DSD` at the top of the hierarchy.

For maximum interoperability, it is recommended to put all Target Objects referenced as Strings into the same scope in which the objects that return data including their names are located. If using object references, the resolution of the referenced object is managed by the AML interpreter, and there is no limitation placed on the location of the referenced object.

If the Target of any property within a Package is a Reference, then all Targets within and beneath the Package must also be References, not Strings. Implementers are encouraged to use exclusively Strings or References throughout the hierarchy.

### 3.2.2. Example

The following example illustrates the possible use of the Hierarchical Data Extension UUID and Sub-node Links. It contains a definition of a master Device (`SWC0`), three Data-only Sub-nodes (`DP0P`, `DPNP`, `DP00`) and one child Device object (`SWD0`) under it. In addition, the Data-only Sub-node `DP00` is a

Sub-node of **DPNP** (which is a direct Sub-node of the master Device). Additionally, a common set of properties (**COMN**) is provided and referenced by **DP0P**, **DPNP**, and **DP00**. This allows the firmware developer to ensure that information common to multiple devices is identical.

```
Device(SWC0) {
    Name(_HID, "VEND0000") // sample Vendor ID - do not use
    Name(_DSD, Package() {
        ToUUID("daffd814-6eba-4d8c-8a91-bc9bbf4aa301"),
        Package () {
            Package (2) {...}, // Property 1
            ...
            Package (2) {...}, // Property n
        },
        ToUUID("dbb8e3e6-5886-4ba6-8795-1319f52a966b"),
        Package () {
            Package (2) {"Alice", "DP0P"} // String example
            Package (2) {"Frank", "DPNP"} // String example
        }
    })

    Name(DP0P, Package()){ // Data-only subnode of SWC0
        ToUUID("daffd814-6eba-4d8c-8a91-bc9bbf4aa301"),
        Package () {
            Package (2) {...}, // Property 1
            ...
            Package (2) {...} // Property n
        },
        ToUUID("dbb8e3e6-5886-4ba6-8795-1319f52a966b"),
        Package () {
            Package (2) {"common-properties", ^COMN} // Reference
        }
    })

    Name(DPNP, Package()){ // Data-only subnode of SWC0
        ToUUID("daffd814-6eba-4d8c-8a91-bc9bbf4aa301"),
        Package () {
            Package (2) {...}, // Property 1
            Package (2) {...} // Property 2
        },
        ToUUID("dbb8e3e6-5886-4ba6-8795-1319f52a966b"),
        Package () {
            Package (2) {"child-of-Frank", "DP00"},
            Package (2) {"common-properties", ^COMN} // Reference
        }
    })

    Name(DP00, Package()){ // Data-only subnode of DPNP
        ToUUID("daffd814-6eba-4d8c-8a91-bc9bbf4aa301"),
        Package () {
            Package (2) {...}, // Property 1
```

```

        ...
        Package (2) {...} // Property n
    },
    ToUUID("dbb8e3e6-5886-4ba6-8795-1319f52a966b"),
    Package () {
        Package (2) {"common-properties", ^COMN} // Reference
    }
})

Device (SWD0) {
    Name(_ADR, ...)
    Name(_DSD, Package() {
        ToUUID("daffd814-6eba-4d8c-8a91-bc9bbf4aa301"),
        Package () {
            Package (2) {...}, // Property 1
            ...
            Package (2) {...} // Property n
        }
    })
} // End SWD0

Name(COMN, Package() { // Common properties
    ToUUID("daffd814-6eba-4d8c-8a91-bc9bbf4aa301"),
    Package () {
        Package (2) {...}, // Property 1
        ...
        Package (2) {...} // Property n
    }
}) // End COMN

} // End SWC0

```

### 3.3. Device Graph UUID

Graphs are a concept that is often observed in computing. A graph is a set of *nodes* that are connected together through *links* that represent logical relationships. Often, hardware components relate to each other functionally, or have physical connections to each other, forming a graph. An example is shown below.

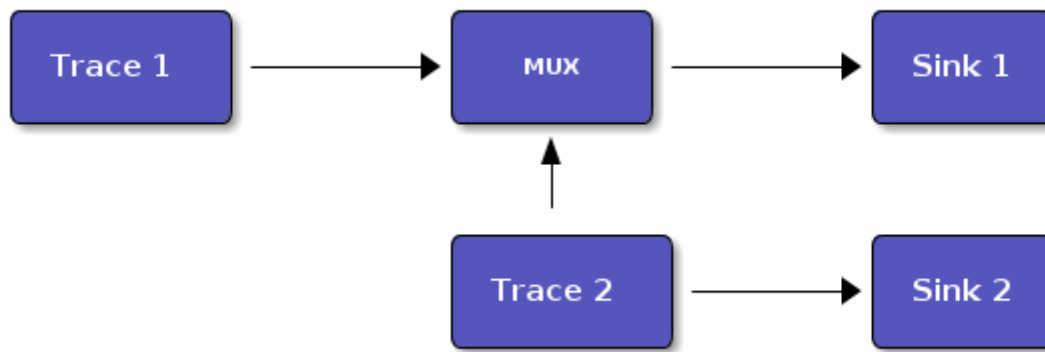


Figure 1. Debug Trace Graph

This Debug Trace Graph includes Trace Sources (Trace 1 and Trace 2) that produce traces, multiplexors that combine traces from one or more sources, and multiple Sinks to which traces are fed. The Traces could be generated by debug logic attached to devices or logical blocks in a system. Some OS drivers need to be able to process graphs such as these in order to function properly.

This section specifies the data format associated with UUID:

**ab02a46b-74c7-45a2-bd68-f7d344ef2153**

(Device Graph UUID) for the **\_DSD** (Device Specific Data) ACPI device configuration object.

### 3.3.1. Data Format Definition

The Device Graph UUID:

**ab02a46b-74c7-45a2-bd68-f7d344ef2153**

defines the format of a Package Data Structure containing a set of one or more Graph Entries; the Data Structure is as follows:

```

Package () {
    Revision,           // Integer, must be zero
    NumberOfGraphs,     // N in the list below
    Graph[1],           // N graphs that this device belongs to
    ...
    Graph[N]
}

```

Each Graph Entry (**Graph[n]** above) is in turn a Package with the following format:

```

Package () {
    GraphID,          // Integer, identifies a graph the
                      // parent device belongs to
    UUID,             // 16-byte buffer UUID for
                      // specification that governs this
                      // graph
    NumberOfLinks,    // Integer for number of links on this
                      // node
    Links[1],          // List of graph links, with
                      // NumberOfLinks entries.

    ...
    Links[N]
}

```

Finally, each Link in a Graph Entry is a package with the following format:

```

Package () {
    SourcePortAddress, // Integer
    DestinationPortAddress, // Integer
    DestinationDeviceName, // Reference to another
                          // device in the name space
}

```

Devices represent vertices in a Graph. A device can indicate that it participates in a graph by providing a **\_DSD** Graph object in its scope. The object primarily lists the connections the device has to other devices in a given graph. The **\_DSD** Graph object has the following fields:

#### **Revision**

Must be zero

#### **NumberOfGraphs**

Specifies the number of graphs that the current device is a part of.

#### **Graph[N]**

List of Packages (Graph Entries) that specifies the characteristics of each Graph that the current device is a member of.

The Graph Entry Package itself is composed of the following fields:

#### **GraphID**

An identifier for the Graph. Each Graph has a unique identifier and it illegal for a given device to provide more than one **\_DSD** Graph object with the same identifier value.

#### **UUID**

A UUID that identifies the specification that governs the behavior of the graph. Known UUIDs and associated specifications are listed at the end of this section.

### NumberOfLinks

the number of Links the parent device has to the other devices on the graph identified by the `_DSD` graph object.

### Link[N]

Each Link entry is in turn a Package, that contains a source port address, a destination port address and a destination device reference.

The behavior of a Graph and its meaning is determined by the devices themselves and their drivers. Therefore, the properties of a Link—ports and directionality—are determined by the devices themselves and their drivers. To identify the meaning, each graph in a Device Graph `_DSD` object carries a UUID which in turns links to a vendor provided specification for the Graph. The specification determines how the Graph is to be understood by device drivers.

A Link Package may be extended with additional vendor defined data. The Graph specification determines how that data is to be interpreted.

## 3.3.2. Example

The following ASL describes four devices which are connected in two independent Device Graphs. The graphs are illustrated in the following figure. In this example, devices `ABC`, `DEF` and `GHI` are interconnected in the first graph topology. Devices `ABC`, `GHI` and `JKL` are interconnected in a second graph topology.

Figure 2. Four Devices Interconnected in Two Graphs

```
Scope (\_SB) {
  Device (ABC) {
    ...
    Name (_DSD, Package () {
      ToUUID("ab02a46b-74c7-45a2-bd68-f7d344ef2153"),
      Package() {
        0, // Revision
        2, // NumberOfGraphs
        Package() {
          1, // GraphID - Graph 1
          ToUUID(00000000-0000-0000-0000-00000000),
          2, // Number of links
          Package (3) {0,3,\_SB.DEF},
          Package (3) {1,10,\_SB.GHI}
        },
        Package() {
          2, // GraphID - Graph 2
          ToUUID(00000000-0000-0000-0000-00000000),
          1, // Number of links
          Package (3) {2,380,\_SB.JKL}
        }
      },
    })
  }
```



```

...

Device (DEF) {
    ...
    Name (_DSD, Package () {
        ToUUID("ab02a46b-74c7-45a2-bd68-f7d344ef2153"),
        Package() {
            0, // Revision
            1, // NumberOfGraphs
            Package() {
                1, // GraphID - Graph 1
                ToUUID(\\UUID_For_Graph_Arch\\),
                1, // Number of links
                Package (3) {5,20,\\_SB.GHI}
            }
        }
    })
    ...
}

Device (GHI) {
    ...
    Name (_DSD, Package () {
        ToUUID("ab02a46b-74c7-45a2-bd68-f7d344ef2153"),Package() {
            0, // Revision
            2, // NumberOfGraphs
            Package () {
                1, // GraphID - Graph 1
                ToUUID(\\UUID_For_Graph_Arch\\),
                1, // Number of links
                Package (3) {10,1,\\_SB.ABC}
            },
            Package() {
                2, // GraphID - Graph 2
                ToUUID(\\UUID_For_Graph_Arch\\),
                1, // Number of links
                Package (3) {30,210,\\_SB.JKL},
            }
        }
    })
    ...
}
}

```

### 3.3.3. Known Device Graph UUIDs

#### Arm Coresight ACPI Specification

**3ECBC8B6-1D0E-4FB3-8107-E627F805C6CD**

