SPSR_EL2, Saved Program Status Register (EL2)

The SPSR_EL2 characteristics are:

Purpose

Holds the saved process state when an exception is taken to EL2.

Configuration

AArch64 System register SPSR_EL2 bits [31:0] are architecturally mapped to AArch32 System register SPSR_hyp[31:0].

This register has no effect if EL2 is not enabled in the current Security state.

Attributes

SPSR_EL2 is a 64-bit register.

Field descriptions

When AArch32 is supported and exception taken from AArch32 state:

63	62	61	60	59	58	57	56	55	54	53	52	51	50	49	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32
RES0																															
N	Z	C	V	Q	IT[1:0]		DIT	SSBS	PAN	SS	IL	GE				IT[7:2]						E	A	I	F	T	M[4]	M[3:0]			
31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

An exception return from EL2 using AArch64 makes SPSR_EL2 become unknown.

Bits [63:32]

Reserved, res0.

N, bit [31]

Negative Condition flag. Set to the value of PSTATE.N on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.N on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Z, bit [30]

Zero Condition flag. Set to the value of PSTATE.Z on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.Z on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

C, bit [29]

Carry Condition flag. Set to the value of PSTATE.C on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.C on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

V, bit [28]

Overflow Condition flag. Set to the value of PSTATE.V on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.V on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Q, bit [27]

Overflow or saturation flag. Set to the value of PSTATE.Q on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.Q on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

IT, bits [15:10, 26:25]

If-Then. Set to the value of PSTATE.IT on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.IT on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

SPSR_EL2.IT must contain a value that is valid for the instruction being returned to.

The IT field is split as follows:

- IT[1:0] is SPSR_EL2[26:25].
- IT[7:2] is SPSR_EL2[15:10].

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

DIT, bit [24]
When FEAT_DIT is implemented:

Data Independent Timing. Set to the value of PSTATE.DIT on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.DIT on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Otherwise:

Reserved, res0.

SSBS, bit [23]
When FEAT_SSBS is implemented:

Speculative Store Bypass. Set to the value of PSTATE.SSBS on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.SSBS on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Otherwise:

Reserved, res0.

PAN, bit [22]
When FEAT_PAN is implemented:

Privileged Access Never. Set to the value of PSTATE.PAN on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.PAN on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Otherwise:

Reserved, res0.

SS, bit [21]

Software Step. Set to the value of PSTATE.SS on taking an exception to EL2, and conditionally copied to PSTATE.SS on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

IL, bit [20]

Illegal Execution state. Set to the value of PSTATE.IL on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.IL on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

GE, bits [19:16]

Greater than or Equal flags. Set to the value of PSTATE.GE on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.GE on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

E, bit [9]

Endianness. Set to the value of PSTATE.E on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.E on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

If the implementation does not support big-endian operation, SPSR_EL2.E is res0. If the implementation does not support little-endian operation, SPSR_EL2.E is res1. On executing an exception return operation in EL2, if the implementation does not support big-endian operation at the Exception level being returned to, SPSR_EL2.E is res0, and if the implementation does not support little-endian operation at the Exception level being returned to, SPSR_EL2.E is res1.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

A, bit [8]

SError interrupt mask. Set to the value of PSTATE.A on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.A on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

I, bit [7]

IRQ interrupt mask. Set to the value of PSTATE.I on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.I on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

F, bit [6]

FIQ interrupt mask. Set to the value of PSTATE.F on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.F on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

T, bit [5]

T32 Instruction set state. Set to the value of PSTATE.T on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.T on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

M[4], bit [4]

Execution state. Set to `0b1`, the value of PSTATE.nRW, on taking an exception to EL2 from AArch32 state, and copied to PSTATE.nRW on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

M[4]	Meaning
`0b1`	AArch32 execution state.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

M[3:0], bits [3:0]

AArch32 Mode. Set to the value of PSTATE.M[3:0] on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.M[3:0] on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

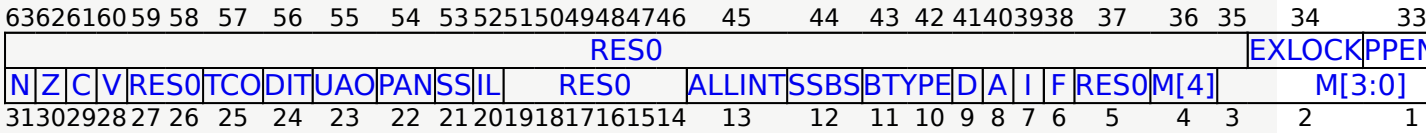
M[3:0]	Meaning
`0b0000`	User.
`0b0001`	FIQ.
`0b0010`	IRQ.
`0b0011`	Supervisor.
`0b0111`	Abort.
`0b1010`	Hyp.
`0b1011`	Undefined.
`0b1111`	System.

Other values are reserved. If SPSR_EL2.M[3:0] has a Reserved value, or a value for an unimplemented Exception level, executing an exception return operation in EL2 is an illegal return event, as described in 'Illegal return events from AArch64 state'.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

When exception taken from AArch64 state:



An exception return from EL2 using AArch64 makes SPSR_EL2 become unknown.

Bits [63:35]

Reserved, res0.

EXLOCK, bit [34]
When FEAT_GCS is implemented:

Exception return state lock. Set to the value of PSTATE.EXLOCK on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.EXLOCK on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Otherwise:

Reserved, res0.

PPEND, bit [33]
When FEAT_SEBEP is implemented:

PMU exception pending bit. Set to the value of PSTATE.PPEND on taking an exception to EL2, and conditionally copied to PSTATE.PPEND on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Otherwise:

Reserved, res0.

PM, bit [32]
When FEAT_EBEP is implemented:

PMU exception mask bit. Set to the value of PSTATE.PM on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.PM on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Otherwise:

Reserved, res0.

N, bit [31]

Negative Condition flag. Set to the value of PSTATE.N on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.N on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Z, bit [30]

Zero Condition flag. Set to the value of PSTATE.Z on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.Z on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

C, bit [29]

Carry Condition flag. Set to the value of PSTATE.C on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.C on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

V, bit [28]

Overflow Condition flag. Set to the value of PSTATE.V on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.V on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Bits [27:26]

Reserved, res0.

TCO, bit [25]
When FEAT_MTE is implemented:

Tag Check Override. Set to the value of PSTATE.TCO on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.TCO on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

When FEAT_MTE2 is not implemented, it is constrained unpredictable whether this field is res0 or behaves as if FEAT_MTE2 is implemented.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Otherwise:

Reserved, res0.

DIT, bit [24]
When FEAT_DIT is implemented:

Data Independent Timing. Set to the value of PSTATE.DIT on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.DIT on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Otherwise:

Reserved, res0.

UAO, bit [23]
When FEAT_UAO is implemented:

User Access Override. Set to the value of PSTATE.UAO on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.UAO on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Otherwise:

Reserved, res0.

PAN, bit [22]
When FEAT_PAN is implemented:

Privileged Access Never. Set to the value of PSTATE.PAN on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.PAN on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Otherwise:

Reserved, res0.

SS, bit [21]

Software Step. Set to the value of PSTATE.SS on taking an exception to EL2, and conditionally copied to PSTATE.SS on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

IL, bit [20]

Illegal Execution state. Set to the value of PSTATE.IL on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.IL on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Bits [19:14]

Reserved, res0.

ALLINT, bit [13]
When FEAT_NMI is implemented:

All IRQ or FIQ interrupts mask. Set to the value of PSTATE.ALLINT on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.ALLINT on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Otherwise:

Reserved, res0.

SSBS, bit [12]
When FEAT_SSBS is implemented:

Speculative Store Bypass. Set to the value of PSTATE.SSBS on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.SSBS on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Otherwise:

Reserved, res0.

BTYPE, bits [11:10]
When FEAT_BTI is implemented:

Branch Type Indicator. Set to the value of PSTATE.BTYPE on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.BTYPE on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Otherwise:

Reserved, res0.

D, bit [9]

Debug exception mask. Set to the value of PSTATE.D on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.D on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

A, bit [8]

SError interrupt mask. Set to the value of PSTATE.A on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.A on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

I, bit [7]

IRQ interrupt mask. Set to the value of PSTATE.I on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.I on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

F, bit [6]

FIQ interrupt mask. Set to the value of PSTATE.F on taking an exception to EL2, and copied to PSTATE.F on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Bit [5]

Reserved, res0.

M[4], bit [4]

Execution state. Set to `0b0`, the value of PSTATE.nRW, on taking an exception to EL2 from AArch64 state, and copied to PSTATE.nRW on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

M[4]	Meaning
`0b0`	AArch64 execution state.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

M[3:0], bits [3:0]

AArch64 Exception level and selected Stack Pointer.

M[3:0]	Meaning
`0b0000`	EL0t.
`0b0100`	EL1t.
`0b0101`	EL1h.
`0b1000`	EL2t.
`0b1001`	EL2h.

Other values are reserved. If SPSR_EL2.M[3:0] has a Reserved value, or a value for an unimplemented Exception level, executing an exception return operation in EL2 is an illegal return event, as described in 'Illegal return events from AArch64 state'.

The bits in this field are interpreted as follows:

- M[3:2] is set to the value of PSTATE.EL on taking an exception to EL2 and copied to PSTATE.EL on executing an exception return operation in EL2.
- M[1] is unused and is 0 for all non-reserved values.
- M[0] is set to the value of PSTATE.SP on taking an exception to EL2 and copied to PSTATE.SP on executing an exception return operation in EL2.

The reset behavior of this field is:

- On a Warm reset, this field resets to an architecturally unknown value.

Accessing SPSR_EL2

When HCR_EL2.E2H is 1, without explicit synchronization, access from EL2 using the mnemonic SPSR_EL2 or SPSR_EL1 are not guaranteed to be ordered with respect to accesses using the other mnemonic.

Accesses to this register use the following encodings in the System register encoding space:

MRS <Xt>, SPSR_EL2

op0	op1	CRn	CRm	op2
0b11	0b100	0b0100	0b0000	0b000

```
if PSTATE.EL == EL0 then
    UNDEFINED;
elsif PSTATE.EL == EL1 then
    if EL2Enabled() && HCR_EL2.<NV2,NV> == '11' then
        X[t, 64] = SPSR_EL1;
    elsif EL2Enabled() && HCR_EL2.NV == '1' then
        AArch64.SystemAccessTrap(EL2, 0x18);
    else
        UNDEFINED;
elsif PSTATE.EL == EL2 then
    X[t, 64] = SPSR_EL2;
elsif PSTATE.EL == EL3 then
    X[t, 64] = SPSR_EL2;
```

MSR SPSR_EL2, <Xt>

op0	op1	CRn	CRm	op2
0b11	0b100	0b0100	0b0000	0b000

```
if PSTATE.EL == EL0 then
    UNDEFINED;
elsif PSTATE.EL == EL1 then
    if IsFeatureImplemented(FEAT_GCS) &&
GetCurrentEXLOCKEN() && !Halted() && PSTATE.EXLOCK
== '1' && EL2Enabled() && HCR_EL2.NV == '1' then
        EXLOCKException();
    elsif EL2Enabled() && HCR_EL2.<NV2,NV> == '11'
then
        SPSR_EL1 = X[t, 64];
    elsif EL2Enabled() && HCR_EL2.NV == '1' then
        AArch64.SystemAccessTrap(EL2, 0x18);
    else
```

```
        UNDEFINED;
elsif PSTATE.EL == EL2 then
    if IsFeatureImplemented(FEAT_GCS) &&
GetCurrentEXLOCKEN() && !Halted() && PSTATE.EXLOCK
== '1' then
        EXLOCKException();
    else
        SPSR_EL2 = X[t, 64];
elsif PSTATE.EL == EL3 then
    SPSR_EL2 = X[t, 64];
```

When FEAT_VHE is implemented

MRS <Xt>, SPSR_EL1

op0	op1	CRn	CRm	op2
0b11	0b000	0b0100	0b0000	0b000

```
if PSTATE.EL == EL0 then
    UNDEFINED;
elsif PSTATE.EL == EL1 then
    if EL2Enabled() && HCR_EL2.<NV2,NV1,NV> == '011'
then
        AArch64.SystemAccessTrap(EL2, 0x18);
    elsif EL2Enabled() && HCR_EL2.<NV2,NV1,NV> ==
'111' then
        X[t, 64] = NVMem[0x160];
    else
        X[t, 64] = SPSR_EL1;
elsif PSTATE.EL == EL2 then
    if HCR_EL2.E2H == '1' then
        X[t, 64] = SPSR_EL2;
    else
        X[t, 64] = SPSR_EL1;
elsif PSTATE.EL == EL3 then
    X[t, 64] = SPSR_EL1;
```

When FEAT_VHE is implemented

MSR SPSR_EL1, <Xt>

op0	op1	CRn	CRm	op2
0b11	0b000	0b0100	0b0000	0b000

```
if PSTATE.EL == EL0 then
    UNDEFINED;
elsif PSTATE.EL == EL1 then
```

```
    if IsFeatureImplemented(FEAT_GCS) &&
GetCurrentEXLOCKEN() && !Halted() && PSTATE.EXLOCK
== '1' && (HCR_EL2.NV == '0' || (EL2Enabled() &&
HCR_EL2.<NV1,NV> == '01')) then
        EXLOCKException();
    elsif EL2Enabled() && HCR_EL2.<NV2,NV1,NV> ==
'011' then
        AArch64.SystemAccessTrap(EL2, 0x18);
    elsif EL2Enabled() && HCR_EL2.<NV2,NV1,NV> ==
'111' then
        NVMem[0x160] = X[t, 64];
    else
        SPSR_EL1 = X[t, 64];
elsif PSTATE.EL == EL2 then
    if IsFeatureImplemented(FEAT_GCS) &&
GetCurrentEXLOCKEN() && !Halted() && PSTATE.EXLOCK
== '1' && HCR_EL2.E2H == '1' then
        EXLOCKException();
    elsif HCR_EL2.E2H == '1' then
        SPSR_EL2 = X[t, 64];
    else
        SPSR_EL1 = X[t, 64];
elsif PSTATE.EL == EL3 then
    SPSR_EL1 = X[t, 64];
```

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