



OpenCore

Reference Manual (0.6.~~3~~.4)

[2020.11.13]

loaded by the firmware by default according to UEFI specification, and `Bootstrap.efi` can be registered as a custom option to let OpenCore coexist with operating systems using `BOOTx64.efi` as their own loaders (e.g. Windows), see `BootProtect` for more details.

- **boot**
Duet bootstrap loader, which initialises UEFI environment on legacy BIOS firmware and loads `OpenCore.efi` similarly to other bootstrap loaders. Modern Duet bootstrap loader will default to `OpenCore.efi` on the same partition when present.
- **ACPI**
Directory used for storing supplemental ACPI information for `ACPI` section.
- **Drivers**
Directory used for storing supplemental UEFI drivers for `UEFI` section.
- **Kexts**
Directory used for storing supplemental kernel information for `Kernel` section.
- **Resources**
Directory used for storing media resources, such as audio files for screen reader support. See `UEFI Audio Properties` section for more details. This directory also contains image files for graphical user interface. See `OpenCanopy` section for more details.
- **Tools**
Directory used for storing supplemental tools.
- **OpenCore.efi**
Main booter driver responsible for operating system loading. [The directory `OpenCore.efi` resides is called the root directory. By default root directory is set to `EFI\OC`, however, when launching `OpenCore.efi` directly or through `Bootstrap.efi`, other directories containing `OpenCore.efi` can also be supported.](#)
- **config.plist**
OC Config.
- **vault.plist**
Hashes for all files potentially loadable by OC Config.
- **vault.sig**
Signature for `vault.plist`.
- **SysReport**
Directory containing system reports generated by `SysReport` option.
- **nvram.plist**
OpenCore variable import file.
- **opencore-YYYY-MM-DD-HHMMSS.txt**
OpenCore log file.
- **panic-YYYY-MM-DD-HHMMSS.txt**
Kernel panic log file.

Note: It is not guaranteed that paths longer than `OC_STORAGE_SAFE_PATH_MAX` (128 characters including 0-terminator) will be accessible within OpenCore.

3.2 Installation and Upgrade

To install OpenCore reflect the Configuration Structure described in the previous section on a EFI volume of a GPT partition. While corresponding sections of this document do provide some information regarding external resources such as ACPI tables, UEFI drivers, or kernel extensions (kexts), completeness of the matter is out of the scope of this document. Information about kernel extensions may be found in a separate Kext List document available in OpenCore repository. Vaulting information is provided in Security Properties section of this document.

OC config, just like any property lists can be edited with any stock textual editor (e.g. nano, vim), but specialised software may provide better experience. On macOS the preferred GUI application is Xcode. For a lightweight cross-platform and open-source alternative ProperTree editor can be utilised.

For BIOS booting a third-party UEFI environment provider will have to be used. `OpenDuetPkg` is one of the known UEFI environment providers for legacy systems. To run OpenCore on such a legacy system, `OpenDuetPkg` can be installed with a dedicated tool — `BootInstall` (bundled with OpenCore). Third-party utilities can be used to perform this on systems other than macOS.

For upgrade purposes refer to `Differences.pdf` document, providing the information about the changes affecting the configuration compared to the previous release, and `Changelog.md` document, containing the list of modifications

DevirtualiseMmio. This means that the firmware will be able to directly communicate with this memory region during operating system functioning, because the region this value is in will be assigned a virtual address.

The addresses written here must be part of the memory map, have `EfiMemoryMappedIO` type and `EFI_MEMORY_RUNTIME` attribute (highest bit) set. To find the list of the candidates the debug log can be used.

2. Comment

Type: plist string

Failsafe: Empty string

Description: Arbitrary ASCII string used to provide human readable reference for the entry. It is implementation defined whether this value is used.

3. Enabled

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: This address will be devirtualised unless set to `true`.

5.4 Quirks Properties

1. [AllowRelocationBlock](#)

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Allows booting macOS through a relocation block.

Relocation block is a scratch buffer allocated in lower 4 GB to be used for loading the kernel and related structures by EfiBoot on firmwares where lower memory is otherwise occupied by the (assumed to be) non-runtime data. Right before kernel startup the relocation block is copied back to lower addresses. Similarly all the other addresses pointing to relocation block are also carefully adjusted. Relocation block can be used when:

- No better slide exists (all the memory is used)
- slide=0 is forced (by an argument or safe mode)
- KASLR (slide) is unsupported (this is macOS 10.7 or older)

This quirk requires `ProvideCustomSlide` to also be enabled and generally needs `AvoidRuntimeDefrag` to work correctly. Hibernation is not supported when booting with a relocation block (but relocation block is not always used when the quirk is enabled).

Note: While this quirk is required to run older macOS versions on platforms with used lower memory it is not compatible with some hardware and macOS 11. In this case you may try to use `EnableSafeModeSlide` instead.

2. [AvoidRuntimeDefrag](#)

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Protect from boot.efi runtime memory defragmentation.

This option fixes UEFI runtime services (date, time, NVRAM, power control, etc.) support on firmware that uses SMM backing for select services such as variable storage. SMM may try to access physical addresses, but they get moved by boot.efi.

Note: Most types of firmware, apart from Apple and VMware, need this quirk.

3. DevirtualiseMmio

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Remove runtime attribute from select MMIO regions.

This option reduces stolen memory footprint from the memory map by removing runtime bit for known memory regions. This quirk may result in the increase of KASLR slides available, but is not necessarily compatible with the target board without additional measures. In general this frees from 64 to 256 megabytes of memory (present in the debug log), and on some platforms it is the only way to boot macOS, which otherwise fails with allocation error at bootloader stage.

Note 1: It is known that some Lenovo laptops have a firmware bug, which makes them unbootable after performing NVRAM reset. See [acidanthera/bugtracker#995](#) for more details.

Note 2: Resetting NVRAM will also erase all the boot options otherwise not backed up with bless (e.g. Linux).

2. AllowSetDefault

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Allow CTRL+Enter and CTRL+Index handling to set the default boot option in boot picker.

3. ApECID

Type: plist integer, 64 bit

Failsafe: 0

Description: Apple Enclave Identifier.

Setting this value to any non-zero 64-bit integer will allow using personalised Apple Secure Boot identifiers. To use this setting, make sure to generate a random 64-bit number with a cryptographically secure random number generator. As an alternative, first 8 bytes of `SystemUUID` can be used for `ApECID`, this is found in macOS 11.0 for Macs without the T2 chip.

With this value set and `SecureBootModel` valid and not `Disabled` it is possible to achieve `Full Security` of Apple Secure Boot.

To start using personalised Apple Secure Boot, the operating system will have to be reinstalled or personalised. Unless the operating system is personalised, macOS DMG recovery cannot be loaded. If DMG recovery is missing, it can be downloaded with `macrecovery` utility and put to `com.apple.recovery.boot` as explained in Tips and Tricks section. Note that DMG loading needs to be set to `Signed` to use any DMG with Apple Secure Boot.

To personalise an existing operating system use `bless` command after loading to macOS DMG recovery. Mount the system volume partition, unless it has already been mounted, and execute the following command:

```
bless bless --folder "/Volumes/Macintosh HD/System/Library/CoreServices" \  
--bootefi --personalize
```

Before macOS 11.0, which introduced a dedicated `x86legacy` model for models without the T2 chip, personalised Apple Secure Boot may not work as expected. When reinstalling the operating system, macOS Installer from macOS 10.15 and older, will usually run out of free memory on the `/var/tmp` partition when trying to install macOS with the personalised Apple Secure Boot. Soon after downloading the macOS installer image an `Unable to verify macOS` error message will appear. To workaround this issue allocate a dedicated RAM disk of 2 MBs for macOS personalisation by entering the following commands in macOS recovery terminal before starting the installation:

```
disk=$(hdiutil attach -nomount ram://4096)  
diskutil erasevolume HFS+ SecureBoot $disk  
diskutil unmount $disk  
mkdir /var/tmp/OSPersonalizationTemp  
diskutil mount -mountpoint /var/tmp/OSPersonalizationTemp $disk
```

4. AuthRestart

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Enable `VirtualSMC`-compatible authenticated restart.

Authenticated restart is a way to reboot FileVault 2 enabled macOS without entering the password. A dedicated terminal command can be used to perform authenticated restarts: `sudo fdsetup authrestart`. It is also used when installing operating system updates.

`VirtualSMC` performs authenticated restart by saving disk encryption key split in NVRAM and RTC, which despite being removed as soon as OpenCore starts, may be considered a security risk and thus is optional.

5. [BlacklistAppleUpdate](#)

Type: [plist boolean](#)

Failsafe: `false`

Description: Ignore boot options trying to update Apple peripheral firmware (e.g. `MultiUpdater.efi`).

Note: This option exists due to some operating systems, namely macOS Big Sur, being incapable of disabling firmware updates with the NVRAM variable (`run-efi-updater`).

6. `BootProtect`

Type: `plist string`

Failsafe: `None`

Description: Attempt to provide bootloader persistence.

Valid values:

- `None` — do nothing.
- `Bootstrap` — create or update top-priority `\EFI\OC\Bootstrap\Bootstrap.efi` boot option (Boot9696) in UEFI variable storage at bootloader startup. For this option to work `RequestBootVarRouting` is required to be enabled.

This option provides integration with third-party operating system installation and upgrade at the times they overwrite `\EFI\BOOT\BOOTx64.efi` file. By creating a custom option in `Bootstrap` mode this file path becomes no longer used for bootstrapping `OpenCore`.

Note 1: Some types of firmware may have faulty NVRAM, no boot option support, or other incompatibilities. While unlikely, the use of this option may even cause boot failures. This option should be used without any warranty exclusively on the boards known to be compatible. Check [acidanthera/bugtracker#1222](#) for some known issues with Haswell and other boards.

Note 2: Be aware that while NVRAM reset executed from `OpenCore` should not erase the boot option created in `Bootstrap`, executing NVRAM reset prior to loading `OpenCore` will remove it.

7. `DmgLoading`

Type: `plist string`

Failsafe: `Signed`

Description: Define Disk Image (DMG) loading policy used for macOS Recovery.

Valid values:

- `Disabled` — loading DMG images will fail. `Disabled` policy will still let macOS Recovery to load in most cases as there usually are `boot.efi` files compatible with Apple Secure Boot. Manually downloaded DMG images stored in `com.apple.recovery.boot` directories will not load, however.
- `Signed` — only Apple-signed DMG images will load. Due to Apple Secure Boot design `Signed` policy will let any Apple-signed macOS Recovery to load regardless of Apple Secure Boot state, which may not always be desired.
- `Any` — any DMG images will mount as normal filesystems. `Any` policy is strongly not recommended and will cause a boot failure when Apple Secure Boot is activated.

8. `EnablePassword`

Type: `plist boolean`

Failsafe: `false`

Description: Enable password protection to allow sensitive operations.

Password protection ensures that sensitive operations such as booting a non-default operating system (e.g. macOS recovery or a tool), resetting NVRAM storage, trying to boot into a non-default mode (e.g. verbose mode or safe mode) are not allowed without explicit user authentication by a custom password. Currently password and salt are hashed with 5000000 iterations of SHA-512.

Note: This functionality is currently in development and is not ready for daily usage.

9. `ExposeSensitiveData`

Type: `plist integer`

Failsafe: `0x6`

Description: Sensitive data exposure bitmask (sum) to operating system.

- `0x01` — Expose printable booter path as an UEFI variable.
- `0x02` — Expose `OpenCore` version as an UEFI variable.

disabled.

- (d) If the platform requires certain settings, but they were not enabled, because the obvious issues did not trigger before, boot failure might occur. Be extra careful with `IgnoreInvalidFlexRatio` or `HashServices`.
- (e) Operating systems released before Apple Secure Boot landed (e.g. macOS 10.12 or earlier) will still boot until UEFI Secure Boot is enabled. This is so, because from Apple Secure Boot point they are treated as incompatible and are assumed to be handled by the firmware as Microsoft Windows is.
- (f) On older CPUs (e.g. before Sandy Bridge) enabling Apple Secure Boot might cause slightly slower loading by up to 1 second.
- (g) Since `Default` value will increase with time to support the latest major release operating system, it is not recommended to use `ApECID` and `Default` value together.

Sometimes the already installed operating system may have outdated Apple Secure Boot manifests on the Preboot partition causing boot failure. If there is “OCB: Apple Secure Boot prohibits this boot entry, enforcing!” message, it is likely the case. When this happens, either reinstall the operating system or copy the manifests (files with `.im4m` extension, such as `boot.efi.j137.im4m`) from `/usr/standalone/i386` to `/Volumes/Preboot/<UUID>/System/Library/CoreServices`. Here `<UUID>` is the system volume identifier. On HFS+ installations the manifests should be copied to `/System/Library/CoreServices` on the system volume.

For more details on how to configure Apple Secure Boot with UEFI Secure Boot refer to UEFI Secure Boot section.

8.6 Entry Properties

1. Arguments

Type: `plist string`

Failsafe: Empty string

Description: Arbitrary ASCII string used as boot arguments (load options) of the specified entry.

2. Auxiliary

Type: `plist boolean`

Failsafe: `false`

Description: This entry will not be listed by default when `HideAuxiliary` is set to `true`.

3. Comment

Type: `plist string`

Failsafe: Empty string

Description: Arbitrary ASCII string used to provide human readable reference for the entry. It is implementation defined whether this value is used.

4. Enabled

Type: `plist boolean`

Failsafe: `false`

Description: This entry will not be listed unless set to `true`.

5. Name

Type: `plist string`

Failsafe: Empty string

Description: Human readable entry name displayed in boot picker.

6. Path

Type: `plist string`

Failsafe: Empty string

Description: Entry location depending on entry type.

- **Entries** specify external boot options, and therefore take device paths in `Path` key. These values are not checked, thus be extremely careful. Example: `PciRoot(0x0)/Pci(0x1,0x1)/.../EFI\COOL.EFI`
- **Tools** specify internal boot options, which are part of bootloader vault, and therefore take file paths relative to `OC/Tools` directory. Example: `OpenShell.efi`.

7. RealPath

Type: `plist boolean`

Failsafe: `false`

Description: Pass full path to the tool when launching.

Passing tool directory may be unsafe for tool accidentally trying to access files without checking their integrity and thus should generally be disabled. Reason to enable this property may include cases where tools cannot work without external files or may need them for better function (e.g. `memtest86` for logging and configuration or `Shell` for automatic script execution).

Note: This property is only valid for **Tools**. For **Entries** this property cannot be specified and is always `true`.

8. **TextMode**

Type: `plist boolean`

Failsafe: `false`

Description: Run the entry in text mode instead of graphics mode.

This setting may be beneficial to some older tools that require text output. By default all the tools are launched in graphics mode. Read more about text modes in [Output Properties](#) section below.

- `4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:HW_BID`
Hardware BoardProduct (e.g. `Mac-35C1E88140C3E6CF`). Not present on real Macs, but used to avoid extra parsing of SMBIOS tables, especially in `boot.efi`.
- `4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:HW_MLB`
Hardware BoardSerialNumber. Override for MLB. Present on newer Macs (2013+ at least).
- `4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:HW_ROM`
Hardware ROM. Override for ROM. Present on newer Macs (2013+ at least).
- `7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:prev-lang:kbd`
ASCII string defining default keyboard layout. Format is `lang-COUNTRY:keyboard`, e.g. `ru-RU:252` for Russian locale and ABC keyboard. Also accepts short forms: `ru:252` or `ru:0` (U.S. keyboard, compatible with 10.9). Full decoded keyboard list from `AppleKeyboardLayouts-L.dat` can be found [here](#). Using non-latin keyboard on 10.14 will not enable ABC keyboard, unlike previous and subsequent macOS versions, and is thus not recommended in case 10.14 is needed.
- `7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:security-mode`
ASCII string defining FireWire security mode. Legacy, can be found in `IOFireWireFamily` source code in `IOFireWireController.cpp`. It is recommended not to set this variable, which may speedup system startup. Setting to `full` is equivalent to not setting the variable and `none` disables FireWire security.
- `4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:UIScale`
One-byte data defining `boot.efi` user interface scaling. Should be `01` for normal screens and `02` for HiDPI screens.
- `4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:DefaultBackgroundColor`
Four-byte BGRA data defining `boot.efi` user interface background colour. Standard colours include `BF BF BF 00` (Light Gray) and `00 00 00 00` (Syrah Black). Other colours may be set at user's preference.

9.5 Other Variables

The following variables may be useful for certain configurations or troubleshooting:

- `7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:boot-args`
Kernel arguments, used to pass configuration to Apple kernel and drivers. There are many arguments, which may be found by looking for the use of `PE_parse_boot_argn` function in the kernel or driver code. Some of the known boot arguments include:
 - `acpi_layer=0xFFFFFFFF`
 - `acpi_level=0xFFFFF5F` (implies `ACPI_ALL_COMPONENTS`)
 - `arch=i386` (force kernel architecture to `i386`, see `KernelArch`)
 - `batman=VALUE` (`AppleSmartBatteryManager` debug mask)
 - `batman-nosmc=1` (disable `AppleSmartBatteryManager` SMC interface)
 - `cpus=VALUE` (maximum number of CPUs used)
 - `debug=VALUE` (debug mask)
 - `io=VALUE` (`IOKit` debug mask)
 - `keepsyms=1` (show panic log debug symbols)
 - `kextlog=VALUE` (kernel extension loading debug mask)
 - `nvram-log=1` ([enables AppleEFINVRAM logs](#))
 - `nv_disable=1` (disables NVIDIA GPU acceleration)
 - `nvda_drv=1` (legacy way to enable NVIDIA web driver, removed in 10.12)
 - `npci=0x2000` (legacy, disables `kIOPCIConfiguratorPFM64`)
 - `lapic_dont_panic=1`
 - `slide=VALUE` (manually set KASLR slide)
 - `smcdebug=VALUE` (`AppleSMC` debug mask)
 - `-amd_no_dgpu_accel` (alternative to WhateverGreen's `-radvesa` for new GPUs)
 - `-nehalem_error_disable`
 - `-no_compat_check` (disable model checking on 10.7+)
 - `-s` (single mode)
 - `-v` (verbose mode)
 - `-x` (safe mode)

There are multiple external places summarising macOS argument lists: [example 1](#), [example 2](#).

- `7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:bootercfg`
Booter arguments, similar to `boot-args` but for `boot.efi`. Accepts a set of arguments, which are hexadecimal