UEFI Advancements for Independent Hardware Vendors

Mike Rothman – Intel Corporation
Anand Joshi – Dell Inc.
Uma Parepalli – LSI Corporation
Dick Wilkins – Phoenix Corporation

EFIS002
Agenda

- Review of IHV applicable UEFI features
- UEFI Benefits to IHVs
- Recommendations from Dell
- Impact of UEFI advancements from LSI Corporation
- Impact of UEFI advancements from Phoenix Corporation
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The UEFI Forum

UEFI Board

USWG

UWG

ICWG

UCST

PIWG

UNST

UTWG

USST

Each work group approves/delivers different content to the public.

Publications/Decisions ratified by the board

Each sub-team focuses on specific topics and contributes material to the work group.

BIOS Standards emerge from the UEFI work groups
UEFI Features – Configuration Infrastructure

• Forms-based model for setup question descriptions
  – Must meet BIOS requirements
    ▪ Scalable UI display support (Server Front Panel to local high resolution monitor).
    ▪ Small encoding size
  – Encoding that is Self Describing
  – Can support scripting
  – Extensible syntax

• Exact look and feel defined by the browser and not defined in UEFI.
  – Developer/OEM/IHV defines questions to ask and what strings to display
  – Browser determines “how” to display the questions HII

*UEFI provides a simple yet powerful method to describe configuration data*
Configuration Infrastructure Protocol Overview

- IHVs should use these protocol interfaces for the configuration infrastructure
• With forms, we introduce localization

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Both input and output localization is supported
UEFI Features – Configuration Infrastructure

• Rudimentary Mock-up of Interfaces
1) UEFI BIOS attempts to initialize a device with an option ROM
   a) Device runs into an issue which might be recoverable
2) UEFI BIOS checks on the health of the device
   a) Device may return some forms-based data references to the BIOS so it can
      optionally communicate with the user. It also returns status regarding the
      health (see state diagram in upper right).
3) UEFI BIOS can optionally interact with the user to notify them of the message the
   device wanted to communicate, and if the driver health indicated that repair was
   required, the BIOS can automatically call the option ROM’s repair facility.

Option ROM can advertise health status
Agenda

• Review of IHV applicable UEFI features
• UEFI Benefits to IHVs
• Recommendations from Dell
• Impact of UEFI advancements from LSI Corporation
• Impact of UEFI advancements from Phoenix Corporation
UEFI Benefits to IHV – Remove some burdens

• Do not need to carry their own UI infrastructure
  – Less code/logic to support
  – By centralizing any key polling delays, speeds up platform booting.

Legacy Environment

Option ROM

1) Display Text/Logo
2) Poll for keystrokes (delaying boot)
   a) Present UI infrastructure
   b) Handle UI responses
3) Initialize Hardware

UEFI Environment

Option ROM

1) Register Content with platform
2) When called, initialize Hardware

Minimize IHV burden with UEFI
UEFI Benefits to IHV – Expand Configurability

- EBC (EFI Byte Code) allows a single image option ROM to operate on multiple CPU environments
- Maximal compatibility while minimizing binary size impact
UEFI Benefits to IHV – Expand Configurability

- No longer a black-box
  - Can describe their payload and interact with platform in standard fashions
  - Expose content so that it can seamlessly be integrated in platform solutions.

Configure device(s) remotely

Seamlessly integrate device data into the platform’s configuration menu

UEFI expands configurability of devices
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Why UEFI?

• Abstraction for the Operation System
  – Well defined API/interface between platform firmware

• Abstraction for devices and related code
  – Well defined driver model
  – Protocol based abstraction for range of underlying hardware devices

• Scalable environment
  – Protocol definition for contemporary platforms
  – Active standards body
Why UEFI?

• Rich Pre-Boot environment
  – Boot services and protocols through UEFI driver (device / service)
  – File system capabilities
  – Provide enhanced platform capabilities
    › firmware update, platform configuration, diagnostics and deployment services

• Breaking Boundaries
  – Support of 2.2 >TB boot disk

Dell sees huge value in UEFI and all Dell PowerEdge servers support UEFI
UEFI Device Driver

- Analogues to legacy option ROM
- Manages the controller
- All PCIe controllers or adapters must provide support for both Option ROM and UEFI driver
- Expansion Option ROM contains
  - Legacy
  - UEFI drivers
    - Processor Native X64 (preferred) and/or EBC
- Provides support for the primary feature of the Adaptor
  - Storage – Block IO protocol
  - Network – UNDI protocol
Protocols: To implement or not to implement that is the question

- EFI_GRAPHICS_OUTPUT_PROTOCOL
- EFI_BUS_SPECIFIC_DRIVER_OVERRIDE_PROTOCOL
- EFI_SIMPLE_TEXT_OUTPUT_PROTOCOL
- EFI_DRIVER_HEALTH_PROTOCOL
- EFI_DRIVER_DIAGNOSTICS2_PROTOCOL
- EFI_BLOCK_IO_PROTOCOL
- EFI_SIMPLE_TEXT_OUTPUT_PROTOCOL
- EFI_DRIVER_FAMILY_OVERRIDE_PROTOCOL
- EFI_DRIVER_BINDING_PROTOCOL
- EFI_FIRMWARE_MANAGEMENT_PROTOCOL
- EFI_GRAPHICS_OUTPUT_PROTOCOL
- EFI_SIMPLE_TEXT_OUTPUT_PROTOCOL
- EFI_BLOCK_IO_PROTOCOL
- EFI_EXT_SCSI_PASS_THRU_PROTOCOL
- EFI_ATA_PASS_THRU_PROTOCOL
- EFI_NETWORK_INTERFACE_IDENTIFIER_PROTOCOL,
- EFI_BLOCK_IO_PROTOCOL
- EFI_DRIVER_BINDING_PROTOCOL

So many!!
Protocols: To implement or not to implement that is the question

- What is required depends on the type of functionality you offer
  - Device Driver?
    - Must support EFI_DRIVER_BINDING_PROTOCOL, EFI_COMPONENT_NAME2_PROTOCOL
  - Support disk devices?
    - EFI_BLOCK_IO_PROTOCOL is must

- Section 2.6 of UEFI spec spells most it

- Still there are lots of optional
  - Optional per spec
  - But required by the platform vendors
Protocols: To implement or not to implement that is the question

- Optional per spec…

- But required by Dell…

Many of Dell’s value adds make use of the option components in the spec
Configuration: based on Human Interface Infrastructure (HII)

- Single window for all of the platform configuration
- Avoid multiple hotkeys
- Localization support
- Unified look and feel
- If driver supports any configuration, must be implemented using HII
Additional considerations for HII

- Localization support
- EFI_COMPONENT_NAME2_PROTOCOL supports the languages specified
- Provide EFI_HII_DEFAULT_CLASS_STANDARD for all configurable items which can be set to default
- Limit call backs that dynamically modifies IFR.
  - Instead, opcodes like grayoutif and suppressif can be used to dynamically change fields from read-only to read/write or dynamically suppress/un-suppress fields
- Provide a title in the HII formset and form
Additional considerations for HII

- Set EFI_IFR_FLAG_RESET_REQUIRED for items that require a reboot to take effect. Do not use system reset in routeconfig or callbacks.

- HII configuration drivers must implement EFI_IFR_FORM_SET_OP and set one of the ClassGuid[] to EFI_HII_PLATFORM_SETUP_FORMSET_GUID to indicate that the HII formset published by this driver is used for platform configuration.

- Consider Configuration Mapping Support using UEFI_CONFIG_LANG “UEFI-X”. Please contact your OEM partner for additional information.

- Any settings changes made via HII must take effect when booting in UEFI or in legacy BIOS mode.
**Updatable firmware: EFI_FIRMWARE_MANAGEMENT_PROTOCOL (FMP)**

- All adaptor firmware has some way to manage firmware (Get firmware version, Update the image etc).
- Proprietary ways to common set of functions are not efficient.
- FMP abstracts only the external interface not the actual update logic.
- FMP makes managing firmware easy through providing a common UI for all firmware updates.
- FMP is required for Dell PowerEdge Servers.
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Error reporting and user interaction: EFI_DRIVER_HEALTH_PROTOCOL

• Issues with Current Error reporting model
  – POST flow interrupted every time
  – Errors on multiple devices could result in multiple system reboots

• Driver health protocol
  – Allows consolidation of all the error reporting and user interaction
  – Allows user to address all of the issues at the same time
  – Avoids multiple reboots
Storage

- Storage drivers must support >2.2 TB
- SCSI drivers must support EFI_EXT_SCSI_PASS_THRU_PROTOCOL:
- ATA drivers must support EFI_ATA_PASS_THRU_PROTOCOL
Global requirements

• Must be compliant with UEFI 2.3 spec

• Must certify with SCT
  – SCT - Self Certification Test. UEFI offer a complete suite to test your driver for UEFI compliancy
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- UEFI Benefits to IHVs – LSI Corporation’s Experience
- UEFI Adoption Benefits
- Faster Time to Market
- Richer Capabilities
- Enhanced Usability
- Cost Savings
**LSI UEFI Adoption Benefits**

- LSI is a Contributor Member of UEFI Forum
- UEFI / HII is supported on all RAID HBAs
- LSI Customers (Major OEMs and ISVs) are already shipping 64-bit UEFI Platforms in Volumes
- Leadership position among RAID HBA Vendors

*Leadership in Enabling RAID HBA Customers*
LSI UEFI Benefits - Faster Time To Market

- LSI Benefited from:
  - Industry adopted, Stable and fully Documented UEFI specifications
  - Readily available Development Kits / Reference Code and Platforms
  - Implementing Modern Firmware Architecture & Ease of Development

- UEFI SCT enabled LSI to provide:
  - Quality UEFI Option ROM Software for Test and Manufacturing
  - Smoother and Instant integration of LSI UEFI HII Drivers and OEM UEFI System Firmware
LSI UEFI Benefits: Richer Capabilities

UEFI adoption enhanced LSI Feature Capabilities:

- UEFI provides **direct access** to all of (64-bit) Memory
- Ability to **quickly** implement new features and additional OEM requirements
- LSI UEFI HII Driver has:
  - Support for “> 2.2 TB” and **latest** Hard Disk technologies
  - **Unified** Interfaces across Option ROM Code
  - **Cleaner** and **Portable** Solutions
  - **Conformance** to Industry Standard Specs
- Support for **Hybrid** Systems -UEFI and Legacy BIOS

**Faster Time to Market**
LSI UEFI HII Benefits: Enhanced Usability

- HII allowed LSI to focus mainly on Functionality and Content rather than carrying own GUI so that:
  - OEMs can maintain their *own look-n-feel* across their platforms through their HII Browser
  - Standards based and **Customization** for RAID Configuration GUI at Build/Run Time
  - LSI solution allows OEMs to **differentiate** their Platforms from that of other OEMs
- Easier **Localization** Support
- Migration of Legacy BIOS / Utilities to single 64-bit cross platform UEFI HII Driver
LSI UEFI Benefits: Cost Savings

- ‘C’ Language Development Environment and Proven Tools and EDK
- Stable and **re-usable** Code base and **less** chance of errors / **defects**
- Easier to Test and **Debug** - Local & Remote
- Higher **Quality** Option ROM Code means Faster Deployments for multiple OEMs
- Improved overall **efficiency** resulting in **Lower** Development and Maintenance **Costs**

Lower Development Costs
LSI UEFI Benefits Summary

➢ Leadership among RAID HBA Vendors
➢ Faster Time to Market
➢ Cost Savings
➢ Richer Capabilities
➢ Enhanced Usability
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IBV Viewpoint – Why UEFI?

• Why should IHVs migrate to UEFI Option ROMs?
  o For block devices, disks > 2.2TB are not supported as boot devices
  o Too many limitations to list
  o Boot speed
    ▪ Legacy real-mode OpROMs are slower than properly implemented UEFI option ROMs
    ▪ Most devices with legacy OpROMs must be initialized even if not needed for boot
    ▪ Phoenix provides a smart implementation that learns how to optimize boot based on history and customer configured profiles
UEFI is not only desirable...

- Eventually, OEMs will no longer support legacy Option ROMs (sooner than you think)
  - You may not be eligible for inclusion in OEM systems if you don’t have UEFI OpROM support
  - Your add-in devices will no longer work on legacy free systems

- UEFI provides a standard approach to User Identification and Profiles for security (see Chapter 31 of the UEFI 2.3 spec.)

- Friendly/portable human interface
  - You don’t have to carry your own UI in your code
  - See next page for example
Phoenix and LSI are working on getting a screen shot or two with the Phoenix SecureCore Tiano™ browser. They will go here when available.
Independent BIOS Vendor Assistance for developers

• Optional protocols typically required
  – Pass thru protocols for block devices (i.e. ATA/ATAPI devices) are needed to enable some drive functionality

• How Phoenix can help
  – We have developed UEFI option ROMs for many IHVs (in house expertise/experience)
  – Would a Phoenix supported OpROM SDK be of value to you?
  – We are happy to work with you to leave legacy behind
Summary

- UEFI features provide IHVs a simple, powerful method to describe device configuration data and health status
- Dell sees huge value in UEFI, Optional UEFI protocols are recommended by OEMs
- UEFI provides cost savings, faster time to market, and flexibility
- Migrate to UEFI as legacy option ROM support deprecates
Additional sources of information on this topic:

- Other Sessions – Next Slide
- Demos in the showcase – #160
- Additional info in the SSG community – EFI Booth
- More web based info:
  - **UEFI Specifications** - [http://www.uefi.org](http://www.uefi.org)
- Book on topic:
  - Beyond BIOS 2nd edition - Intel Press
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Call to Action / Next Steps: UEFI Resources for IHVs

- Become a Member
- Download latest UEFI Specifications, including
  - UEFI Driver Writer’s Guide
  - UEFI Shell
  - HII Documentation (Part of UEFI Spec)
  - Download Development Kits and Test Suites
    - UEFI EDK / EDK II / UDK 2010
    - UEFI SCT
Beyond BIOS 2nd edition promotion

2nd Edition - Beyond BIOS available Q4 2010

To receive a complementary copy of the book Register at http://www.intel.com/intelpress/register.htm

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Vouchers available in session room and EFI tech showcase booth
UDK2010 Available on tianocore.org

UDK2010
Open Source
UEFI Development Kit

http://www.tianocore.Sourceforge.net
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