[UEFI Basics] BIOS module execution priority

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Overview

There are two main ways to determine the priority of general modules in BIOS : one is the priority specified in the fdf file, and the other is the priority specified in the inf file. It should be noted that the term "general module" is used here, because some modules (especially PEI_CORE, DXE_CORE type modules) are always executed first. In fact, it is because these priority modules control the priority of general modules.

Priority in fdf

APRIORI

The priorities in fdf are indicated by special identifiers. Here is an example:

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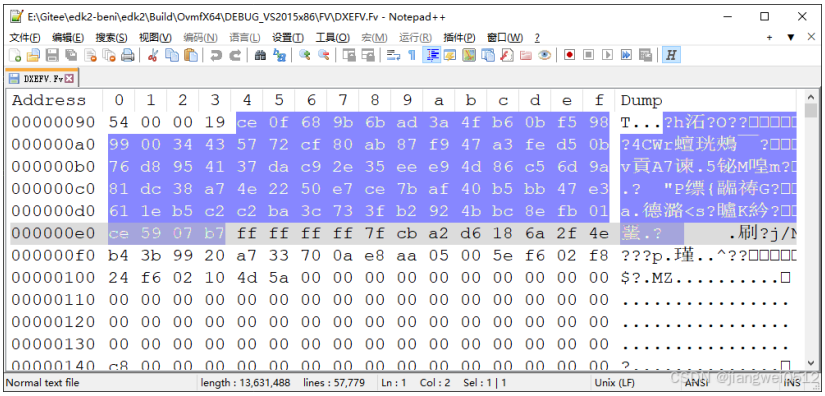
```
[FV.DXEFV]
# 中间略

APRIORI DXE {
  INF  MdeModulePkg/Universal/DevicePathDxe/DevicePathDxe.inf
  INF  MdeModulePkg/Universal/PCD/Dxe/Pcd.inf
  # AmdSevDxe must be loaded before TdxDxe. Because in SEV guest AmdSevDxe
  # driver performs a MemEncryptSevClearMmioPageEncMask() call against the
  # PcdPciExpressBaseAddress range to mark it shared/unencrypted.
  # Otherwise #VC handler terminates the guest for trying to do MMIO to an
  # encrypted region (Since the range has not been marked shared/unencrypted).
  INF  OvmfPkg/AmdSevDxe/AmdSevDxe.inf
  INF  OvmfPkg/TdxDxe/TdxDxe.inf
!if $(SMM_REQUIRE) == FALSE
  INF  OvmfPkg/QemuFlashFvbServicesRuntimeDxe/FvbServicesRuntimeDxe.inf
!endif
}
```

Here `APRIORI` we specify the modules that need to be executed first.

During compilation, this part will be composed into a Firmware File. In the above example, this Firmware File can be found from DXEFV. The following is the actual data in the file:



These data are actually GUIDs from the inf file in the included module `FILE_GUID`:

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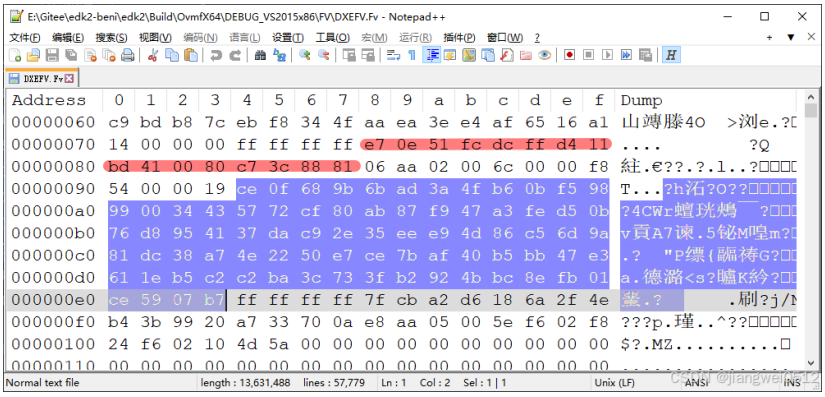
```
[Defines]
  INF_VERSION                    = 0x00010005
  BASE_NAME                      = DevicePathDxe
  MODULE_UNI_FILE                = DevicePathDxe.uni
  FILE_GUID                      = 9B680FCE-AD6B-4F3A-B60B-F59899003443 # Firmware File中包含的GUID
  MODULE_TYPE                    = DXE_DRIVER
  VERSION_STRING                 = 1.0
  ENTRY_POINT                    = DevicePathEntryPoint
```

And this Firmware File itself also has a GUID:



This GUID is actually fixed and is defined in MdePkg\Include\Guid\Apriori.h:

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```
#define EFI_APRIORI_GUID \
  { \
    0xfc510ee7, 0xffdc, 0x11d4, {0xbd, 0x41, 0x0, 0x80, 0xc7, 0x3c, 0x88, 0x81 } \
```

```
}
extern EFI_GUID gAprioriGuid;
```

This `gAprioriGuid` will be used further in the code to get `APRIORI` the GUIDs from the above mentioned files to determine which modules need to be executed first.

Code handling gAprioriGuid

The relevant code can be found in edk2\MdeModulePkg\Core\Dxe\DxeMain.inf `CoreDispatcher()`:

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```c
    //
    // Read the array of GUIDs from the Apriori file if it is present in the firmware volume
    //
    AprioriFile = NULL;
    Status      = Fv->ReadSection (
                        Fv,
                        &gAprioriGuid,
                        EFI_SECTION_RAW,
                        0,
                        (VOID **)&AprioriFile,
                        &SizeOfBuffer,
                        &AuthenticationStatus
                        );
    if (!EFI_ERROR (Status)) {
      AprioriEntryCount = SizeOfBuffer / sizeof (EFI_GUID);
    } else {
      AprioriEntryCount = 0;
    }

    //
    // Put drivers on Apriori List on the Scheduled queue. The Discovered List includes
    // drivers not in the current FV and these must be skipped since the a priori list
    // is only valid for the FV that it resided in.
    //

    for (Index = 0; Index < AprioriEntryCount; Index++) {
      for (Link = mDiscoveredList.ForwardLink; Link != &mDiscoveredList; Link = Link->ForwardLink) {
        DriverEntry = CR (Link, EFI_CORE_DRIVER_ENTRY, Link, EFI_CORE_DRIVER_ENTRY_SIGNATURE);
        if (CompareGuid (&DriverEntry->FileName, &AprioriFile[Index]) &&
            (FvHandle == DriverEntry->FvHandle))
        {
          CoreAcquireDispatcherLock ();
          DriverEntry->Dependent = FALSE;
          DriverEntry->Scheduled = TRUE;
          InsertTailList (&mScheduledQueue, &DriverEntry->ScheduledLink);
          CoreReleaseDispatcherLock ();
          DEBUG ((DEBUG_DISPATCH, "Evaluate DXE DEPEX for FFS(%g)\n", &DriverEntry->FileName));
          DEBUG ((DEBUG_DISPATCH, "  RESULT = TRUE (Apriori)\n"));
          break;
        }
      }
    }
```

The code is also very simple:

- Get the GUID.
- Iterate over the GUIDs.
- Traverse all modules found and match them with the specified GUID. If a match is found, put it in `mScheduledQueue`.

The above is just the first step, that is, to store the priority module. The header of the edk2\MdeModulePkg\Core\Dxe\Dispatcher\Dispatcher.c file corresponds to the following description:

> Step #1 - When a FV protocol is added to the system every driver in the FV
> is added to the mDiscoveredList. The SOR, Before, and After Depex are
> pre-processed as drivers are added to the mDiscoveredList. If an Apriori
> file exists in the FV those drivers are added to the
> mScheduledQueue. The mFvHandleList is used to make sure a
> FV is only processed once.

Mainly this sentence:

> If an Apriori file exists in the FV those drivers are added to the mScheduledQueue.

At execution time:

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```c
EFI_STATUS
EFIAPI
CoreDispatcher (
  VOID
  )
{
  // 其它次要代码已经略去
  do {
    //
    // Drain the Scheduled Queue
    //
    while (!IsListEmpty (&mScheduledQueue)) {
      // 获取模块
      DriverEntry = CR (
                      mScheduledQueue.ForwardLink,
                      EFI_CORE_DRIVER_ENTRY,
                      ScheduledLink,
                      EFI_CORE_DRIVER_ENTRY_SIGNATURE
                      );
      // 加载模块
      Status = CoreLoadImage (
                  FALSE,
                  gDxeCoreImageHandle,
                  DriverEntry->FvFileDevicePath,
                  NULL,
                  0,
                  &DriverEntry->ImageHandle
                  );
      // 执行之后移除魔掌啊
      DriverEntry->Scheduled   = FALSE;
      DriverEntry->Initialized = TRUE;
      RemoveEntryList (&DriverEntry->ScheduledLink);
      if (DriverEntry->IsFvImage) {
        //
```

```
        // Produce a firmware volume block protocol for FvImage so it gets dispatched from.
        //
        Status = CoreProcessFvImageFile (DriverEntry->Fv, DriverEntry->FvHandle, &DriverEntry->FileName);
      } else {
        // 执行模块
        Status = CoreStartImage (DriverEntry->ImageHandle, NULL, NULL);
      }

      ReturnStatus = EFI_SUCCESS;
    }
  } while (ReadyToRun);
```

There are two loops here. The second while loop is `mScheduledQueue` the module that is executed first. The corresponding description of the header of the edk2\MdeModulePkg\Core\Dxe\Dispatcher\Dispatcher.c file is:

> Step #2 - Dispatch. Remove driver from the mScheduledQueue and load and
> start it. After mScheduledQueue is drained check the
> mDiscoveredList to see if any item has a Depex that is ready to be
> placed on the mScheduledQueue.

Mainly corresponds to the first sentence:

> Dispatch. Remove driver from the mScheduledQueue and load and start it.

Priority in inf

Not all modules can contain dependencies. Some modules' dependencies will be ignored even if they are written. The following description is given in edk-ii-inf-specification.pdf:

> - If the Module is a Library, then a [Depex] section is optional.
>   If the Module is a Library with a MODULE_TYPE of BASE, the generic (ie, [Depex]) and generic with only architectural modifier entries (ie, [Depex.IA32]) are not permitted. It is permitted to have a Depex section if one ModuleType modifier is specified (ie, [Depex.common.PEIM).
> - If the ModuleType is USER_DEFINED , then a [Depex] section is optional. If a PEI, SMM or DXE DEPEX section is required, the user must specify a ModuleType of PEIM to generate a PEI_DEPEX section, a ModuleType of DXE_DRIVER to generate a DXE_DEPEX section, or a ModuleType of DXE_SMM_DRIVER to generate an SMM_DEPEX section.
> - If the ModuleType is SEC, UEFI_APPLICATION, UEFI_DRIVER, PEI_CORE, SMM_CORE or DXE_CORE, no [Depex] sections are permitted and all library class [Depex] sections are ignored.
> - Module types PEIM, DXE_DRIVER, DXE_RUNTIME_DRIVER, DXE_SMM_DRIVER require a DXE_SAL_DRIVER and [Depex] section unless the dependencies are specified by a PEI_DEPEX , DXE_DEPEX or SMM_DEPEX in the [Binaries] section.

Generate depex file

There is a Section in the inf that contains dependencies. Here is an example (from beni\BeniPkg\Dxe\DxeDriverInBds\DxeDriverInBds.inf):

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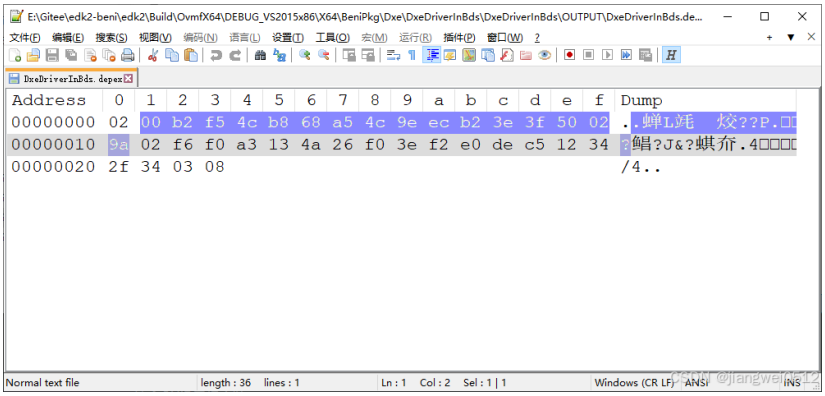
```
[Depex]
  gEfiPciIoProtocolGuid
```

In other words, to execute this module, the prerequisite is that `gEfiPciIoProtocolGuid` this GUID has been installed.

When compiling a module, a specific file is generated (through edk2\BaseTools\Source\Python\AutoGen\GenDepex.py, which is also part of AutoGen) with the name format "module name.depex", in this case DxeDriverInBds.depex:



The GUID is highlighted in the image above `gEfiPciIoProtocolGuid` . However, there are a few points to note:

- First, there is a 02 in front of the GUID, which represents the OPCODE. More OPCODEs can be seen in edk2\BaseTools\Source\Python\AutoGen\GenDepex.py:

Python AI generated projects 登录复制 run

```
    Opcode = {
        "PEI"   : {
            DEPEX_OPCODE_PUSH  :   0x02,
            DEPEX_OPCODE_AND   :   0x03,
            DEPEX_OPCODE_OR    :   0x04,
            DEPEX_OPCODE_NOT   :   0x05,
            DEPEX_OPCODE_TRUE  :   0x06,
            DEPEX_OPCODE_FALSE :   0x07,
            DEPEX_OPCODE_END   :   0x08
        },

        "DXE"   : {
            DEPEX_OPCODE_BEFORE:   0x00,
            DEPEX_OPCODE_AFTER :   0x01,
            DEPEX_OPCODE_PUSH  :   0x02,
            DEPEX_OPCODE_AND   :   0x03,
            DEPEX_OPCODE_OR    :   0x04,
            DEPEX_OPCODE_NOT   :   0x05,
            DEPEX_OPCODE_TRUE  :   0x06,
            DEPEX_OPCODE_FALSE :   0x07,
            DEPEX_OPCODE_END   :   0x08,
            DEPEX_OPCODE_SOR   :   0x09
        },
```

02 means yes `DEPEX_OPCODE_PUSH` , 03 means yes `DEPEX_OPCODE_AND` , and 08 means yes `DEPEX_OPCODE_END` .

- There is also a second GUID corresponding to `gEfiPcdProtocolGuid` :

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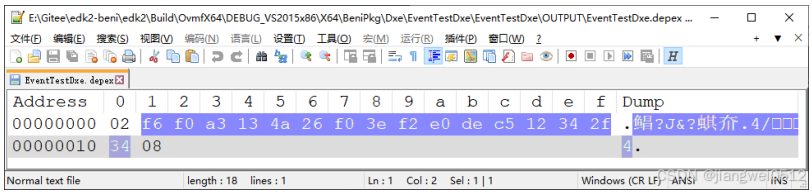
```
## Include/Protocol/PiPcd.h
gEfiPcdProtocolGuid = { 0x13a3f0f6, 0x264a, 0x3ef0, { 0xf2, 0xe0, 0xde, 0xc5, 0x12, 0x34, 0x2f, 0x34 } }
```

Not sure why you are including this GUID, and `TRUE` also have this GUID when under [Depex] there is only:



Another point worth noting is that the PCD module will also be included in the fdf file `APRIORI`, because PCD is a basic mode. In order for all modules to support PCD, it is understandable to have such a dependency.

Include the depex file into the BIOS binary

By looking at fdf, you can know how depex is included, mainly through Rules [Section]. For example, a DXE_DRIVER generates a ffs file structure that follows the following Rules:

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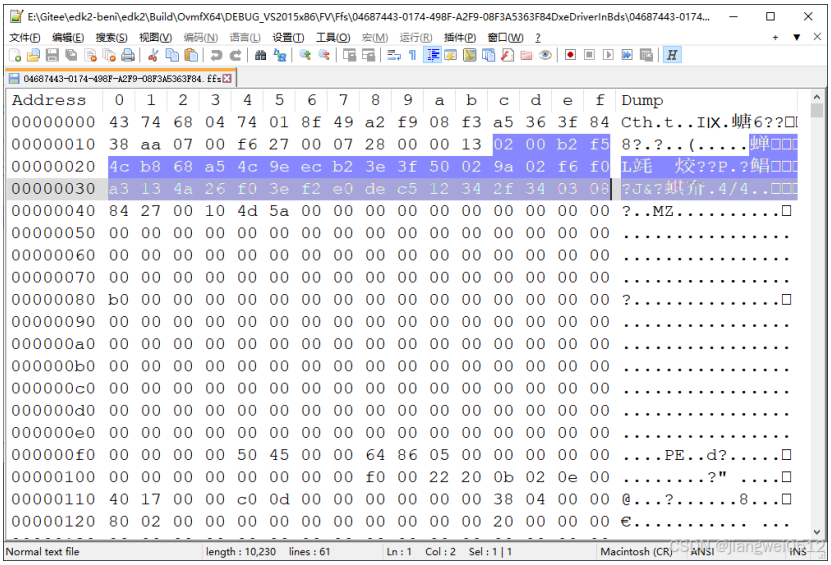
```
[Rule.Common.DXE_DRIVER]
  FILE DRIVER = $(NAMED_GUID) {
    DXE_DEPEX    DXE_DEPEX Optional      $(INF_OUTPUT)/$(MODULE_NAME).depex
    PE32     PE32                        $(INF_OUTPUT)/$(MODULE_NAME).efi
    UI       STRING="$(MODULE_NAME)" Optional
    VERSION  STRING="$(INF_VERSION)" Optional BUILD_NUM=$(BUILD_NUM)
    RAW ACPI   Optional                  |.acpi
    RAW ASL    Optional                  |.aml
  }
```

That is, first a depex file, then an efi file, like this:



Code Processing

There is no specific GUID (image `gAprioriGuid`) in the module to specify the dependency, but depex is originally part of ffs, so it can be read out. There is a member in a structure describing the module to represent this depex (taking DXE as an example):

c AI generated projects 登录复制 run

```
typedef struct {
  // 其它略
  VOID                          *Depex;       // 描述依赖关系
  UINTN                         DepexSize;    // depex的大小
} EFI_CORE_DRIVER_ENTRY;
```

Therefore, when we get the module, we can already know the GUID it depends on, and these modules `mDiscoveredList` form a linked list through a global variable, and various operations will be performed later by traversing this linked list.

The code that actually handles dependencies is also in `CoreDispatcher()`:

c AI generated projects 登录复制 run

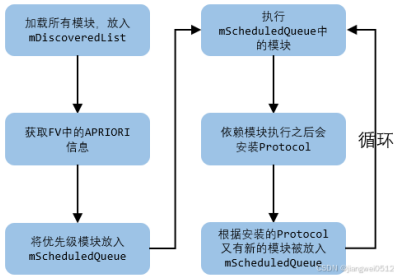
```
EFI_STATUS
EFIAPI
CoreDispatcher (
  VOID
  )
{
  // 其它次要代码已经略去
  do {
    //
    // Drain the Scheduled Queue
    //
    while (!IsListEmpty (&mScheduledQueue)) {
      // 首次执行的时候，执行fdf中的优先模块
      // 后面的操作又会往mScheduledQueue里面放更多的模块，又会继续执行
    }
    //
    // Search DriverList for items to place on Scheduled Queue
    //
    ReadyToRun = FALSE;
    for (Link = mDiscoveredList.ForwardLink; Link != &mDiscoveredList; Link = Link->ForwardLink) {
      DriverEntry = CR (Link, EFI_CORE_DRIVER_ENTRY, Link, EFI_CORE_DRIVER_ENTRY_SIGNATURE);

      if (DriverEntry->DepexProtocolError) {
        //
        // If Section Extraction Protocol did not let the Depex be read before retry the read
        //
        // 会将满足依赖的模块继续放入mScheduledQueue
        Status = CoreGetDepexSectionAndPreProccess (DriverEntry);
      }

      if (DriverEntry->Dependent) {
        if (CoreIsSchedulable (DriverEntry)) {
```

```
            CoreInsertOnScheduledQueueWhileProcessingBeforeAndAfter (DriverEntry);
            ReadyToRun = TRUE;
          }
        }
      }
    } while (ReadyToRun);
```

In general, dependencies are handled as follows:



other

At the beginning, I mentioned that there are two main types of dependencies. In fact, there are some derivative methods. For example, the priority in the inf file mentions the depex file, which can be used in different ways. You can generate a depex file by including [Depex] in the inf file, or you can generate it manually (through edk2\BaseTools\Source\Python\AutoGen\GenDepex.py) and then put it directly into the fdf to specify the dependency for a file. This is very useful when you directly include the efi file in the fdf. Here is an example:

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```
FILE DRIVER = 5BBA83E5-F027-4ca7-BFD0-16358CC9E123 {
    SECTION PE32 = $(PLATFORM_FEATURES_PATH)/Icc/IccOverClocking/IccOverClocking.efi
    SECTION DXE_DEPEX = $(PLATFORM_FEATURES_PATH)/Icc/IccOverClocking/IccOverClocking.depex
    SECTION UI = "IccOverClocking"
  }
```