

OpenCL™ Driver for Intel® HD, Iris™, and Iris™ Pro Graphics for Linux -- Release Notes¹

Version Information

This document covers the Intel® OpenCL Linux graphics device driver version r4.0-BUILD_ID, hereafter referred to as the intel-ocl-r4.0 driver, where BUILD_ID refers to the build ID of the distributed files.

Overview

The intel-ocl-r4.0 driver for Linux exposes the general-purpose parallel compute capabilities of Intel® graphics for OpenCL applications.

This release provides OpenCL 2.0 support for 5th, 6th and 7th generations of Intel® Core™ and Xeon™ processors with Intel® Processor Graphics Technology not previously disabled by the BIOS or motherboard settings, OpenCL 1.2 support for Intel Pentium J4000 and Intel Celeron J3000 and the following extensions:

- cl_intel_accelerator
- cl_intel_advanced_motion_estimation (version 2; see notes below)
- cl_intel_device_side_avc_motion_estimation
- cl_intel_driver_diagnostics
- cl_intel_media_block_io
- cl_intel_motion_estimation
- cl_intel_planar_yuv
- cl_intel_packed_yuv
- cl_intel_required_subgroup_size
- cl_intel_subgroups
- cl_intel_subgroups_short
- cl_intel_va_api_media_sharing
- cl_khr_3d_image_writes
- cl_khr_byte_addressable_store
- cl_khr_depth_images
- cl_khr_fp16 (5th generation Intel® Core™ processors and above)
- cl_khr_fp64 (5th generation Intel® Core™ processors and above)
- cl_khr_global_int32_base_atomics
- cl_khr_global_int32_extended_atomics
- cl_khr_icd
- cl_khr_image2d_from_buffer (5th generation Intel® Core™ processors and above)
- cl_khr_local_int32_base_atomics
- cl_khr_local_int32_extended_atomics
- cl_khr_mipmap_image
- cl_khr_mipmap_image_writes

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- cl_khr_spir
- cl_khr_subgroups (6th generation Intel® Core™ processors and above)

System Requirements

The intel-ocl-r4.0 driver enables OpenCL 1.2 or 2.0 on the GPU/CPU for the following Intel® processors:

- Intel® 5th, 6th or 7th generation Core™ processor
- Intel Pentium J4000 and Intel Celeron J3000
- Intel® Xeon® v4, or Intel® Xeon® v5 Processors with Intel® Graphics Technology enabled by the BIOS or motherboard settings

In addition to the above processor requirements, proper operation also requires Linux kernel source code patches included with Intel® driver to be applied to the kernel. See the intel-ocl-r4 driver installation document for more information on how to apply the patches and to verify that the system meets the necessary requirements.

Changes Since intel-ocl-r3.1

The intel-ocl-r4.0 driver includes the following new features introduced since the intel-ocl-r3.1 release:

- VTune support for 7th generation Intel® Core™ processors
- updated patches for the Linux 4.7 and 4.4 kernels
- cl_intel_device_side_avc_motion_estimation extension to support AVC VME built-in functions callable from OpenCL kernels giving greater flexibility for expert developers and potential performance improvements for simpler VME operations compared to the built-in kernels provided with the cl_intel_motion_estimation and cl_intel_advanced_motion_estimation extensions. The new functions can be used to implement the pre-ENC and ENC stages of an encode pipeline using Intel® GPUs.
- cl_intel_media_block_io extension to augment the block read/write functionality available in the Intel® vendor subgroup extensions, cl_intel_subgroups and cl_intel_subgroups_short, by the specification of additional built-in functions to facilitate the reading and writing of flexible 2D regions from images. This API allows for the explicit specification of the width and height of the image regions. The primary use for this extension is to support the reading of edge texels (or image elements) of neighboring macro-blocks as described in the Intel vendor extension cl_intel_device_side_avc_motion_estimation.
- cl_intel_planar_yuv - Adds native support for the Planar YUV (YCbCr) image format which can be used with the Device-Side AVC Motion Estimation and Video Enhancement extensions.
- cl_intelx_video_enhancement (6th generation Intel® Core™ processors and above) preview extension
- cl_intelx_video_enhancement_camera_pipeline (6th generation Intel® Core™ processors and above) preview extension
- cl_intelx_video_enhancement_color_pipeline (6th generation Intel® Core™ processors and above) preview extension

The video enhancement, video enhancement camera pipeline, and video enhancement color pipeline preview extensions are described in section Preview OpenCL Extensions.

Changes Since intel-ocl-r2.0

In addition to the changes since the intel-ocl-r3.1 release, the intel-ocl-r4.0 driver includes the following new features introduced since the intel-ocl-r2.0 release:

- OpenCL 2.0 support for 7th generation Intel® Core™ processors

- OpenCL 1.2 support for Intel Pentium J4000 and Intel Celeron J3000²
- support for a patched Linux 4.7 kernel
- deprecation of the Linux 3.10.0 and 4.1 kernels
- 4th generation Intel® Core™ processors are not formally supported in this release
- `cl_intel_driver_diagnostics` extension allows the driver to pass additional strings containing diagnostic information. The diagnostic messages can help to understand how the driver works and can provide guidance to modify an application to improve performance.
- `cl_intel_subgroups_short` extension to support improved performance of applications operating on 16-bit data types by extending the subgroup functions described in the `cl_intel_subgroups` extension to support the 16-bit integer data types `short` and `ushort`.

Changes Since 16.5 Release Included with Intel® Media Server Studio 2017

In addition to the changes since the `intel-ocl-r2.0` and `intel-ocl-r3.1` release, the `intel-ocl-r4.0` driver includes the following new features introduced since the 16.5 release:

- `cl_intel_driver_diagnostics` extension
- `cl_intel_subgroups_short` extension
- support for the MSS 2017 R2 media release using the patched Linux 4.4 kernel³

System using the Intel® Media Server Studio 2017 release are not supported and must be upgraded to MSS 2017 R2. See the MSS 2017 R2 documentation for installation procedures and hardware requirements.

Supported Configurations

Intel validates the `intel-ocl-r4.0` driver on CentOS 7.2 when running the following 64-bit kernels:

- Linux 4.7 kernel patched for OpenCL
- Linux 4.4 kernel patched for MSS 2017 R2

Although Intel validates and provides technical support only for the above Linux kernels on CentOS 7.2, other distributions may be adapted by utilizing our generic operating system installation steps as well as MSS 2017 R2 installation steps.

The CPU OpenCL solution is also packaged with the `intel-ocl-r4.0` driver. The combined GPU/CPU platform has been validated with this release.

Preview OpenCL Extensions

This driver release contains optionally accessible preview extensions permitting developers to expose new functionality to OpenCL kernels. Once enabled using an environment variable the preview extensions will be listed in the device extension list provided by `clGetDeviceInfo`. All preview extensions can be identified by the pattern `cl_intelx_` in the extension name.

Developers utilizing the preview extensions are encouraged to provide feedback and to review future releases for changes. Additionally:

² Enabling GPU OpenCL support for Intel J4000 and J3000 series of processors requires the patched Linux 4.7 kernel as well as a kernel option provided by the boot loader. See section Known Workarounds for more information.

³ System utilizing the Intel® Media Server Studio 2017 R2 must not use included Linux 4.7 kernel patches.

- A preview extension is not a final commitment. We may modify the functionality and/or interface or remove it completely. Developers should not depend on the existence of preview extensions in shipping drivers and should not enable these features on end-user platforms as part of any application installation process.
- Preview extensions may not receive the same amount of testing as production features. If you have enabled a preview extension, please only file bug reports for that extension. If you suspect a bug in non-preview functionality, it would be helpful to confirm that issue with and without preview extensions enabled.
- We appreciate and want all feedback! Your feedback enables us to improve the product and provide you with the best product possible. Please use the feedback channels provided elsewhere in this document, or contribute to the following forum: <https://software.intel.com/en-us/forums/opencl>

Instructions for Preview OpenCL Features

In Linux, you can use an environmental variable with prefix: "OCL_" in the following manner

```
$ OCL_EnablePreviewFeatures=1 path/to/oclapplication
```

or

```
$ export OCL_EnablePreviewFeatures=1
```

This release provides preview support for the following Video Enhancement HW block functionality for expert developers as the preview extensions:

- `cl_intelx_video_enhancement` - Exposes a fixed-function pipeline consisting of Denoise, Deinterlace and Hot Pixel Correction stages. It comes together with a number of per-frame and per-block statistics that can be accessed, including global noise estimate statistics, spatial-temporal motion measure, denoise history, histograms, per command and other statistics that the Video Enhancement pipeline generates. Includes support for NV12 image format. The features are based on built-in kernels infrastructure and the `cl_intel_accelerator` extension.
- `cl_intelx_video_enhancement_camera_pipeline` - Exposes a fixed-function pipeline of operations working on camera inputs in Bayer formats: Black Level Correction, Vignette, White Balance Correction, Denoise, Hot Pixel Correction and Demosaic. The extension reuses the infrastructure defined in the `cl_intelx_video_enhancement` extension.
- `cl_intelx_video_enhancement_color_pipeline` - Extends the `cl_intelx_video_enhancement` and `cl_intelx_video_enhancement_camera_pipeline` extensions with color processing and enhancement pipeline, consisting of the following stages: Color Correction Matrix, Forward Gamma Correction, Front-End Color Space Conversion, Skin-tone Detection and Enhancement, Gamut Compression, Adaptive Contrast Enhancement, Total Color Correction, Process Amplifier, Back-end Color Space Conversion and Gamut Expansion / Color Correction.

Package Contents

The following files are included with the intel-opencl-r4.0 driver distribution:

- `intel-opencl-r4.0-BUILD_ID-*` (.rpm and .tar.xz)
 - the OpenCL 2.0 ICD loader, the OpenCL 2.0 ICD for Intel® HD, Iris, and Iris Pro graphics, and the Intel® OpenCL 2.0 driver and runtime for Intel® processor graphics
 - kernel mode driver patches based against specific distributions or reference kernels
- `intel-opencl-devel-r4.0-BUILD_ID-*` (.rpm and .tar.xz)
 - optional OpenCL 2.0 development files for compiling OpenCL applications
- `intel-opencl-cpu-r4.0-BUILD_ID-*` (.rpm and .tar.xz)

- Intel® OpenCL 2.0 runtime for Intel® processor

Known Workarounds

- For workloads that take longer than 1.5 seconds the i915 hang check will reset the GPU, output a kernel message for logging, and clear any pending work items. When necessary, the i915 hang check can be disabled on demand with

```
$ sudo bash -c 'echo N > /sys/module/i915/parameters/enable_hangcheck'
```

Although the GPU will no longer reset when executing with hang checks disabled, sufficiently large workloads may stall other GPU tasks such as screen updates. These situations can be recovered from by manually resetting the GPU with

```
$ sudo bash -c 'echo 1 > /sys/kernel/debug/dri/0/i915_wedged'
```

- The trade-off between GPU busy (GPU being fed) vs. latency is that the driver might internally choose to submit or flush after n commands being queued and this is an expected behavior. Currently the driver is forced to flush after $n=8$ commands are queued.
- The 4.7 linux kernel has preliminary hardware support for Intel Pentium J4000 and Intel Celeron J3000 processors. To enable the OpenCL functionality for those platforms you need to add the parameter to the kernel command line:

```
i915.preliminary_hw_support=1
```

Known Issues

- None

Feedback and Support

This user-mode driver and kernel patch set are focused on OpenCL compute use cases. Unless otherwise specified, interoperability with other drivers, operating systems, or platform features is not verified or supported. We welcome feedback to continue to make this product better. Please direct your feedback, including feature requests, through your primary Intel product support channels.

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