Open Container Initiative Image Format Specification

Open Container Initiative

Image Format Specification

This specification defines an OCI Image, consisting of an image manifest, an image index (optional), a set of filesystem layers, and a configuration.

The goal of this specification is to enable the creation of interoperable tools for building, transporting, and preparing a container image to run.

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Notational Conventions

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 (Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997).

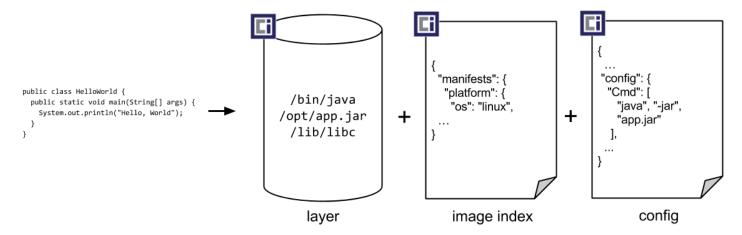
The key words "unspecified", "undefined", and "implementation-defined" are to be interpreted as described in the rationale for the C99 standard.

An implementation is not compliant if it fails to satisfy one or more of the MUST, MUST NOT, REQUIRED, SHALL, or SHALL NOT requirements for the protocols it implements. An implementation is compliant if it satisfies all the MUST, MUST NOT, REQUIRED, SHALL, and SHALL NOT requirements for the protocols it implements.

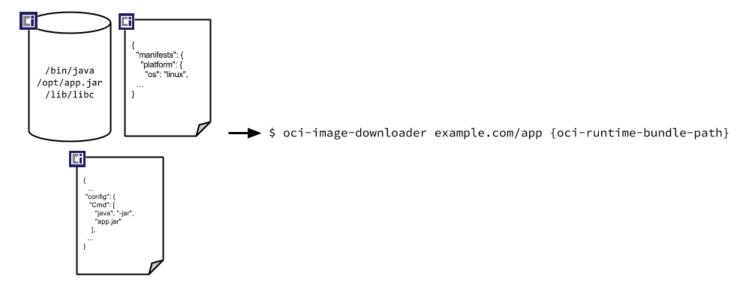
Overview

At a high level the image manifest contains metadata about the contents and dependencies of the image including the content-addressable identity of one or more filesystem layer changeset archives that will be unpacked to make up the final

runnable filesystem. The image configuration includes information such as application arguments, environments, etc. The image index is a higher-level manifest which points to a list of manifests and descriptors. Typically, these manifests may provide different implementations of the image, possibly varying by platform or other attributes.



Once built the OCI Image can then be discovered by name, downloaded, verified by hash, trusted through a signature, and unpacked into an OCI Runtime Bundle.



Understanding the Specification

The OCI Image Media Types document is a starting point to understanding the overall structure of the specification.

The high-level components of the spec include:

- Image Manifest a document describing the components that make up a container image
- Image Index an annotated list of manifests
- Image Layout a filesystem layout representing the contents of an image
- Filesystem Layer a changeset that describes a container's filesystem
- Image Configuration a document determining layer ordering and configuration of the image suitable for translation into a runtime bundle
- Conversion a document describing how this translation should occur
- Descriptor a reference that describes the type, metadata and content address of referenced content

Future versions of this specification may include the following OPTIONAL features:

- Signatures that are based on signing image content address
- Naming that is federated based on DNS and can be delegated

OCI Image Media Types

The following media types identify the formats described here and their referenced resources:

- application/vnd.oci.descriptor.v1+json: Content Descriptor
- application/vnd.oci.layout.header.v1+json: OCI Layout
- application/vnd.oci.image.index.v1+json: Image Index
- application/vnd.oci.image.manifest.v1+json: Image manifest
- application/vnd.oci.image.config.v1+json: Image config
- application/vnd.oci.image.layer.v1.tar: "Layer", as a tar archive
- application/vnd.oci.image.layer.v1.tar+gzip: "Layer", as a tar archive compressed with [gzip][rfc1952]
- application/vnd.oci.image.layer.v1.tar+zstd: "Layer", as a tar archive compressed with zstd
- application/vnd.oci.scratch.v1+json: Scratch blob
- application/vnd.oci.artifact.manifest.v1+json: Artifact manifest

The following media types identify a "Layer" with distribution restrictions, but are **deprecated** and not recommended for future use:

- application/vnd.oci.image.layer.nondistributable.v1.tar: "Layer", as a tar archive
- application/vnd.oci.image.layer.nondistributable.v1.tar+gzip: "Layer", as a tar archive with distribution restrictions compressed with [gzip][rfc1952]
- application/vnd.oci.image.layer.nondistributable.v1.tar+zstd: "Layer", as a tar archive with distribution restrictions compressed with zstd

Media Type Conflicts

Blob retrieval methods MAY return media type metadata. For example, a HTTP response might return a manifest with the Content-Type header set to application/vnd.oci.image.manifest.v1+json. Implementations MAY also have expectations for the blob's media type and digest (e.g. from a descriptor referencing the blob).

- Implementations that do not have an expected media type for the blob SHOULD respect the returned media type.
- Implementations that have an expected media type which matches the returned media type SHOULD respect the matched media type.
- Implementations that have an expected media type which does not match the returned media type SHOULD:
 - Respect the expected media type if the blob matches the expected digest. Implementations MAY warn about the media type mismatch.
 - Return an error if the blob does not match the expected digest (as recommended for descriptors).
 - Return an error if they do not have an expected digest.

Compatibility Matrix

The OCI Image Specification strives to be backwards and forwards compatible when possible. Breaking compatibility with existing systems creates a burden on users whether they are build systems, distribution systems, container engines, etc. This section shows where the OCI Image Specification is compatible with formats external to the OCI Image and different versions of this specification.

application/vnd.oci.image.index.v1+json

Similar/related schema

- $\bullet \ application/vnd.docker.distribution.manifest.list.v2+json$
 - .annotations: only present in OCI
 - . [] manifests.annotations: only present in OCI
 - .[]manifests.urls: only present in OCI

application/vnd.oci.image.manifest.v1+json

Similar/related schema

- application/vnd.docker.distribution.manifest.v2+json
 - .annotations: only present in OCI
 - .config.annotations: only present in OCI
 - .config.urls: only present in OCI
 - .[]layers.annotations: only present in OCI

application/vnd.oci.image.layer.v1.tar+gzip

Interchangeable and fully compatible mime-types

• application/vnd.docker.image.rootfs.diff.tar.gzip

application/vnd.oci.image.config.v1+json

Similar/related schema

- application/vnd.docker.container.image.v1+json (Docker Image Spec v1.2)
 - .config.Memory: only present in Docker, and reserved in OCI
 - .config.MemorySwap: only present in Docker, and reserved in OCI
 - .config.CpuShares: only present in Docker, and reserved in OCI
 - .config.Healthcheck: only present in Docker, and reserved in OCI
- Moby/Docker
 - .config.ArgsEscaped: Windows-specific Moby/Docker extension, deprecated in OCI, available for compatibility with older images.

.config.StopSignal and .config.Labels are accidentally undocumented in Docker Image Spec v1.2, but these fields are not OCI-specific concepts.

Relations

The following figure shows how the ab

OCI Content Descriptors

- An OCI image consists of several different components, arranged in a Merkle Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG).
- References between components in the graph are expressed through Content Descriptors.
- A Content Descriptor (or simply *Descriptor*) describes the disposition of the targeted content.
- A Content Descriptor includes the type of the content, a content identifier (digest), and the byte-size of the raw content. Optionally, it includes the type of artifact it is describing.
- Descriptors SHOULD be embedded in other formats to securely reference external content.
- Other formats SHOULD use descriptors to securely reference external content.

This section defines the application/vnd.oci.descriptor.v1+json media type.

Properties

A descriptor consists of a set of properties encapsulated in key-value fields.

The following fields contain the primary properties that constitute a Descriptor:

• mediaType string

This REQUIRED property contains the media type of the referenced content. Values MUST comply with RFC 6838, including the naming requirements in its section 4.2.

The OCI image specification defines several of its own MIME types for resources defined in the specification.

• digest string

This REQUIRED property is the *digest* of the targeted content, conforming to the requirements outlined in Digests. Retrieved content SHOULD be verified against this digest when consumed via untrusted sources.

• size int64

This REQUIRED property specifies the size, in bytes, of the raw content. This property exists so that a client will have an expected size for the content before processing. If the length of the retrieved content does not match the specified length, the content SHOULD NOT be trusted.

• urls array of strings

This OPTIONAL property specifies a list of URIs from which this object MAY be downloaded. Each entry MUST conform to RFC 3986. Entries SHOULD use the http and https schemes, as defined in RFC 7230.

ullet annotations $string\text{-}string\ map$

This OPTIONAL property contains arbitrary metadata for this descriptor. This OPTIONAL property MUST use the annotation rules.

data string

This OPTIONAL property contains an embedded representation of the referenced content. Values MUST conform to the Base 64 encoding, as defined in RFC 4648. The decoded data MUST be identical to the referenced content and SHOULD be verified against the digest and size fields by content consumers. See Embedded Content for when this is appropriate.

artifactType string

This OPTIONAL property contains the type of an artifact when the descriptor points to an artifact. This is the value of the config descriptor mediaType when the descriptor references an image manifest. If defined, the value MUST comply with RFC 6838, including the naming requirements in its section 4.2, and MAY be registered with IANA.

Descriptors pointing to application/vnd.oci.image.manifest.v1+json SHOULD include the extended field platform, see Image Index Property Descriptions for details.

Reserved

Extended *Descriptor* field additions proposed in other OCI specifications SHOULD first be considered for addition into this specification.

Digests

The *digest* property of a Descriptor acts as a content identifier, enabling content addressability. It uniquely identifies content by taking a collision-resistant hash of the bytes. If the *digest* can be communicated in a secure manner, one can verify content from an insecure source by recalculating the digest independently, ensuring the content has not been modified.

The value of the digest property is a string consisting of an algorithm portion and an encoded portion. The algorithm specifies the cryptographic hash function and encoding used for the digest; the encoded portion contains the encoded result of the hash function.

A digest string MUST match the following grammar:

Note that algorithm MAY impose algorithm-specific restriction on the grammar of the *encoded* portion. See also Registered Algorithms.

Some example digest strings include the following:

digest	algorithm	Registered
sha256:6c3c624b58dbbcd3c0dd82b4c53f04194d1247c6eebdaab7c610cf7d66709b3b	SHA-256	Yes
sha512:401b09eab3c013d4ca54922bb802bec8fd5318192b0a75f201d8b372742	SHA-512	Yes
multihash+base58:QmRZxt2b1FVZPNqd8hsiykDL3TdBDeTSPX9Kv46HmX4Gx8	Multihash	No
sha256+b64u:LCa0a2j_xo_5m0U8HTBBNBNCLXBkg7-g-YpeiGJm564	SHA-256 with urlsafe base64	No

Please see Registered Algorithms for a list of registered algorithms.

Implementations SHOULD allow digests with unrecognized algorithms to pass validation if they comply with the above grammar. While sha256 will only use hex encoded digests, separators in algorithm and alphanumerics in encoded are included to allow for extensions. As an example, we can parameterize the encoding and algorithm as multihash+base58:QmRZxt2b1FVZPNqd8hsiykDL3TdBDeTSPX9Kv46HmX4Gx8, which would be considered valid but unregistered by this specification.

Verification

Before consuming content targeted by a descriptor from untrusted sources, the byte content SHOULD be verified against the digest string. Before calculating the digest, the size of the content SHOULD be verified to reduce hash collision space. Heavy processing before calculating a hash SHOULD be avoided. Implementations MAY employ canonicalization of the underlying content to ensure stable content identifiers.

Digest calculations

A digest is calculated by the following pseudo-code, where H is the selected hash algorithm, identified by string <alg></al>

```
let ID(C) = Descriptor.digest
let C = <bytes>
let D = '<alg>:' + Encode(H(C))
```

```
let verified = ID(C) == D
```

Above, we define the content identifier as ID(C), extracted from the Descriptor.digest field. Content C is a string of bytes. Function H returns the hash of C in bytes and is passed to function Encode and prefixed with the algorithm to obtain the digest. The result verified is true if ID(C) is equal to D, confirming that C is the content identified by D. After verification, the following is true:

The digest is confirmed as the content identifier by independently calculating the digest.

Registered algorithms

While the *algorithm* component of the digest string allows the use of a variety of cryptographic algorithms, compliant implementations SHOULD use SHA-256.

The following algorithm identifiers are currently defined by this specification:

algorithm identifier	algorithm
sha256	SHA-256
sha512	SHA-512

If a useful algorithm is not included in the above table, it SHOULD be submitted to this specification for registration.

SHA-256

SHA-256 is a collision-resistant hash function, chosen for ubiquity, reasonable size and secure characteristics. Implementations MUST implement SHA-256 digest verification for use in descriptors.

When the algorithm identifier is sha256, the encoded portion MUST match /[a-f0-9]{64}/. Note that [A-F] MUST NOT be used here.

SHA-512

SHA-512 is a collision-resistant hash function which may be more performant than SHA-256 on some CPUs. Implementations MAY implement SHA-512 digest verification for use in descriptors.

When the algorithm identifier is sha512, the encoded portion MUST match /[a-f0-9]{128}/. Note that [A-F] MUST NOT be used here.

Embedded Content

In many contexts, such as when downloading content over a network, resolving a descriptor to its content has a measurable fixed "roundtrip" latency cost. For large blobs, the fixed cost is usually inconsequential, as the majority of time will be spent actually fetching the content. For very small blobs, the fixed cost can be quite significant.

Implementations MAY choose to embed small pieces of content directly within a descriptor to avoid roundtrips.

Implementations MUST NOT populate the data field in situations where doing so would modify existing content identifiers. For example, a registry MUST NOT arbitrarily populate data fields within uploaded manifests, as that would modify the content identifier of those manifests. In contrast, a client MAY populate the data field before uploading a manifest, because the manifest would not yet have a content identifier in the registry.

Implementations SHOULD consider portability when deciding whether to embed data, as some providers are known to refuse to accept or parse manifests that exceed a certain size.

Examples

The following example describes a Manifest with a content identifier of "sha256:5b0bcabd1ed22e9fb1310cf6c2dec7cdef19f0ad69efa1f392 and a size of 7682 bytes:

```
{
  "mediaType": "application/vnd.oci.image.manifest.v1+json",
  "size": 7682,
  "digest": "sha256:5b0bcabd1ed22e9fb1310cf6c2dec7cdef19f0ad69efa1f392e94a4333501270"
}
In the following example, the descriptor indicates that the referenced manifest is retrievable from a particular URL:
  "mediaType": "application/vnd.oci.image.manifest.v1+json",
  "size": 7682,
  "digest": "sha256:5b0bcabd1ed22e9fb1310cf6c2dec7cdef19f0ad69efa1f392e94a4333501270",
  "urls": [
    "https://example.com/example-manifest"
}
In the following example, the descriptor indicates the type of artifact it is referencing:
{
  "mediaType": "application/vnd.oci.image.manifest.v1+json",
  "size": 123,
  "digest": "sha256:87923725d74f4bfb94c9e86d64170f7521aad8221a5de834851470ca142da630",
  "artifactType": "application/vnd.example.sbom.v1"
```

OCI Image Layout Specification

- The OCI Image Layout is the directory structure for OCI content-addressable blobs and location-addressable references (refs).
- This layout MAY be used in a variety of different transport mechanisms: archive formats (e.g. tar, zip), shared filesystem environments (e.g. nfs), or networked file fetching (e.g. http, ftp, rsync).

Given an image layout and a ref, a tool can create an OCI Runtime Specification bundle by:

- Following the ref to find a manifest, possibly via an image index
- Applying the filesystem layers in the specified order
- Converting the image configuration into an OCI Runtime Specification config.json

Content

The image layout is as follows:

- blobs directory
 - Contains content-addressable blobs
 - A blob has no schema and SHOULD be considered opaque
 - Directory MUST exist and MAY be empty
 - See blobs section

- oci-layout file
 - It MUST exist
 - It MUST be a JSON object
 - It MUST contain an imageLayoutVersion field
 - See oci-layout file section
 - It MAY include additional fields
- index.json file
 - It MUST exist
 - It MUST be an image index JSON object.
 - See index.json section

Example Layout

This is an example image layout:

```
$ cd example.com/app/
$ find . -type f
./index.json
./oci-layout
./blobs/sha256/3588d02542238316759cbf24502f4344ffcc8a60c803870022f335d1390c13b4
./blobs/sha256/4b0bc1c4050b03c95ef2a8e36e25feac42fd31283e8c30b3ee5df6b043155d3c
./blobs/sha256/7968321274dc6b6171697c33df7815310468e694ac5be0ec03ff053bb135e768
```

Blobs are named by their contents:

\$ shasum -a 256 ./blobs/sha256/afff3924849e458c5ef237db5f89539274d5e609db5db935ed3959c90f1f2d51 afff3924849e458c5ef237db5f89539274d5e609db5db935ed3959c90f1f2d51 ./blobs/sha256/afff3924849e458c5ef237db5f8953

Blobs

- Object names in the blobs subdirectories are composed of a directory for each hash algorithm, the children of which will contain the actual content.
- The content of blobs/<alg>/<encoded> MUST match the digest <alg>:<encoded> (referenced per descriptor). For example, the content of blobs/sha256/da39a3ee5e6b4b0d3255bfef95601890afd80709 MUST match the digest sha256:da39a3ee5e6b4b0d3255bfef95601890afd80709.
- The character set of the entry name for <alg> and <encoded> MUST match the respective grammar elements described in descriptor.
- The blobs directory MAY contain blobs which are not referenced by any of the refs.
- The blobs directory MAY be missing referenced blobs, in which case the missing blobs SHOULD be fulfilled by an external blob store.

Example Blobs

```
$ cat ./blobs/sha256/9b97579de92b1c195b85bb42a11011378ee549b02d7fe9c17bf2a6b35d5cb079 | jq
{
    "schemaVersion": 2,
    "manifests": [
        {
             "mediaType": "application/vnd.oci.image.manifest.v1+json",
             "size": 7143,
             "digest": "sha256:afff3924849e458c5ef237db5f89539274d5e609db5db935ed3959c90f1f2d51",
             "platform": {
                 "architecture": "ppc64le",
                  "os": "linux"
```

```
}
   },
$ cat ./blobs/sha256/afff3924849e458c5ef237db5f89539274d5e609db5db935ed3959c90f1f2d51 | jq
{
  "schemaVersion": 2,
  "config": {
    "mediaType": "application/vnd.oci.image.config.v1+json",
    "size": 7023,
    "digest": "sha256:5b0bcabd1ed22e9fb1310cf6c2dec7cdef19f0ad69efa1f392e94a4333501270"
 },
  "layers": [
    {
      "mediaType": "application/vnd.oci.image.layer.v1.tar+gzip",
      "size": 32654,
      "digest": "sha256:9834876dcfb05cb167a5c24953eba58c4ac89b1adf57f28f2f9d09af107ee8f0"
    },
 cat ./blobs/sha256/5b0bcabd1ed22e9fb1310cf6c2dec7cdef19f0ad69efa1f392e94a4333501270 | jq
{
  "architecture": "amd64",
  "author": "Alyssa P. Hacker <alyspdev@example.com>",
  "config": {
    "Hostname": "8dfe43d80430",
    "Domainname": "",
    "User": "",
    "AttachStdin": false,
    "AttachStdout": false,
    "AttachStderr": false,
    "Tty": false,
    "OpenStdin": false,
    "StdinOnce": false,
    "Env": [
      "PATH=/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/bin"
    ],
    "Cmd": null,
    "Image": "sha256:6986ae504bbf843512d680cc959484452034965db15f75ee8bdd1b107f61500b",
$ cat ./blobs/sha256/9834876dcfb05cb167a5c24953eba58c4ac89b1adf57f28f2f9d09af107ee8f0
[gzipped tar stream]
```

oci-layout file

This JSON object serves as a marker for the base of an Open Container Image Layout and to provide the version of the image-layout in use. The <code>imageLayoutVersion</code> value will align with the OCI Image Specification version at the time changes to the layout are made, and will pin a given version until changes to the image layout are required. This section defines the <code>application/vnd.oci.layout.header.v1+json</code> media type.

```
oci-layout Example
{
    "imageLayoutVersion": "1.0.0"
}
```

index.json file

This REQUIRED file is the entry point for references and descriptors of the image-layout. The image index is a multi-descriptor entry point.

This index provides an established path (/index.json) to have an entry point for an image-layout and to discover auxiliary descriptors.

- No semantic restriction is given for the "org.opencontainers.image.ref.name" annotation of descriptors.
- In general the mediaType of each descriptor object in the manifests field will be either application/vnd.oci.image.index.v1+ or application/vnd.oci.image.manifest.v1+json.
- Future versions of the spec MAY use a different mediatype (i.e. a new versioned format).
- An encountered mediaType that is unknown SHOULD be safely ignored.

Implementor's Note: A common use case of descriptors with a "org.opencontainers.image.ref.name" annotation is representing a "tag" for a container image. For example, an image may have a tag for different versions or builds of the software. In the wild you often see "tags" like "v1.0.0-vendor.0", "2.0.0-debug", etc. Those tags will often be represented in an image-layout repository with matching "org.opencontainers.image.ref.name" annotations like "v1.0.0-vendor.0", "2.0.0-debug", etc.

Index Example

```
{
  "schemaVersion": 2,
  "mediaType": "application/vnd.oci.image.index.v1+json",
  "manifests": [
    {
      "mediaType": "application/vnd.oci.image.index.v1+json",
      "size": 7143,
      "digest": "sha256:0228f90e926ba6b96e4f39cf294b2586d38fbb5a1e385c05cd1ee40ea54fe7fd",
      "annotations": {
        "org.opencontainers.image.ref.name": "stable-release"
      }
    },
      "mediaType": "application/vnd.oci.image.manifest.v1+json",
      "size": 7143,
      "digest": "sha256:e692418e4cbaf90ca69d05a66403747baa33ee08806650b51fab815ad7fc331f",
      "platform": {
        "architecture": "ppc64le",
        "os": "linux"
      },
      "annotations": {
        "org.opencontainers.image.ref.name": "v1.0"
      }
    },
      "mediaType": "application/xml",
      "size": 7143,
      "digest": "sha256:b3d63d132d21c3ff4c35a061adf23cf43da8ae054247e32faa95494d904a007e",
      "annotations": {
        "org.freedesktop.specifications.metainfo.version": "1.0",
        "org.freedesktop.specifications.metainfo.type": "AppStream"
    }
 ],
  "annotations": {
    "com.example.index.revision": "r124356"
```

}

This illustrates an index that provides two named references and an auxiliary mediatype for this image layout.

The first named reference (stable-release) points to another index that might contain multiple references with distinct platforms and annotations. Note that the org.opencontainers.image.ref.name annotation SHOULD only be considered valid when on descriptors on index.json.

The second named reference (v1.0) points to a manifest that is specific to the linux/ppc64le platform.

OCI Image Manifest Specification

There are three main goals of the Image Manifest Specification. The first goal is content-addressable images, by supporting an image model where the image's configuration can be hashed to generate a unique ID for the image and its components. The second goal is to allow multi-architecture images, through a "fat manifest" which references image manifests for platform-specific versions of an image. In OCI, this is codified in an image index. The third goal is to be translatable to the OCI Runtime Specification.

This section defines the application/vnd.oci.image.manifest.v1+json media type. For the media type(s) that this is compatible with see the matrix.

Image Manifest

Unlike the image index, which contains information about a set of images that can span a variety of architectures and operating systems, an image manifest provides a configuration and set of layers for a single container image for a specific architecture and operating system.

Image Manifest Property Descriptions

ullet schemaVersion int

This REQUIRED property specifies the image manifest schema version. For this version of the specification, this MUST be 2 to ensure backward compatibility with older versions of Docker. The value of this field will not change. This field MAY be removed in a future version of the specification.

• mediaType string

This property SHOULD be used and remain compatible with earlier versions of this specification and with other similar external formats. When used, this field MUST contain the media type application/vnd.oci.image.manifest.v1+json. This field usage differs from the descriptor use of mediaType.

ullet artifactType string

This OPTIONAL property contains the type of an artifact when the manifest is used for an artifact. This MUST be set when config.mediaType is set to the scratch value. If defined, the value MUST comply with RFC 6838, including the naming requirements in its section 4.2, and MAY be registered with IANA.

• config descriptor

This REQUIRED property references a configuration object for a container, by digest. Beyond the descriptor requirements, the value has the following additional restrictions:

- mediaType string

This descriptor property has additional restrictions for config. Implementations MUST support at least the following media types:

* application/vnd.oci.image.config.v1+json

Manifests for container images concerned with portability SHOULD use one of the above media types. Manifests for artifacts concerned with portability SHOULD use config.mediaType as described in Guidelines for Artifact Usage.

If the manifest uses a different media type than the above, it MUST comply with RFC 6838, including the naming requirements in its section 4.2, and MAY be registered with IANA.

To set an effectively NULL or SCRATCH config and maintain portability the following is considered GUIDANCE. While an empty blob (size of 0) may be preferable, practice has shown that not to be ubiquitiously supported. Instead, the blob payload can be the most minimal content that is still valid JSON object: {} (size of 2). The blob digest of {} is sha256:44136fa355b3678a1146ad16f7e8649e94fb4fc21fe77e8310c060f61caaff8a. See the example SCRATCH config below, and ScratchDescriptor of the reference code.

• layers array of objects

Each item in the array MUST be a descriptor. For portability, layers SHOULD have at least one entry.

When the config.mediaType is set to application/vnd.oci.image.config.v1+json, the following additional restrictions apply:

- The array MUST have the base layer at index 0.
- Subsequent layers MUST then follow in stack order (i.e. from layers[0] to layers[len(layers)-1]).
- The final filesystem layout MUST match the result of applying the layers to an empty directory.
- The ownership, mode, and other attributes of the initial empty directory are unspecified.

For broad portability, if a layer is required to be used, use the SCRATCH layer. See the example SCRATCH layer below, and ScratchDescriptor of the reference code.

Beyond the descriptor requirements, the value has the following additional restrictions:

— mediaType string

This descriptor property has additional restrictions for layers[]. Implementations MUST support at least the following media types:

- * application/vnd.oci.image.layer.v1.tar
- * application/vnd.oci.image.layer.v1.tar+gzip
- * application/vnd.oci.image.layer.nondistributable.v1.tar
- * application/vnd.oci.image.layer.nondistributable.v1.tar+gzip

Manifests concerned with portability SHOULD use one of the above media types. An encountered mediaType that is unknown to the implementation MUST be ignored.

Entries in this field will frequently use the +gzip types.

If the manifest uses a diff

OCI Image Index Specification

The image index is a higher-level manifest which points to specific image manifests, ideal for one or more platforms. While the use of an image index is OPTIONAL for image providers, image consumers SHOULD be prepared to process them.

This section defines the application/vnd.oci.image.index.v1+json media type.

For the media type(s) that this document is compatible with, see the matrix.

Image Index Property Descriptions

ullet schemaVersion int

This REQUIRED property specifies the image manifest schema version. For this version of the specification, this MUST be 2 to ensure backward compatibility with older versions of Docker. The value of this field will not change. This field MAY be removed in a future version of the specification.

• mediaType string

This property SHOULD be used and remain compatible with earlier versions of this specification and with other similar external formats. When used, this field MUST contain the media type application/vnd.oci.image.index.v1+json. This field usage differs from the descriptor use of mediaType.

• manifests array of objects

This REQUIRED property contains a list of manifests for specific platforms. While this property MUST be present, the size of the array MAY be zero.

Each object in manifests includes a set of descriptor properties with the following additional properties and restrictions:

- mediaType string

This descriptor property has additional restrictions for manifests. Implementations MUST support at least the following media types:

* application/vnd.oci.image.manifest.v1+json

Also, implementations SHOULD support the following media types:

* application/vnd.oci.image.index.v1+json (nested index)

Image indexes concerned with portability SHOULD use one of the above media types. Future versions of the spec MAY use a different mediatype (i.e. a new versioned format). An encountered mediaType that is unknown to the implementation MUST be ignored.

- platform object

This OPTIONAL property describes the minimum runtime requirements of the image. This property SHOULD be present if its target is platform-specific.

* architecture string

This REQUIRED property specifies the CPU architecture. Image indexes SHOULD use, and implementations SHOULD understand, values listed in the Go Language document for GOARCH.

* os string

This REQUIRED property specifies the operating system. Image indexes SHOULD use, and implementations SHOULD understand, values listed in the Go Language document for GOOS. An exception to this guidance is provided for Wasm applications that rely on the WASI system interface, where the os SHOULD be wasi.

st os.version string

This OPTIONAL property specifies the version of the operating system targeted by the referenced blob. Implementations MAY refuse to use manifests where os.version is not known to work with the host OS version. Valid values are implementation-defined. e.g. 10.0.14393.1066 on windows.

* os.features array of strings

This OPTIONAL property specifies an array of strings, each specifying a mandatory OS feature. When os is windows, image indexes SHOULD use, and implementations SHOULD understand the following values:

· win32k: image requires win32k.sys on the host (Note: win32k.sys is missing on Nano Server)

When os is not windows, values are implementation-defined and SHOULD be submitted to this specification for standardization.

* variant string

This OPTIONAL property specifies the variant of the CPU. Image indexes SHOULD use, and implementations SHOULD understand, variant values listed in the Platform Variants table.

* features array of strings

This property is RESERVED for future versions of the specification.

If multiple manifests match a client or runtime's requirements, the first matching entry SHOULD be used.

• annotations $string\text{-}string\ map$

This OPTIONAL property contains arbitrary metadata for the image index. This OPTIONAL property MUST use the annotation rules.

See Pre-Defined Annotation Keys.

Platform Variants

When the variant of the CPU is not listed in the table, values are implementation-defined and SHOULD be submitted to this specification for standardization.

ISA/ABI	architecture	variant
ARM 32-bit, v6	arm	v6
ARM 32 -bit, $v7$	arm	v7
ARM 32-bit, v8	arm	v8
ARM 64-bit, v8	arm64	v8

Example Image Index

Example showing a simple image index pointing to image manifests for two platforms:

```
{
  "schemaVersion": 2,
  "mediaType": "application/vnd.oci.image.index.v1+json",
  "manifests": [
      "mediaType": "application/vnd.oci.image.manifest.v1+json",
      "size": 7143,
      "digest": "sha256:e692418e4cbaf90ca69d05a66403747baa33ee08806650b51fab815ad7fc331f",
      "platform": {
        "architecture": "ppc64le",
        "os": "linux"
      }
    },
      "mediaType": "application/vnd.oci.image.manifest.v1+json",
      "size": 7682,
      "digest": "sha256:5b0bcabd1ed22e9fb1310cf6c2dec7cdef19f0ad69efa1f392e94a4333501270",
      "platform": {
        "architecture": "amd64",
        "os": "linux"
    }
 ],
  "annotations": {
    "com.example.key1": "value1",
    "com.example.key2": "value2"
}
```

Example Image Index with multiple media types

Example showing an image index pointing to manifests with multiple media types:

```
{
  "schemaVersion": 2,
  "mediaType": "application/vnd.oci.image.index.v1+json",
  "manifests": [
    {
        "mediaType": "application/vnd.oci.image.manifest.v1+json",
        "size": 7143,
        "digest": "sha256:e692418e4cbaf90ca69d05a66403747baa33ee08806650b51fab815ad7fc331f",
        "platform": {
             "architecture": "ppc64le",
             "os": "linux"
        }
}
```

```
},
    {
        "mediaType": "application/vnd.oci.image.index.v1+json",
        "size": 7682,
        "digest": "sha256:601570aaff1b68a61eb9c85b8beca1644e698003e0cdb5bce960f193d265a8b7"
    }
],
    "annotations": {
        "com.example.key1": "value1",
        "com.example.key2": "value2"
}
```

Image Layer Filesystem Changeset

This document describes how to serialize a filesystem and filesystem changes like removed files into a blob called a layer. One or more layers are applied on top of each other to create a complete filesystem. This document will use a concrete example to illustrate how to create and consume these filesystem layers.

This section defines the application/vnd.oci.image.layer.v1.tar, application/vnd.oci.image.layer.v1.tar+gzip, application/vnd.oci.image.layer.v1.tar+zstd, application/vnd.oci.image.layer.nondistributable.v1.tar, application/vnd.oci.image.layer.nondistributable.v1.tar+gzip, and application/vnd.oci.image.layer.nondistributable.v1.

+gzip Media Types

- The media type application/vnd.oci.image.layer.v1.tar+gzip represents an application/vnd.oci.image.layer.v1.tarpayload which has been compressed with gzip.
- The media type application/vnd.oci.image.layer.nondistributable.v1.tar+gzip represents an application/vnd.oci.ipayload which has been compressed with gzip.

+zstd Media Types

- The media type application/vnd.oci.image.layer.v1.tar+zstd represents an application/vnd.oci.image.layer.v1.tar payload which has been compressed with zstd.
- The media type application/vnd.oci.image.layer.nondistributable.v1.tar+zstd represents an application/vnd.oci.ipayload which has been compressed with zstd.

Distributable Format

- Layer Changesets for the media type application/vnd.oci.image.layer.v1.tar MUST be packaged in tar archive.
- Layer Changesets for the media type application/vnd.oci.image.layer.v1.tar MUST NOT include duplicate entries for file paths in the resulting tar archive.

Change Types

Types of changes that can occur in a changeset are:

- Additions
- Modifications
- Removals

Additions and Modifications are represented the same in the changeset tar archive.

Removals are represented using "whiteout" file entries (See Representing Changes).

File Types

Throughout this document section, the use of word "files" or "entries" includes the following, where supported:

- regular files
- directories
- sockets
- symbolic links
- block devices
- character devices
- FIFOs

File Attributes

Where supported, MUST include file attributes for Additions and Modifications include:

```
Modification Time (mtime)
User ID (uid)

User Name (uname) secondary to uid

Group ID (gid)

Group Name (gname) secondary to gid

Mode (mode)
Extended Attributes (xattrs)
Symlink reference (linkname + symbolic link type)
Hardlink reference (linkname)
```

Sparse files SHOULD NOT be used because they lack consistent support across tar implementations.

Hardlinks

- Hardlinks are a POSIX concept for having one or more directory entries for the same file on the same device.
- Not all filesystems support hardlinks (e.g. FAT).
- Hardlinks are possible with all file types except directories.
- Non-directory files are considered "hardlinked" when their link count is greater than 1.
- Hardlinked files are on a same device (i.e. comparing Major:Minor pair) and have the same inode.
- The corresponding files that share the link with the > 1 linkcount may be outside the directory that the changeset is being produced from, in which case the linkname is not recorded in the changeset.
- Hardlinks are stored in a tar archive with type of a 1 char, per the GNU Basic Tar Format and libarchive tar(5).
- While approaches to deriving new or changed hardlinks may vary, a possible approach is:

```
SET LinkMap to map[< Major:Minor String >]map[< inode integer >]< path string >
SET LinkNames to map[< src path string >] < dest path string >
FOR each path in root path
  IF path type is directory
    CONTINUE
  ENDIF
  SET filestat to stat(path)
  IF filestat num of links == 1
    CONTINUE
  ENDIF
  IF LinkMap[filestat device][filestat inode] is not empty
    SET LinkNames[path] to LinkMap[filestat device][filestat inode]
  ELSE
    SET LinkMap[filestat device][filestat inode] to path
  ENDIF
END FOR
```

With this approach, the link map and links names of a directory could be compared against that of another directory to derive additions and changes to hardlinks.

Platform-specific attributes

Implementations on Windows MUST support these additional attributes, encoded in PAX vendor extensions as follows:

- Windows file attributes (MSWINDOWS.fileattr)
- Security descriptor (MSWINDOWS.rawsd): base64-encoded self-relative binary security descriptor
- Mount points (MSWINDOWS.mountpoint): if present on a directory symbolic link, then the link should be created as a directory junction
- Creation time (LIBARCHIVE.creationtime)

Creating

Initial Root Filesystem

The initial root filesystem is the base or parent layer.

For this example, an image root filesystem has an initial state as an empty directory. The name of the directory is not relevant to the layer itself, only for the purpose of producing comparisons.

Here is an initial empty directory structure for a changeset, with a unique directory name rootfs-c9d-v1.

```
rootfs-c9d-v1/
```

Populate Initial Filesystem

Files and directories are then created:

```
rootfs-c9d-v1/
   etc/
    my-app-config
  bin/
   my-app-binary
   my-app-tools
```

The rootfs-c9d-v1 directory is then created as a plain tar archive with relative path to rootfs-c9d-v1. Entries for the following files:

```
./
./etc/
./etc/my-app-config
./bin/
./bin/my-app-binary
./bin/my-app-tools
```

Populate a Comparison Filesystem

Create a new directory and initialize it with a copy or snapshot of the prior root filesystem. Example commands that can preserve file attributes to make this copy are:

```
    cp(1): cp -a rootfs-c9d-v1/ rootfs-c9d-v1.s1/
    rsync(1): rsync -aHAX rootfs-c9d-v1/ rootfs-c9d-v1.s1/
    tar(1): mkdir rootfs-c9d-v1.s1 && tar --acls --xattrs -C rootfs-c9d-v1/ -c . | tar -C rootfs-c9d-v1.s1/ --acls --xattrs -x (including --selinux where supported)
```

Any changes to the snapshot MUST NOT change or affect the directory it was copied from.

For example rootfs-c9d-v1.s1 is an identical snapshot of rootfs-c9d-v1. In this way rootfs-c9d-v1.s1 is prepared for updates and alterations.

Implementor's Note: a copy-on-write or union filesystem can efficiently make directory snapshots

Initial layout of the snapshot:

```
rootfs-c9d-v1.s1/
  etc/
    my-app-config
bin/
    my-app-binary
    my-app-tools
```

See Change Types for more details on changes.

For example, add a directory at /etc/my-app.d containing a default config file, removing the existing config file. Also a change (in attribute or file content) to ./bin/my-app-tools binary to handle the config layout change.

Following these changes, the representation of the rootfs-c9d-v1.s1 directory:

```
rootfs-c9d-v1.s1/
    etc/
        my-app.d/
        default.cfg
bin/
        my-app-binary
        my-app-tools
```

Determining Changes

When two directories are compared, the relative root is the top-level directory. The directories are compared, looking for files that have been added, modified, or removed.

For this example, rootfs-c9d-v1/ and rootfs-c9d-v1.s1/ are recursively compared, each as relative root path.

The following changeset is found:

Added: /etc/my-app.d/

Added: /etc/my-app.d/default.cfg

Modified: /bin/my-app-tools Deleted: /etc/my-app-config

This reflects the removal of /etc/my-app-config and creation of a file and directory at /etc/my-app.d/default.cfg. /bin/my-app-tools has also been replaced with an updated version.

Representing Changes

A tar archive is then created which contains *only* this changeset:

- Added and modified files and directories in their entirety
- Deleted files or directories marked with a whiteout file

The resulting tar archive for ${\tt rootfs-c9d-v1.s1}$ has the following entries:

```
./etc/my-app.d/
./etc/my-app.d/default.cfg
./bin/my-app-tools
./etc/.wh.my-app-config
```

To signify that the resource ./etc/my-app-config MUST be removed when the changeset is applied, the basename of the entry is prefixed with .wh..

Applying Changesets

- Layer Changesets of media type application/vnd.oci.image.layer.v1.tar are applied, rather than simply extracted as tar archives.
- Applying a layer changeset requires special consideration for the whiteout files.
- In the absence of any whiteout files in a layer changeset, the archive is extracted like a regular tar archive.

Changeset over existing files

This section specifies applying an entry from a layer changeset if the target path already exists.

If the entry and the existing path are both directories, then the existing path's attributes MUST be replaced by those of the entry in the changeset. In all other cases, the implementation MUST do the semantic equivalent of the following:

- removing the file path (e.g. unlink(2) on Linux systems)
- recreating the file path, based on the contents and attributes of the changeset entry

Whiteouts

- A whiteout file is an empty file with a special filename that signifies a path should be deleted.
- A whiteout filename consists of the prefix .wh. plus the basename of the path to be deleted.
- As files prefixed with .wh. are special whiteout markers, it is not possible to create a filesystem which has a file or directory with a name beginning with .wh..
- Once a whiteout is applied, the whiteout itself MUST also be hidden.
- Whiteout files MUST only apply to resources in lower/parent layers.
- Files that are present in the same layer as a whiteout file can only be hidden by whiteout files in subsequent layers.

The following is a base layer with several resources:

```
a/
a/b/
a/b/c/
a/b/c/bar
```

When the next layer is created, the original a/b directory is deleted and recreated with a/b/c/foo:

```
a/
a/.wh..wh..opq
a/b/
a/b/c/
a/b/c/foo
```

When processing the second layer, a/.wh..wh..opq is applied first, before creating the new version of a/b, regardless of the ordering in which the whiteout file was encountered. For example, the following layer is equivalent to the layer above:

```
a/a/b/c/a/b/c/foo
a/.wh..wh..opq
```

Implementations SHOULD generate layers such that the whiteout files appear before sibling directory entries.

Opaque Whiteout

- In addition to expressing that a single entry should be removed from a lower layer, layers may remove all of the children using an opaque whiteout entry.
- An opaque whiteout entry is a file with the name .wh..wh..opq indicating that all siblings are hidden in the lower layer.

Let's take the following base layer as an example:

```
etc/
   my-app-config
bin/
  my-app-binary
  my-app-tools
  tools/
   my-app-tool-one
```

If all children of bin/ are removed, the next layer would have the following:

```
bin/
    .wh..wh..opq
```

This is called *opaque whiteout* format. An *opaque whiteout* file hides *all* children of the bin/ including sub-directories and all descendants. Using *explicit whiteout* files, this would be equivalent to the following:

```
bin/
    .wh.my-app-binary
    .wh.my-app-tools
    .wh.tools
```

In this case, a unique whiteout file is generated for each entry. If there were more children of bin/ in the base layer, there would be an entry for each. Note that this opaque file will apply to all children, including sub-directories, other resources and all descendants.

Implementations SHOULD generate layers using explicit whiteout files, but MUST accept both.

Any given image is likely to be composed of several of these Image Filesystem Changeset tar archives.

Non-Distributable Layers

NOTE: Non-distributable layers are deprecated, and not recommended for future use. Implementations SHOULD NOT produce new non-distributable layers.

Due to legal requirements, certain layers may not be regularly distributable. Such "non-distributable" layers are typically downloaded directly from a distributor but never uploaded.

Non-distributable layers SHOULD be tagged with an alternative mediatype of application/vnd.oci.image.layer.nondistributab Implementations SHOULD NOT upload layers tagged with this media type; however, such a media type SHOULD NOT affect whether an implementation downloads the layer.

Descriptors referencing non-distributable layers MAY include urls for downloading these layers directly; however, the presence of the urls field SHOULD NOT be used to determine whether or not a layer is non-distributable.

OCI Image Configuration

An OCI *Image* is an ordered collection of root filesystem changes and the corresponding execution parameters for use within a container runtime. This specification outlines the JSON format describing images for use with a container runtime and execution tool and its relationship to filesystem changesets, described in Layers.

This section defines the application/vnd.oci.image.config.v1+json media type.

Terminology

This specification uses the following terms:

Layer

- Image filesystems are composed of *layers*.
- Each layer represents a set of filesystem changes in a tar-based layer format, recording files to be added, changed, or deleted relative to its parent layer.
- Layers do not have configuration metadata such as environment variables or default arguments these are properties of the image as a whole rather than any particular layer.
- Using a layer-based or union filesystem such as AUFS, or by computing the diff from filesystem snapshots, the filesystem changeset can be used to present a series of image layers as if they were one cohesive filesystem.

Image JSON

- Each image has an associated JSON structure which describes some basic information about the image such as date created, author, as well as execution/runtime configuration like its entrypoint, default arguments, networking, and volumes.
- The JSON structure also references a cryptographic hash of each layer used by the image, and provides history information for those layers.
- This JSON is considered to be immutable, because changing it would change the computed ImageID.
- Changing it means creating a new derived image, instead of changing the existing image.

Layer DiffID

A layer DiffID is the digest over the layer's uncompressed tar archive and serialized in the descriptor digest format, e.g., sha256:a9561eb1b190625c9adb5a9513e72c4dedafc1cb2d4c5236c9a6957ec7dfd5a9. Layers SHOULD be packed and unpacked reproducibly to avoid changing the layer DiffID, for example by using [tar-split]] to save the tar headers.

NOTE: Do not confuse DiffIDs with layer digests, often referenced in the manifest, which are digests over compressed or uncompressed content.

Layer ChainID

For convenience, it is sometimes useful to refer to a stack of layers with a single identifier. While a layer's DiffID identifies a single changeset, the ChainID identifies the subsequent application of those changesets. This ensures that we have handles referring to both the layer itself, as well as the result of the application of a series of changesets. Use in combination with rootfs.diff_ids while applying layers to a root filesystem to uniquely and safely identify the result.

Definition

The ChainID of an applied set of layers is defined with the following recursion:

```
\begin{split} & \texttt{ChainID}(\texttt{L}\;) \; = \; \texttt{DiffID}(\texttt{L}\;) \\ & \texttt{ChainID}(\texttt{L}\;|\texttt{L}\;|\texttt{L}\;) \; = \; \texttt{Digest}(\texttt{ChainID}(\texttt{L}\;|\texttt{L}\;|\texttt{L}\;) \; + \; \text{"} \; \text{"} \; + \; \texttt{DiffID}(\texttt{L}\;)) \end{split}
```

For this, we define the binary | operation to be the result of applying the right operand to the left operand. For example, given base layer A and a changeset B, we refer to the result of applying B to A as A|B.

Above, we define the ChainID for a single layer (L) as equivalent to the DiffID for that layer. Otherwise, the ChainID for a set of applied layers (L | . . . | L | L) is defined as the recursion Digest(ChainID(L | . . . | L) + " " + DiffID(L)).

Explanation

Let's say we have layers A, B, C, ordered from bottom to top, where A is the base and C is the top. Defining | as a binary application operator, the root filesystem may be A|B|C. While it is implied that C is only useful when applied to A|B, the identifier C is insufficient to identify this result, as we'd have the equality C = A|B|C, which isn't true.

The main issue is when we have two definitions of C, C = C and C = A|B|C. If this is true (with some handwaving), C = x|C where x = any application. This means that if an attacker can define x, relying on C provides no guarantee that the layers were applied in any order.

The ChainID addresses this problem by being defined as a compound hash. We differentiate the changeset C, from the order-dependent application A|B|C by saying that the resulting rootfs is identified by ChainID(A|B|C), which can be calculated by ImageConfig.rootfs.

Let's expand the definition of ChainID(A|B|C) to explore its internal structure:

```
ChainID(A) = DiffID(A)
ChainID(A|B) = Digest(ChainID(A) + " " + DiffID(B))
ChainID(A|B|C) = Digest(ChainID(A|B) + " " + DiffID(C))
```

We can replace each definition and reduce to a single equality:

```
ChainID(A|B|C) = Digest(Digest(DiffID(A) + " " + DiffID(B)) + " " + DiffID(C))
```

Hopefully, the above is illustrative of the *actual* contents of the ChainID. Most importantly, we can easily see that ChainID(C) != ChainID(A|B|C), otherwise, ChainID(C) = DiffID(C), which is the base case, could not be true.

ImageID

Each image's ID is given by the SHA256 hash of its configuration JSON. It is represented as a hexadecimal encoding of 256 bits, e.g., sha256:a9561eb1b190625c9adb5a9513e72c4dedafc1cb2d4c5236c9a6957ec7dfd5a9. Since the configuration JSON that gets hashed references hashes of each layer in the image, this formulation of the ImageID makes images content-addressable.

Properties

Note: Any OPTIONAL field MAY also be set to null, which is equivalent to being absent.

• created string, OPTIONAL

An combined date and time at which the image was created, formatted as defined by [RFC 3339, section 5.6][rfc3339-s5.6].

• author string, OPTIONAL

Gives the name and/or email address of the person or entity which created and is responsible for maintaining the image.

• architecture string, REQUIRED

The CPU architecture which the binaries in this image are built to run on. Configurations SHOULD use, and implementations SHOULD understand, values listed in the Go Language document for [GOARCH][go-environment].

• os string, REQUIRED

The name of the operating system which the image is built to run on. Configurations SHOULD use, and implementations SHOULD understand, values listed in the Go Language document for [GOOS][go-environment].

os.version string, OPTIONAL

This OPTIONAL property specifies the version of the operating system targeted by the referenced blob. Implementations MAY refuse to use manifests where os.version is not known to work with the host OS version. Valid values are implementation-defined. e.g. 10.0.14393.1066 on windows.

• os.features array of strings, OPTIONAL

This OPTIONAL property specifies an array of strings, each specifying a mandatory OS feature. When os is windows, image indexes SHOULD use, and implementations SHOULD understand the following values:

- win32k: image requires win32k.sys on the host (Note: win32k.sys is missing on Nano Server)

• variant string, OPTIONAL

The variant of the specified CPU architecture. Configurations SHOULD use, and implementations SHOULD understand, variant values listed in the Platform Variants table.

• config object, OPTIONAL

The execution parameters which SHOULD be used as a base when running a container using the image. This field can be null, in which case any execution parameters should be specified at creation of the container.

- User string, OPTIONAL

The username or UID which is a platform-specific structure that allows specific control over which user the process run as. This acts as a default value to use when the value is not specified when creating a container. For Linux based systems, all of the following are valid: user, uid, user:group, uid:gid, uid:group, user:gid. If group/gid is not specified, the default group and supplementary groups of the given user/uid in /etc/passwd and /etc/group from the container are applied. If group/gid is specified, supplementary groups from the container are ignored.

ExposedPorts object, OPTIONAL

A set of ports to expose from a container running this image. Its keys can be in the format of: port/tcp, port/udp, port with the default protocol being tcp if not specified. These values act as defaults and are merged with any specified when creating a container. NOTE: This JSON structure value is unusual because it is a direct JSON serialization of the Go type map[string]struct{} and is represented in JSON as an object mapping its keys to an empty object.

- Env array of strings, OPTIONAL

Entries are in the format of VARNAME=VARVALUE. These values act as defaults and are merged with any specified when creating a container.

- Entrypoint array of strings, OPTIONAL

A list of arguments to use as the command to execute when the container starts. These values act as defaults and may be replaced by an entrypoint specified when creating a container.

- Cmd array of strings, OPTIONAL

Default arguments to the entrypoint of the container. These values act as defaults and may be replaced by any specified when creating a container. If an Entrypoint value is not specified, then the first entry of the Cmd array SHOULD be interpreted as the executable to run.

- Volumes object, OPTIONAL

A set of directories describing where the process is likely to write data specific to a container instance. **NOTE:** This JSON structure value is unusual because it is a direct JSON serialization of the Go type map[string]struct{} and is represented in JSON as an object mapping its keys to an empty object.

- WorkingDir string, OPTIONAL

Sets the current working directory of the entrypoint process in the container. This value acts as a default and may be replaced by a working directory specified when creating a container.

- Labels object, OPTIONAL

The field contains arbitrary metadata for the container. This property MUST use the annotation rules.

- **StopSignal** string, OPTIONAL

The field contains the system call signal that will be sent to the container to exit. The signal can be a signal name in the format SIGNAME, for instance SIGKILL or SIGRTMIN+3.

- ArgsEscaped boolean, OPTIONAL

[Deprecated] - This field is present only for legacy compatibility with Docker and should not be used by new image builders. It is used by Docker for Windows images to indicate that the Entrypoint or Cmd or both, contains only a single element array, that is a pre-escaped, and combined into a single string CommandLine. If true the value in Entrypoint or Cmd should be used as-is to avoid double escaping. Note, the exact behavior of ArgsEscaped is complex and subject to implementation details in Moby project.

- **Memory** integer, OPTIONAL

This property is reserved for use, to maintain compatibility.

- MemorySwap integer, OPTIONAL

This property is reserved for use, to maintain compatibility.

- CpuShares integer, OPTIONAL

This property is reserved for use, to maintain compatibility.

- Healthcheck object, OPTIONAL

This property is reserved for use, to maintain compatibility.

• rootfs object, REQUIRED

The rootfs key references the layer content addresses used by the image. This makes the image config hash depend on the filesystem hash.

type string, REQUIRED

MUST be set to layers. Implementations MUST generate an error if they encounter a unknown value while verifying or unpacking an image.

diff_ids array of strings, REQUIRED

An array of layer content hashes (DiffIDs), in order from first to last.

• history array of objects, OPTIONAL

Describes the history of each layer. The array is ordered from first to last. The object has the following fields:

created string, OPTIONAL

A combined date and time at which the layer was created, formatted as defined by [RFC 3339, section 5.6][rfc3339-s5.6].

- author string, OPTIONAL

The author of the build point.

- created_by string, OPTIONAL

The command which created the layer.

- comment string, OPTIONAL

A custom message set when creating the layer.

- empty layer boolean, OPTIONAL

This field is used to mark if the history item created a filesystem diff. It is set to true if this history item doesn't correspond to an actual layer in the rootfs section (for example, Dockerfile's ENV command results in no change to the filesystem).

Any extra fields in the Image JSON struct are considered implementation specific and MUST be ignored by any implementations which are unable to interpret them.

Whitespace is OPTIONAL and implementations MAY have compact JSON with no whitespace.

Example

Here is an example image configuration JSON document:

```
{
    "created": "2015-10-31T22:22:56.015925234Z",
    "author": "Alyssa P. Hacker <alyspdev@example.com>",
    "architecture": "amd64",
    "os": "linux",
    "config": {
        "User": "alice",
        "ExposedPorts": {
            "8080/tcp": {}
        },
        "Env": [
            "PATH=/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/bin",
            "F00=oci_is_a",
            "BAR=well_written_spec"
        "Entrypoint": [
            "/bin/my-app-binary"
        "Cmd": [
            "--foreground",
            "--config",
            "/etc/my-app.d/default.cfg"
        "Volumes": {
            "/var/job-result-data": {},
            "/var/log/my-app-logs": {}
        },
        "WorkingDir": "/home/alice",
        "Labels": {
            "com.example.project.git.url": "https://example.com/project.git",
            "com.example.project.git.commit": "45a939b2999782a3f005621a8d0f29aa387e1d6b"
    },
    "rootfs": {
      "diff_ids": [
        "sha256:c6f988f4874bb0add23a778f753c65efe992244e148a1d2ec2a8b664fb66bbd1",
        "sha256:5f70bf18a086007016e948b04aed3b82103a36bea41755b6cddfaf10ace3c6ef"
      ],
      "type
# Annotations
Several components of the specification, like [Image Manifests] (manifest.md) and [Descriptors] (descriptor.md),
This property contains arbitrary metadata.
## Rules
* Annotations MUST be a key-value map where both the key and value MUST be strings.
* While the value MUST be present, it MAY be an empty string.
* Keys MUST be unique within this map, and best practice is to namespace the keys.
* Keys SHOULD be named using a reverse domain notation - e.g. `com.example.myKey`.
* The prefix `org.opencontainers` is reserved for keys defined in Open Container Initiative (OCI) specificatio
* Keys using the `org.opencontainers.image` namespace are reserved for use in the OCI Image Specification and
* If there are no annotations then this property MUST either be absent or be an empty map.
* Consumers MUST NOT generate an error if they encounter an unknown annotation key.
```

Pre-Defined Annotation Keys

This specification defines the following annotation keys, intended for but not limited to [image index] (image-

```
* **org.opencontainers.image.created** date and time on which the image was built, conforming to [RFC 3339][rf
* **org.opencontainers.image.authors** contact details of the people or organization responsible for the image
* **org.opencontainers.image.url** URL to find more information on the image (string)
* **org.opencontainers.image.documentation** URL to get documentation on the image (string)
* **org.opencontainers.image.source** URL to get source code for building the image (string)
* **org.opencontainers.image.version** version of the packaged software
 * The version MAY match a label or tag in the source code repository
  * version MAY be [Semantic versioning-compatible](https://semver.org/)
* **org.opencontainers.image.revision** Source control revision identifier for the packaged software.
* **org.opencontainers.image.vendor** Name of the distributing entity, organization or individual.
* **org.opencontainers.image.licenses** License(s) under which contained software is distributed as an [SPDX L
* **org.opencontainers.image.ref.name** Name of the reference for a target (string).
 * SHOULD only be considered valid when on descriptors on `index.json` within [image layout](image-layout.md)
  * Character set of the value SHOULD conform to alphanum of `A-Za-z0-9` and separator set of `-._:@/+`
 * The reference must match the following [grammar] (considerations.md#ebnf):
             ::= component ("/" component)*
    component ::= alphanum (separator alphanum)*
   alphanum ::= [A-Za-z0-9]+
    separator ::= [-._:@+] | "--"
* **org.opencontainers.image.title** Human-readable title of the image (string)
* **org.opencontainers.image.description** Human-readable description of the software packaged in the image (s
* **org.opencontainers.image.base.digest** [Digest](descriptor.md#digests) of the image this image is based on
  * This SHOULD be the immediate image sharing zero-indexed layers with the image, such as from a Dockerfile `
  * This SHOULD NOT reference any other images used to generate the contents of the image (e.g., multi-stage D
* **org.opencontainers.image.base.name** Image reference of the image this image is based on (string)
  * This SHOULD be image references in the format defined by [distribution/distribution](https://github.com/di
  * This SHOULD be a fully qualified reference name, without any assumed default registry. (e.g., `registry.ex
```

Back-compatibility with Label Schema

[Label Schema] (https://label-schema.org) defined a number of conventional labels for container images, and the While users are encouraged to use the **org.opencontainers.image** keys, tools MAY choose to support compatible

* This SHOULD be the immediate image sharing zero-indexed layers with the image, such as from a Dockerfile `
* This SHOULD NOT reference any other images used to generate the contents of the image (e.g., multi-stage D
* If the `image.base.name` annotation is specified, the `image.base.digest` annotation SHOULD be the digest

```
| `org.opencontainers.image` prefix | `org.label-schema` prefix | Compatibility notes |
|-----|
| `created` | `build-date` | Compatible |
| `url` | `url` | Compatible |
| `source` | `vcs-url` | Compatible |
| `version` | `version` | Compatible |
| `revision` | `vcs-ref` | Compatible |
| `vendor` | `vendor` | Compatible |
| `title` | `name` | Compatible |
| `description` | `description` | Compatible |
| `documentation` | `usage` | Value is compatible if the documentation is located by a URL |
| `ref.name` | | No equivalent in Label Schema |
| | `schema-version` | No equivalent in the OCI Image Spec |
| | `docker.*`, `rkt.*` | No equivalent in the OCI Image Spec |
```

[spdx-license-expression]: https://spdx.org/spdx-specification-21-web-version#h.jxpfx0ykyb60

[rfc3339]: https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3339#section-5.6

Conversion to OCI Runtime Configuration

When extracting an OCI Image into an [OCI Runtime bundle] [oci-runtime-bundle], two orthogonal components of th

- 1. Extraction of the root filesystem from the set of [filesystem layers](layer.md).
- 2. Conversion of the [image configuration blob](config.md) to an [OCI Runtime configuration blob][oci-runtime-

This section defines how to convert an `application/vnd.oci.image.config.v1+json` blob to an [OCI runtime conf The former component of extraction is defined [elsewhere] (layer.md) and is orthogonal to configuration of a ru The values of runtime configuration properties not specified by this document are implementation-defined.

A converter MUST rely on the OCI image configuration to build the OCI runtime configuration as described by th

The "default generated runtime configuration" MAY be overridden or combined with externally provided inputs fr In addition, a converter MAY have its own implementation-defined defaults and extensions which MAY be combined The restrictions in this document refer only to combining implementation-defined defaults with the "default ge Externally provided inputs are considered to be a modification of the `application/vnd.oci.image.config.v1+jso

For example, externally provided inputs MAY cause an environment variable to be added, removed or changed. However an implementation-defined default SHOULD NOT result in an environment variable being removed or change

[oci-runtime-bundle]: https://github.com/opencontainers/runtime-spec/blob/v1.0.0/bundle.md [oci-runtime-config]: https://github.com/opencontainers/runtime-spec/blob/v1.0.0/config.md

Verbatim Fields

Certain image configuration fields have an identical counterpart in the runtime configuration.

Some of these are purely annotation-based fields, and have been extracted into a [separate subsection] (#annota A compliant configuration converter MUST extract the following fields verbatim to the corresponding field in t

	Image Field		Runtime Field		Notes	1
1				-		
	`Config.WorkingDir`	1	`process.cwd`	1		
	`Config.Env`	1	`process.env`	1	1	
	`Config.Entrypoint`	1	`process.args`	1	2	
	`Config.Cmd`		`process.args`		2	1

- 1. The converter MAY add additional entries to `process.env` but it SHOULD NOT add entries that have variable
- 2. If both `Config.Entrypoint` and `Config.Cmd` are specified, the converter MUST append the value of `Config.

Annotation Fields

These fields all affect the `annotations` of the runtime configuration, and are thus subject to [precedence] (#

	Image Field	Runtime Field	Notes	1
				1
	`os`	`annotations`	1,2	1
	`architecture`	annotations	1,3	1
	`variant`	`annotations`	1,4	1
	`os.version`	`annotations`	1,5	- 1
	`os.features`	`annotations`	1,6	- 1
	`author`	`annotations`	1,7	
	`created`	`annotations`	1,8	
	`Config.Labels`	`annotations`	1	
	`Config.StopSignal`	`annotations`	1,9	1

- 1. If a user has explicitly specified this annotation with `Config.Labels`, then the value specified in this f
- 2. The value of this field MUST be set as the value of `org.opencontainers.image.os` in `annotations`.
- 3. The value of this field MUST be set as the value of `org.opencontainers.image.architecture` in `annotations
- 4. The value of this field MUST be set as the value of `org.opencontainers.image.variant` in `annotations`.
- 5. The value of this field MUST be set as the value of `org.opencontainers.image.os.version` in `annotations`.
- 6. The value of this field MUST be set as the value of `org.opencontainers.image.os.features` in `annotations
- 7. The value of this field MUST be set as the value of `org.opencontainers.image.author` in `annotations`.
- 8. The value of this field MUST be set as the value of `org.opencontainers.image.created` in `annotations`.
- 9. The value of this field MUST be set as the value of `org.opencontainers.image.stopSignal` in `annotations`.

Parsed Fields

Certain image configuration fields have a counterpart that must first be translated.

A compliant configuration converter SHOULD parse all of these fields and set the corresponding fields in the g

The method of parsing the above image fields are described in the following sections.

`Config.User`

If the values of [`user` or `group`](config.md#properties) in `Config.User` are numeric (`uid` or `gid`) then If the values of [`user` or `group`](config.md#properties) in `Config.User` are not numeric (`user` or `group` For Unix-like systems, this MAY involve resolution through NSS or parsing `/etc/passwd` from the extracted con

In addition, a converter SHOULD set the value of `process.user.additionalGids` to a value corresponding to the For Unix-like systems, this MAY involve resolution through NSS or parsing `/etc/group` and determining the gro The converter SHOULD NOT modify `process.user.additionalGids` if the value of [`user`](config.md#properties) i

- If `Config.User` is not defined, the converted `process.user` value is implementation-defined.
- If `Config.User` does not correspond to a user in the container's context, the converter MUST return an error.

Optional Fields

Certain image configuration fields are not applicable to all conversion use cases, and thus are optional for c A compliant configuration converter SHOULD provide a way for users to extract these fields into the generated

Image Field		Runtime Field	Notes	1
`Config.ExposedPorts`	-	`annotations`	1	
`Config.Volumes`		`mounts`	2	

- 1. The runtime configuration does not have a corresponding field for this image field.
 - However, converters SHOULD set the ['org.opencontainers.image.exposedPorts' annotation](#config.exposedport
- 2. Implementations SHOULD provide mounts for these locations such that application data is not written to the If a converter implements conversion for this field using mountpoints, it SHOULD set the `destination` of t An implementation MAY seed the contents of the mount with data in the image at the same location.
 - If a _new_ image is created from a container based on the image described by this configuration, data in the other `mounts` fields are platform and context dependent, and thus are implementation-defined.
 - Note that the implementation of `Config.Volumes` need not use mountpoints, as it is effectively a mask of t

`Config.ExposedPorts`

The OCI runtime configuration does not provide a way of expressing the concept of "container exposed ports". However, converters SHOULD set the **org.opencontainers.image.exposedPorts** annotation, unless doing so will

org.opencontainers.image.exposedPorts is the list of values that correspond to the [keys defined for `Conf

Annotations

There are three ways of annotating an OCI image in this specification:

- 1. `Config.Labels` in the [configuration](config.md) of the image.
- 2. `annotations` in the [manifest] (manifest.md) of the image.
- 3. `annotations` in the [image index](image-index.md) of the image.

In addition, there are also implicit annotations that are defined by this section which are determined from th A converter SHOULD NOT attempt to extract annotations from [manifests] (manifest.md) or [image indices] (image-i If there is a conflict (same key but different value) between an implicit annotation (or annotation in [manife

A converter MAY add annotations which have keys not specified in the image.

- A converter MUST NOT modify the values of
- # Extensibility

Implementations that are reading/processing [manifests](manifest.md) or [image indexes](image-index.md) MUST N Instead they MUST ignore unknown properties.

Canonicalization

- * OCI Images are [content-addressable](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Content-addressable_storage). See [descri
- * One benefit of content-addressable storage is easy deduplication.
- * Many images might depend on a particular [layer](layer.md), but there will only be one blob in the [store](i
- * With a different serialization, that same semantic layer would have a different hash, and if both versions o
- * To allow efficient storage, implementations serializing content for blobs SHOULD use a canonical serializati
- * This increases the chance that different implementations can push the same semantic content to the store wit

JSON

[JSON][] content SHOULD be serialized as [canonical JSON][canonical-json].

Of the [OCI Image Format Specification media types] (media-types.md), all the types ending in `+json` contain J Implementations:

* [Go][]: [github.com/docker/go][], which claims to implement [canonical JSON][canonical-json] except for Unic

[canonical-json]: https://wiki.laptop.org/go/Canonical_JSON

[github.com/docker/go]: https://github.com/docker/go/

[Go]: https://golang.org/ [JSON]: https://json.org/

EBNF

For field formats described in this specification, we use a limited subset of [Extended Backus-Naur Form] [ebnf Grammars present in the OCI specification are regular and can be converted to a single regular expressions. However, regular expressions are avoided to limit abiguity between regular expression syntax.

By defining a subset of EBNF used here, the possibility of variation, misunderstanding or ambiguities from lin

Grammars are made up of rules in the following form:

symbol ::= expression

We can say we have the production identified by symbol if the input is matched by the expression. Whitespace is completely ignored in rule definitions.

Expressions

The simplest expression is the literal, surrounded by quotes:

literal ::= "matchthis"

The above expression defines a symbol, "literal", that matches the exact input of "matchthis". Character classes are delineated by brackets (`[]`), describing either a set, range or multiple range of character classes.

set := [abc] range := [A-Z]

The above symbol "set" would match one character of either "a", "b" or "c".

The symbol "range" would match any character, "A" to "Z", inclusive.

Currently, only matching for 7-bit ascii literals and character classes is defined, as that is all that is req Multiple character ranges and explicit characters can be specified in a single character classes, as follows:

multipleranges := [a-zA-Z=-]

The above matches the characters in the range A to Z, a to z and the individual characters a and a

Expressions can be made up of one or more expressions, such that one must be followed by the other.

This is known as an implicit concatenation operator.

For example, to satisfy the following rule, both `A` and `B` must be matched to satisfy the rule:

symbol ::= A B

Each expression must be matched once and only once, `A` followed by `B`.

To support the description of repetition and optional match criteria, the postfix operators `*` and `+` are de `*` indicates that the preceeding expression can be matched zero or more times.

`+` indicates that the preceeding expression must be matched one or more times.

These appear in the following form:

zeroormore ::= expression* oneormore ::= expression+

Parentheses are used to group expressions into a larger expression:

group ::= (A B)

Like simpler expressions above, operators can be applied to groups, as well. To allow for alternates, we also define the infix operator `|`.

one of $:= A \mid B$

The above indicates that the expression should match one of the expressions, `A` or `B`.

Precedence

The operator precedence is in the following order:

- Terminals (literals and character classes)
- Grouping `()`
- Unary operators `+*`
- Concatenation
- Alternates `|`

The precedence can be better described using grouping to show equivalents.

Concatenation has higher precedence than alernates, such `A B | C D` is equivalent to `(A B) | (C D)`.

Unary operators have higher precedence than alternates and concatenation, such that `A+ | B+` is equivalent to

Examples

The following combines the previous definitions to match a simple, relative path name, describing the individu

```
path ::= component ("/" component)* component ::= [a-z]+
```

The production "component" is one or more lowercase letters.

A "path" is then at least one component, possibly followed by zero or more slash-component pairs.

The above can be converted into the following regular expression:

```
[a-z]+(?:/[a-z]+)*
```

[ebnf]: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extended_Backus%E2%80%93Naur_form

[xmlebnf]: https://www.w3.org/TR/REC-xml/#sec-notation

OCI Image Implementations

Projects or Companies currently adopting the OCI Image Specification

- * [projectatomic/skopeo](https://github.com/projectatomic/skopeo)
- * [Amazon Elastic Container Registry (ECR)](https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonECR/latest/userguide/image-manif

* [cloudfoundry/grootfs](https://github.com/cloudfoundry/grootfs)([source](https://github.com/cloudfoundry/gr

- * [Azure Container Registry (ACR)](https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/container-registry/container-registry-imag
- * [openSUSE/umoci](https://github.com/openSUSE/umoci)
- * [Mesos plans](https://issues.apache.org/jira/browse/MESOS-5011) ([design doc](https://docs.google.com/docume * [Docker] (https://github.com/docker)
- - [docker/docker (`docker save/load` WIP)](https://github.com/docker/docker/pull/26369)
 - [distribution/distribution (registry PR)](https://github.com/distribution/distribution/pull/2076)
- * [containerd/containerd] (https://github.com/containerd/containerd)
- * [Containers] (https://github.com/containers/)
 - [containers/build] (https://github.com/containers/build)
 - [containers/image] (https://github.com/containers/image)
 - [containers/oci-spec-rs] (https://github.com/containers/oci-spec-rs)
 - [containers/libocispec] (https://github.com/containers/libocispec)
- * [krustlet/oci-distribution](https://github.com/krustlet/oci-distribution)
- * [coreos/rkt](https://github.com/coreos/rkt)
- * [box-builder/box](https://github.com/box-builder/box)
- * [coolljt0725/docker2oci](https://github.com/coolljt0725/docker2oci)
- * [regclient/regclient](https://github.com/regclient/regclient)

(to add your project please open a [pull-request](https://github.com/opencontainers/image-spec/pulls))