Intel® BIOS Revision Identification Specification

Revision 2.0
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Revision History

Revision	Date	Description
2.0	1/30/2015	Updated BIOS ID FORMAT to match GenBiosId tool implementation; Reformatting & new template application.

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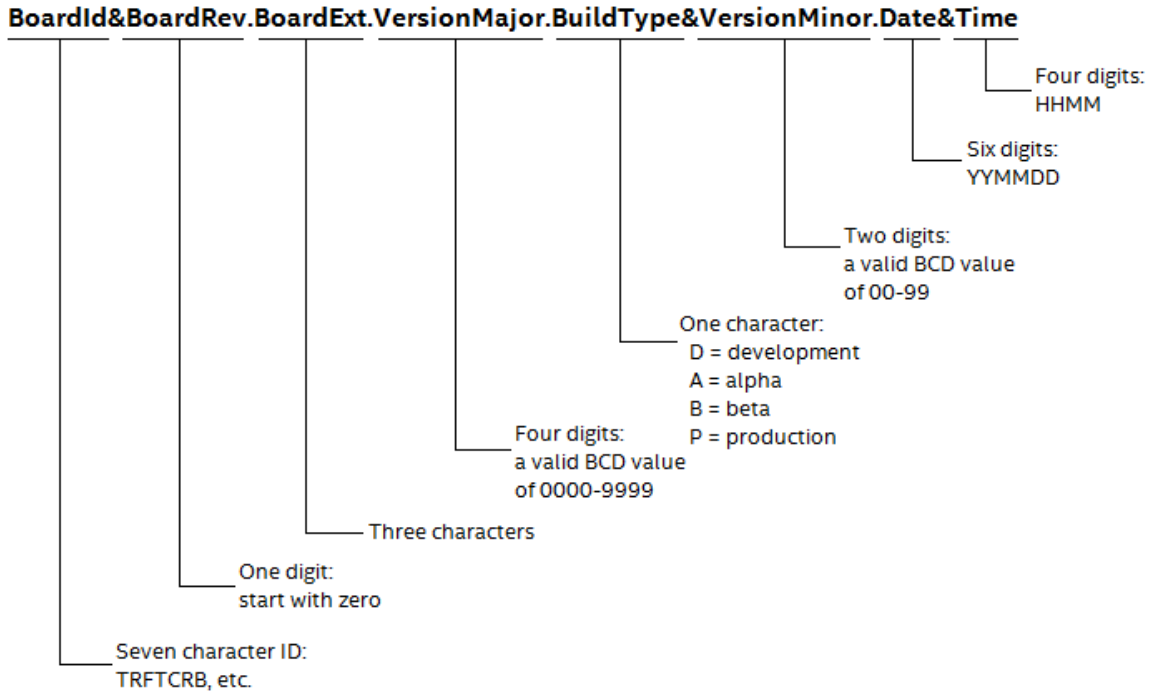
1 BIOS Revision Identification Format

The BIOS Revision Identification is used to track board, and build revision information for a given BIOS. This identifier can be a maximum of 32 characters.

2 BIOS ID FORMAT

The figure below illustrates a standard 32-byte BIOS ID.



2.1 Board Identifier

The board identifier identifies a particular platform from a hardware perspective. This identifier can be up to 7 characters in length and should closely resemble the actual product name of the board. *Platform code names should never be used as the board identifier. Legal and Marketing issues preclude using internal code names.*

2.2 Board Revision

The board revision identifies the revision of hardware relative to the BIOS. This number will be zero for the first BIOS developed for a particular platform. Each time a hardware change causes a BIOS incompatibility this number should be incremented by 1. It is preferable that BIOS code be written to auto-configure around hardware changes, but in the event such auto-configuration is not possible, then this number must be rolled.

2.3 Board Extension

The board extension identifies the product line that this BIOS is particularly targeted for. The board extension is three characters in length with free form.

2.4 Version Major

The version major is 4 digits in length and can have a valid BCD value of 0000-9999. The number is increased by one every time a major release build is generated.

2.5 Build Type

The Build Type indicates the intent and quality of a BIOS build. This field is 1 character.

2.5.1 Development BIOS Builds

The Build Type for development builds is 'D' (upper case D). Revision tracking information is not maintained. Development builds are used for product and new feature development, debugging, etc. These builds are intended for internal use only but may be delivered to customers, vendors, development partners, etc. if the situation warrants. Rebuild information is not maintained. Release notes are not generated for development builds.

2.5.2 Alpha BIOS Builds

The Build Type for Alpha builds is 'A' (upper case A). Revision-tracking information is maintained. Alpha builds are used to deliver a BIOS with a minimum of developer only testing to the product engineering teams or to customers for early evaluation. An Alpha BIOS may not be feature complete or may contain features that will not be present in future builds. An Alpha build is not normally suitable for manufacturing although development platforms may be built with an alpha BIOS. Rebuild information is maintained. Release notes are not generated for alpha builds.

2.5.3 Beta BIOS Builds

The Build Type for Beta builds is 'B' (upper case B). Revision-tracking information is maintained. Beta builds are used to deliver a quality BIOS, and a Beta BIOS may be delivered to customers for evaluation. A Beta BIOS should be feature complete except as noted in the release notes. A Beta BIOS should be as close to the production target as possible. Rebuild information is maintained. Release notes are generated for Beta builds.

2.5.4 Production BIOS Builds

The Build Type for Production builds is 'P' (uppercase P). Revision-tracking information is maintained. Production builds are intended for release to the general population and to manufacturing. Rebuild information is maintained. Release notes are generated for Production builds.

BIOS Build Type	BIOS Reproducible	Targets
Development	No	Internal, Limited External
Alpha	Yes	Internal, External, Early Mfg.
Beta	Yes	Internal. External, Mfg.
Production	Yes	External, Mfg.

2.6 Version Minor

The version minor is 2 digits in length and can have a valid BCD value of 00-99. The number is increased by one every time a minor release build is generated.

2.7 Build Date&Time

The Build Date&Time is a 10 character (numeric) representation of the date and time the BIOS was built. The build Date&Time is in the format yymmddhhmm where yy=year, mm=month, dd=day, hh=hour and mm=minute. And YYMMDDHHMM is UTC time.