



OpenCore

Reference Manual (0.5.~~5~~.6)

[2020.02.17]

Main booter driver responsible for operating system loading.

- `vault.plist`
Hashes for all files potentially loadable by OC Config.
- `config.plist`
OC Config.
- `vault.sig`
Signature for `vault.plist`.
- `nvram.plist`
OpenCore variable import file.
- `opencore-YYYY-MM-DD-HHMMSS.txt`
OpenCore log file.

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 in regards to external resources like 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. **DuetPkg** is one of the known UEFI environment providers for legacy systems. To run OpenCore on such a legacy system you can install **DuetPkg** with a dedicated tool: `BootInstall`.

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 across all published updates.

3.3 Contribution

OpenCore can be compiled as an ordinary EDK II. Since UDK development was abandoned by TianoCore, OpenCore requires the use of EDK II Stable. Currently supported EDK II release (potentially with patches enhancing the experience) is hosted in `acidanthera/udk`.

The only officially supported toolchain is `XCODE5`. Other toolchains might work, but are neither supported, nor recommended. Contribution of clean patches is welcome. Please do follow EDK II C Codestyle.

Required external package dependencies include `EfiPkg`, `MacInfoPkg`, and `OcSupportPkg`.

To compile with `XCODE5`, besides Xcode, one should also install NASM and MTOC. The latest Xcode version is recommended for use despite the toolchain name. Example command sequence may look as follows:

```
git clone https://github.com/acidanthera/udk UDK
cd UDK
git clone https://github.com/acidanthera/EfiPkg
git clone https://github.com/acidanthera/MacInfoPkg
git clone https://github.com/acidanthera/OcSupportPkg
git clone https://github.com/acidanthera/OpenCorePkg
source edksetup.sh
make -C BaseTools
build -a X64 -b RELEASE -t XCODE5 -p OpenCorePkg/OpenCorePkg.dsc
```

Listing 1: Compilation Commands

For IDE usage Xcode projects are available in the root of the repositories. Another approach could be Sublime Text with EasyClangComplete plugin. Add `.clang_complete` file with similar content to your UDK root:

```

-I/UefiPackages/MdePkg
-I/UefiPackages/MdePkg/Include
-I/UefiPackages/MdePkg/Include/X64
-I/UefiPackages/MdeModulePkg
-I/UefiPackages/MdeModulePkg/Include
-I/UefiPackages/MdeModulePkg/Include/X64
-I/UefiPackages/EfiPkg
-I/UefiPackages/EfiPkg/Include
-I/UefiPackages/EfiPkg/Include/X64
-I/UefiPackages/AppleSupportPkg/Include
-I/UefiPackages/OpenCorePkg/Include
-I/UefiPackages/OcSupportPkg/Include
-I/UefiPackages/MacInfoPkg/Include
-I/UefiPackages/UefiCpuPkg/Include
-IInclude
#include
/UefiPackages/MdePkg/Include/Uefi.h
-fshort-wchar
-Wall
-Wextra
-Wno-unused-parameter
-Wno-missing-braces
-Wno-missing-field-initializers
-Wno-tautological-compare
-Wno-sign-compare
-Wno-varargs
-Wno-unused-const-variable
-DOC_TARGET_NOOPT=1

```

Listing 2: ECC Configuration

Warning: Tool developers modifying `config.plist` or any other OpenCore files must ensure that their tool checks for `opencore-version` NVRAM variable (see Debug Properties section below) and warn the user if the version listed is unsupported or prerelease. OpenCore configuration may change across the releases and the tool shall ensure that it carefully follows this document. Failure to do so may result in this tool to be considered as malware and blocked with all possible means.

3.4 Coding conventions

Just like any other project we have conventions that we follow during the development. All third-party contributors are highly recommended to read and follow the conventions listed below before submitting their patches. In general it is also recommended to firstly discuss the issue in Acidanthera Bugtracker before sending the patch to ensure no double work and to avoid your patch being rejected.

Organisation. The codebase is structured in multiple repositories which contain separate EDK II packages. `AppleSupportPkg` and `OpenCorePkg` are primary packages, and `EfiPkg`, `OcSupportPkg`, `MacInfoPkg.dsc`) are dependent packages.

- Whenever changes are required in multiple repositories, separate pull requests should be sent to each.
- Committing the changes should happen firstly to dependent repositories, secondly to primary repositories to avoid automatic build errors.
- Each unique commit should compile with `XCODE5` and preferably with other toolchains. In the majority of the cases it can be checked by accessing the CI interface. Ensuring that static analysis finds no warnings is preferred.
- External pull requests and tagged commits must be validated. That said, commits in master may build but may not necessarily work.
- Internal branches should be named as follows: `author-name-date`, e.g. `vit9696-ballooning-20191026`.
- Commit messages should be prefixed with the primary module (e.g. library or code module) the changes were made in. For example, `OcGuardLib: Add OC_ALIGNED macro`. For non-library changes `Docs` or `Build` prefixes are used.

5 Booter

5.1 Introduction

This section allows to apply different kinds of UEFI modifications on Apple bootloader (`boot.efi`). The modifications currently provide various patches and environment alterations for different firmwares. Some of these features were originally implemented as a part of `AptioMemoryFix.efi`, which is no longer maintained. See [Tips and Tricks](#) section for migration steps.

If you are using this for the first time on a customised firmware, there is a list of checks to do first. Prior to starting please ensure that you have:

- Most up-to-date UEFI firmware (check your motherboard vendor website).
- **Fast Boot** and **Hardware Fast Boot** disabled in firmware settings if present.
- **Above 4G Decoding** or similar enabled in firmware settings if present. Note, that on some motherboards (notably ASUS WS-X299-PRO) this option causes adverse effects, and must be disabled. While no other motherboards with the same issue are known, consider this option to be first to check if you have erratic boot failures.
- **DisableIoMapper** quirk enabled, or **VT-d** disabled in firmware settings if present, or **ACPI DMAR** table dropped.
- **No ‘slide’** boot argument present in NVRAM or anywhere else. It is not necessary unless you cannot boot at all or see **No slide values are usable! Use custom slide!** message in the log.
- **CFG Lock** (MSR 0xE2 write protection) disabled in firmware settings if present. Consider patching it if you have enough skills and no option is available. See [notes-VerifyMsrE2](#) [notes](#) for more details.
- **CSM** (Compatibility Support Module) disabled in firmware settings if present. You may need to flash **GOP ROM** on NVIDIA 6xx/AMD 2xx or older. Use `GopUpdate` ([See the second post](#)) or **AMD UEFI GOP MAKER** in case you are not sure how.
- **EHCI/XHCI Hand-off** enabled in firmware settings **only** if boot stalls unless USB devices are disconnected.
- **VT-x**, **Hyper Threading**, **Execute Disable Bit** enabled in firmware settings if present.
- While it may not be required, sometimes you have to disable **Thunderbolt support**, **Intel SGX**, and **Intel Platform Trust** in firmware settings present.

When debugging sleep issues you may want to (temporarily) disable **Power Nap** and automatic power off, which appear to sometimes cause wake to black screen or boot loop issues on older platforms. The particular issues may vary, but in general you should check **ACPI** tables first. Here is an example of a bug found in some Z68 motherboards. To turn **Power Nap** and the others off run the following commands in Terminal:

```
sudo pmset autopoweroff 0
sudo pmset powernap 0
sudo pmset standby 0
```

Note: These settings may reset at hardware change and in certain other circumstances. To view their current state use `pmset -g` command in Terminal.

5.2 Properties

1. **MmioWhitelist**
Type: plist array
Description: Designed to be filled with `plist dict` values, describing addresses critical for particular firmware functioning when `DevirtualiseMmio` quirk is in use. See [MmioWhitelist Properties](#) section below.
2. **Quirks**
Type: plist dict
Description: Apply individual booter quirks described in [Quirks Properties](#) section below.

5.3 MmioWhitelist Properties

1. **Address**
Type: plist integer
Failsafe: 0
Description: Exceptional MMIO address, which memory descriptor should be left virtualised (unchanged) by

5. `DiscardHibernateMap`

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Reuse original hibernate memory map.

This option forces XNU kernel to ignore newly supplied memory map and assume that it did not change after waking from hibernation. This behaviour is required to work by Windows, which mandates to preserve runtime memory size and location after S4 wake.

Note: This may be used to workaround buggy memory maps on older hardware, and is now considered rare legacy. Examples of such hardware are Ivy Bridge laptops with Insyde firmware, like Acer V3-571G. Do not use this unless you fully understand the consequences.

6. `EnableSafeModeSlide`

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Patch bootloader to have KASLR enabled in safe mode.

This option is relevant to the users that have issues booting to safe mode (e.g. by holding `shift` or using `-x` boot argument). By default safe mode forces 0 slide as if the system was launched with `slide=0` boot argument. This quirk tries to patch `boot.efi` to lift that limitation and let some other value (from 1 to 255) be used. This quirk requires `ProvideCustomSlide` to be enabled.

Note: The necessity of this quirk is determined by safe mode availability. If booting to safe mode fails, this option can be tried to be enabled.

7. `EnableWriteUnprotector`

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Permit write access to UEFI runtime services code.

This option bypasses `RX` permissions in code pages of UEFI runtime services by removing write protection (`WP`) bit from `CR0` register during their execution. This quirk requires `OC_FIRMWARE_RUNTIME` protocol implemented in `FwRuntimeServices.efi`.

Note: The necessity of this quirk is determined by early boot crashes of the firmware.

8. `ForceExitBootServices`

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Retry `ExitBootServices` with new memory map on failure.

Try to ensure that `ExitBootServices` call succeeds even with outdated `MemoryMap` key argument by obtaining current memory map and retrying `ExitBootServices` call.

Note: The necessity of this quirk is determined by early boot crashes of the firmware. Do not use this unless you fully understand the consequences.

9. `ProtectCsmRegion`

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Protect CSM region areas from relocation.

Ensure that CSM memory regions are marked as ACPI NVS to prevent `boot.efi` or XNU from relocating or using them.

Note: The necessity of this quirk is determined by artifacts and sleep wake issues. As `AvoidRuntimeDefrag` resolves a similar problem, no known firmwares should need this quirk. Do not use this unless you fully understand the consequences.

10. [ProtectSecureBoot](#)

[Type:](#) [plist boolean](#)

[Failsafe:](#) [false](#)

[Description:](#) [Protect UEFI Secure Boot variables from being written.](#)

Reports security violation during attempts to write to db, dbx, PK, and KEK variables from the operating system.

Note: This quirk mainly attempts to avoid issues with NVRAM implementations with problematic defragmentation, such as select Insyde or MacPro5,1.

11. **ProvideCustomSlide**

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Provide custom KASLR slide on low memory.

This option performs memory map analysis of your firmware and checks whether all slides (from 1 to 255) can be used. As `boot.efi` generates this value randomly with `rdrand` or pseudo randomly `rdtsc`, there is a chance of boot failure when it chooses a conflicting slide. In case potential conflicts exist, this option forces macOS to use a pseudo random value among the available ones. This also ensures that `slide=` argument is never passed to the operating system for security reasons.

Note: The necessity of this quirk is determined by `OCABC: Only N/256 slide values are usable!` message in the debug log. If the message is present, this option is to be enabled.

12. **SetupVirtualMap**

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Setup virtual memory at `SetVirtualAddresses`.

Select firmwares access memory by virtual addresses after `SetVirtualAddresses` call, which results in early boot crashes. This quirk workarounds the problem by performing early boot identity mapping of assigned virtual addresses to physical memory.

Note: The necessity of this quirk is determined by early boot failures. Currently new firmwares with memory protection support (like OVMF) do not support this quirk due to [acidanthera/bugtracker#719](#).

13. **ShrinkMemoryMap**

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Attempt to join similar memory map entries.

Select firmwares have very large memory maps, which do not fit Apple kernel, permitting up to 64 slots for runtime memory. This quirk attempts to unify contiguous slots of similar types to prevent boot failures.

Note: The necessity of this quirk is determined by early boot failures. It is rare to need this quirk on Haswell or newer. Do not use unless you fully understand the consequences.

14. **SignalAppleOS**

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Report macOS being loaded through OS Info for any OS.

This quirk is useful on Mac firmwares, which behave differently in different OS. For example, it is supposed to enable Intel GPU in Windows and Linux in some dual-GPU MacBook models.

8 Misc

8.1 Introduction

This section contains miscellaneous configuration entries for OpenCore behaviour that does not go to any other sections

8.2 Properties

1. Boot

Type: plist dict

Description: Apply boot configuration described in Boot Properties section below.

2. BlessOverride

Type: plist array

Description: Add custom scanning paths through bless model.

Designed to be filled with `plist string` entries containing absolute UEFI paths to customised bootloaders, for example, `\EFI\Microsoft\Boot\bootmgfw.efi` for Microsoft bootloader. This allows unusual boot paths to be automatically discovered by the boot picker. Designwise they are equivalent to predefined blessed path, such as `\System\Library\CoreServices\boot.efi`, but unlike predefined bless paths they have highest priority.

3. Debug

Type: plist dict

Description: Apply debug configuration described in Debug Properties section below.

4. Entries

Type: plist array

Description: Add boot entries to boot picker.

Designed to be filled with `plist dict` values, describing each load entry. See Entry Properties section below.

5. Security

Type: plist dict

Description: Apply security configuration described in Security Properties section below.

6. Tools

Type: plist array

Description: Add tool entries to boot picker.

Designed to be filled with `plist dict` values, describing each load entry. See Entry Properties section below.

Note: Select tools, for example, UEFI Shell are very dangerous and **MUST NOT** appear in production configurations, especially in vaulted ones and protected with secure boot, as they may be used to easily bypass secure boot chain.

8.3 Boot Properties

1. ~~**BuiltinTextRendererType:** plist boolean**Failsafe:** false**Description:** Enables experimental builtin text renderer.~~

~~This option makes all text going through standard console output render through builtin text renderer bypassing firmware services. While still experimental and feature incomplete, this option effecitly avoids the need for various quirks like `ReplaceTabWithSpace` or `SanitiseClearScreen`. It should also increase the dimensions of the output area.~~

~~Since builtin text renderer works in graphics mode, extra care may need to be paid to `ConsoleBehaviourOs`, `ConsoleBehaviourUi`, `ConsoleControl`, and `IgnoreTextInGraphics` options. While individual for the target system, it is recommended to use `ForceGraphics` and builtin `ConsoleControl` to avoid compatibility issues.~~

~~*Note:* Some Maes, namely `MacPro5,1`, may have broken console output with newer GPUs, and thus enabling this option can be required for them.~~

2. ~~**ConsoleModeType:** plist string**Failsafe:** Empty string**Description:** Sets console output mode as specified with the WxH (e.g. 80x24) formatted string. Set to empty string not to change console mode. Set to Max to try to use largest available console mode.~~

~~*Note:* This field is best to be left empty on most firmwares.~~

3. ~~**ConsoleBehaviourOsType:** plist string**Failsafe:** Empty string**Description:** Set console control behaviour upon operating system load.~~

~~Console control is a legacy protocol used for switching between text and graphics screen output. Some firmwares do not provide it, yet select operating systems require its presence, which is what ConsoleControl UEFI protocol is for.~~

~~When console control is available, OpenCore can be made console control aware, and set different modes for the operating system booter (ConsoleBehaviourOs), which normally runs in graphics mode, and its own user interface (ConsoleBehaviourUi), which normally runs in text mode. Possible behaviours, set as values of these options, include:~~

- ~~• Empty string — Do not modify console control mode.~~
- ~~• Text — Switch to text mode.~~
- ~~• Graphics — Switch to graphics mode.~~
- ~~• ForceText — Switch to text mode and preserve it (requires ConsoleControl).~~
- ~~• ForceGraphics — Switch to graphics mode and preserve it (require ConsoleControl).~~

~~Hints:~~

- ~~• Unless empty works, firstly try to set ConsoleBehaviourOs to Graphics and ConsoleBehaviourUi to Text.~~
- ~~• On APTIO IV (Haswell and earlier) it is usually enough to have ConsoleBehaviourOs set to Graphics and ConsoleBehaviourUi set to ForceText to avoid visual glitches.~~
- ~~• On APTIO V (Broadwell and newer) ConsoleBehaviourOs set to ForceGraphics and ConsoleBehaviourUi set to ForceText usually works best.~~
- ~~• On Apple firmwares ConsoleBehaviourOs set to Graphics and ConsoleBehaviourUi set to Text is supposed to work best.~~

~~*Note:* IgnoreTextInGraphics and SanitiseClearScreen may need to be enabled for select firmware implementations. Particularly APTIO firmwares.~~

4. ~~**ConsoleBehaviourUiType:** plist string**Failsafe:** Empty string**Description:** Set console control behaviour upon OpenCore user interface load. Refer to ConsoleBehaviourOs description for details.~~

5. **HibernateMode**

Type: plist string

Failsafe: None

Description: Hibernation detection mode. The following modes are supported:

- None — Avoid hibernation for your own good.
- Auto — Use RTC and NVRAM detection.
- RTC — Use RTC detection.
- NVRAM — Use NVRAM detection.

6. HideAuxiliary

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Hides auxiliary entries from picker menu by default.

An entry is considered auxiliary when at least one of the following applies:

- Entry is macOS recovery.
- Entry is explicitly marked as Auxiliary.
- Entry is system (e.g. Clean NVRAM).

To see all entries picker menu needs to be reloaded in extended mode by pressing Spacebar key. Hiding auxiliary entries may increase boot performance for multidisk systems.

7. HideSelf

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Hides own boot entry from boot picker. This may potentially hide other entries, for instance, when another UEFI OS is installed on the same volume and driver boot is used.

8. PickerAttributes

Type: plist integer

Failsafe: 0

Description: Sets specific attributes for picker.

Builtin picker supports colour arguments as a sum of foreground and background colors according to UEFI specification. The value of black background and black foreground (0) is reserved. List of colour names:

- 0x00 — EFI_BLACK
- 0x01 — EFI_BLUE
- 0x02 — EFI_GREEN
- 0x03 — EFI_CYAN
- 0x04 — EFI_RED
- 0x05 — EFI_MAGENTA
- 0x06 — EFI_BROWN
- 0x07 — EFI_LIGHTGRAY
- 0x08 — EFI_DARKGRAY
- 0x09 — EFI_LIGHTBLUE
- 0x0A — EFI_LIGHTGREEN
- 0x0B — EFI_LIGHTCYAN
- 0x0C — EFI_LIGHTRED
- 0x0D — EFI_LIGHTMAGENTA
- 0x0E — EFI_YELLOW
- 0x0F — EFI_WHITE
- 0x10 — EFI_BACKGROUND_BLACK
- 0x11 — EFI_BACKGROUND_BLUE
- 0x12 — EFI_BACKGROUND_GREEN
- 0x13 — EFI_BACKGROUND_CYAN
- 0x14 — EFI_BACKGROUND_RED
- 0x15 — EFI_BACKGROUND_MAGENTA
- 0x16 — EFI_BACKGROUND_BROWN
- 0x17 — EFI_BACKGROUND_LIGHTGRAY

Note: This option may not work well with System text renderer. Setting a background different from black could help testing proper GOP functioning.

9. PollAppleHotKeys

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Enable modifier hotkey handling in boot picker.

In addition to action hotkeys, which are partially described in [UsePickerPickerMode](#) section and are normally handled by Apple BDS, there exist modifier keys, which are handled by operating system bootloader, namely boot.efi. These keys allow to change operating system behaviour by providing different boot modes.

On some firmwares it may be problematic to use modifier keys due to driver incompatibilities. To workaround this problem this option allows registering select hotkeys in a more permissive manner from within boot picker. Such extensions include the support of tapping on keys in addition to holding and pressing Shift along with other keys instead of just Shift alone, which is not detectible on many PS/2 keyboards. This list of known modifier hotkeys includes:

- CMD+C+MINUS — disable board compatibility checking.
- CMD+K — boot release kernel, similar to kcsuffix=release.

- **CMD+S** — single user mode.
- **CMD+S+MINUS** — disable KASLR slide, requires disabled SIP.
- **CMD+V** — verbose mode.
- **Shift** — safe mode.

10. ~~**ResolutionType: plist string Failsafe: Empty string Description: Sets console output screen resolution.**~~
 - ~~Set to WxH@Bpp (e.g. 1920x1080@32) or WxH (e.g. 1920x1080) formatted string to request custom resolution from GOP if available.~~
 - ~~Set to empty string not to change screen resolution.~~
 - ~~Set to Max to try to use largest available screen resolution.~~

~~On HiDPI screens APPLE_VENDOR_VARIABLE_GUID UIScale NVRAM variable may need to be set to 02 to enable HiDPI scaling in FileVault 2 UEFI password interface and boot screen logo. Refer to section for more details.~~

~~Note: This will fail when console handle has no GOP protocol. When the firmware does not provide it, it can be added with ProvideConsoleGop UEFI quirk set to true.~~

11. **ShowPicker**
Type: plist boolean
Failsafe: false
Description: Show simple boot picker to allow boot entry selection.

12. **TakeoffDelay**
Type: plist integer, 32 bit
Failsafe: 0
Description: Delay in microseconds performed before handling picker startup and **action hotkeys**.

Introducing a delay may give extra time to hold the right **action hotkey** sequence to e.g. boot to recovery mode. On some platforms setting this option to at least 5000–10000 microseconds may be necessary to access **action hotkeys** at all due to the nature of the keyboard driver.

13. **Timeout**
Type: plist integer, 32 bit
Failsafe: 0
Description: Timeout in seconds in boot picker before automatic booting of the default boot entry. Use 0 to disable timer.

14. ~~**UsePicker**~~**PickerMode**
Type: plist ~~boolean~~string
Failsafe: ~~false~~Builtin
Description: ~~Use OpenCore built-in boot picker~~Choose boot picker used for boot management.

Picker describes underlying boot management with an optional user interface responsible for handling boot options. The following values are supported:

- ~~UsePickerBuiltin set to~~ — boot management is handled by OpenCore, a simple text only user interface is used.
- ~~false entirely disables~~ External — an external boot management protocol is used if available. Otherwise Builtin mode is used.
- Apple — Apple boot management is used if available. Otherwise Builtin mode is used.

Upon success External mode will entirely disable all boot management in OpenCore except policy enforcement. In this case Apple mode it may additionally bypass policy enforcement. To implement External mode a custom user interface may utilise OcSupportPkg OcBootManagementLib ~~to implement a user friendly boot picker oneself.~~ Reference example of external graphics interface is provided in ExternalUi test driver.

OpenCore built-in boot picker contains a set of actions chosen during the boot process. The list of supported actions is similar to Apple BDS and in general can be accessed by holding **action hotkeys** during boot process. Currently the following actions are considered:

- **Default** — this is the default option, and it lets OpenCore built-in boot picker to loads the default boot option as specified in Startup Disk preference pane.

- **ShowPicker** — this option forces picker to show. Normally it can be achieved by holding **OPT** key during boot. Setting **ShowPicker** to **true** will make **ShowPicker** the default option.
- **ResetNvram** — this option performs select UEFI variable erase and is normally achieved by holding **CMD+OPT+P+R** key combination during boot. Another way to erase UEFI variables is to choose **Reset NVRAM** in the picker. This option requires **AllowNvramReset** to be set to **true**.
- **BootApple** — this options performs booting to the first found Apple operating system unless the default chosen operating system is already made by Apple. Hold **X** key to choose this option.
- **BootAppleRecovery** — this option performs booting to Apple operating system recovery. Either the one related to the default chosen operating system, or first found in case default chosen operating system is not made by Apple or has no recovery. Hold **CMD+R** key combination to choose this option.

Note 1: Activated **KeySupport**, **AppleUsbKbDxe**, or similar driver is required for key handling to work. On many firmwares it is not possible to get all the keys function.

Note 2: In addition to **OPT** OpenCore supports **Escape** key [to display picker when ShowPicker is disabled](#). This key exists for [Apple picker mode and for](#) firmwares with PS/2 keyboards that fail to report held **OPT** key and require continual presses of **Escape** key to enter the boot menu.

Note 3: [On Macs with problematic GOP it may be difficult to access Apple BootPicker. To workaround this problem even without loading OpenCore BootKicker utility can be blessed.](#)

8.4 Debug Properties

1. **DisableWatchDog**
Type: plist boolean
Failsafe: false
Description: Select firmwares may not succeed in quickly booting the operating system, especially in debug mode, which results in watch dog timer aborting the process. This option turns off watch dog timer.
2. **DisplayDelay**
Type: plist integer
Failsafe: 0
Description: Delay in microseconds performed after every printed line visible onscreen (i.e. console).
3. **DisplayLevel**
Type: plist integer, 64 bit
Failsafe: 0
Description: EDK II debug level bitmask (sum) showed onscreen. Unless **Target** enables console (onscreen) printing, onscreen debug output will not be visible. The following levels are supported (discover more in `DebugLib.h`):
 - 0x00000002 (bit 1) — `DEBUG_WARN` in `DEBUG`, `NOOPT`, `RELEASE`.
 - 0x00000040 (bit 6) — `DEBUG_INFO` in `DEBUG`, `NOOPT`.
 - 0x00400000 (bit 22) — `DEBUG_VERBOSE` in custom builds.
 - 0x80000000 (bit 31) — `DEBUG_ERROR` in `DEBUG`, `NOOPT`, `RELEASE`.
4. **Target**
Type: plist integer
Failsafe: 0
Description: A bitmask (sum) of enabled logging targets. By default all the logging output is hidden, so this option is required to be set when debugging is necessary.

The following logging targets are supported:

- 0x01 (bit 0) — Enable logging, otherwise all log is discarded.
- 0x02 (bit 1) — Enable basic console (onscreen) logging.
- 0x04 (bit 2) — Enable logging to Data Hub.
- 0x08 (bit 3) — Enable serial port logging.
- 0x10 (bit 4) — Enable UEFI variable logging.
- 0x20 (bit 5) — Enable non-volatile UEFI variable logging.
- 0x40 (bit 6) — Enable logging to file.

Exposed booter path points to OpenCore.efi or its booter depending on the load order. To obtain booter path use the following command in macOS:

```
nvram 4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102:boot-path
```

To use booter path for mounting booter volume use the following command in macOS:

```
u=$(nvram 4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102:boot-path | sed 's/.*GPT,\([^,]*\)\\.*/\1/'); \
if [ "$u" != "" ]; then sudo diskutil mount $u ; fi
```

To obtain OpenCore version use the following command in macOS:

```
nvram 4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102:opencore-version
```

To obtain OEM information use the following commands in macOS:

```
nvram 4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102:oem-product # SMBIOS Type1 ProductName
nvram 4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102:oem-vendor # SMBIOS Type2 Manufacturer
nvram 4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102:oem-board # SMBIOS Type2 ProductName
```

5. HaltLevel

Type: plist integer, 64 bit

Failsafe: 0x80000000 (DEBUG_ERROR)

Description: EDK II debug level bitmask (sum) causing CPU to halt (stop execution) after obtaining a message of HaltLevel. Possible values match DisplayLevel values.

6. ~~RequireSignatureVault~~

Type: plist ~~boolean~~string

Failsafe: ~~true~~Secure

Description: ~~Require~~Enables vaulting mechanism in OpenCore.

Valid values:

- Optional — require nothing, no vault is enforced, insecure.
- Basic — require vault.plist file present in OC directory. This provides basic filesystem integrity verification and may protect from unintentional filesystem corruption.
- Secure — require vault.sig signature file for vault.plist in OC directory.
~~This~~This includes Basic integrity checking but also attempts to build a trusted bootchain.

vault.plist file should contain SHA-256 hashes for all files used by OpenCore. Presence of this file is highly recommended to ensure that unintentional file modifications (including filesystem corruption) do not happen unnoticed. To create this file automatically use create_vault.sh script. Regardless of the underlying filesystem, path name and case must match between config.plist and vault.plist.

vault.sig file should contain a raw 256 byte RSA-2048 signature from SHA-256 hash of vault.plist. The signature is verified against the public key embedded into OpenCore.efi.

To embed the public key you should do either of the following:

- Provide public key during the OpenCore.efi compilation in OpenCoreVault.c file.
- Binary patch OpenCore.efi replacing zeroes with the public key between =BEGIN OC VAULT= and ==END OC VAULT== ASCII markers.

RSA public key 520 byte format description can be found in Chromium OS documentation. To convert public key from X.509 certificate or from PEM file use RsaTool.

~~Note: vault.sig is used regardless of this option when public key is embedded into OpenCore.efi. Setting it to true will only ensure configuration sanity, and abort the boot process when public key is not set but was supposed to be used for verification.~~

7. ~~RequireVaultType: plist boolean~~~~Failsafe: true~~~~Description: Require vault.plist file present in OC directory.~~

~~This file should contain SHA-256 hashes for all files used by OpenCore. Presence of this file is highly recommended to ensure that unintentional file modifications (including filesystem corruption) do not happen unnoticed. To create this file automatically use script.~~

~~Regardless of the underlying filesystem, path name and case must match between config.plist and vault.plist.~~

~~Note: vault.plist is tried to be read regardless of the value of this option, but setting it to true will ensure configuration sanity, and abort the boot process.~~

The complete set of commands to:

- Create vault.plist.
- Create a new RSA key (always do this to avoid loading old configuration).
- Embed RSA key into OpenCore.efi.
- Create vault.sig.

Can look as follows:

```
cd /Volumes/EFI/EFI/OC
/path/to/create_vault.sh .
/path/to/RsaTool -sign vault.plist vault.sig vault.pub
off=$((($(strings -a -t d OpenCore.efi | grep "=BEGIN OC VAULT=" | cut -f1 -d' ')+16))
dd of=OpenCore.efi if=vault.pub bs=1 seek=$off count=528 conv=notrunc
rm vault.pub
```

Note 1: While it may appear obvious, but you have to use an external method to verify OpenCore.efi and BOOTx64.efi for secure boot path. For this you are recommended to at least enable UEFI SecureBoot with a custom certificate, and sign OpenCore.efi and BOOTx64.efi with your custom key. More details on customising secure boot on modern firmwares can be found in Taming UEFI SecureBoot paper (in Russian).

Note 2: vault.plist and vault.sig are used regardless of this option when vault.plist is present or public key is embedded into OpenCore.efi. Setting this option will only ensure configuration sanity, and abort the boot process otherwise.

8. ScanPolicy

Type: plist integer, 32 bit

Failsafe: 0xF0103

Description: Define operating system detection policy.

This value allows to prevent scanning (and booting) from untrusted source based on a bitmask (sum) of select flags. As it is not possible to reliably detect every file system or device type, this feature cannot be fully relied upon in open environments, and the additional measures are to be applied.

Third party drivers may introduce additional security (and performance) measures following the provided scan policy. Scan policy is exposed in scan-policy variable of 4D1FDA02-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B30102 GUID for UEFI Boot Services only.

- 0x00000001 (bit 0) — OC_SCAN_FILE_SYSTEM_LOCK, restricts scanning to only known file systems defined as a part of this policy. File system drivers may not be aware of this policy, and to avoid mounting of undesired file systems it is best not to load its driver. This bit does not affect dmg mounting, which may have any file system. Known file systems are prefixed with OC_SCAN_ALLOW_FS_.
- 0x00000002 (bit 1) — OC_SCAN_DEVICE_LOCK, restricts scanning to only known device types defined as a part of this policy. This is not always possible to detect protocol tunneling, so be aware that on some systems it may be possible for e.g. USB HDDs to be recognised as SATA. Cases like this must be reported. Known device types are prefixed with OC_SCAN_ALLOW_DEVICE_.
- 0x00000100 (bit 8) — OC_SCAN_ALLOW_FS_APFS, allows scanning of APFS file system.
- 0x00000200 (bit 9) — OC_SCAN_ALLOW_FS_HFS, allows scanning of HFS file system.
- 0x00000400 (bit 10) — OC_SCAN_ALLOW_FS_ESP, allows scanning of EFI System Partition file system.
- 0x00000800 (bit 11) — OC_SCAN_ALLOW_FS_NTFS, allows scanning of NTFS (Msft Basic Data) file system.
- 0x00001000 (bit 12) — OC_SCAN_ALLOW_FS_EXT, allows scanning of EXT (Linux Root) file system.
- 0x00010000 (bit 16) — OC_SCAN_ALLOW_DEVICE_SATA, allow scanning SATA devices.
- 0x00020000 (bit 17) — OC_SCAN_ALLOW_DEVICE_SASEX, allow scanning SAS and Mac NVMe devices.

- 0x00040000 (bit 18) — OC_SCAN_ALLOW_DEVICE_SCSI, allow scanning SCSI devices.
- 0x00080000 (bit 19) — OC_SCAN_ALLOW_DEVICE_NVME, allow scanning NVMe devices.
- 0x00100000 (bit 20) — OC_SCAN_ALLOW_DEVICE_ATAPI, allow scanning CD/DVD devices.
- 0x00200000 (bit 21) — OC_SCAN_ALLOW_DEVICE_USB, allow scanning USB devices.
- 0x00400000 (bit 22) — OC_SCAN_ALLOW_DEVICE_FIREWIRE, allow scanning FireWire devices.
- 0x00800000 (bit 23) — OC_SCAN_ALLOW_DEVICE_SDCARD, allow scanning card reader devices.

Note: Given the above description, 0xF0103 value is expected to allow scanning of SATA, SAS, SCSI, and NVMe devices with APFS file system, and prevent scanning of any devices with HFS or FAT32 file systems in addition to not scanning APFS file systems on USB, CD, and FireWire drives. The combination reads as:

- OC_SCAN_FILE_SYSTEM_LOCK
- OC_SCAN_DEVICE_LOCK
- OC_SCAN_ALLOW_FS_APFS
- OC_SCAN_ALLOW_DEVICE_SATA
- OC_SCAN_ALLOW_DEVICE_SASEX
- OC_SCAN_ALLOW_DEVICE_SCSI
- OC_SCAN_ALLOW_DEVICE_NVME

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: `Shell.efi`.

- `4D1EDE05-38C7-4A6A-9CC6-4BCCA8B38C14:ExtendedFirmwareFeaturesMask`
Combined `FirmwareFeaturesMask` and `ExtendedFirmwareFeaturesMask`. Present on newer Macs to avoid extra parsing of SMBIOS tables.
- `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 you need 10.14.
- `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 RGBA 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=0xFFFF5F` (implies `ACPI_ALL_COMPONENTS`)
 - `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)
 - `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)
 - `-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:booterconfig`

Booter arguments, similar to `boot-args` but for `boot.efi`. Accepts a set of arguments, which are hexadecimal 64-bit values with or without 0x prefix primarily for logging control:

- `log=VALUE`
 - * 1 — `AppleLoggingConOutOrErrSet/AppleLoggingConOutOrErrPrint` (classical `ConOut/StdErr`)
 - * 2 — `AppleLoggingStdErrSet/AppleLoggingStdErrPrint` (`StdErr` or serial?)
 - * 4 — `AppleLoggingFileSet/AppleLoggingFilePrint` (`BOOTER.LOG/BOOTER.OLD` file on EFI partition)
- `debug=VALUE`
 - * 1 — enables print something to `BOOTER.LOG` (stripped code implies there may be a crash)
 - * 2 — enables perf logging to `/efi/debug-log` in the device three
 - * 4 — enables timestamp printing for styled `printf` calls
- `level=VALUE` — Verbosity level of `DEBUG` output. Everything but `0x80000000` is stripped from the binary, and this is the default value.
- `kc-read-size=VALUE` — Chunk size used for buffered I/O from network or disk for prelinkedkernel reading and related. Set to 1MB (`0x100000`) by default, can be tuned for faster booting.

[Note: To quickly see verbose output from boot.efi set this to log=1 \(currently this is broken in 10.15\).](#)

- `7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:bootercfg-once`
Booter arguments override removed after first launch. Otherwise equivalent to `bootercfg`.
- `7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:fmm-computer-name`
Current saved host name. ASCII string.
- `7C436110-AB2A-4BBB-A880-FE41995C9F82:nvda_drv`
NVIDIA Web Driver control variable. Takes ASCII digit 1 or 0 to enable or disable installed driver.

3. **BIOSReleaseDate**
Type: plist string
Failsafe: OEM specified
SMBIOS: BIOS Information (Type 0) — BIOS Release Date
Description: Firmware release date. Similar to **BIOSVersion**. May look like 12/08/2017.
4. **SystemManufacturer**
Type: plist string
Failsafe: OEM specified
SMBIOS: System Information (Type 1) — Manufacturer
Description: OEM manufacturer of the particular board. Shall not be specified unless strictly required. Should *not* contain **Apple Inc.**, as this confuses numerous services present in the operating system, such as firmware updates, efichk, as well as kernel extensions developed in Acidanthera, such as Lilu and its plugins. In addition it will also make some operating systems like Linux unbootable.
5. **SystemProductName**
Type: plist string
Failsafe: OEM specified
SMBIOS: System Information (Type 1), Product Name
Description: Preferred Mac model used to mark the device as supported by the operating system. This value must be specified by any configuration for later automatic generation of the related values in this and other SMBIOS tables and related configuration parameters. If **SystemProductName** is not compatible with the target operating system, **-no_compat_check** boot argument may be used as an override.

Note: If **SystemProductName** is unknown, and related fields are unspecified, default values should be assumed as being set to MacPro6,1 data. The list of known products can be found in **MacInfoPkg**.
6. **SystemVersion**
Type: plist string
Failsafe: OEM specified
SMBIOS: System Information (Type 1) — Version
Description: Product iteration version number. May look like 1.1.
7. **SystemSerialNumber**
Type: plist string
Failsafe: OEM specified
SMBIOS: System Information (Type 1) — Serial Number
Description: Product serial number in defined format. Known formats are described in **macserial**.
8. **SystemUUID**
Type: plist string, GUID
Failsafe: OEM specified
SMBIOS: System Information (Type 1) — UUID
Description: A UUID is an identifier that is designed to be unique across both time and space. It requires no central registration process.
9. **SystemSKUNumber**
Type: plist string
Failsafe: OEM specified
SMBIOS: System Information (Type 1) — SKU Number
Description: Mac Board ID (board-id). May look like **Mac-7BA5B2D9E42DDD94** or **Mac-F221BEC8** in older models. Sometimes it can be just empty.
10. **SystemFamily**
Type: plist string
Failsafe: OEM specified
SMBIOS: System Information (Type 1) — Family
Description: Family name. May look like **iMac Pro**.
11. **BoardManufacturer**
Type: plist string
Failsafe: OEM specified

11 UEFI

11.1 Introduction

UEFI (Unified Extensible Firmware Interface) is a specification that defines a software interface between an operating system and platform firmware. This section allows to load additional UEFI modules and/or apply tweaks for the onboard firmware. To inspect firmware contents, apply modifications and perform upgrades UEFITool and supplementary utilities can be used.

11.2 Properties

1. ConnectDrivers

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Perform UEFI controller connection after driver loading.

This option is useful for loading filesystem drivers, which usually follow UEFI driver model, and may not start by themselves. While effective, this option may not be necessary for drivers performing automatic connection, and may slightly slowdown the boot.

Note: Some firmwares, made by Apple in particular, only connect the boot drive to speedup the boot process. Enable this option to be able to see all the boot options when having multiple drives.

2. Drivers

Type: plist array

Failsafe: None

Description: Load selected drivers from `OC/Drivers` directory.

Designed to be filled with string filenames meant to be loaded as UEFI drivers. Depending on the firmware a different set of drivers may be required. Loading an incompatible driver may lead your system to unbootable state or even cause permanent firmware damage. Some of the known drivers include:

- **ApfsDriverLoader** — APFS file system bootstrap driver adding the support of embedded APFS drivers in bootable APFS containers in UEFI firmwares.
- **FwRuntimeServices** — `OC_FIRMWARE_RUNTIME` protocol implementation that increases the security of OpenCore and Lilu by supporting read-only and write-only NVRAM variables. Some quirks, like **RequestBootVarRouting**, require this driver for proper function. Due to the nature of being a runtime driver, i.e. functioning in parallel with the target operating system, it cannot be implemented within OpenCore itself, but is bundled with OpenCore releases.
- **HiiDatabase** — [HII services support driver from MdeModulePkg. This driver is included in most firmwares starting with Ivy Bridge generation. Some applications with the GUI like UEFI Shell may need this driver to work properly.](#)
- **EnhancedFatDxe** — FAT filesystem driver from `FatPkg`. This driver is embedded in all UEFI firmwares, and cannot be used from OpenCore. It is known that multiple firmwares have a bug in their FAT support implementation, which leads to corrupted filesystems on write attempt. Embedding this driver within the firmware may be required in case writing to EFI partition is needed during the boot process.
- **NvmExpressDxe** — NVMe support driver from `MdeModulePkg`. This driver is included in most firmwares starting with Broadwell generation. For Haswell and earlier embedding it within the firmware may be more favourable in case a NVMe SSD drive is installed.
- **AppleUsbKbDxe** — USB keyboard driver adding the support of **AppleKeyMapAggregator** protocols on top of a custom USB keyboard driver implementation. This is an alternative to builtin **KeySupport**, which may work better or worse depending on the firmware.
- **VBoxHfs** — HFS file system driver with bless support. This driver is an alternative to a closed source **HFSPlus** driver commonly found in Apple firmwares. While it is feature complete, it is approximately 3 times slower and is yet to undergo a security audit.
- **XhciDxe** — XHCI USB controller support driver from `MdeModulePkg`. This driver is included in most firmwares starting with Sandy Bridge generation. For earlier firmwares or legacy systems it may be used to support external USB 3.0 PCI cards.

To compile the drivers from UDK (EDK II) use the same command you do normally use for OpenCore compilation, but choose a corresponding package:

```
git clone https://github.com/acidanthera/audk UDK
cd UDK
source edksetup.sh
make -C BaseTools
build -a X64 -b RELEASE -t XCODE5 -p FatPkg/FatPkg.dsc
build -a X64 -b RELEASE -t XCODE5 -p MdeModulePkg/MdeModulePkg.dsc
```

3. Input

Type: plist dict

Failsafe: None

Description: Apply individual settings designed for input (keyboard and mouse) in Input Properties section below.

4. [Output](#)

[Type: plist dict](#)

[Failsafe: None](#)

[Description: Apply individual settings designed for output \(text and graphics\) in Output Properties section below.](#)

5. Protocols

Type: plist dict

Failsafe: None

Description: Force builtin versions of select protocols described in Protocols Properties section below.

Note: all protocol instances are installed prior to driver loading.

6. Quirks

Type: plist dict

Failsafe: None

Description: Apply individual firmware quirks described in Quirks Properties section below.

11.3 Input Properties

1. KeyForgetThreshold

Type: plist integer

Failsafe: 0

Description: Remove key unless it was submitted during this timeout in milliseconds.

AppleKeyMapAggregator protocol is supposed to contain a fixed length buffer of currently pressed keys. However, the majority of the drivers only report key presses as interrupts and pressing and holding the key on the keyboard results in subsequent submissions of this key with some defined time interval. As a result we use a timeout to remove once pressed keys from the buffer once the timeout expires and no new submission of this key happened.

This option allows to set this timeout based on your platform. The recommended value that works on the majority of the platforms is 5 milliseconds. For reference, holding one key on VMware will repeat it roughly every 2 milliseconds and the same value for APTIO V is 3–4 milliseconds. Thus it is possible to set a slightly lower value on faster platforms and slightly higher value on slower platforms for more responsive input.

2. KeyMergeThreshold

Type: plist integer

Failsafe: 0

Description: Assume simultaneous combination for keys submitted within this timeout in milliseconds.

Similarly to **KeyForgetThreshold**, this option works around the sequential nature of key submission. To be able to recognise simultaneously pressed keys in the situation when all keys arrive sequentially, we are required to set a timeout within which we assume the keys were pressed together.

Holding multiple keys results in reports every 2 and 1 milliseconds for VMware and APTIO V respectively. Pressing keys one after the other results in delays of at least 6 and 10 milliseconds for the same platforms. The recommended value for this option is 2 milliseconds, but it may be decreased for faster platforms and increased for slower.

3. KeySupport

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Enable internal keyboard input translation to AppleKeyMapAggregator protocol.

This option activates the internal keyboard interceptor driver, based on AppleGenericInput aka (AptioInputFix), to fill AppleKeyMapAggregator database for input functioning. In case a separate driver is used, such as AppleUsbKbDxe, this option should never be enabled.

4. KeySupportMode

Type: plist string

Failsafe: empty string

Description: Set internal keyboard input translation to AppleKeyMapAggregator protocol mode.

- Auto — Performs automatic choice as available with the following preference: AMI, V2, V1.
- V1 — Uses UEFI standard legacy input protocol EFI_SIMPLE_TEXT_INPUT_PROTOCOL.
- V2 — Uses UEFI standard modern input protocol EFI_SIMPLE_TEXT_INPUT_EX_PROTOCOL.
- AMI — Uses APTIO input protocol AMI_EFIKEYCODE_PROTOCOL.

5. KeySwap

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Swap Command and Option keys during submission.

This option may be useful for keyboard layouts with Option key situated to the right of Command key.

6. PointerSupport

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Enable internal pointer driver.

This option implements standard UEFI pointer protocol (EFI_SIMPLE_POINTER_PROTOCOL) through select OEM protocols. The option may be useful on Z87 ASUS boards, where EFI_SIMPLE_POINTER_PROTOCOL is broken.

7. PointerSupportMode

Type: plist string

Failsafe: empty string

Description: Set OEM protocol used for internal pointer driver.

Currently the only supported variant is ASUS, using specialised protocol available on select Z87 and Z97 ASUS boards. More details can be found in LongSoft/UefiTool#116.

8. TimerResolution

Type: plist integer

Failsafe: 0

Description: Set architecture timer resolution.

This option allows to update firmware architecture timer period with the specified value in 100 nanosecond units. Setting a lower value generally improves performance and responsiveness of the interface and input handling.

The recommended value is 50000 (5 milliseconds) or slightly higher. Select ASUS Z87 boards use 60000 for the interface. Apple boards use 100000. You may leave it as 0 in case there are issues.

11.4 Output Properties

1. TextRenderer

Type: plist string

Failsafe: BuiltinGraphics

Description: Chooses renderer for text going through standard console output.

Currently two renderers are supported: Builtin and System. System renderer uses firmware services for text rendering. Builtin bypassing firmware services and performs text rendering on its own. Different renderers support a different set of options. It is recommended to use Builtin renderer, as it supports HiDPI mode and uses full screen resolution.

UEFI firmwares generally support `ConsoleControl` with two rendering modes: `Graphics` and `Text`. Some firmwares do not support `ConsoleControl` and rendering modes. OpenCore and macOS expect text to only be shown in `Graphics` mode and graphics to be drawn in any mode. Since this is not required by UEFI specification, exact behaviour varies.

Valid values are combinations of text renderer and rendering mode:

- `BuiltinGraphics` — Switch to `Graphics` mode and use `Builtin` renderer with custom `ConsoleControl`.
- `SystemGraphics` — Switch to `Graphics` mode and use `System` renderer with custom `ConsoleControl`.
- `SystemText` — Switch to `Text` mode and use `System` renderer with custom `ConsoleControl`.
- `SystemGeneric` — Use `System` renderer with system `ConsoleControl` assuming it behaves correctly.

The use of `BuiltinGraphics` is generally straightforward. For most platforms it is necessary to enable `ProvideConsoleGop`, set `Resolution` to `Max`.

The use of `System` protocols is more complicated. In general the preferred setting is `SystemGraphics` or `SystemText`. Enabling `ProvideConsoleGop`, setting `Resolution` to `Max`, enabling `ReplaceTabWithSpace` is useful on almost all platforms. `SanitiseClearScreen`, `IgnoreTextInGraphics`, and `ClearScreenOnModeSwitch` are more specific, and their use depends on the firmware.

Note: Some Macs, namely `MacPro5,1`, may have broken console output with newer GPUs, and thus only `BuiltinGraphics` may work for them.

2. `ConsoleMode`

Type: plist string

Failsafe: Empty string

Description: Sets console output mode as specified with the WxH (e.g. 80x24) formatted string.

Set to empty string not to change console mode. Set to `Max` to try to use largest available console mode. Currently `Builtin` text renderer supports only one console mode, so this option is ignored.

Note: This field is best to be left empty on most firmwares.

3. `Resolution`

Type: plist string

Failsafe: Empty string

Description: Sets console output screen resolution.

- Set to WxH@Bpp (e.g. 1920x1080@32) or WxH (e.g. 1920x1080) formatted string to request custom resolution from GOP if available.
- Set to empty string not to change screen resolution.
- Set to `Max` to try to use largest available screen resolution.

On HiDPI screens `APPLE_VENDOR_VARIABLE_GUID UIScale` NVRAM variable may need to be set to `02` to enable HiDPI scaling in `Builtin` text renderer, FileVault 2 UEFI password interface, and boot screen logo. Refer to `Recommended Variables` section for more details.

Note: This will fail when console handle has no GOP protocol. When the firmware does not provide it, it can be added with `ProvideConsoleGop` set to `true`.

4. `ClearScreenOnModeSwitch`

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Some firmwares clear only part of screen when switching from graphics to text mode, leaving a fragment of previously drawn image visible. This option fills the entire graphics screen with black color before switching to text mode.

Note: This option only applies to `System` renderer.

5. `DirectGopRendering`

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Use builtin graphics output protocol renderer for console.

On some firmwares this may provide better performance or even fix rendering issues, like on [MacPro5,1](#). However, it is recommended not to use this option unless there is an obvious benefit as it may even result in slower scrolling.

6. [IgnoreTextInGraphics](#)

Type: `plist boolean`

Failsafe: `false`

Description: Select firmwares output text onscreen in both graphics and text mode. This is normally unexpected, because random text may appear over graphical images and cause UI corruption. Setting this option to `true` will discard all text output when console control is in mode different from `Text`.

Note: This option only applies to `System` renderer.

7. [ReplaceTabWithSpace](#)

Type: `plist boolean`

Failsafe: `false`

Description: Some firmwares do not print tab characters or even everything that follows them, causing difficulties or inability to use the UEFI Shell builtin text editor to edit property lists and other documents. This option makes the console output spaces instead of tabs.

Note: This option only applies to `System` renderer.

8. [ProvideConsoleGop](#)

Type: `plist boolean`

Failsafe: `false`

Description: Ensure GOP (Graphics Output Protocol) on console handle.

macOS bootloader requires GOP to be present on console handle, yet the exact location of GOP is not covered by the UEFI specification. This option will ensure GOP is installed on console handle if it is present.

Note: This option will also replace broken GOP protocol on console handle, which may be the case on [MacPro5,1](#) with newer GPUs.

9. [ReconnectOnResChange](#)

Type: `plist boolean`

Failsafe: `false`

Description: Reconnect console controllers after changing screen resolution.

On some firmwares when screen resolution is changed via GOP, it is required to reconnect the controllers, which produce the console protocols (simple text out). Otherwise they will not produce text based on the new resolution.

Note: On several boards this logic may result in black screen when launching OpenCore from Shell and thus it is optional. In versions prior to 0.5.2 this option was mandatory and not configurable. Please do not use this unless required.

10. [SanitiseClearScreen](#)

Type: `plist boolean`

Failsafe: `false`

Description: Some firmwares reset screen resolution to a failsafe value (like 1024x768) on the attempts to clear screen contents when large display (e.g. 2K or 4K) is used. This option attempts to apply a workaround.

Note: This option only applies to `System` renderer. On all known affected systems `ConsoleMode` had to be set to empty string for this to work.

11.5 Protocols Properties

1. [AppleBootPolicy](#)

Type: `plist boolean`

Failsafe: `false`

Description: Reinstalls Apple Boot Policy protocol with a builtin version. This may be used to ensure APFS compatibility on VMs or legacy Macs.

Note: Some Macs, namely MacPro5,1, do have APFS compatibility, but their Apple Boot Policy protocol contains recovery detection issues, thus using this option is advised on them as well.

2. AppleEvent
Type: plist boolean
Failsafe: false
Description: Reinstalls Apple Event protocol with a builtin version. This may be used to ensure File Vault 2 compatibility on VMs or legacy Macs.
3. AppleImageConversion
Type: plist boolean
Failsafe: false
Description: Reinstalls Apple Image Conversion protocol with a builtin version.
4. AppleKeyMap
Type: plist boolean
Failsafe: false
Description: Reinstalls Apple Key Map protocols with builtin versions.
5. AppleSmcIo
Type: plist boolean
Failsafe: false
Description: Reinstalls Apple SMC I/O protocol with a builtin version.

This protocol replaces legacy VirtualSmc UEFI driver, and is compatible with any SMC kernel extension. However, in case FakeSMC kernel extension is used, manual NVRAM key variable addition may be needed.
6. AppleUserInterfaceTheme
Type: plist boolean
Failsafe: false
Description: Reinstalls Apple User Interface Theme protocol with a builtin version.
7. ~~ConsoleControl~~
~~**Type:** plist boolean~~
~~**Failsafe:** false~~
~~**Description:** Replaces Console Control protocol with a builtin version.~~

~~macOS bootloader requires console control protocol for text output, which some firmwares miss. This option is required to be set when the protocol is already available in the firmware, and other console control options are used, such as IgnoreTextInGraphics, SanitiseClearScreen, and sometimes ConsoleBehaviourOs with ConsoleBehaviourUi).~~
8. DataHub
Type: plist boolean
Failsafe: false
Description: Reinstalls Data Hub protocol with a builtin version. This will drop all previous properties if the protocol was already installed.
9. DeviceProperties
Type: plist boolean
Failsafe: false
Description: Reinstalls Device Property protocol with a builtin version. This will drop all previous properties if it was already installed. This may be used to ensure full compatibility on VMs or legacy Macs.
10. FirmwareVolume
Type: plist boolean
Failsafe: false
Description: Forcibly wraps Firmware Volume protocols or installs new to support custom cursor images for File Vault 2. Should be set to **true** to ensure File Vault 2 compatibility on everything but VMs and legacy Macs.

Note: Several virtual machines including VMware may have corrupted cursor image in HiDPI mode and thus may also require this setting to be enabled.
11. HashServices
Type: plist boolean
Failsafe: false

Description: Forcibly reinstalls Hash Services protocols with builtin versions. Should be set to **true** to ensure File Vault 2 compatibility on platforms providing broken SHA-1 hashing. Can be diagnosed by invalid cursor size with `UIScale` set to 02, in general platforms prior to APTIO V (Haswell and older) are affected.

12. `OSInfo`

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Forcibly reinstalls OS Info protocol with builtin versions. This protocol is generally used to receive notifications from macOS bootloader, by the firmware or by other applications.

13. `UnicodeCollation`

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Forcibly reinstalls unicode collation services with builtin version. Should be set to **true** to ensure UEFI Shell compatibility on platforms providing broken unicode collation. In general legacy Insyde and APTIO platforms on Ivy Bridge and earlier are affected.

11.6 Quirks Properties

1. ~~**AvoidHighAlloc****Type:** plist boolean**Failsafe:** false**Description:** Advises allocators to avoid allocations above first 4 GBs of RAM.~~

~~This is a workaround for select board firmwares, namely GA-Z77P-D3 (rev. 1.1), failing to properly access higher memory in UEFI Boot Services. On these boards this quirk is required for booting entries that need to allocate large memory chunks, such as macOS DMG recovery entries. On unaffected boards it may cause boot failures, and thus strongly not recommended. For known issues refer to.~~

2. ~~**ClearScreenOnModeSwitch****Type:** plist boolean**Failsafe:** false**Description:** Some firmwares clear only part of screen when switching from graphics to text mode, leaving a fragment of previously drawn image visible. This option fills the entire graphics screen with black color before switching to text mode.~~

~~*Note:* `ConsoleControl` should be set to **true** for this to work.~~

3. `ExitBootServicesDelay`

Type: plist integer

Failsafe: 0

Description: Adds delay in microseconds after `EXIT_BOOT_SERVICES` event.

This is a very ugly quirk to circumvent "Still waiting for root device" message on select APTIO IV firmwares, namely ASUS Z87-Pro, when using FileVault 2 in particular. It seems that for some reason they execute code in parallel to `EXIT_BOOT_SERVICES`, which results in SATA controller being inaccessible from macOS. A better approach should be found in some future. Expect 3-5 seconds to be enough in case the quirk is needed.

4. `IgnoreInvalidFlexRatio`

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Select firmwares, namely APTIO IV, may contain invalid values in `MSR_FLEX_RATIO` (0x194) MSR register. These values may cause macOS boot failure on Intel platforms.

Note: While the option is not supposed to induce harm on unaffected firmwares, its usage is not recommended when it is not required.

5. ~~**IgnoreTextInGraphics****Type:** plist boolean**Failsafe:** false**Description:** Select firmwares output text onscreen in both graphics and text mode. This is normally unexpected, because random text may appear over graphical images and cause UI corruption. Setting this option to **true** will discard all text output when console control is in mode different from `Text`.~~

~~*Note:* While the option is not supposed to induce harm on unaffected firmwares, its usage is not recommended when it is not required. This option may hide onscreen error messages. `ConsoleControl` may need to be set to **true** for this to work.~~

6. ~~**ReplaceTabWithSpace****Type:** plist boolean**Failsafe:** false**Description:** Some firmwares do not print tab characters or even everything that follows them, causing difficulties or inability to use the UEFI Shell builtin~~

~~text editor to edit property lists and other documents. This option makes the console output spaces instead of tabs.~~

~~*Note:* ConsoleControl may need to be set to true for this to work.~~

7. ~~ProvideConsoleGopType: plist boolean Failsafe: false~~**Description:** Ensure GOP (Graphics Output Protocol) on console handle.

~~macOS bootloader requires GOP to be present on console handle, yet the exact location of GOP is not covered by the UEFI specification. This option will ensure GOP is installed on console handle if it is present.~~

~~*Note:* This option will also replace broken GOP protocol on console handle, which may be the case on MacPro5,1 with newer GPUs.~~

8. ~~ReconnectOnResChangeType: plist boolean Failsafe: false~~**Description:** Reconnect console controllers after changing screen resolution.

~~On some firmwares when screen resolution is changed via GOP, it is required to reconnect the controllers, which produce the console protocols (simple text out). Otherwise they will not produce text based on the new resolution.~~

~~*Note:* On several boards this logic may result in black screen when launching OpenCore from Shell and thus it is optional. In versions prior to 0.5.2 this option was mandatory and not configurable. Please do not use this unless required.~~

9. ReleaseUsbOwnership

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Attempt to detach USB controller ownership from the firmware driver. While most firmwares manage to properly do that, or at least have an option for, select firmwares do not. As a result, operating system may freeze upon boot. Not recommended unless required.

10. RequestBootVarFallback

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Request fallback of some Boot prefixed variables from OC_VENDOR_VARIABLE_GUID to EFI_GLOBAL_VARIABLE_GUID.

This quirk requires RequestBootVarRouting to be enabled and therefore OC_FIRMWARE_RUNTIME protocol implemented in FwRuntimeServices.efi.

By redirecting Boot prefixed variables to a separate GUID namespace we achieve multiple goals:

- Operating systems are jailed and only controlled by OpenCore boot environment to enhance security.
- Operating systems do not mess with OpenCore boot priority, and guarantee fluent updates and hibernation wakes for cases that require reboots with OpenCore in the middle.
- Potentially incompatible boot entries, such as macOS entries, are not deleted or anyhow corrupted.

However, some firmwares do their own boot option scanning upon startup by checking file presence on the available disks. Quite often this scanning includes non-standard locations, such as Windows Bootloader paths. Normally it is not an issue, but some firmwares, ASUS firmwares on APTIO V in particular, have bugs. For them scanning is implemented improperly, and firmware preferences may get accidentally corrupted due to BootOrder entry duplication (each option will be added twice) making it impossible to boot without cleaning NVRAM.

To trigger the bug one should have some valid boot options (e.g. OpenCore) and then install Windows with RequestBootVarRouting enabled. As Windows bootloader option will not be created by Windows installer, the firmware will attempt to create it itself, and then corrupt its boot option list.

This quirk forwards all UEFI specification valid boot options, that are not related to macOS, to the firmware into BootF### and BootOrder variables upon write. As the entries are added to the end of BootOrder, this does not break boot priority, but ensures that the firmware does not try to append a new option on its own after Windows installation for instance.

11. RequestBootVarRouting

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Request redirect of all Boot prefixed variables from EFI_GLOBAL_VARIABLE_GUID to OC_VENDOR_VARIABLE_GUID.

This quirk requires OC_FIRMWARE_RUNTIME protocol implemented in FwRuntimeServices.efi. The quirk lets default boot entry preservation at times when firmwares delete incompatible boot entries. Simply said, you are required to enable this quirk to be able to reliably use Startup Disk preference pane in a firmware that is not compatible with macOS boot entries by design.

12. ~~SanitiseClearScreenType: plist boolean~~~~Failsafe: false~~~~Description: Some firmwares reset screen resolution to a failsafe value (like 1024x768) on the attempts to clear screen contents when large display (e.g. 2K or 4K) is used. This option attempts to apply a workaround.~~

~~Note: ConsoleControl may need to be set to true for this to work. On all known affected systems ConsoleMode had to be set to empty string for this to work.~~

13. UnblockFsConnect

Type: plist boolean

Failsafe: false

Description: Some firmwares block partition handles by opening them in By Driver mode, which results in File System protocols being unable to install.

Note: The quirk is mostly relevant for select HP laptops with no drives listed.

- Logging is enabled (1) and shown onscreen (2): Misc → Debug → Target = 3.
- Logged messages from at least DEBUG_ERROR (0x80000000), DEBUG_WARN (0x00000002), and DEBUG_INFO (0x00000040) levels are visible onscreen: Misc → Debug → DisplayLevel = 0x80000042.
- Critical error messages, like DEBUG_ERROR, stop booting: Misc → Security → HaltLevel = 0x80000000.
- Watch Dog is disabled to prevent automatic reboot: Misc → Debug → DisableWatchDog = true.
- Boot Picker (entry selector) is enabled: Misc → Boot → ShowPicker = true.

If there is no obvious error, check the available hacks in Quirks sections one by one. For early boot troubleshooting, for instance, when OpenCore menu does not appear, using UEFI Shell may help to see early debug messages.

2. How to customise boot entries?

OpenCore follows standard Apple Bless model and extracts the entry name from `.contentDetails` and `.disk_label.contentDetails` files in the booter directory if present. These files contain an ASCII string with an entry title, which may then be customised by the user.

3. How to choose the default boot entry?

OpenCore uses the primary UEFI boot option to select the default entry. This choice can be altered from UEFI Setup, with the macOS Startup Disk preference, or the Windows Boot Camp Control Panel. Since choosing OpenCore's `BOOTx64.EFI` as a primary boot option limits this functionality in addition to several firmwares deleting incompatible boot options, potentially including those created by macOS, you are strongly encouraged to use the `RequestBootVarRouting` quirk, which will preserve your selection made in the operating system within the OpenCore variable space. Note, that `RequestBootVarRouting` requires a separate driver for functioning.

4. What is the simplest way to install macOS?

Copy online recovery image (`*.dmg` and `*.chunklist` files) to `com.apple.recovery.boot` directory on a FAT32 partition with OpenCore. Load OpenCore Boot Picker and choose the entry, it will have a `(dmg)` suffix. Custom name may be created by providing `.contentDetails` file.

To download recovery online you may use `macrecovery.py` tool from `MacInfoPkg`.

For offline installation refer to How to create a bootable installer for macOS article. Apart from App Store and `softwareupdate` utility there also are third-party tools to download an offline image.

5. Why do online recovery images (*.dmg) fail to load?

This may be caused by missing HFS+ driver, as all presently known recovery volumes have HFS+ filesystem. ~~Another cause may be buggy firmware allocator, which can be worked around with `AvoidHighAlloc` UEFI quirk.~~

6. Can I use this on Apple hardware or virtual machines?

Sure, most relatively modern Mac models including `MacPro5,1` and virtual machines are fully supported. Even though there are little to none specific details relevant to Mac hardware, some ongoing instructions can be found in `acidanthera/bugtracker#377`.

7. Why do Find&Replace patches must equal in length?

For machine code (x86 code) it is not possible to do differently sized replacements due to relative addressing. For ACPI code this is risky, and is technically equivalent to ACPI table replacement, thus not implemented. More detailed explanation can be found on `AppleLife.ru`.

8. How can I migrate from `AptioMemoryFix`?

Behaviour similar to that of `AptioMemoryFix` can be obtained by installing `FwRuntimeServices` driver and enabling the quirks listed below. Please note, that most of these are not necessary to be enabled. Refer to their individual descriptions in this document for more details.

- `ProvideConsoleGop` (UEFI quirk)
- `AvoidRuntimeDefrag`
- `DiscardHibernateMap`
- `EnableSafeModeSlide`
- `EnableWriteUnprotector`
- `ForceExitBootServices`
- `ProtectCsmRegion`