  - A general-protection fault due to the relevant segment (ES for INS; DS for OUTS unless overridden by an instruction prefix) being unusable
  - A general-protection fault due to an offset beyond the limit of the relevant segment
  - An alignment-check exception
- Fault-like VM exits have priority over exceptions other than those mentioned above. For example, RDMSR of a non-existent MSR with CPL = 0 generates a VM exit and not a general-protection exception.

When Section 27.1.2 or Section 27.1.3 (below) identify an instruction execution that may lead to a VM exit, it is assumed that the instruction does not incur a fault that takes priority over a VM exit.

27.1.2 Instructions That Cause VM Exits Unconditionally

The following instructions cause VM exits when they are executed in VMX non-root operation: CPUID, GETSEC,[1] INVD, and XSETBV. This is also true of instructions introduced with VMX: INVEPT, INVVPID, SEAMCALL, TDCALL, VMCALL,[2] VMCLEAR, VMLAUNCH, VMPTRLD, VMPTRST, VMRESUME, VMXOFF, and VMXON.

27.1.3 Instructions That Cause VM Exits Conditionally

Certain instructions cause VM exits in VMX non-root operation depending on the setting of the VM-execution controls. The following instructions can cause "fault-like" VM exits based on the conditions described:[3]

- **CLTS.** The CLTS instruction causes a VM exit if the bits in position 3 (corresponding to CR0.TS) are set in both the CR0 guest/host mask and the CR0 read shadow.
- **ENCLS.** The ENCLS instruction causes a VM exit if the "enable ENCLS exiting" VM-execution control is 1 and one of the following is true:
  - The value of EAX is less than 63 and the corresponding bit in the ENCLS-exiting bitmap is 1 (see Section 26.6.16).
  - The value of EAX is greater than or equal to 63 and bit 63 in the ENCLS-exiting bitmap is 1.
- **ENQCMD, ENQCMDS.** The behavior of each of these instructions is determined by the setting of the "PASID translation" VM-execution control. If that control is 0, the instruction executes normally. If the control is 1, instruction behavior is modified and may cause a VM exit. See Section 27.5.8.
- **HLT.** The HLT instruction causes a VM exit if the "HLT exiting" VM-execution control is 1.
- **IN, INS/INSB/INSW/INSD, OUT, OUTS/OUTSB/OUTSW/OUTSD.** The behavior of each of these instructions is determined by the settings of the "unconditional I/O exiting" and "use I/O bitmaps" VM-execution controls:
  - If both controls are 0, the instruction executes normally.
  - If the "unconditional I/O exiting" VM-execution control is 1 and the "use I/O bitmaps" VM-execution control is 0, the instruction causes a VM exit.
  - If the "use I/O bitmaps" VM-execution control is 1, the instruction causes a VM exit if it attempts to access an I/O port corresponding to a bit set to 1 in the appropriate I/O bitmap (see Section 26.6.4). If an I/O operation "wraps around" the 16-bit I/O-port space (accesses ports FFFFH and 0000H), the I/O instruction causes a VM exit (the "unconditional I/O exiting" VM-execution control is ignored if the "use I/O bitmaps" VM-execution control is 1).

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1. An execution of GETSEC in VMX non-root operation causes a VM exit if CR4.SMXE[Bit 14] = 1 regardless of the value of CPL or RAX. An execution of GETSEC causes an invalid-opcode exception (#UD) if CR4.SMXE[Bit 14] = 0.
2. Under the dual-monitor treatment of SMIs and SMM, executions of VMCALL cause SMM VM exits in VMX root operation outside SMM. See Section 33.15.2.
3. Items in this section may refer to secondary processor-based VM-execution controls and tertiary processor-based VM-execution controls. If bit 31 of the primary processor-based VM-execution controls is 0, VMX non-root operation functions as if the secondary processor-based VM-execution controls were all 0; similarly, if bit 17 of the primary processor-based VM-execution controls is 0, VMX non-root operation functions as if the tertiary processor-based VM-execution controls were all 0. See Section 26.6.2.

See Section 27.1.1 for information regarding the priority of VM exits relative to faults that may be caused by the INS and OUTS instructions.

- **INVLPG.** The INVLPG instruction causes a VM exit if the "INVLPG exiting" VM-execution control is 1.
- **INVPCID.** The INVPCID instruction causes a VM exit if the "INVLPG exiting" and "enable INVPCID" VM-execution controls are both 1.
- **LGDT, LIDT, LLDT, LTR, SGDT, SIDT, SLDT, STR.** These instructions cause VM exits if the "descriptor-table exiting" VM-execution control is 1.
- **LMSW.** In general, the LMSW instruction causes a VM exit if it would write, for any bit set in the low 4 bits of the CR0 guest/host mask, a value different than the corresponding bit in the CR0 read shadow. LMSW never clears bit 0 of CR0 (CR0.PE); thus, LMSW causes a VM exit if either of the following are true:
  - The bits in position 0 (corresponding to CR0.PE) are set in both the CR0 guest/host mask and the source operand, and the bit in position 0 is clear in the CR0 read shadow.
  - For any bit position in the range 3:1, the bit in that position is set in the CR0 guest/host mask and the values of the corresponding bits in the source operand and the CR0 read shadow differ.
- **LOADIWKEY.** The LOADIWKEY instruction causes a VM exit if the "LOADIWKEY exiting" VM-execution control is 1.
- **MONITOR.** The MONITOR instruction causes a VM exit if the "MONITOR exiting" VM-execution control is 1.
- **MOV from CR3.** The MOV from CR3 instruction causes a VM exit if the "CR3-store exiting" VM-execution control is 1. The first processors to support the virtual-machine extensions supported only the 1-setting of this control.
- **MOV from CR8.** The MOV from CR8 instruction causes a VM exit if the "CR8-store exiting" VM-execution control is 1.
- **MOV to CR0.** The MOV to CR0 instruction causes a VM exit unless the value of its source operand matches, for the position of each bit set in the CR0 guest/host mask, the corresponding bit in the CR0 read shadow. (If every bit is clear in the CR0 guest/host mask, MOV to CR0 cannot cause a VM exit.)
- **MOV to CR3.** The MOV to CR3 instruction causes a VM exit unless the "CR3-load exiting" VM-execution control is 0 or the value of its source operand is equal to one of the CR3-target values specified in the VMCS. Only the first *n* CR3-target values are considered, where *n* is the CR3-target count. If the "CR3-load exiting" VM-execution control is 1 and the CR3-target count is 0, MOV to CR3 always causes a VM exit.

  The first processors to support the virtual-machine extensions supported only the 1-setting of the "CR3-load exiting" VM-execution control. These processors always consult the CR3-target controls to determine whether an execution of MOV to CR3 causes a VM exit.
- **MOV to CR4.** The MOV to CR4 instruction causes a VM exit unless the value of its source operand matches, for the position of each bit set in the CR4 guest/host mask, the corresponding bit in the CR4 read shadow.
- **MOV to CR8.** The MOV to CR8 instruction causes a VM exit if the "CR8-load exiting" VM-execution control is 1.
- **MOV DR.** The MOV DR instruction causes a VM exit if the "MOV-DR exiting" VM-execution control is 1. Such VM exits represent an exception to the principles identified in Section 27.1.1 in that they take priority over the following: general-protection exceptions based on privilege level; and invalid-opcode exceptions that occur because CR4.DE=1 and the instruction specified access to DR4 or DR5.
- **MWAIT.** The MWAIT instruction causes a VM exit if the "MWAIT exiting" VM-execution control is 1. If this control is 0, the behavior of the MWAIT instruction may be modified (see Section 27.3).
- **PAUSE.** The behavior of each of this instruction depends on CPL and the settings of the "PAUSE exiting" and "PAUSE-loop exiting" VM-execution controls**:**
  - CPL = 0.
    - If the "PAUSE exiting" and "PAUSE-loop exiting" VM-execution controls are both 0, the PAUSE instruction executes normally.
    - If the "PAUSE exiting" VM-execution control is 1, the PAUSE instruction causes a VM exit (the "PAUSE-loop exiting" VM-execution control is ignored if CPL = 0 and the "PAUSE exiting" VM-execution control is 1).

- If the "PAUSE exiting" VM-execution control is 0 and the "PAUSE-loop exiting" VM-execution control is 1, the following treatment applies.

  The processor determines the amount of time between this execution of PAUSE and the previous execution of PAUSE at CPL 0. If this amount of time exceeds the value of the VM-execution control field PLE_Gap, the processor considers this execution to be the first execution of PAUSE in a loop. (It also does so for the first execution of PAUSE at CPL 0 after VM entry.)

  Otherwise, the processor determines the amount of time since the most recent execution of PAUSE that was considered to be the first in a loop. If this amount of time exceeds the value of the VM-execution control field PLE_Window, a VM exit occurs.

  For purposes of these computations, time is measured based on a counter that runs at the same rate as the timestamp counter (TSC).

— CPL > 0.

- If the "PAUSE exiting" VM-execution control is 0, the PAUSE instruction executes normally.
- If the "PAUSE exiting" VM-execution control is 1, the PAUSE instruction causes a VM exit.

The "PAUSE-loop exiting" VM-execution control is ignored if CPL > 0.

- **PCONFIG.** The PCONFIG instruction causes a VM exit if the "enable PCONFIG" VM-execution control is 1 and one of the following is true:

  — The value of EAX is less than 63 and the corresponding bit in the PCONFIG-exiting bitmap is 1 (see Section 26.6.17).

  — The value of EAX is greater than or equal to 63 and bit 63 in the PCONFIG-exiting bitmap is 1.

  If the "enable PCONFIG" VM-execution control is 1 and neither of the previous items hold, the PCONFIG instruction executes normally.
- **RDMSR.** The RDMSR instruction causes a VM exit if any of the following are true:

  — The "use MSR bitmaps" VM-execution control is 0.

  — The value of ECX is not in the ranges 00000000H – 00001FFFH and C0000000H – C0001FFFH.

  — The value of ECX is in the range 00000000H – 00001FFFH and bit *n* in read bitmap for low MSRs is 1, where *n* is the value of ECX.

  — The value of ECX is in the range C0000000H – C0001FFFH and bit *n* in read bitmap for high MSRs is 1, where *n* is the value of ECX & 00001FFFH.

  See Section 26.6.9 for details regarding how these bitmaps are identified.
- **RDMSRLIST.** The RDMSRLIST instruction causes a VM exit if the "enable MSR-list instructions" VM-execution control is 1 and the "use MSR bitmaps" VM-execution control is 0. If both controls are 1, the instruction reads one MSR at a time normally, storing the value read to memory and clearing the corresponding bit in RCX. An attempt to read MSR X causes a VM exit if any of the following are true:

  — X is not in the ranges 00000000H – 00001FFFH and C0000000H – C0001FFFH.

  — X is in the range 00000000H – 00001FFFH and bit X in read bitmap for low MSRs is 1.

  — X is in the range C0000000H – C0001FFFH and bit *n* in read bitmap for high MSRs is 1, where *n* is the value of X & 00001FFFH.

  If an attempt to read an MSR causes a VM exit, the corresponding bit in RCX is not cleared, the MSR is not read, and no value is stored to memory.
- **RDPMC.** The RDPMC instruction causes a VM exit if the "RDPMC exiting" VM-execution control is 1.
- **RDRAND.** The RDRAND instruction causes a VM exit if the "RDRAND exiting" VM-execution control is 1.
- **RDSEED.** The RDSEED instruction causes a VM exit if the "RDSEED exiting" VM-execution control is 1.
- **RDTSC.** The RDTSC instruction causes a VM exit if the "RDTSC exiting" VM-execution control is 1.
- **RDTSCP.** The RDTSCP instruction causes a VM exit if the "RDTSC exiting" and "enable RDTSCP" VM-execution controls are both 1.
- **RSM.** The RSM instruction causes a VM exit if executed in system-management mode (SMM).[1]

- **TPAUSE.** The TPAUSE instruction causes a VM exit if the "RDTSC exiting" and "enable user wait and pause" VM-execution controls are both 1.
- **UMWAIT.** The UMWAIT instruction causes a VM exit if the "RDTSC exiting" and "enable user wait and pause" VM-execution controls are both 1.
- **VMREAD.** The VMREAD instruction causes a VM exit if any of the following are true:
  - The "VMCS shadowing" VM-execution control is 0.
  - Bits 63:15 (bits 31:15 outside 64-bit mode) of the register source operand are not all 0.
  - Bit *n* in VMREAD bitmap is 1, where *n* is the value of bits 14:0 of the register source operand. See Section 26.6.15 for details regarding how the VMREAD bitmap is identified.

  If the VMREAD instruction does not cause a VM exit, it reads from the VMCS referenced by the VMCS link pointer. See Chapter 32, "VMREAD—Read Field from Virtual-Machine Control Structure" for details of the operation of the VMREAD instruction.
- **VMWRITE.** The VMWRITE instruction causes a VM exit if any of the following are true:
  - The "VMCS shadowing" VM-execution control is 0.
  - Bits 63:15 (bits 31:15 outside 64-bit mode) of the register source operand are not all 0.
  - Bit *n* in VMWRITE bitmap is 1, where *n* is the value of bits 14:0 of the register source operand. See Section 26.6.15 for details regarding how the VMWRITE bitmap is identified.

  If the VMWRITE instruction does not cause a VM exit, it writes to the VMCS referenced by the VMCS link pointer. See Chapter 32, "VMWRITE—Write Field to Virtual-Machine Control Structure" for details of the operation of the VMWRITE instruction.
- **WBINVD.** The WBINVD instruction causes a VM exit if the "WBINVD exiting" VM-execution control is 1.
- **WBNOINVD.** The WBNOINVD instruction causes a VM exit if the "WBINVD exiting" VM-execution control is 1.
- **WRMSR, WRMSRNS.** Execution of one of these instructions causes a VM exit if any of the following are true:
  - The "use MSR bitmaps" VM-execution control is 0.
  - The value of ECX is not in the ranges 00000000H – 00001FFFH and C0000000H – C0001FFFH.
  - The value of ECX is in the range 00000000H – 00001FFFH and bit *n* in write bitmap for low MSRs is 1, where *n* is the value of ECX.
  - The value of ECX is in the range C0000000H – C0001FFFH and bit *n* in write bitmap for high MSRs is 1, where *n* is the value of ECX & 00001FFFH.

  See Section 26.6.9 for details regarding how these bitmaps are identified.
- **WRMSRLIST.** The WRMSRLIST instruction causes a VM exit if the "enable MSR-list instructions" VM-execution control is 1 and the "use MSR bitmaps" VM-execution control is 0. In this case, the register operands of the instructions are not used, memory is not read, and no MSRs are modified.

  If both controls are 1, the instruction writes one MSR at a time normally, using a value read from memory and clearing the corresponding bit in RCX. An attempt to write MSR X causes a VM exit if any of the following are true:
  - X is not in the ranges 00000000H – 00001FFFH and C0000000H – C0001FFFH.
  - X is in the range 00000000H – 00001FFFH and bit X in write bitmap for low MSRs is 1.
  - X is in the range C0000000H – C0001FFFH and bit *n* in write bitmap for high MSRs is 1, where *n* is the value of X & 00001FFFH.

  Such a VM exit occurs after the data that would be written to the MSR is read from memory, but the corresponding bit in RCX is not cleared and the MSR is not written. The data that would have been written to the MSR is saved into the MSR-data field of the VMCS (see Section 29.2.5).

1. Execution of the RSM instruction outside SMM causes an invalid-opcode exception regardless of whether the processor is in VMX operation. It also does so in VMX root operation in SMM; see Section 33.15.3.

- **XRSTORS.** The XRSTORS instruction causes a VM exit if the "enable XSAVES/XRSTORS" VM-execution control is 1and any bit is set in the logical-AND of the following three values: EDX:EAX, the IA32_XSS MSR, and the XSS-exiting bitmap (see Section 26.6.20).
- **XSAVES.** The XSAVES instruction causes a VM exit if the "enable XSAVES/XRSTORS" VM-execution control is 1 and any bit is set in the logical-AND of the following three values: EDX:EAX, the IA32_XSS MSR, and the XSS-exiting bitmap (see Section 26.6.20).

27.2 OTHER CAUSES OF VM EXITS

In addition to VM exits caused by instruction execution, the following events can cause VM exits:[1]

- **Exceptions.** Exceptions (faults, traps, and aborts) cause VM exits based on the exception bitmap (see Section 26.6.3). If an exception occurs, its vector (in the range 0–31) is used to select a bit in the exception bitmap. If the bit is 1, a VM exit occurs; if the bit is 0, the exception is delivered normally through the guest IDT. This use of the exception bitmap applies also to exceptions generated by the instructions INT1, INT3, INTO, BOUND, UD0, UD1, and UD2, and UDB.[2]

  Page faults (exceptions with vector 14) are specially treated. When a page fault occurs, a processor consults (1) bit 14 of the exception bitmap; (2) the error code produced with the page fault [PFEC]; (3) the page-fault error-code mask field [PFEC_MASK]; and (4) the page-fault error-code match field [PFEC_MATCH]. It checks if PFEC & PFEC_MASK = PFEC_MATCH. If there is equality, the specification of bit 14 in the exception bitmap is followed (for example, a VM exit occurs if that bit is set). If there is inequality, the meaning of that bit is reversed (for example, a VM exit occurs if that bit is clear).

  Thus, if software desires VM exits on all page faults, it can set bit 14 in the exception bitmap to 1 and set the page-fault error-code mask and match fields each to 00000000H. If software desires VM exits on no page faults, it can set bit 14 in the exception bitmap to 1, the page-fault error-code mask field to 00000000H, and the page-fault error-code match field to FFFFFFFFH.
- **Triple fault.** A VM exit occurs if the logical processor encounters an exception while attempting to call the double-fault handler and that exception itself does not cause a VM exit due to the exception bitmap. This applies to the case in which the double-fault exception was generated within VMX non-root operation, the case in which the double-fault exception was generated during event injection by VM entry, and to the case in which VM entry is injecting a double-fault exception.
- **External interrupts.** An external interrupt causes a VM exit if the "external-interrupt exiting" VM-execution control is 1 (see Section 31.6 for an exception.) Otherwise, the processor handles the interrupt is normally.[3] (If a logical processor is in the shutdown state or the wait-for-SIPI state, external interrupts are blocked. The processor does handle the interrupt and no VM exit occurs.)
- **Non-maskable interrupts (NMIs).** An NMI causes a VM exit if the "NMI exiting" VM-execution control is 1. Otherwise, it is delivered using descriptor 2 of the IDT. (If a logical processor is in the wait-for-SIPI state, NMIs are blocked. The NMI is not delivered through the IDT and no VM exit occurs.)
- **INIT signals.** INIT signals cause VM exits. A logical processor performs none of the operations normally associated with these events. Such exits do not modify register state or clear pending events as they would outside of VMX operation. (If a logical processor is in the wait-for-SIPI state, INIT signals are blocked. They do not cause VM exits in this case.)
- **Start-up IPIs (SIPIs). SIPIs cause VM exits.** If a logical processor is not in the wait-for-SIPI activity state when a SIPI arrives, no VM exit occurs and the SIPI is discarded. VM exits due to SIPIs do not perform any of the normal operations associated with those events: they do not modify register state as they would outside of

1. Items in this section may refer to secondary processor-based VM-execution controls and tertiary processor-based VM-execution controls. If bit 31 of the primary processor-based VM-execution controls is 0, VMX non-root operation functions as if the secondary processor-based VM-execution controls were all 0; similarly, if bit 17 of the primary processor-based VM-execution controls is 0, VMX non-root operation functions as if the tertiary processor-based VM-execution controls were all 0. See Section 26.6.2.
2. INT1 and INT3 refer to the instructions with opcodes F1 and CC, respectively, and not to INT *n* with value 1 or 3 for n.
3. Normal handling usually means delivery through the IDT, but it could also mean treatment of the interrupt as a user-interrupt notification.

VMX operation. (If a logical processor is not in the wait-for-SIPI state, SIPIs are blocked. They do not cause VM exits in this case.)

- **Task switches.** Task switches are not allowed in VMX non-root operation. Any attempt to effect a task switch in VMX non-root operation causes a VM exit. See Section 27.4.2.
- **System-management interrupts (SMIs).** If the logical processor is using the dual-monitor treatment of SMIs and system-management mode (SMM), SMIs cause SMM VM exits. See Section 33.15.2.[1]
- **VMX-preemption timer.** A VM exit occurs when the timer counts down to zero. See Section 27.5.1 for details of operation of the VMX-preemption timer.

  Debug-trap exceptions and higher priority events take priority over VM exits caused by the VMX-preemption timer. VM exits caused by the VMX-preemption timer take priority over VM exits caused by the "NMI-window exiting" VM-execution control and lower priority events.

  These VM exits wake a logical processor from the same inactive states as would a non-maskable interrupt. Specifically, they wake a logical processor from the shutdown state and from the states entered using the HLT and MWAIT instructions. These VM exits do not occur if the logical processor is in the wait-for-SIPI state.
- **Bus locks.** Assertion of a bus lock (see Section 10.1.2) causes a VM exit if the "VMM bus-lock detection" VM-execution control is 1. Such a VM exit is trap-like because it is generated after execution of an instruction that asserts a bus lock. The VM exit thus does not prevent assertion of the bus lock. These VM exits take priority over system-management interrupts (SMIs), INIT signals, and lower priority events.
- **Instruction timeout.** If the "instruction timeout" VM-execution control is 1, a VM exit occurs if certain operations prevent the processor from reaching an instruction boundary within the amount of time specified by the instruction-timeout control VM-execution control field (see Section 26.6.24).

In addition, there are controls that cause VM exits based on the readiness of guest software to receive interrupts:

- If the "interrupt-window exiting" VM-execution control is 1, a VM exit occurs before execution of any instruction if RFLAGS.IF = 1 and there is no blocking of events by STI or by MOV SS (see Table 26-3).

  Non-maskable interrupts (NMIs) and higher priority events take priority over VM exits caused by this control. VM exits caused by this control take priority over external interrupts and lower priority events.

  These VM exits wake a logical processor from the same inactive states as would an external interrupt. Specifically, they wake a logical processor from the states entered using the HLT and MWAIT instructions. These VM exits do not occur if the logical processor is in the shutdown state or the wait-for-SIPI state.
- If the "NMI-window exiting" VM-execution control is 1, a VM exit occurs before execution of any instruction if there is no virtual-NMI blocking and there is no blocking of events by MOV SS and no blocking of events by STI (see Table 26-3).

  VM exits caused by the VMX-preemption timer and higher priority events take priority over VM exits caused by this control. VM exits caused by this control take priority over non-maskable interrupts (NMIs) and lower priority events.

  These VM exits wake a logical processor from the same inactive states as would an NMI. Specifically, they wake a logical processor from the shutdown state and from the states entered using the HLT and MWAIT instructions. These VM exits do not occur if the logical processor is in the wait-for-SIPI state.

Conditions necessary for some of the VM exits identified in this section may hold immediately after VM entry. If they do, a corresponding VM exit occurs at that time.

27.3 CHANGES TO INSTRUCTION BEHAVIOR IN VMX NON-ROOT OPERATION

The behavior of some instructions is changed in VMX non-root operation. Some of these changes are determined by the settings of certain VM-execution control fields. The following items detail such changes:[2]

- **CLTS.** Behavior of the CLTS instruction is determined by the bits in position 3 (corresponding to CR0.TS) in the CR0 guest/host mask and the CR0 read shadow:

1. Under the dual-monitor treatment of SMIs and SMM, SMIs also cause SMM VM exits if they occur in VMX root operation outside SMM. If the processor is using the default treatment of SMIs and SMM, SMIs are delivered as described in Section 33.14.1.

— If bit 3 in the CR0 guest/host mask is 0, CLTS clears CR0.TS normally (the value of bit 3 in the CR0 read shadow is irrelevant in this case), unless CR0.TS is fixed to 1 in VMX operation (see Section 25.8), in which case CLTS causes a general-protection exception.

— If bit 3 in the CR0 guest/host mask is 1 and bit 3 in the CR0 read shadow is 0, CLTS completes but does not change the contents of CR0.TS.

— If the bits in position 3 in the CR0 guest/host mask and the CR0 read shadow are both 1, CLTS causes a VM exit.

- **ENQCMD, ENQCMDS.** Each of these instructions performs a 64-byte enqueue store that includes a PASID value in bits 19:0. For ENQCMD, the PASID is normally the value of IA32_PASID[19:0], while for ENQCMDS, the PASID is normally read from memory.

  The behavior of each of these instructions (and in particular the PASID value used for the enqueue store) is determined by the setting of the "PASID translation" VM-execution control:

  — If the "PASID translation" VM-execution control is 0, the instruction operates normally.

  — If the "PASID translation" VM-execution control is 1, the PASID value used for the enqueue store is determined by the PASID-translation process described in Section 27.5.8. (Note the PASID translation may result in a VM exit, in which case the enqueue store is not performed.)

  An execution of ENQCMD or ENQCMDS performs PASID translation only after checking for conditions that may result in general-protection exception (the check of IA32_PASID.Valid for ENQCMD; the privilege-level check for ENQCMDS), after loading the instruction's source operand from memory, and thus after any faults or VM exits that the loading may cause (e.g., page faults or EPT violations). PASID translation occurs before the actual enqueue store and thus before any faults or VM exits that it may cause.

- **INVPCID.** Behavior of the INVPCID instruction is determined first by the setting of the "enable INVPCID" VM-execution control:

  — If the "enable INVPCID" VM-execution control is 0, INVPCID causes an invalid-opcode exception (#UD). This exception takes priority over any other exception the instruction may incur.

  — If the "enable INVPCID" VM-execution control is 1, treatment is based on the setting of the "INVLPG exiting" VM-execution control:

    - If the "INVLPG exiting" VM-execution control is 0, INVPCID operates normally.
    - If the "INVLPG exiting" VM-execution control is 1, INVPCID causes a VM exit.

- **IRET.** Behavior of IRET with regard to NMI blocking (see Table 26-3) is determined by the settings of the "NMI exiting" and "virtual NMIs" VM-execution controls:

  — If the "NMI exiting" VM-execution control is 0, IRET operates normally and unblocks NMIs. (If the "NMI exiting" VM-execution control is 0, the "virtual NMIs" control must be 0; see Section 28.2.1.1.)

  — If the "NMI exiting" VM-execution control is 1, IRET does not affect blocking of NMIs. If, in addition, the "virtual NMIs" VM-execution control is 1, the logical processor tracks virtual-NMI blocking. In this case, IRET removes any virtual-NMI blocking.

  The unblocking of NMIs or virtual NMIs specified above occurs even if IRET causes a fault.

- **LMSW.** Outside of VMX non-root operation, LMSW loads its source operand into CR0[3:0], but it does not clear CR0.PE if that bit is set. In VMX non-root operation, an execution of LMSW that does not cause a VM exit (see Section 27.1.3) leaves unmodified any bit in CR0[3:0] corresponding to a bit set in the CR0 guest/host mask. An attempt to set any other bit in CR0[3:0] to a value not supported in VMX operation (see Section 25.8) causes a general-protection exception. Attempts to clear CR0.PE are ignored without fault.

- **MOV from CR0.** The behavior of MOV from CR0 is determined by the CR0 guest/host mask and the CR0 read shadow. For each position corresponding to a bit clear in the CR0 guest/host mask, the destination operand is loaded with the value of the corresponding bit in CR0. For each position corresponding to a bit set in the CR0 guest/host mask, the destination operand is loaded with the value of the corresponding bit in the CR0 read

2. Items in this section may refer to secondary processor-based VM-execution controls and tertiary processor-based VM-execution controls. If bit 31 of the primary processor-based VM-execution controls is 0, VMX non-root operation functions as if the secondary processor-based VM-execution controls were all 0; similarly, if bit 17 of the primary processor-based VM-execution controls is 0, VMX non-root operation functions as if the tertiary processor-based VM-execution controls were all 0. See Section 26.6.2.

shadow. Thus, if every bit is cleared in the CR0 guest/host mask, MOV from CR0 reads normally from CR0; if every bit is set in the CR0 guest/host mask, MOV from CR0 returns the value of the CR0 read shadow.

Depending on the contents of the CR0 guest/host mask and the CR0 read shadow, bits may be set in the destination that would never be set when reading directly from CR0.

- **MOV from CR3.** If the "enable EPT" VM-execution control is 1 and an execution of MOV from CR3 does not cause a VM exit (see Section 27.1.3), the value loaded from CR3 is a guest-physical address; see Section 30.3.1.
- **MOV from CR4.** The behavior of MOV from CR4 is determined by the CR4 guest/host mask and the CR4 read shadow. For each position corresponding to a bit clear in the CR4 guest/host mask, the destination operand is loaded with the value of the corresponding bit in CR4. For each position corresponding to a bit set in the CR4 guest/host mask, the destination operand is loaded with the value of the corresponding bit in the CR4 read shadow. Thus, if every bit is cleared in the CR4 guest/host mask, MOV from CR4 reads normally from CR4; if every bit is set in the CR4 guest/host mask, MOV from CR4 returns the value of the CR4 read shadow.

  Depending on the contents of the CR4 guest/host mask and the CR4 read shadow, bits may be set in the destination that would never be set when reading directly from CR4.
- **MOV from CR8.** If the MOV from CR8 instruction does not cause a VM exit (see Section 27.1.3), its behavior is modified if the "use TPR shadow" VM-execution control is 1; see Section 31.3.
- **MOV to CR0.** An execution of MOV to CR0 that does not cause a VM exit (see Section 27.1.3) leaves unmodified any bit in CR0 corresponding to a bit set in the CR0 guest/host mask. Treatment of attempts to modify other bits in CR0 depends on the setting of the "unrestricted guest" VM-execution control:
  - If the control is 0, MOV to CR0 causes a general-protection exception if it attempts to set any bit in CR0 to a value not supported in VMX operation (see Section 25.8).
  - If the control is 1, MOV to CR0 causes a general-protection exception if it attempts to set any bit in CR0 other than bit 0 (PE) or bit 31 (PG) to a value not supported in VMX operation. It remains the case, however, that MOV to CR0 causes a general-protection exception if it would result in CR0.PE = 0 and CR0.PG = 1 or if it would result in CR0.PG = 1, CR4.PAE = 0, and IA32_EFER.LME = 1.
- **MOV to CR3.** If the "enable EPT" VM-execution control is 1 and an execution of MOV to CR3 does not cause a VM exit (see Section 27.1.3), the value loaded into CR3 is treated as a guest-physical address; see Section 30.3.1. The following details apply:
  - An attempt to set a reserved bit in CR3[63:M] results in #GP(0), where M is the value enumerated in CPUID.80000008H:EAX[7:0]. (Unlike other cases, the value M is not reduced outside SEAM.)
  - If PAE paging is not being used, the instruction does not use the guest-physical address to access memory and it does not cause it to be translated through EPT.[1]
  - If PAE paging is being used, the instruction translates the guest-physical address through EPT and uses the result to load the four (4) page-directory-pointer-table entries (PDPTEs). The instruction does not use the guest-physical addresses the PDPTEs to access memory and it does not cause them to be translated through EPT. An attempt to set a PDPTE bit in positions 63:M results in #GP(0), where M is defined above (M is not reduced outside SEAM).
- **MOV to CR4.** An execution of MOV to CR4 that does not cause a VM exit (see Section 27.1.3) leaves unmodified any bit in CR4 corresponding to a bit set in the CR4 guest/host mask. Such an execution causes a general-protection exception if it attempts to set any bit in CR4 (not corresponding to a bit set in the CR4 guest/host mask) to a value not supported in VMX operation (see Section 25.8).
- **MOV to CR8.** If the MOV **to** CR8 instruction does not cause a VM exit (see Section 27.1.3), its behavior is modified if the "use TPR shadow" VM-execution control is 1; see Section 31.3.
- **MWAIT.** Behavior of the MWAIT instruction (which always causes an invalid-opcode exception—#UD—if CPL > 0) is determined by the setting of the "MWAIT exiting" VM-execution control:
  - If the "MWAIT exiting" VM-execution control is 1, MWAIT causes a VM exit.
  - If the "MWAIT exiting" VM-execution control is 0, MWAIT operates normally if one of the following are true: (1) ECX[0] is 0; (2) RFLAGS.IF = 1; or both of the following are true: (a) the "interrupt-window exiting"

1. A logical processor uses PAE paging if CR0.PG = 1, CR4.PAE = 1 and IA32_EFER.LMA = 0. See Section 5.4 in the Intel® 64 and IA-32 Architectures Software Developer's Manual, Volume 3A.

VM-execution control is 0; and (b) the logical processor has not recognized a pending virtual interrupt (see Section 29.2.1).

— If the "MWAIT exiting" VM-execution control is 0, ECX[0] = 1, and RFLAGS.IF = 0, MWAIT does not cause the processor to enter an implementation-dependent optimized state if either the "interrupt-window exiting" VM-execution control is 1 or the logical processor has recognized a pending virtual interrupt; instead, control passes to the instruction following the MWAIT instruction.

- **PCONFIG.** Behavior of the PCONFIG instruction is determined by the setting of the "enable PCONFIG" VM-execution control:
  — If the "enable PCONFIG" VM-execution control is 0, PCONFIG causes an invalid-opcode exception (#UD). This exception takes priority over any exception the instruction may incur.
  — If the "enable PCONFIG" VM-execution control is 1, PCONFIG may cause a VM exit as specified in Section 27.1.3; if it does not cause such a VM exit, it operates normally.
- **RDMSR.** Section 27.1.3 identifies when executions of the RDMSR instruction cause VM exits. If such an execution causes neither a fault due to CPL > 0 nor a VM exit, the instruction's behavior may be modified for certain values of ECX:
  — If ECX contains 10H (indicating the IA32_TIME_STAMP_COUNTER MSR), the value returned by the instruction is determined by the setting of the "use TSC offsetting" VM-execution control:
    - If the control is 0, RDMSR operates normally, loading EAX:EDX with the value of the IA32_TIME_-STAMP_COUNTER MSR.
    - If the control is 1, the value returned is determined by the setting of the "use TSC scaling" VM-execution control:
      — If the control is 0, RDMSR loads EAX:EDX with the sum of the value of the IA32_TIME_-STAMP_COUNTER MSR and the value of the TSC offset.
      — If the control is 1, RDMSR first computes the product of the value of the IA32_TIME_-STAMP_COUNTER MSR and the value of the TSC multiplier. It then shifts the value of the product right 48 bits and loads EAX:EDX with the sum of that shifted value and the value of the TSC offset.

    The 1-setting of the "use TSC-offsetting" VM-execution control does not affect executions of RDMSR if ECX contains 6E0H (indicating the IA32_TSC_DEADLINE MSR). Such executions return the APIC-timer deadline relative to the actual timestamp counter without regard to the TSC offset.
  — If ECX contains 48H (indicating the IA32_SPEC_CTRL MSR), the value returned by the instruction is determined by the setting of the "virtualize IA32_SPEC_CTRL" VM-execution control:
    - If the control is 0, RDMSR operates normally, loading EAX:EDX with the value of the IA32_SPEC_CTRL MSR.
    - If the control is 1, the value returned is that of the IA32_SPEC_CTRL shadow field in the VMCS.
  — If ECX is in the range 800H–8FFH (indicating an APIC MSR), instruction behavior may be modified if the "virtualize x2APIC mode" VM-execution control is 1; see Section 31.5.
- **RDMSRLIST.** Behavior of the RDMSRLIST instruction is determined first by the setting of the "enable MSR-list instructions" VM-execution control:
  — If the "enable MSR-list instructions" VM-execution control is 0, RDMSRLIST causes an invalid-opcode exception (#UD). This exception takes priority over any other exception the instruction may incur.
  — If the "enable MSR-list instructions" VM-execution control is 1, the instruction causes a general-protection exception (#GP) normally if CPL > 0. Otherwise, its operation depends on the setting of the "use MSR bitmaps" VM-execution control:
    - If the control is 0, the instruction causes a VM exit.
    - If the control is 1, the instruction commences normally, reading one MSR at a time. Reads of certain MSRs are treated specially as described above for RDMSR. In addition, attempts to access specific MSRs may cause VM exits; see Section 27.1.3 for details.
- **RDPID.** Behavior of the RDPID instruction is determined first by the setting of the "enable RDTSCP" VM-execution control:

— If the "enable RDTSCP" VM-execution control is 0, RDPID causes an invalid-opcode exception (#UD).

— If the "enable RDTSCP" VM-execution control is 1, RDPID operates normally.

- **RDTSC.** Behavior of the RDTSC instruction is determined by the settings of the "RDTSC exiting" and "use TSC offsetting" VM-execution controls:

  — If both controls are 0, RDTSC operates normally.

  — If the "RDTSC exiting" VM-execution control is 0 and the "use TSC offsetting" VM-execution control is 1, the value returned is determined by the setting of the "use TSC scaling" VM-execution control:

    - If the control is 0, RDTSC loads EAX:EDX with the sum of the value of the IA32_TIME_-STAMP_COUNTER MSR and the value of the TSC offset.
    - If the control is 1, RDTSC first computes the product of the value of the IA32_TIME_STAMP_COUNTER MSR and the value of the TSC multiplier. It then shifts the value of the product right 48 bits and loads EAX:EDX with the sum of that shifted value and the value of the TSC offset.

  — If the "RDTSC exiting" VM-execution control is 1, RDTSC causes a VM exit.

- **RDTSCP.** Behavior of the RDTSCP instruction is determined first by the setting of the "enable RDTSCP" VM-execution control:

  — If the "enable RDTSCP" VM-execution control is 0, RDTSCP causes an invalid-opcode exception (#UD). This exception takes priority over any other exception the instruction may incur.

  — If the "enable RDTSCP" VM-execution control is 1, treatment is based on the settings of the "RDTSC exiting" and "use TSC offsetting" VM-execution controls:

    - If both controls are 0, RDTSCP operates normally.
    - If the "RDTSC exiting" VM-execution control is 0 and the "use TSC offsetting" VM-execution control is 1, the value returned is determined by the setting of the "use TSC scaling" VM-execution control:

      — If the control is 0, RDTSCP loads EAX:EDX with the sum of the value of the IA32_TIME_-STAMP_COUNTER MSR and the value of the TSC offset.

      — If the control is 1, RDTSCP first computes the product of the value of the IA32_TIME_-STAMP_COUNTER MSR and the value of the TSC multiplier. It then shifts the value of the product right 48 bits and loads EAX:EDX with the sum of that shifted value and the value of the TSC offset.

      In either case, RDTSCP also loads ECX with the value of bits 31:0 of the IA32_TSC_AUX MSR.

    - If the "RDTSC exiting" VM-execution control is 1, RDTSCP causes a VM exit.

- **SMSW.** The behavior of SMSW is determined by the CR0 guest/host mask and the CR0 read shadow. For each position corresponding to a bit clear in the CR0 guest/host mask, the destination operand is loaded with the value of the corresponding bit in CR0. For each position corresponding to a bit set in the CR0 guest/host mask, the destination operand is loaded with the value of the corresponding bit in the CR0 read shadow. Thus, if every bit is cleared in the CR0 guest/host mask, SMSW reads normally from CR0; if every bit is set in the CR0 guest/host mask, SMSW returns the value of the CR0 read shadow.

  Note the following: (1) for any memory destination or for a 16-bit register destination, only the low 16 bits of the CR0 guest/host mask and the CR0 read shadow are used (bits 63:16 of a register destination are left unchanged); (2) for a 32-bit register destination, only the low 32 bits of the CR0 guest/host mask and the CR0 read shadow are used (bits 63:32 of the destination are cleared); and (3) depending on the contents of the CR0 guest/host mask and the CR0 read shadow, bits may be set in the destination that would never be set when reading directly from CR0.

- **TPAUSE.** Behavior of the TPAUSE instruction is determined first by the setting of the "enable user wait and pause" VM-execution control:

  — If the "enable user wait and pause" VM-execution control is 0, TPAUSE causes an invalid-opcode exception (#UD). This exception takes priority over any exception the instruction may incur.

  — If the "enable user wait and pause" VM-execution control is 1, treatment is based on the setting of the "RDTSC exiting" VM-execution control:

- If the "RDTSC exiting" VM-execution control is 0, the instruction delays for an amount of time called here the **physical delay**. The physical delay is first computed by determining the **virtual delay** (the time to delay relative to the guest's timestamp counter).

  If IA32_UMWAIT_CONTROL[31:2] is zero, the virtual delay is the value in EDX:EAX minus the value that RDTSC would return (see above); if IA32_UMWAIT_CONTROL[31:2] is not zero, the virtual delay is the minimum of that difference and AND(IA32_UMWAIT_CONTROL,FFFFFFFCH).

  The physical delay depends upon the settings of the "use TSC offsetting" and "use TSC scaling" VM-execution controls:

  — If either control is 0, the physical delay is the virtual delay.

  — If both controls are 1, the virtual delay is multiplied by 2^{48} (using a shift) to produce a 128-bit integer. That product is then divided by the TSC multiplier to produce a 64-bit integer. The physical delay is that quotient.

- If the "RDTSC exiting" VM-execution control is 1, TPAUSE causes a VM exit.

- **UMONITOR.** Behavior of the UMONITOR instruction is determined by the setting of the "enable user wait and pause" VM-execution control:

  — If the "enable user wait and pause" VM-execution control is 0, UMONITOR causes an invalid-opcode exception (#UD). This exception takes priority over any exception the instruction may incur.

  — If the "enable user wait and pause" VM-execution control is 1, UMONITOR operates normally.

- **UMWAIT.** Behavior of the UMWAIT instruction is determined first by the setting of the "enable user wait and pause" VM-execution control:

  — If the "enable user wait and pause" VM-execution control is 0, UMWAIT causes an invalid-opcode exception (#UD). This exception takes priority over any exception the instruction may incur.

  — If the "enable user wait and pause" VM-execution control is 1, treatment is based on the setting of the "RDTSC exiting" VM-execution control:

  - If the "RDTSC exiting" VM-execution control is 0, and if the instruction causes a delay, the amount of time delayed is called here the **physical delay**. The physical delay is first computed by determining the **virtual delay** (the time to delay relative to the guest's timestamp counter).

    If IA32_UMWAIT_CONTROL[31:2] is zero, the virtual delay is the value in EDX:EAX minus the value that RDTSC would return (see above); if IA32_UMWAIT_CONTROL[31:2] is not zero, the virtual delay is the minimum of that difference and AND(IA32_UMWAIT_CONTROL,FFFFFFFCH).

    The physical delay depends upon the settings of the "use TSC offsetting" and "use TSC scaling" VM-execution controls:

    — If either control is 0, the physical delay is the virtual delay.

    — If both controls are 1, the virtual delay is multiplied by 2^{48} (using a shift) to produce a 128-bit integer. That product is then divided by the TSC multiplier to produce a 64-bit integer. The physical delay is that quotient.

  - If the "RDTSC exiting" VM-execution control is 1, UMWAIT causes a VM exit.

- **WRMSR, WRMSRNS.** Section 27.1.3 identifies when an execution of WRMSR or WRMSRNS would cause a VM exit. If such an execution causes neither a fault due to CPL > 0 nor a VM exit, the instruction's behavior may be modified for certain values of ECX:

  — If ECX contains 48H (indicating the IA32_SPEC_CTRL MSR), instruction behavior depends on the setting of the "virtualize IA32_SPEC_CTRL" VM-execution control:

  - If the control is 0, WRMSR and WRMSRNS operate normally, loading the IA32_SPEC_CTRL MSR with the value in EAX:EDX.

  - If the control is 1, the instruction will attempt to write the IA32_SPEC_CTRL MSR using the instruction's source operand, but it will attempt to modify only those bits in positions corresponding to bits cleared in the IA32_SPEC_CTRL mask field in the VMCS.

    Specifically, the instruction attempts to write the MSR with the following value:

    (MSR_VAL & ISC_MASK) OR (SRC & NOT ISC_MASK),

where MSR_VAL is the original value of the MSR, ISC_MASK is the IA32_SPEC_CTRL mask, and SRC is the instruction's source operand.

Any fault that would result from writing that value to the MSR (e.g., due to a reserved-bit violation) occurs normally. Otherwise, the value is written to the MSR.

Such a write to the MSR will have any side effects that would occur normally had the MSR been written with the value indicated above (including any side effects that may result from writing unchanged values to the masked bits).

If the write completes without a fault, the unmodified value of the source operand is written to the IA32_SPEC_CTRL shadow field in the VMCS.

— If ECX contains 79H (indicating IA32_BIOS_UPDT_TRIG MSR), no microcode update is loaded, and control passes to the next instruction. This implies that microcode updates cannot be loaded in VMX non-root operation.

— On processors that support Intel PT but which do not allow it to be used in VMX operation, if ECX contains 570H (indicating the IA32_RTIT_CTL MSR), the instruction causes a general-protection exception.[1]

— If ECX contains 808H (indicating the TPR MSR), 80BH (the EOI MSR), 830H (the ICR MSR), or 83FH (the self-IPI MSR), instruction behavior may be modified if the "virtualize x2APIC mode" VM-execution control is 1; see Section 31.5.

- **WRMSRLIST.** Behavior of the WRMSRLIST instruction is determined first by the setting of the "enable MSR-list instructions" VM-execution control:

  — If the "enable MSR-list instructions" VM-execution control is 0, WRMSRLIST causes an invalid-opcode exception (#UD). This exception takes priority over any other exception the instruction may incur.

  — If the "enable MSR-list instructions" VM-execution control is 1, the instruction causes a general-protection exception (#GP) normally if CPL > 0. Otherwise, its operation depends on the setting of the "use MSR bitmaps" VM-execution control:

    - If the control is 0, the instruction causes a VM exit.
    - If the control is 1, the instruction commences normally, writing one MSR at a time. Writes to certain MSRs are treated specially as described above for WRMSR and WRMSRNS. In addition, attempts to access specific MSRs may cause VM exits; see Section 27.1.3 for details.

- **XRSTORS.** Behavior of the XRSTORS instruction is determined first by the setting of the "enable XSAVES/XRSTORS" VM-execution control:

  — If the "enable XSAVES/XRSTORS" VM-execution control is 0, XRSTORS causes an invalid-opcode exception (#UD).

  — If the "enable XSAVES/XRSTORS" VM-execution control is 1, treatment is based on the value of the XSS-exiting bitmap (see Section 26.6.20):

    - XRSTORS causes a VM exit if any bit is set in the logical-AND of the following three values: EDX:EAX, the IA32_XSS MSR, and the XSS-exiting bitmap.
    - Otherwise, XRSTORS operates normally.

- **XSAVES.** Behavior of the XSAVES instruction is determined first by the setting of the "enable XSAVES/XRSTORS" VM-execution control:

  — If the "enable XSAVES/XRSTORS" VM-execution control is 0, XSAVES causes an invalid-opcode exception (#UD).

  — If the "enable XSAVES/XRSTORS" VM-execution control is 1, treatment is based on the value of the XSS-exiting bitmap (see Section 26.6.20):

    - XSAVES causes a VM exit if any bit is set in the logical-AND of the following three values: EDX:EAX, the IA32_XSS MSR, and the XSS-exiting bitmap.
    - Otherwise, XSAVES operates normally.

1. Software should read the VMX capability MSR IA32_VMX_MISC to determine whether the processor allows Intel PT to be used in VMX operation (see Appendix A.6).