.

<(NAME) Project: (Workstream NAME)>

<Title: 3 Layer (Base, Design and Product) **Software** Specification BLANK Template>

<Version>.<Revision>.<Errata>

Author: <Primary>

Author: <Secondary, etc. Delete if unnecessary>

| DELETE THIS BLOCK |
| --- |
| ***INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL FOLLOWING SECTIONS:***   * + *This section is only required if there is a directly linked preceding document which means this is a revision to the original document. If this is a completely new version (original) you may delete this page.*   + *The revisions in the populated table below apply to the template, please start from a blank table for your contribution.*   + *See the OCP Release Nomenclature Guidelines for additional information.* |

# Version History

Note, refer to the OCP Contribution Versions, Revisions and Errata best practices documentation. Generally speaking, Versions and revisions are made to this document and logged here. Errata is a separate document such that the contribution specification document it refers to was not revised. Ex: Version 1, Errata E1

| **Date** | **Version #** | **Author** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 01 JAN 24 | 1.0.0 | Bijan Nowroozi/Michael Shill/Rob Coyle | Initial Release |
| 17 JUN 24 | 1.0.1 | Bijan Nowroozi | Modified title page to include project information and added some context on p.10 openness tenet, Appendix C updates |
| 30 SEP 24 | 1.1.0 | Bijan Nowroozi | Added usage note and compliance sections |
| 07 NOV 24 | 1.2.0 | Bijan Nowroozi | Reflected New License, cleaned up instructional text boxes, tenets |
| 11 NOV 24 | 1.3.0 | Bijan Nowroozi | Numerous formatting changes |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

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# Current Template Version:

3 Layer (Base, Design and Product) Software Specification Template V1.3.0

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THE UPDATED DEFAULT CONTRIBUTOR LICENSE AGREEMENT (CLA) IS [**OWFa 0.9**](https://146a55aca6f00848c565-a7635525d40ac1c70300198708936b4e.ssl.cf1.rackcdn.com/images/ed0befaf86bee2568ad720ff4a9a554d1f4260f7.pdf). PLEASE VERIFY THE CORRECT CLA/FSA IS USED AND EXECUTED FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION.

## Open Web Foundation (OWF) CLA

Contributions to this Specification are made under the terms and conditions set forth in **Modified Open Web Foundation Agreement 0.9 (OWFa 0.9)**. (As of October 16, 2024) (“Contribution License”) by:

**[Contributor Name(s) or Company name(s)]**

Usage of this Specification is governed by the terms and conditions set forth in **Modified OWFa 0.9 Final Specification Agreement (FSA)** (As of October 16, 2024) **(“Specification License”).**

You can review the applicable Specification License(s) referenced above by the contributors to this Specification on the OCP website at <https://www.opencompute.org/contributions/templates-agreements>.

​​For actual executed copies of either agreement, please contact OCP directly.

**Notes**:

The above license does not apply to the Appendix or Appendices. The information in the Appendix or Appendices is for reference only and non-normative in nature.

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# Acknowledgements

The Contributors of this Specification would like to acknowledge the following for their feedback:

List all companies or individuals who may have assisted you with the specification by providing feedback and suggestions but did not provide any IP.

| DELETE THIS BLOCK BEFORE SUBMITTING |
| --- |
| INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:   * The Tenets section is required for contribution. * Replace the section text (keep titles) * Please describe how this Specification complies to the following OCP tenets. * Compliance is required for at least four of the five tenets (Sustainability is a required tenet). * The ideals behind open sourcing stipulate that everyone benefits when we share and work together. Any open source project is designed to promote sharing of design elements with peers and to help them understand and adopt those contributions. There is no purpose in sharing if all parties aren't aligned with that philosophy. * The OCP Steering Committee will look beyond the contribution for evidence that the contributor is aligned with this philosophy. The contributor actions, past and present, are evidence of alignment and conviction to all the tenets. * Scope section contains information for the contributor, all of it is expected to be replaced. |

# Compliance with OCP Tenets

Please describe how this Specification complies with the OCP tenets.

A full explanation of the OCP core tenets can be seen [here](https://146a55aca6f00848c565-a7635525d40ac1c70300198708936b4e.ssl.cf1.rackcdn.com/images/bf648bb75091907147e76846cad590f402660d2e.pdf).

## Openness

Openness is measured by the ability of third parties to build, modify, or personalize your contributed device, platform, or software. The OCP aims for completely open platforms that include all programmable devices, firmware, software, mechanical and electrical design elements, and any necessary external components or tools like software utilities. Contributors are highly encouraged to collaborate with other OCP Projects that may have complementary knowledge and expertise. Actively remove barriers to openness and demonstrate collaboration by sharing, seeking feedback, and accepting changes to designs and specifications. Ensure your contribution can be extended and enhanced by others.

## Efficiency

Your contribution should be more efficient than existing or prior generations. Efficiency can be demonstrated through reduced operational and capital expenses, improved performance, modularity, increased capacity, lower power or water consumption, better utilization, reduced size, or minimized code weight and latency in software. Clearly express efficiency gains with metrics valued by end-users when proposing your contribution.

## Impact

Your contribution should have a transformative impact on the industry by introducing new technology, accelerating time-to-market, or enabling technology through global supply chains. Impact is amplified when new technologies are made accessible to many customers worldwide. Examples include widely adopted specifications or more specifically, open security features that establish and verify product trust. Ensure your contribution creates meaningful positive impact within the OCP ecosystem.

## Scale

Design your contribution for easy implementation and deployment at any scale, with minimal intervention. Aim to create additive solutions where minimal usage or instances can be deployed and incrementally scaled as needed to effectively address the entire problem. Provide all necessary tools and supporting documentation, such as installation guides, initialization processes, configuration information, and details on obtaining service support. Include features like simple manual and automated maintenance, remote management, upgradability, and error reporting. Management tools should be open-sourced and/or made available to adopters.

## Sustainability

Your contribution must be sustainable, maximizing transparency of environmental impacts with the goal of continuous improvement. Focus on the responsible use of natural resources, fostering positive societal impacts, and minimizing environmental harm. This can be achieved through design decisions that promote circularity, efficient use of materials, power-saving features, and sustainability labeling. For software, consider optimizing code to reduce resource consumption and incorporating features that enable energy efficiency.

## 

# Scope

The purpose of this template is to define a software specification that includes the Base, Design and Product as layers, in a single document. This organization allows contributors to make a single contribution while also allowing others to reuse and extend parts of this specification. For example after the initial release of your contribution in this document, a subsequent modification can be made and a derivative specification can be created by referring to this document.

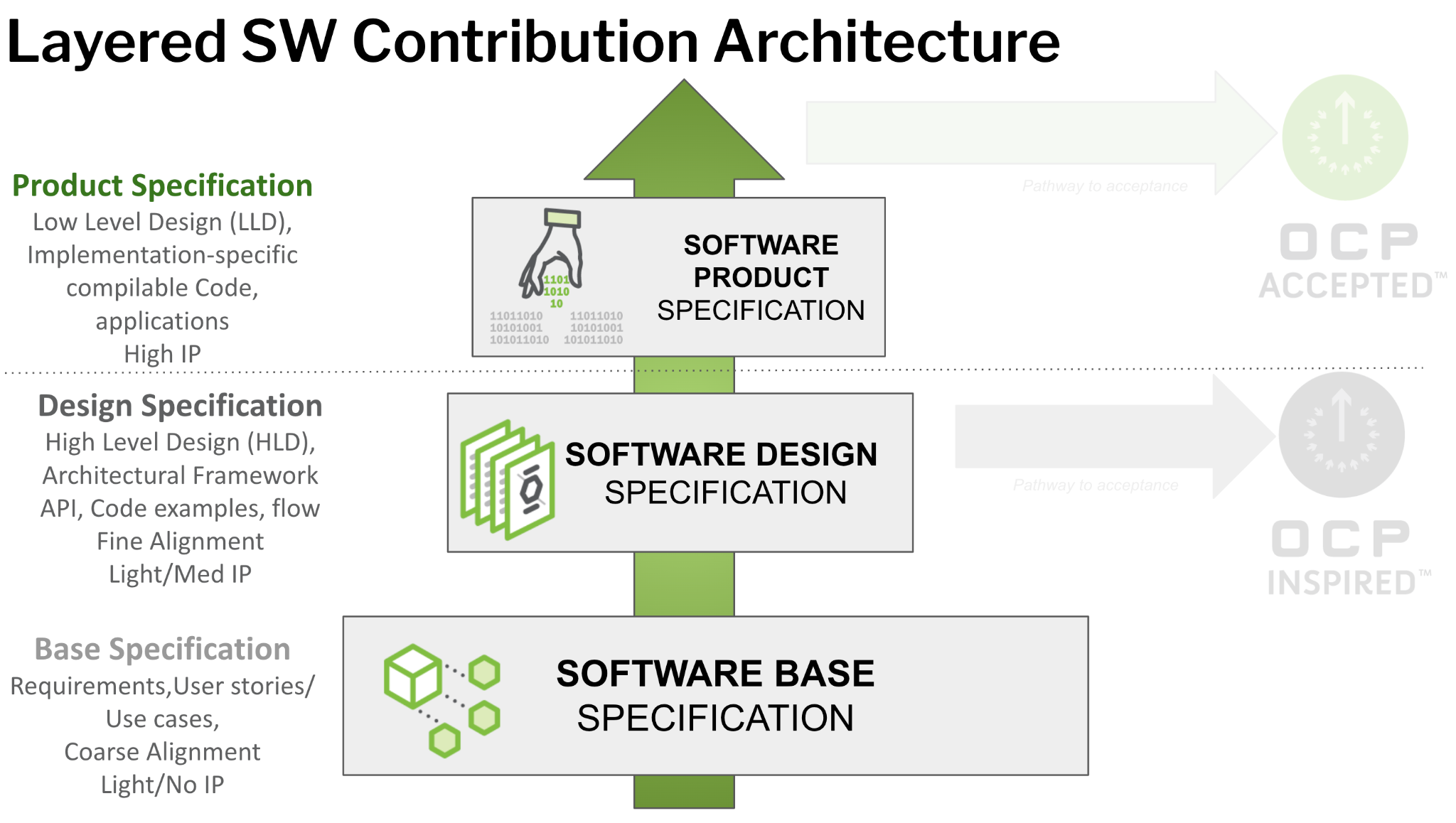


Figure 1: Specification Layers

## Usage

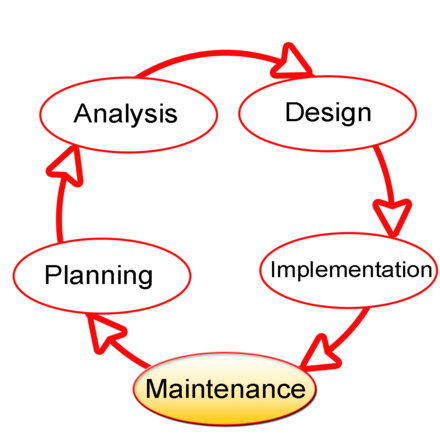
This document contains minimal sections, if examples are needed, please see the software template OCP-Software Specification-All-in-One Template. Any contributions that do not have any section may delete it. For example if the particular contribution is for API only- not many of the example sections herein apply, therefore contributors may delete.

## Layered Contribution Model

The Open Compute Project (OCP) has developed a layered contribution model to facilitate rapid development by contributors and collaborators, enable quick iteration and improvement by the entire OCP community, and support swift implementation by the broader ecosystem. This approach fosters the growth of an ecosystem around a solution, similar to building with Lego bricks. Ideas can iterate and improve over time while being easily modified for specific or vertical uses.

A key aspect of this approach for software development is aligning specification documents with the Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC). The intent is to unify the community on project goals and provide documentation that makes it easy for new collaborators to reuse the project, contribute to it, or understand the scope of subsequent efforts.

This diagram[[1]](#footnote-0) shows the SDLC phases:



The SDLC phases and their corresponding OCP specifications are as follows:

| **SDLC** | **OCP** |
| --- | --- |
| Planning | Base Software Specification |
| Analysis | Base Software Specification |
| Design | Software Design Specification |
| Implementation | Software Product Specification |
| Maintenance | Development considerations in all; operationally “Other” |

Note for additional information on the OCP layered contribution model, please see the [presentation](https://146a55aca6f00848c565-a7635525d40ac1c70300198708936b4e.ssl.cf1.rackcdn.com/images/4d14a1280e13c7dcf17123678eedc7e56053de96.pdf) and [recording](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKqGFyE0V9E) on the Modular Contribution Process from the OCP Global Summit 2022 for more information.

## Base Specification Layer

*The Base Software Specification serves as a conceptual framework for coarse alignment. It includes requirements descriptions and potentially use cases or user stories for software modules or layers. Market requirements drive Base Specifications, and without defining details of a specific design, the Base Specification may have light IP content. This structure simplifies the process for multiple parties, including potential competitors, to engage in this phase.*

*This corresponds to the Planning and Analysis phases of the SDLC.*

*This layer defines the technical details for one of the following types of specifications:*

* *Conceptual framework for an extensible technology platform or layer, representing technical community-wide consensus and possibly used as a de facto standard.*
* *Requirements for a specific solution.*
* *Extension or modification of an existing specification (state which existing spec is being modified):*
  + *A complete version update.*
  + *A minor revision.*

*Note: Any supplier seeking OCP recognition must be 100% compliant with the requirements and compliance statements listed in the Base requirements and subsequent design and product specifications.*

## Software Design Specification Layer

*The Software Design Specification captures customer requirements for finer alignment by building on the Base Specification. This layer contains what is commonly referred to as the* ***High-Level Design (HLD)****, which includes:*

* *Architecture.*
* *Data flow and database design.*
* *Descriptions of systems, critical subsystems, services, platforms, and relationships among modules.*

*While the Base Specification provides general requirements, user stories, and design goals, the Design Specification adds details that define the specific role of the contribution. It offers enough detailed design information—such as architectures and layouts—to enable end users to begin realizing it in the market. One or more parties may collaborate to develop detailed design specifications. Compared to the Base Specification, this effort typically contains significantly more detail, including future roadmaps and IP-related information. This group may have a multi-party NDA on their own (outside of the OCP umbrella) as part of the normal practice of developing products.*

*Design Specifications can be reused. For example, if collaboration results in a “foo” design specification, another team could reuse much of it to create a “bar” specification that is distinct yet shares common elements and is potentially compatible in various ways. Having the same Base Specification for several Design Specifications helps increase the commonality of interfaces and code, meeting a set of common infrastructure hardware, software, and firmware requirements while allowing for generation-to-generation variations or product differentiation.*

*This corresponds to the Design phase of the SDLC.*

*This document defines the technical details for one of the following types of specifications:*

* *Detailed architecture and data flow/database design for an extensible technology platform or layer, representing technical community-wide consensus and possibly used as a de facto standard.*
* *Requirements and descriptions of systems, critical subsystems, services, platforms, and relationships among modules for a specific solution or implementation.*
* *Extension or modification of an existing specification (state which existing spec is being modified):*
  + *A complete version update.*
  + *A minor revision.*

*Recommendation: Contributors of this specification should make best efforts to provide an output (e.g., a reference design) within 180 days of approval. This cadence helps the community move quickly, although it is only a recommendation.*

## Software Product Specification Layer

*The Software Product Specification captures manufacturing requirements, including all design and build files, building on the Design Specification. This layer contains what is commonly referred to as the Low-Level Design (LLD), where detailed system components and their interactions are specified. The Product Specification offers a detailed description of each module and includes actual logic for every system component, being very specific with module-level specifications. It is also known as micro-level or detailed design.*

*The HLD information is synthesized into a more detailed blueprint, addressing specific algorithms, data structures, and interfaces. The LLD serves as a guide for developers during coding, ensuring the accurate and efficient implementation of the system’s functionality.*

*Typically, fewer companies will engage to create a single Product Specification, but the goal is to increase the total number of products that meet a Design Specification (derived from a Base Specification). The resulting Product Specification should be contributed to OCP via a Final Specification Agreement (FSA). A product typically undergoes significant effort for qualification and mass-production readiness beyond what is specified in a typical design specification.*

*Product Specifications can be reused. For instance, assuming the base and design specifications allow, if one contributor creates a specific solution with a generic ISA (Instruction Set Architecture) in the design specification, the same or another team could reuse it to make a solution with a specific CPU ISA in the product specification.*

*At the productization phase, even fewer companies may be involved in developing a specific final product for contribution to OCP. Typically, for a hardware product, this layer of specification may be submitted to OCP for “OCP Accepted™” or “OCP Inspired™” designation (with different levels of collateral such as a Design Package). For software, this opportunity exists but is not prescribed.*

*This corresponds to the Implementation and partially the Maintenance phases of the SDLC.*

*This document defines the technical details for one of the following types of specifications:*

* *Product Specification with a detailed description of each module, including the actual logic for every system component, being very specific with module-level specifications.*
* *Modification of an existing product specification (state which existing spec is being modified):*
  + *A complete version update.*
  + *A minor revision.*

*Recommendation: Contributors of this specification should make best efforts to provide an output (e.g., a reference design) within 120 days of approval. This recommended cadence helps the community move quickly, although it is only a recommendation.*

*Note: Any supplier seeking OCP recognition—such as OCP Accepted™—must use a product specification that is 100% compliant with the preceding Base requirements, Design Specification, and these Product Specifications as described.*

| DELETE THIS BLOCK BEFORE SUBMITTING |
| --- |
| INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:   * The following (Sections 5-8 are required to document features and functions of the contributed system, subsystem, platform, card, component or other unit as appropriate- and are broken out into layers. * The layout of the sections has some boilerplate and random examples. These are illustrative only. Please rearrange, add, delete, and change as necessary to describe the contribution. * Be sure to complete only the incremental requirements for each subsequent layer. (ex: Assume Base Specification and include only changes in the Product Specifications, etc…) * Please use the OCP Terminology Guidelines for Inclusion and Openness. * No NDA (Non-disclosure Agreement) or confidential material is to be included in this document, including charts and included materials. This will be an OPEN document. |

# 

# Overview

Describe your contribution and the modularity of this spec within the framework of modular specification process (this might be the openness tenet too) Include the problems it addresses. Explain its utility within the Open Compute Project ecosystem.

# 

# Base Specifications

## Description

*Provide a high-level overview of the software, including its key features, intended users, and any assumptions made during development.*

## Test and Validation Requirements

*Provide the concepts for testing and validation of this solution.*

## Compliance

| DELETE THIS BLOCK BEFORE SUBMITTING |
| --- |
| INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:   * This mandatory section serves as a checklist for consumers of the specification to ensure compliance with the requirements. It applies to any implementations—whether listed on the OCP Marketplace or not—that declare compliance with this specification. * For a Base Specification, this section can be concise. Consider the minimum requirements needed for compliance and leave specific details to subsequent specifications. Avoid introducing requirements that could be easily overridden in higher-level specifications to prevent confusion or lack of purpose. * While it is possible to mandate full compliance with all items in this specification, that is not the intent of the Base Specification. |

*This* ***mandatory*** *section is also applicable to create the checklist for the consumers of the specification to adhere to in order for them to declare it complies to the requirements. This applies to any implementations (OCP Marketplace or not) that declare compliance with this specification.*

*(Example Compliance Table Follows)*

| ***ITEM*** | ***REQUIREMENT*** | ***REFERENCE*** | ***MANDATORY*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *1* | *Complies to Special Publication Secure Software Development Framework (SSDF) Version 1.1: Recommendations for Mitigating the Risk of Software Vulnerabilities.* | *(SP) 800-218* | *Y* |
| *2* | *Optional: The device shall facilitate clearing the Timestamp Origin field in the Timestamp (Feature*  *Identifier 0Eh)* | *NVMe-OPT-4* | *N* |

## Repository Location

*It is highly recommended that OCP projects participate in a collaborative development process. OCP provides GitHub resources—with access control if needed—for this purpose. Please request a repository for your contribution from your project leads.*

*Include the OCP GitHub repository information here.*

## Prescribed Materials

*List any prescribed materials included in your contribution, such as specific components that are referenced but not contributed.*

*This section may include, but is not limited to:*

* *Disallowed components.*
* *Specifically required components with no substitution allowed.*

## References (recommended)

[1] “Title”, publication year, OCP specification, version, link to publication if available.

[2] “Title”, publication year, publication journal/conference/standard, volume, pages, link to publication if available.

# 

# Design Specifications

*Note to authors: This section refines the previous specification. It’s unnecessary to repeat earlier sections verbatim; only include additions or modifications that refine the previous content. Treat this section as a Software High-Level Design (HLD) document.*

## Description

*Provide a high-level overview of the problem and the solution your software offers, including key features, intended users, and any assumptions made during development.*

* 1. **Validation**

*Provide high-level concepts on how to test and validate this solution.*

## Compliance

| DELETE THIS BLOCK BEFORE SUBMITTING |
| --- |
| INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:   * This mandatory section serves as a checklist for consumers of the specification to ensure compliance with the requirements. It applies to any implementations—whether listed on the OCP Marketplace or not—that declare compliance with this specification. * For a Base Specification, this section can be concise. Consider the minimum requirements needed for compliance and leave specific details to subsequent specifications. Avoid introducing requirements that could be easily overridden in higher-level specifications to prevent confusion or lack of purpose. * While it is possible to mandate full compliance with all items in this specification, that is not the intent of the Base Specification. |

*(Example Compliance Table Follows)*

| ***ITEM*** | ***REQUIREMENT*** | ***REFERENCE*** | ***MANDATORY*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *1* | *Complies to Special Publication (SP) 800-218, Secure Software Development Framework (SSDF) Version 1.1: Recommendations for Mitigating the Risk of Software Vulnerabilities.* | *10.3.2 (multiple items)* | *Y* |
| *2* | *Optional: The device shall only clear the Timestamp Origin field to 000b in the Timestamp (Feature*  *Identifier 0Eh) on a main power cycle or NVM Subsystem Reset (e.g., NSSR). The device*  *shall not clear the Timestamp Origin field on a power cycle of only AUX power.* | *NVMe-OPT-4* | *N* |
| *3* | *Any supplier seeking OCP recognition for a hardware product dependent on this specification*  *shall be 100% compliant with the requirements X, Y, Z* | *4* | *Y* |

## Repository Location

*It’s highly recommended that OCP projects participate in a collaborative development process. OCP provides GitHub resources—with access control if needed—for this purpose. Please request a repository for your contribution from your project leads.*

*Include the OCP GitHub repository information here.*

## Prescribed Materials

*List any prescribed materials included in your contribution, such as specific components that are referenced but not contributed.*

*This section may include, but is not limited to:*

* *Disallowed components.*
* *Specifically required components with no substitution allowed.*

## References (recommended)

[1] “Title”, publication year, OCP specification, version, link to publication if available.

[2] “Title”, publication year, publication journal/conference/standard, volume, pages, link to publication if available.

# Product Specifications

*Note to authors: This section refines previous sections. It’s unnecessary to repeat earlier content; only include additions or modifications. This section requires further detail, such as bills of materials with component part numbers, supporting design files, software, tools, and any other files required to produce the contribution.*

*Treat this section as a Software Low-Level Design (LLD) document.*

## Description

*Provide a detailed description of the problem and the solution your software offers, including key features, intended users, and any relevant assumptions.*

* 1. **Validation**

*List the tests and provide detailed procedures on how to test and validate this solution.*

## Compliance

| DELETE THIS BLOCK BEFORE SUBMITTING |
| --- |
| INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:   * This mandatory section serves as a checklist for consumers of the specification to ensure compliance with the requirements. It applies to any implementations—whether listed on the OCP Marketplace or not—that declare compliance with this specification. * For a Base Specification, this section can be concise. Consider the minimum requirements needed for compliance and leave specific details to subsequent specifications. Avoid introducing requirements that could be easily overridden in higher-level specifications to prevent confusion or lack of purpose. * While it is possible to mandate full compliance with all items in this specification, that is not the intent of the Base Specification. |

*(Example Compliance Table Follows)*

| ***ITEM*** | ***REQUIREMENT*** | ***REFERENCE*** | ***MANDATORY*** |
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| *2* | *Optional: The device shall only clear the Timestamp Origin field to 000b in the Timestamp (Feature*  *Identifier 0Eh) on a main power cycle or NVM Subsystem Reset (e.g., NSSR). The device*  *shall not clear the Timestamp Origin field on a power cycle of only AUX power.* | *NVMe-OPT-4* | *N* |
| *3* | *Any supplier seeking OCP recognition for a hardware product dependent on this specification*  *shall be 100% compliant with the requirements X, Y, Z* | *4* | *Y* |

## Repository Location

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* *Specifically required components with no substitution allowed.*

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[1] “Title”, publication year, OCP specification, version, link to publication if available.

[2] “Title”, publication year, publication journal/conference/standard, volume, pages, link to publication if available.

# Appendix A - Checklist for Steering Committee (SC) approval of this Specification (to be completed by contributor(s) of this Spec)

Complete all the checklist items in the table with links to the section where it is described in this spec or an external document .

| **Item** | **Status or Details** | **Link to detailed explanation** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Is this contribution entered into the OCP Contribution Portal? | Yes or No | If no, please state the reason. |
| Was it approved in the OCP Contribution Portal? | Yes or No | If no, please state the reason. |
| Is there a Supplier(s) that is building a product based on this Spec? (Supplier must be an OCP Solution Provider) | Yes or No | List Supplier Name(s) |
| Will Supplier(s) have the product available for GENERAL AVAILABILITY within 120 days? | Yes or No | If more time is required, please state the timeline and reason for extension request.  Please have each Supplier fill out Appendix B. |

# 

# Appendix B-\_\_ <supplier name> - OCP Supplier Information and Hardware Product Recognition Checklist

(to be provided by each supplier seeking OCP recognition for a Hardware Product based on this specification)

Company:

Contact Info:

Product Name:

Product SKU#:

Link to Product Landing Page:

The following is needed for OCP hardware product recognition:

**For OCP Inspired™**

* All Suppliers must be an OCP Member. All corporate membership levels are eligible.
* Declare product is 100% compliant with specification
* Complete the [OCP Inspired™ Product Recognition Checklist](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1p7g_bPWzgXDDTkxbOEOkLrbvfKmqVWspKOi7J20yJcE/copy?resourcekey=0-UWRTqqnBa3i6BcSNTDJfmA#gid=963873675), which includes hardware management conformance checks and security profile.

**For OCP Accepted™**

* All Suppliers must be an OCP Member. All corporate membership levels are eligible.
* Complete the [OCP Accepted™ Product Recognition Checklist](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SNqQYCta4CVsZsZcRRVR5A779YyCHxA2gLSINlFtnTs/copy#gid=963873675), which includes hardware management conformance checks, security profile and open system firmware conformance checks.
* Submit a design package meeting [OCP Hardware Design Guideline Contribution Checklist](https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1SdLlXxn_jz__t8I33ATraYvHDYX3go3w_rR4LJ1PNTE/edit) (if not already submitted by the contributor). If already submitted, declare the product is 100% compliant with the design package.
* Submit a firmware package including a firmware image, build scripts, documentation, test results and a tool that verifies modifications
* Submit the BMC source code, if applicable to product type

Please complete the OCP Inspired™ Product Recognition Submission Checklist or OCP Accepted™ Product Recognition Checklist and the following table.

| **Item** | **Details** | **Links** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Which product recognition? | OCP Accepted™ or OCP Inspired™ | Provide link for the appropriate Product Checklist |
| If OCP Accepted™, who provided the Design Package? |  | Link to OCP Contribution Database |
| Where can a potential adopter purchase the product? |  | Link to OCP Marketplace |

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# Appendix C - Contribution Process FAQs

As a contributor to a hardware specification, here are some questions that often come up.

1. What are acceptable types of hardware specification am I able to contribute to OCP? Is it any of the below?
   1. base, design or product specification for a de-facto standard (new standard with no hardware product on the horizon)
   2. base, design or product specification for an intended physical <hardware product type> (product may be coming but within the next 12-15 months for base and design specification, with a product specification with design files resulting in a product in 3-6 months)
   3. modification of an existing specification (state which existing spec is being modified)
      1. either a complete revision update or
      2. a minor version update
      3. Note: errata does not require a specification update. Only an errata statement.
   4. an architectural specification for <product types> that may incorporate several/multiple specifications, types, standards and other components into a logical system for given purposes.
      1. this may include a/any specification(s) that strictly conforms to an architectural specification
      2. this may include a/any specification(s) that is/are standalone or conforms to an architectural specification
   5. A Base, Design and Product Specification in a single document.
   6. *If none of the above, please contact OCP Staff for consultation.*
2. How do I know if what I am contributing will be accepted by OCP?
   1. Before contributing any specifications, please contact either OCP Staff (Michael Schill, Rob Coyle or Bijan Nowroozi) or the Project Lead for the Project that best represents your contribution. For example, if you are contributing a Server Specification, please contact one of the Server Project Leads. You can see all the Projects [here](https://www.opencompute.org/projects).
   2. The OCP Foundation, Project Leadership and OCP Community are resources to help you navigate the process.
3. What is the contribution process for my hardware spec?
   1. Follow the flow for your spec type [here](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1PlXGLhCdgVEGWQ0hLYdAQEH5qCScwYij/edit#slide=id.g10e20dc1292_0_101).
   2. This flow is subject to change so please check with the OCP Staff for more information or any questions.
4. What if my spec is not developed yet and I want to collaborate with other companies?
   1. Please contact either OCP Staff (Michael Schill, Rob Coyle or Bijan Nowroozi) or the Project Lead for the Project that best represents your contribution.
   2. They will help you find other collaborators and help you with the contribution process for a multi-party contribution.
5. I have a question on the Contribution License Agreement.
   1. Please contact OCP Staff and we can help you with questions.
6. Do I need to have a product in order to contribute a spec?
   1. Please see Q1. Some types of specs do not require an immediate product. Some do. Please work with the OCP Staff on better direction on your specification type.
7. How do I know if someone else is already working on this idea?
   1. Please discuss with the Project Leadership and/or the OCP Foundation staff.
8. What other considerations are there?
   1. The OCP Foundation encourages contributors to consult with the Project Leadership and/or the OCP Foundation staff as early as possible in the development cycle. There may be others in the community who are willing and able to help share some of the development effort.
   2. It may be desirable for speed to gather key collaborators and work together outside of public meetings, with a closed CLA. Just be aware of the tradeoffs such as potential collaboration is missed and the idea may not be as strong as it could be with additional eyes on it. Some recommendations are:
      1. even if the idea is worked on in a closed CLA group, find ways to hold regular public briefings
      2. consider opening the CLA group as soon as possible and
      3. be open to the possibility of duplication of effort by others whom were not aware and chance this approach will end up fracturing of the potential total market by having subsequent exclusive groups working in parallel

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Systems\_development\_life\_cycle [↑](#footnote-ref-0)