

Intel[®] Virtual RAID on CPU (Intel[®] VROC) 6.1 PV Release

Customer Release Notes

May 2019

Revision 1.0



Revision History

Revision	Description	
1.0	Intel VROC 6.1 PV Initial Release	May 2019



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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

The Intel Virtual RAID on CPU (Intel VROC) 6.1 Production Version (PV) release package is intended for all customers designing platforms that are based off of Intel's Purley Refresh design.

The Intel VROC 6.1 family of products provide enterprise RAID solutions for both NVMe SSD and SATA devices for enterprise servers and workstations. The product family includes the following three products.

- Intel VROC (VMD NVMe RAID) This product provides an enterprise RAID solution on Intel[®] Xeon[®] Scalable Family Platforms that support the Intel VMD technology.
- Intel VROC (SATA RAID) This product provides an enterprise RAID solution for SATA devices connected to SATA/sSATA the Intel Platform Control Hub (PCH) configured for RAID mode.
- Intel VROC (NonVMD NVMe RAID) This product provides an enterprise RAID solution for Intel NVMe SSDs attached to PCIe slots managed by the Platform CPU. Intel VROC (NonVMD NVMe RAID) is not intended for, nor supports:
 - a. Non-Intel NVMe SSDs.
 - b. Platforms that have on Intel[®] Xeon[®] Scalable Family Platforms CPUs that contain Intel VMD technology (weather enabled or disabled).
- **Note:** Intel VROC 6.1 is a high level blanket product reference for Intel VROC (VMD NVMe RAID), Intel VROC (SATA RAID) and Intel VROC (NonVMD NVMe RAID).

Along with the above mentioned packages, included in this PV package are the Intel VROC 6.1 Pre-OS environment

- 1. Intel VROC (VMD NVMe RAID) UEFI drivers
- 2. Intel VROC (SATA RAID) UEFI drivers
- 3. Intel VROC (SATA RAID) Legacy OROM images are included.

Please see the *Supported Platforms* section for additional information on older platforms supported with this release.

Note: It is always recommended to update your system BIOS to the included PV release of Pre-OS drivers to take advantage of the most optimal and updated features of each Production Version release.

1.2 Defect Submission Support

With this release, Intel will accept and process issues reported by customers via the Intel Premier Support (IPS) portal.



To submit an issue, please use the Intel Premier Support (IPS) tool. Information, training and details can be found at the below website. Your local FAE can also provide you the necessary requirements to enable you to submit an IPS issue (also known as a "case") including an account setup if you do not already have one.

http://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/design/support/ips/training/welcome.html

When submitting a case, please include the following Fields in order to flag Intel VROC AE support for Intel[®] Xeon[®] Scalable platforms.

- Case Information -> Product = Purley
- Case Details -> Subject= <Add short title summary of issue>
- Case Details -> Case Description = <add description and how to reproduce error)
- Case Details -> Case Type = <fill in type of request>
- Case Details -> Severity = <fill in severity of issue>
- Case Details -> End Customer = <name of OEM>
- Case Details -> Issue Source = IPS Cloud
- Case Details -> Severity
- Product/Project Info -> Case Category = TechnologyInitiative
- Product/Project Info -> Case Subcategory = Intel[®] Virtual RAID on CPU (Intel [®] VROC)
- Environment Details -> Purley-PCH = lbg-4
- Environment Details -> Purley-CPU = skx-2s (or skx 4s)
- Environment Details -> BKC or SW Version = 6.0

1.3 Supported Operating Systems

Only 64bit OS support is available for the following OS versions

- Windows* Server 2012 R2 Enterprise (supported on Server platform only)
- Windows* 10 RS3 / RS4 / RS5 / 19H1 (supported on Workstations platforms only)
- Windows* Server 2016 Enterprise (supported on Server platform only)
- Windows* Server 2019 Enterprise (supported on Server platform only)

Note: Microsoft* Windows* 7 will not be supported in future releases

1.4 Operating Systems Not Supported In This Release

- Windows* Vista (Support/Updates concluded with 4.1.2.1011)
- Windows* Server 2003 (Support/Updates concluded with 4.0.2.1019)
- Windows* Server 2008 (Support/Updates concluded with 4.0.2.1019)
- Windows* 8 (Support/Updates concluded with 4.2.2.1005)
- Windows* Server 2012 (Support/Updates concluded with 4.2.2.1005)
- Windows* 8.1 (Support/Updates concluded with 4.7 PV)
- Windows* Server 2008 R2 (Support/Updates concluded with 4.7 PV)

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- Windows* 10 RS1 / RS2 (Support / Updates concluded with 5.4 PV)
- Windows* 7 SP2 (supported on Workstations only) (Support / Updates concluded with 5.5 PV)

Intel C600 series chipset support/updates concluded with 4.5 PV

Any Showstopper issues reported in any of the above configurations will be addressed in their corresponding (identified) baselines.

1.5 Supported Platforms

Intel® Xeon® Scalable Platforms

- Intel[®] C620 series chipset
- Intel[®] C422 series chipset family

Intel® Xeon® Processor D-2100 Product Family

Intel VROC (NonVMD NVMe RAID) support on the following platforms:

- Intel[®] Xeon[®] Processor E5 v3, v4 Families with the Intel[®] C610 series chipset
- Intel[®] Xeon[®] Processor Families with the Intel[®] C220 series chipset
- Intel® Xeon® Processor E3 v5 Families with the Intel® C230 series chipset
- Intel® Xeon® E Processor Family with the Intel® C240 series Chipset

Note: It is strongly recommended to update your system BIOS to the 6.0 Pre-OS.

Please see the Intel VROC Technical Product Specification included in this release for specific details

Note: For answers to questions concerning the Intel PCH series chipsets support and/or to obtain other technical collateral, please contact your local Intel FAE.



2 Supported PCIe NVMe SSDs List

All shipping Intel[®] Data Center and Professional NVMe* SSDs are supported by Intel[®] VROC 6.1 PV, except dual port NVMe* SSDs.

2.1 Non-Intel PCIe NVMe SSDs supported in Intel 6.0:

Vendor	Model
Lenovo*	Atsani
Huawei*	ES3600P
Samsung*	SM951
Samsung*	SM961
Samsung*	PM961
Samsung*	PM953
Samsung*	PM963
Samsung*	PM983
Toshiba*	PX04PMB
Toshiba*	XG3
Toshiba*	XG5
Micron*	9100 Series
Micron*	9200 Series
Western Digital*	PC SN720

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3 New in Intel VROC 6.1 PV

3.1 Microsoft* .NET and Intel ASM No Longer Included

To address functional and security updates, this version of the Intel® Virtual RAID on CPU (Intel® VROC) 6.1 PV Release Package has removed the Microsoft .NET Framework as well as the Intel Acceleration Storage Manager (ASM). Users should update to the latest version.

For the customer's convenience, the Intel VROC product installation application was designed to automatically install the Microsoft .NET Framework and provide an option to install the Intel Acceleration Storage Manager (ASM).

The .NET Framework was included because the Intel VROC user interface relies on the .NET Framework to operate properly. To ensure that customers are able to get the latest version available, Intel is no longer including .NET Framework in the Intel VROC production package. This is not needed because the supported Windows operating systems already include a version of .NET Framework. If the latest version of the .NET Framework is not installed, it can be obtained/downloaded either via a Web update or offline directly from https://dotnet.microsoft.com/.

In addition to removal of the .NET Framework installation, this release also removes the Intel ASM component. The Intel ASM installer has some dependencies on 3rd party libraries and Intel would like to reduce or eliminate these dependencies. Until this is accomplished, the Intel ASM component is being removed. Please contact your Intel FAE for future release details.

For more information please refer to Technical Advisory Reference Number 610700.

3.2 Windows* 7-64bit Support

The Intel VROC 6.1 release package includes targeted support for Windows* 7-64bit. Within this package, is included Intel RSTe 5.6 specifically for Windows* 7-64bit. This was added back into the product packaging to support the older platforms.

On platforms that are installing Windows* 7-64bit, the Intel RSTe 5.6 driver from the F6 directory should be used. Once the OS is successfully installed, running the Intel VROC 6.1 installation application will install the Intel RSTe 5.6 GUI and middleware and update/install the driver.

This configuration is the exception to the backwards compatibility of the Intel VROC PreOS. Meaning, that after the platform BIOS has been updated to include the Intel VROC 6.1 PreOS, the Intel RSTe 5.6 package (for Windows 7-64bit) will be supported. Table 1 shows the Intel VROC PreOS versions to Intel RSTe 5.6 OS version support.



Table 1: Intel VROC Compatibility Matrix

	Intel VROC PreOS 5.5	Intel VROC PreOS 6.0	Intel VROC PreOS 6.1
Intel RSTe 5.6 Win7-64bit	Supported	Not Supported	Supported

3.2.1 Windows* 7-64bit .NET Limitations

When installing Intel VROC 6.1 onto a platform with Win7 the following message may be displayed after the package installation reboot:

😻 IASte	
•	IAStorUI has stopped working
	Windows can check online for a solution to the problem the next time you go online.
	Check online for a solution later and close the program
	Close the program
🕑 V	iew problem details

To resolve this issue, the Microsoft .NET Framework needs to be updated to version 4.5.1. The following link can be used to download:

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=40779

Note: For all other supported operating systems, please download the latest version of .NET Framework.



4 Features Introduced with Intel VROC 6.0 PV

4.1 Intel VROC 6.0.0.1359 Release Package

To address functional and security updates, this version of the Intel[®] Virtual RAID on CPU (Intel[®] VROC) 6.0.0.1359 PV Release Package has been updated to remove the Microsoft .NET Framework as well as the Intel Acceleration Storage Manager (ASM). Users should update to the latest version.

For the customer's convenience, the Intel VROC product installation application was designed to automatically install the Microsoft .NET Framework and provide an option to install the Intel Acceleration Storage Manager (ASM).

The .NET Framework was included because the Intel VROC user interface relies on the .NET Framework to operate properly. To ensure that customers are able to get the latest version available, Intel is no longer including .NET Framework in the Intel VROC production package. This is not needed because the supported Windows operating systems already include a version of .NET Framework. If the latest version of the .NET Framework is not installed, it can be obtained/downloaded either via a Web update or offline directly from https://dotnet.microsoft.com/.

In addition to removal of the .NET Framework installation, this release also removes the Intel ASM component. The Intel ASM installer has some dependencies on 3rd party libraries and Intel would like to reduce or eliminate these dependencies. Until this is accomplished, the Intel ASM component is being removed. Please contact your Intel FAE for future release details.

For this release, the device drivers and internal tools have not been updated.

For more information please refer to Technical Advisory Reference Number 610700. For information on how to manage the impacts of these changes, please refer to section <u>Microsoft .NET Framework Removal</u> in this document.

4.2 Introduced in Intel[®] VROC 6.0.0.1357 is the support for the Purley Refresh platform

This section features Intel's commitment to excellence; always improving and listening to our customers' needs.



4.3 Intel RSTe Name Changes

The Intel VROC 6.0 family of products provide enterprise RAID solutions for both NVMe SSD and SATA devices for enterprise servers and workstations. The product family includes the following three products.

- Intel VROC (VMD NVMe RAID) This product provides an enterprise RAID solution on Intel[®] Xeon[®] Scalable Family Platforms that support the Intel VMD technology. In previous releases, this was simply referred to as Intel VROC.
- Intel VROC (SATA RAID) This product provides an enterprise RAID solution for SATA devices connected to SATA/sSATA the Intel Platform Control Hub (PCH) configured for RAID mode. In previous releases, this was simply referred to as Intel Rapid Storage Technology enterprise (Intel RSTe).
- 3. Intel VROC (NonVMD NVMe RAID) This product provides an enterprise RAID solution for Intel NVMe SSDs attached to PCIe slots managed by the Platform CPU. Intel VROC (NonVMD NVMe RAID) is not intended for, nor supports:
 - a. Non-Intel NVMe SSDs.
 - b. Platforms that have on Intel[®] Xeon[®] Scalable Family Platforms CPUs that contain Intel VMD technology (weather enabled or disabled).

In previous releases, this was simply referred to as Intel RSTe NVMe.

4.4 Intel VROC Support for Windows 10 RS5 / Server 2019

Intel VROC 6.0.0.1357 release package includes support for Windows* 10 RS5 and Windows* Server 2019.

- **Note:** There is a known issue trying to install Windows* 10 RS5 / Server 2019. Installing Windows* 10 RS5 or Server 2019 onto an Intel VMD managed device is limited to a single CPU. For more information please see the Known Issues section below.
- **Note:** It may be noticed that installing Intel VROC 6.0 when installing or using Windows* 10 RS5 /Server 2019 that installation may take longer than previous OS versions. This is being investigated.



5 Features Introduced In Intel RSTe 5.5

5.1 Intel VROC and Intel RSTe SATA LED Management in HII BIOS

LED management support is now available in the Intel Virtual RAID on CPU UEFI HII BIOS Menu and in the PCH Intel RSTe HII BIOS menu. The LOCATE option is functional for each NVMe SSD with VMD enabled on its root port. A list of drives behind VMD is visible in a table to the user. The desired device can be selected to blink the LOCATE LED. When the drive is deselected, then the Blink pattern for this drive will be OFF. Upon boot into the RSTe UEFI BIOS HII, each drive discovered by the driver should be ON. Otherwise, the indicator LED should be OFF.

5.2 Intel VMD Advanced Error Reporting (AER) Logging for Windows

The Intel VMD component of the Intel VROC Windows Driver will log the following Nonfatal (0b) AER Errors:

- Poisoned TLP
- Completion Timeout
- Completer Abort
- Unexpected Completion
- ECRC Error
- Unsupported Request Error
- ACS Violation
- MC Blocked TLP
- Atomic Op Egress Blocked
- TLP Prefix Blocked

Example: Windows event viewer -> Windows Logs -> System, and choose to save all events to a file. Optionally choose to filter on "iavroc.sys" to see any VMD AER reporting events.



🕐 🦈 🞽 📧 🖬 💽	System Numbe	r of events: 10,460	-		Actions	
 Custom Views Cisco Administrative Events Device Manager - Intel(R) Wireless Events 	Level (i) Information (i) Information (i) Information	Date and Time 8/16/2018 1:54:56 PM 8/16/2018 1:52:07 PM 8/16/2018 1:32:10 PM	Source Kernel GroupP GroupP	Event ^	System Solution Saved Log Create Custom View Import Custom View	· ·
Application Security Security Setup System Forwarded Events Applications and Services Loc Subscriptions	Event 16, Kernel-G General Details The access his updating 70 ke	eneral tory in hive \??\C:\WINDOW ys and creating 19 modified	/S\System32 I pages.	× \config\	Clear Log Filter Current Log Properties Find Save All Events As Attach a Task To this Lo	
	Log Name: Source: Event ID: Level: User: OpCode: More Informati	System Kernel-General 16 Information SYSTEM Info on: <u>Event Log Online Help</u>	Log <u>o</u> Task Keyv Com	ged: Categor vords: uputer:	View Refresh Help Event 16, Kernel-General Event Properties Attach Task To This Eve.))

5.3 New Fields added for UEFI Intel VROC Device Info Protocol

Intel VROC UEFI Drivers add the following new fields to the UEFI Intel VROC Device Info Protocol to assist in device recognition during factory process when Intel VMD root port is enabled on NVMe SSDs.

- DeviceId
- SubsystemVendorld
- SubsystemId
- ClassCode
- RevisionId
- FirmwareRev
- OptionROMBar
- RootPortBusNum
- RootPortDeviceNum
- RootPortFunctionNum
- SegmentNum

Please see the *Intel(R)_VROC_UEFI_DEVICE_INFO_PROTOCOL.pdf* for implementation details and API.

5.4 Support of Older Platforms

Beginning with Intel RSTe version 5.5 PV, support for older platforms has been introduced. With the exception of platforms with the Intel C600 or C200 series chipset and includes the support for the Intel RSTe NVMe product as well.

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Please see the Intel RSTe TPS for more details.

5.5 Intel Accelerated Storage Manager (Intel[®] ASM) REST API Plug in Availability

The Intel ASM Plug In is only available on Intel[®] Xeon[®] Scalable Family Platforms with Intel VROC capability. This RESTful API offers storage management through a web based interface configured as standalone or distributed across multiple servers.

The Intel ASM can be installed on Intel[®] Xeon[®] Scalable Family Platforms using the Intel RSTe 5.5 OS installer (SetupRSTe.exe).

For more details: refer to the Intel RSTe Technical Product Spec and the "Intel Accelerated Storage Manager Windows Administration Guide.pdf" included in this package.

5.6 Intel VROC UEFI Driver Backward Compatibility for Microsoft* Windows* 8.1 and newer OS

Beginning with this Intel VROC 5.5PV package, older UEFI Driver versions of 5.X will be compatible with Intel VROC Windows 5.5PV and newer. The exception will be Microsoft* Windows* 7, which must use the Intel VROC UEFI driver version 5.4 or newer on Intel Xeon® Scalable Platforms with switch attached NVMe SSDs.

5.7 Ability to Change Controller Default Values

This release of Intel RSTe 5.5PV introduces the ability to change controller default values for the following settings:

- Read Patrol
- Rebuild on hot insert

5.8 Warning Message added for RAID Volume Creation

Intel RSTe 5.5PV introduces a warning message if a RAID volume is created when:

- Drive size differences are greater than 10%
- Volume includes mix of SSDs and HDDs

5.9 Support for UEFI Driver Health Protocol

In the UEFI environment, the Intel VROC and Intel RSTe SATA UEFI drivers will support warning messages during system boot through UEFI Driver Health Protocol, when at least one of the following conditions is met:

- At least one RAID volume is degraded
- At least one RAID volume is failed
- At least one drive is in 'RAID unsupported' state (Intel VROC UEFI only)



- At least one drive is in 'Incompatible' state
- At least one drive is in 'Offline' state
- At least one drive is in 'Unknown' state



6 Features Introduced In Intel RSTe 5.4

6.1 Intel VMD and Intel VROC Surprise Hot Plug for Microsoft* Windows* Operating Systems

Intel VMD surprise hot plug for Windows enhancements in this Intel VROC 5.4 release will see improved times for hot insertion and hot removal for Intel VMD enabled NVMe devices. It is recommended to wait until device is reflected as removed / inserted in device manager for spacing surprise hot plug of devices in Windows.

6.2 Continuous IO during Hot Plug

With this release of Intel VROC 5.4 users will see that IO is continuous during hot plug when using Windows performance tools. When an NVMe device is removed or inserted, IO will be continuous to the remaining VMD enabled NVMe devices.

6.3 Increase the number of NVMe devices supported to 48

Intel VROC 5.4 will increase the number of devices supported on one platform from 24 to 48 NVMe devices supported. Please refer to the Intel VROC Technical Product Specification for changes to RAID volume and RAID arrays allowed with this change.

6.4 New API for the Private UEFI Intel VROC Device Info Protocol with new field for BLOCKIO Protocol for Pass Thru devices

Allows UEFI applications to retrieve information about each NVMe device on Intel VMD-enabled lanes

- Bus/device/function
- o Socket Number
- o VMD Domain
- o Root Port Number
- o Slot Number
- o Vendor Id
- Serial Number
- Model Number
- o Total Blocks
- o Block Size
- o Raid Device Member
- o Root Port Offset
- BLOCKIO Protocol (NEW in Intel VROC 5.4)



Please refer to the Intel VROC UEFI Device Info Protocol document for structure API changes, included in the Intel VROC 5.4 release kit.

6.5 Customizable LED Management

Customers can customize LED management by modifying registry keys to change behavior for the following Blinking patterns:

- Locate Blinking pattern time can be lengthened or shortened (default 12 seconds)
- FAIL Blinking pattern can continue until another good drive is inserted, or stop when failed drive is removed (default is 0 stop when drive is removed)
- Rebuild initializing Blinking pattern on all drives in RAID volume (until initialization/verify/verify and fix finishes) enable (0x1 default) or disable
- Rebuild Blinking pattern on 1 drive or all drives in RAID volume 0x0(default 1 drive) or 0x1
- Rebuild Migration– Blinking pattern on all drives when migration occurs from one RAID type to another RAID type enable (default = 0x01) or disable

Note: Please reference the Intel® VROC Technical Product Specification for details

6.6 Performance Improvements for 4K Queue Depth

Intel VROC has optimized performance for 4K queue depth by adding Storage Request Block for performance improvement in Intel VROC 5.4 release.

Intel VROC supports both STORAGE_REQUEST_BLOCKs and SCSI_REQUEST_BLOCKs. This is designed for implementation on windows OS >= Microsoft* Windows* 8, and allows device queue depth to 4k; delivering better performance for massive workloads with many concurrent workers.



List of Modules supported on Intel[®] Xeon[®] based platforms delivered with Intel[®] VROC 6.1.0.1247 Release Package.

Feature	Notes
Intel UEFI Drivers	 Intel® VROC UEFI Driver version 6.1.0.1017 VMDVROC_1.efi (HW key enforcement in effect) Intel® VMD UEFI version 1.6.0.1001 VMDVROC_2.efi Note: All of these images are required and intended to support Intel VMD and Intel VROC (SATA RAID) functionality as a combined installed package. Intel® VROC (SATA RAID) SATA / sSATA UEFI Driver version 6.1.0.1017 SataDriver.efi sSataDriver.efi
Legacy OROM Images	 Intel[®] VROC (SATA RAID) SATA OROM pre-OS image version 6.1.0.1017 SataOrom.bin sSataOrom.bin



Feature	Notes
Feature	Notes Intel® VROC Windows GUI version 6.1.0.1236 Intel® VROC Windows Installer Package version 5.6.0.1018 Intel® VROC Windows Installer Package version 6.1_4.0.12 SetupVROC.exe (Multi-lingual) Intel® VROC (VMD NVMe RAID) Windows F6 Driver version 6.1.0.1224- Win8 (Includes Intel VMD enabled NVMe Driver version 1.6.0.1004) \iaVROC.free.win8.64bit.6.1.0.1224\jaVROC Intel® VROC (VMD NVMe RAID) Windows F6 Driver version 1.6.0.1004) \iaVROC.free.win7.64bit.5.6.0.1016\jaVROC Intel® VROC (SATA RAID) Windows F6 Driver version 1.6.0.1004) \iaStorE.free.win8.64bit.6.1.0.1226\jaStorE (SATA) \iaStorE.free.win8.64bit.6.1.0.1226\jaStorE (SATA) \iaStorE.free.win7.64bit.5.6.0.1006\jaStorE (SATA) \iaVROC.free.win7.64bit.5.6.0.1006\jaStorE (SATA) \iaVROC.free.win7.64bit.5.6.0.1006\jaStorE (SATA) \iaVROC.free.win7.64bit.5.6.0.1006\jaStorE (SATA) \iaVROC.free.win7.64bit.5.6.0.1006\jaStorE (SATA) \iaVROC.free.win7.64bit.5.6.0.1006\jaStorE (SATA) \iaVROC.free.win7.64bit.5.6.0.1006\jaStorE (SATA)
	Intel RSTe CLI version 5.6.0.1018 – Win7-64bit
UEFI Based RAID Configuration Utility	 RCfgVROC.efi Intel[®] VROC SATA / sSATA version 6.1.0.1017 RCfgSata.efi RCfgsSata.efi Note: Secure Boot must be disabled to use this tool
DOS Based RAID Configuration Utility	 Intel[®] VROC SATA / sSATA version 6.1.0.1017 RCfgSata.exe RCfgsSata.exe



Feature	Notes
UEFI Based Comply Utility	 Intel[®] VROC version 6.1.0.1017 RcmpVROC.efi Intel[®] VROC SATA / sSATA version 6.1.0.1017 RCmpSata.efi RCmpsSata.efi Note: Secure Boot must be disabled to use this tool
DOS Based Comply Utility	 Intel[®] VROC SATA / sSATA version 6.1.0.1017 RCmpSata.exe RCmpsSata.exe
UEFI based SATA SGPIO/LED Test utility	 Intel[®] VROC SATA / sSATA version 6.1.0.1017 LedToolSata.efi LedToolsSata.efi Note: Secure Boot must be disabled to use this tool
UEFI based Intel VROC LED Test utility	 Intel[®] VROC version 6.1.0.1017 LedToolVROC.efi Note: This tool can be used to exercise LEDs for NVMe disks behind VMD
UEFI Based Clear Metadata Utility	 Intel[®] VROC SATA / sSATA version 6.1.0.1017 RCIrSata.efi RCIrsSata.efi
UEFI Based Intel VROC HW Key Checker	 Intel[®] VROC Activation Key Checker HWKeyCheckVROC.efi Note: This tool will check for the presence and type of the HW key



8 Intel VROC Limitations

8.1 Microsoft .NET Framework Removal

As previously described, the Intel VROC product installation application has removed the Microsoft .NET Framework as well as the Intel ASM component.

The following table shows how the removal of the Microsoft .NET Framework may impact the launching of the Intel VROC GUI, based off the Windows operating system installed:

	Server 2k12 R2	Server 2k16	Windows 2k19	Win 10 RS3	Win 10 RS4	Win 10 RS5	Win 10 19H1
VROC 6.0	Install Latest .NET Framework	Install Latest .NET Framework	No Impact	Install Latest .NET Framework	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact

If the system configuration requires the .NET Framework version to be updated and the system has internet access, a web installer can be used, which should go out and install the latest version. For example: (https://support.microsoft.com/enus/help/4054531/microsoft-net-framework-4-7-2-web-installer-for-windows).

If the system is not connected to the Internet, then an offline version must be downloaded, moved to and installed on the system. The following are some additional instruction to help in this process:

- 1. Download the latest version of .NET Framework from Microsoft
- Compress the downloaded image (to avoid potential undesirable side effect as outlined in https://docs.microsoft.com/enus/dotnet/framework/install/troubleshoot-blocked-installations-anduninstallations#compat)
- 3. Copy the compressed file to a USB drive
- 4. Copy the compressed file from the USB drive to the Download directory of the platform being configured
- 5. Uncompressed the file
- 6. Run the executable file as administrator

For more information please refer to https://dotnet.microsoft.com/.

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Once the latest version of the .NET Framework is installed, rerun the Intel RSTe product installation application. This helps ensure that all components will start properly.

8.2 Intel VROC (NonNVMe NVMe RAID) Support

Intel VROC (NonVMD NVMe RAID) support is included in the Intel VROC 6.0 release package. This package supports only Intel NVMe SSDs and does not support (nor can be installed on) platforms that support Intel VMD. Intel VROC (NonVMD NVMe RAID) supports DATA RAID. Boot support is not available. For more information, please refer to the Intel VROC TPS included with this package.

NOTE: This functionality is not supported on Purley Refresh platforms

8.3 Surprise Hot Plug Limitations

Due to Microsoft* Windows* time restrictions for resuming from S3 and S4, and Intel VMD device identification requirements, Hot Plug of Intel VMD enabled NVMe devices is not supported during S3 and S4 states.

Surprise removal of multiple NVMe SSDs at one time are not supported. The user must wait until a device is reflected as removed / inserted in device manager for spacing surprise hot plug of Intel VMD enabled PCIe NVMe SSDs in Microsoft* Windows*.

Due to these limitations, Intel strongly discourages performing Hot Plugs during an S3 power state change.

8.4 Expect Longer Rebuild Times for RAID 5

On a RAID 5 volume, disk cache is being turned off when a volume is degraded. Due to this, the rebuilding times have increased expectedly until the rebuild is completed, and disk cache is enabled again.

This extends to drives being added to a RAID 5 volume as well.

8.5 Intel VROC Command Line Interface

The Intel VROC Command Line Interface (CLI) does not support the RAID Volume name beginning with blank space.

8.6 Intel VROC Trial Version Limitations

Data RAID Only (No Boot Support) Data RAID must be installed on same make/model of NVMe devices



Once an Intel VROC Upgrade Key has been inserted into the system, the trial version is concluded. Removing the upgrade key does not re-enable the trial version. As a result, any existing RAID volumes present while the upgrade key was installed, won't be seen and could be in an unknown state.

When creating a RAID volume using the Trial version, don't mix NVMe vendors. Mixing vendors may result in unexpected behavior.

Please refer to the Intel VROC Trial Version section in the Intel VROC Technical Product Specification for 5.4PV for more details

8.7 Intel VROC PreOS UEFI Driver Uninstall limitations

The Intel VROC UEFI RAID drivers comply with UEFI Specifications for PCI Driver Model for PCI Device Drivers (Section 13.3.3) and may return Status Code "access denied" from UninstallProtocolInterface routine from Boot services (spec. 6.3). This is expected behavior.



8.8

Intel NVMe Wear Leveling Recommendations

NVMe SSD Wear Leveling refers to techniques used to prolong the service life of NVMe drives. This section outlines recommendations to maximize Wear Leveling on RAID 5 volumes.

Strip Size No of drives	4	8	16	32	64	128
3	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal
4	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Suboptimal	Suboptimal
5	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal
6	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Suboptimal
7	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal
8	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Suboptimal	Suboptimal	Suboptimal
9	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal
10	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Suboptimal
11	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal
12	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Suboptimal	Suboptimal
13	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal
14	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Suboptimal
15	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal
16	Optimal	Optimal	Suboptimal	Suboptimal	Suboptimal	Suboptimal
17	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal
18	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Suboptimal
19	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal
20	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Suboptimal	Suboptimal
21	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal
22	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Suboptimal
23	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal
24	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Suboptimal	Suboptimal	Suboptimal

Note: It is left to the customer to determine the most effective combination of parameters (number of drives vs. strip size) to achieve their desired performance goals, usage models and drive endurance.



8.9 Must use F6 Install Method

The use of the included Intel VROC F6 drivers are required to install an OS onto an Intel VROC managed device(s). There is no Microsoft "inbox" driver that supports Intel VROC 6.0.

The supported Microsoft Operating Systems for this product include inbox drivers that support the Intel® C620 and C422 series chipset Platform Controller Hub (PCH) when configured for RAID mode. It is strongly recommended that the Intel VROC (SATA RAID) F6 drivers included in this release be used instead of the available "inbox" driver. The provided "inbox" driver is intended only for those customers who may not have the Intel VROC (SATA RAID) F6 drivers readily available and ONLY for installing to a single drive (NOT to a RAID volume). Once the OS is installed, it is strongly recommended that the Intel VROC 6.0 installer package be installed immediately. At that point, it will be safe to migrate the SATA system disk into a RAID Volume (using the Intel VROC GUI).

8.10 Intel C620 and C422 series chipset Port Limitations

This limitation is in reference to platforms having a PCH that supports more than 6 SATA ports. The Intel C620 and C422 series chipset SATA controller supports 8 SATA ports. As referenced above, The Microsoft Windows Operating systems that contain the "inbox" drivers for the Intel® C620 and C422 series chipset Platform Controller Hub (PCH) when configured for RAID mode, only support 6 ports. Drives on ports 7 and/or 8 are not enumerated. For this reason, Intel recommends not using these 2 ports as part of the Windows* OS boot installation (as a pass-thru drive or as part of a RAID volume). However, if you do need to use these ports as part of your Windows* boot volume, the steps below can be used as a workaround.

Note: you will need a USB drive with the Intel VROC IntelVROCCLI.exe utility.

- After you have created the desired RAID volume that includes ports 7 and/or 8 (which you intend to use as your Windows* boot volume) in the PreOS environment, begin the Windows* installation process. *Make note of the RAID volume name.*
- 2. Navigate to the Windows* disk selection window. At this point, select the Load Driver button and install the Intel VROC F6 driver (included in this package).
- 3. Attempt to continue installing the Windows OS onto the RAID volume. If the installation process does not continue, this error has been encountered.
- 4. Press f10 to invoke a CMD window.
- 5. If you have not already done so, please insert the USB drive into the system. Navigate to your USB drive with the RstCLI.exe utility.
- 6. Run command: IntelVROCCLI.exe --manage --normal-volume <volumeName>
- 7. This will reset the volume to a normal state.
- 8. Close the CMD window.
- 9. In the Windows* disk selection window, reload the Intel VROC f6 driver.
- 10. Once completed, Windows* should allow installation on the RAID volume.

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8.11 Intel VROC Key Removal/Upgrade Limitation

With Microsoft* Windows* 10, Fast Startup is enabled by default. Disable Fast Startup prior to removing/upgrading the Intel VROC HW key. OR, perform a complete reboot when removing/inserting a HW key when Fast Startup is enabled.

8.12 NVMe Port Assignment by Intel VROC

In Windows and UEFI, the port number shown in the Intel VROC interfaces depends on disk enumeration order by the Intel VMD-enabled NVMe driver, which can be different on each platform. The port numbers shown does not reflect the physical PCIe slot. After each hot plug, there is an enumeration process which is NOT fixed.

Please see the Intel[®] VROC Windows Technical Product Specification for information on the new Intel VROC UEFI Device Info Protocol for unique NVMe physical slot locations.

8.13 Windows* 10 RS5/Server 2019

8.13.1 Idle Power increased

Installing Intel VROC 6.0 PV onto a platform running Windows* 10 RS5. In Windows and UEFI, the port number shown in the Intel VROC interfaces depends on disk enumeration order by the Intel VMD-enabled NVMe driver, which can be different on each platform. The port numbers shown does not reflect the physical PCIe slot. After each hot plug, there is an enumeration process which is NOT fixed.

Please see the Intel[®] VROC for Windows Technical Product Specification for information on the new Intel VROC UEFI Device Info Protocol for unique NVMe physical slot locations.

8.13.2 Intel VROC Support for Windows 10 RS5 / Server 2019

Intel VROC 5.5.0.2013 introduces support for Windows* 10 RS5 and Windows* Server 2019.

NOTE: There is a known issue trying to install Windows* 10 RS5 / Server 2019. Installing Windows* 10 RS5 or Server 2019 onto an Intel VMD managed device is limited to a single CPU. For more information please see the Known Issues section below.



8.14 Intel VROC 6.0 on Windows* Server 2012 R2

When installing Intel VROC 6.0 onto Windows* Server 2012 R2, the following Microsoft* updates must first be applied:

- 1. KB4054566
- 2. KB2999226
- 3. KB2919355
- 4. KB3172729



This section outlines the known issues that are being actively worked on with the Intel VROC 6.0 PV release

Internal	
Reference#	Title
	System Crach May Occurred when load Intel VROC (VMD
	NVMe RAID) F6 driver while the Intel VROC RAID is Under an
<u>1606900429</u>	Initialize State.
<u>1409098352</u>	BSOD with Surprise Hot-Plug After Removing 2nd Device and reinserting
<u>1409080745</u>	A System Crash may be Observed with Windows Install on a drive behind a Switch
1408968353	Intel VROC (VMD NVMe RAID) UEFI HII Menu May Cause the BIOS Setup Menu to be Improperly Displayed
<u>1507139562</u>	System May Encounter a System Failure Resuming from S3/S4 Power Management While a Migrating a RAID Volume
<u>1409194760</u>	Activity LED is not blinking when SATA drive in RAID mo
	System May Encounter a System Failure Resuming from S3/S4
<u>1306392182</u>	Power Management While a Migrating a RAID Volume
<u>1807345165</u>	The CLI Tool May Not Properly Expand Existing RAID Volumes
<u>1806588250</u>	Creating a RAID5 System volume from a Pass-through System Disk (Windows 10 RS5/Server 2019) May Fail
1806559207	Installing the OS onto a RAID5 volume May Result in a Degraded Volume
	The Intel VROC CLI Tool May Allow Data Migration With a
<u>1806534894</u>	Smaller Drive
	IIntel RSTe NVMe Pre-Purley Platform with 48 NVMe Drives
	and Max Volumes. Degraded RAID Volume May Encounter a
<u>1806397184</u>	System Failure While Booting
<u>1805900436</u>	Intel VROC F6 Drivers May Not Properly Load
	Title The Intel RSTe Upgrade (Uninstall/re-install) Process May
<u>1408610353</u>	Encounter a System Crash
	Intel VROC GUI may not Properly Open Unless "Run as
1806/82204	Administrator"
1806411891	RAID Volume May Become Degraded After Reboot



Internal	
Reference#	Title
	An Intel VROC GUI Volume Creation Warnings Message May
<u>1807170210</u>	Overlay ontop of a Submenu
	The Intel VROC RWH Policy May Change from Journaling to
<u>1807158496</u>	Distributed after a Drive Hot Unplug
	Intel VROC GUI May Show a Pop-up Unknown Error Message
<u>1807073364</u>	when a RAID Volume Migration Begins
	Event Lot May Not Poroperly Show "RAID volume
<u>1806564426</u>	{VolumeName} is normal" Message after a Rebuild Completes
<u>1806564424</u>	System May Fail to Start After an Unexpected Power Loss
	Platform May Not Properly Boot After a Dirty Shutdown with
<u>1806564409</u>	I/O on a RAID 4 volume (RWH Distributed)
4000500500	Drive Hot Insert May Report the Drive was Removed Followed
<u>1806522520</u>	by Detection
1006410240	Intel VROC (VMD RAID) NVMe Drive May be Marked as
1800419240	Available Alter Removal
1806397164	and 24 Volumes May Encounter a boot Failure
1000337104	non-RAID disks may not be displayed after creating SATA
1506864660	RAID in legacy SATA OROM
	RAID10, hot-plug two member disks, re-plugged second disk
<u>1506398660</u>	can't rebuilding.
	Title SATA RAID volume can't be create with combine internal
<u>1409108164</u>	and external drive
	RSTe RCfgRSTeRS.efi Disk IDs are not consistent and RAID 5
<u>1407347823</u>	create with journaling drive hangs.
	When using the Intel VROC CLI Tool to Create RAID Volumes
	One of the Disks May Show a Disk Size of 0 GB after the
<u>1807107325</u>	Volume Creation Completes.
	Intel VROC GUI May Require the "Proceed with deleting data"
1409371408	Box be Selected when not Expected.



Issues Resolved in 6.1 PV

Internal	Title
Reference#	litte
	BSOD 0x50 occurred sporadically when system run Win10
<u>1506951451</u>	HLK test item "PNP/Sleep with IO Before and After"
<u>1407931496</u>	Intel VROC RAID Volumes May Not Properly Show in the BIO
	BSOD randomly occurs during RAID CFG migrating via RSTe
1506852286	APP
	The unit of RAID volume capacity may not display properly
<u>1407996572</u>	when creating SATA RAID in legacy SATA OROM



Issues Resolved in 6.0 PV

Internal	
Reference#	Title
	Intel SSD will have two duplicated HII entry created in F1
<u>2203448525</u>	setup "System Settings -> Storage" page
1805474763	Intel VROC Driver Ungrade May Mark Volume as Initialized
1000 17 17 00	RSOD occurred after loading E6 driver during Win10 RS5
<u>1606761987</u>	installation
	Intel VROC Negotiated Link Rate Reported May Not be
<u>1506077912</u>	Accurate
<u>1406945370</u>	NVMe LED blinking Issue on RAID when Locate sent after the Rebuild
1406654647	Hot Inserting a Drive into a RAID Volume with many ECC Errors May Cause a RAID Volume to Fail
<u>1806427432</u>	Intel VROC Negotiated Link Rate Reported May Not be Accurate
<u>1806420960</u>	Intel RSTe NVMe 5.5 on a Windows 7 64-bit Platform May Report the Incorrect Filter Driver Version Number
1506226285	Intel VROC mismatch error after changing RAID 5 RWH Values in BIOS setup
1504750338	Can Not Disable All RAID Levels in BIOS Setup



12 Issues Resolved in Intel VROC 5.5 PV

Internal	
Reference#	Title
	Windows 2016 stuck when hot-plug one of member drive on
2202860567	RAID5
	The issue was failing to create SATA HDD RAID via RSTE CLI
1505288506	command, there was no response after executed CLI
1303288300	Intel VROC LIEEL HILMonu Should not Appear in BIOS when
1407167497	VMD is Disabled
1407138251	Data Loss May Occur if Writing to Disk During S4
	Intel VROC Enabled Platform May Not Properly Generate a
1806291543	System Failure dump file.
1806147003	Unresponsive HDD May Prevent OS Boot
	Performing an S4 on a degraded RAID 5 Volume May Result in
<u>1805624457</u>	a System Crash
<u>1805245743</u>	Windows 7 BSE When ODD is attached Resuming from S3/S4
<u>1506414153</u>	All Applications are gone after resume from S4
	Hot Removal of a Matrix RAID Member May Result in a System
<u>1506153616</u>	Failure
<u>1505203256</u>	Intel P905 NVMe SSD drive can't be recognized by 5.4 CLI tool
	CC_CSMI_SAS_GET_RAID_CONFIG cannot return correct
1504716895	information about RAID
<u>1504685173</u>	Black screen and 0x1E BSOD entering s4 via S3
1407021617	BSOD occurred after loading F6 driver during Win 10 RS5
1407320372	System Disk not Marked as System Volume in RSTe GUI
1406789629	Repeated System Restarts May Result in a 0x9E System Erro
1305232413	Platform May hang Entering S4 if eSATA Device Connected
1303232413	Intel VROC UEFI Driver Returns Incorrect Values for SCT HI
<u>1806088107</u>	Test Case
	NVMe System Disk can be Selected as RAID 5 RWH Journaling
<u>1805901301</u>	Disk Drive After Hotplug
	Removing a Drive from a Spanned RAID Volume May Not be
<u>1604699889</u>	Properly Handled



Issues Fixed in Intel VROC 5.4 PV

Internal	
Reference#	I Itle
1504601000	SATAquick not plug in Windows cause disk always in failed
1504091600	The System may not menerly best into the OS when the
<u>1504659653</u>	platform has an 18 Core CPU.
<u>1504648956</u>	SATA Hot Unplug in Windows causes RAID disk in failed stat
<u>1504625142</u>	IO stops when perform disk hot-plug
<u>1504593125</u>	Hot removal cause system BSOD
<u>1406932725</u>	Intel RSTe GUI May Not Start when OS is on an NVMe drive not managed by Intel VD
<u>1805878310</u>	VROC Windows RAID 5 hangs during "Scan for and attempt recovery"
<u>1805778949</u>	RSTCLI Mange Locate LED Function Does Not Work
<u>1805245735</u>	Windows* 7 Installed onto an Intel VROC RAID 1 Volume May Not Reboot Properly.
<u>1604433815</u>	SUT hangs at the second logo after change CPU Multi Core value to 1 in BIOS setu
<u>1504705930</u>	RSTe RSTCLI tool cannot Report SATA Disks if VMD is Disabled
<u>1504702455</u>	Intel VMD Error Happens in Windows* 7 OS installation
<u>1504645681</u>	VROC RAID can't create a RAID 1 volume on certain 3.2TB 3rd Party Device
<u>1504597467</u>	SATA drive in UEFI removal and access hang issue
<u>1504579431</u>	System Cannot Enter S4 Under VMD Mod
<u>1504562166</u>	SUT hangs at the second logo after change CPU Multi Core value to 1 in BIOS setu
<u>1504529906</u>	Windows 7 System Sporadic BSE during S3/S4 cycling VMD enabled
<u>1407473581</u>	Intel Firmware Upgrade Tool Does Not Support SATA RSTe RAID FW Update
<u>1406924883</u>	The RSTe GUI May Not Properly Start if OS is Installed on 3rd Party RAID controller

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Internal	
Reference#	Title
1406591495	SCT UEFI tests failed for GetComponentName Protocol Test
	Intel VROC GUI may show Option to Rebuild Volume to
<u>1406523199</u>	Duplicates of the Same Device
2201294151	HII show wrong in journal disk
	Intel VROC may Display Incorrect Slot Numbers in
<u>1805533485</u>	UEFI/HII/rstcli
<u>1805245779</u>	Adding Disk to a 6 Disk RAID 0 May Not Add The Disk
	Inconsistent requirement of disk capacity for rebuilding a RAID
1604586588	volume in Windows
	RAID volume's capacity displays wrongly in PreOS when
<u>1504707246</u>	creating a RAID volume
<u>1504687577</u>	CLI -M -L command error
	A "Missing" disk remains in Windows RSTe UI after rebuilding
<u>1504681547</u>	of a degraded RAID volume to another disk completes.
	The definition of "Rebuild on Hot Insert" is incorrect in
1504681226	Windows RSTe Help page
	An additional "Unknown" disk is displayed in Windows RSTe UI
1504679777	after RAID rebuilding completes on a spare disk
1504644095	RSTCLI stop working when set a non-existent disk as spare
<u>1504555607</u>	Naming for the RAID in BIOS allows Special Characters
	Chinese Characters May Be present in RSTe GUI When Using
1406589463	Dutch Nederland
	Windows RSTe UI displays multiple copies of the same disk in
<u>1504664587</u>	the option menu when choosing a disk for rebuild