

HFS+ File System Format Reference Sheet

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FOR518 - Mac and iOS Forensic Analysis & Incident Response - for518.com

Volume Header

Offset	Size (in bytes)	Data
0	2	Signature
2	2	Version
4	4	Attributes
8	4	Last Mounted Version
12	4	Journal Info Block
16	4	Create Date
20	4	Modify Date
24	4	Backup Date
28	4	Checked Date
32	4	File Count
36	4	Folder Count
40	4	Block Size
44	4	Total Blocks
48	4	Free Blocks
52	4	Next Allocation
56	4	rsrc Clump Size
60	4	Data Clump Size
64	4	Next Catalog ID
68	4	Write Count
72	8	Encoding Bitmap
80	4	Finder Info Array [0]
84	4	Finder Info Array [1]
88	4	Finder Info Array [2]
92	4	Finder Info Array [3]
96	4	Finder Info Array [4]
100	4	Finder Info Array [5]
104	4	Finder Info Array [6]
108	4	Finder Info Array [7]
112	80	Allocation File Size & Location
192	80	Extents File Size & Location
272	80	Catalog File Size & Location
352	80	Attributes File Size & Location
432	80	Startup File Size & Location

Location	1024 bytes from beginning of the volume
Size	512 bytes
Alternate	1024 bytes from the end of the volume

Special File Size & Location / File Extents [80 bytes]

Offset	Size (in bytes)	Data
0	8	Logical Size
8	4	Clump Size
12	4	Total Blocks
16	4	Extent 1 – Start Block
20	4	Extent 1 – Block Count
24	4	Extent 2 – Start Block
28	4	Extent 2 – Block Count
32	4	Extent 3 – Start Block
36	4	Extent 3 – Block Count
40	4	Extent 4 – Start Block
44	4	Extent 4 – Block Count
48	4	Extent 5 – Start Block
52	4	Extent 5 – Block Count
56	4	Extent 6 – Start Block
60	4	Extent 6 – Block Count
64	4	Extent 7 – Start Block
68	4	Extent 7 – Block Count
72	4	Extent 8 – Start Block
76	4	Extent 8 – Block Count

Catalog Node ID Reservations

CNID	Reservation
1	Root Parent
2	Root Folder
3	Extents Overflow File
4	Catalog File
5	Bad Block File
6	Allocation File
7	Startup File
8	Attributes File
14	Repair Catalog File
15	Bogus Extent File
16	First User Catalog Node

HFS+ Special File Extraction from Image File using The Sleuth Kit

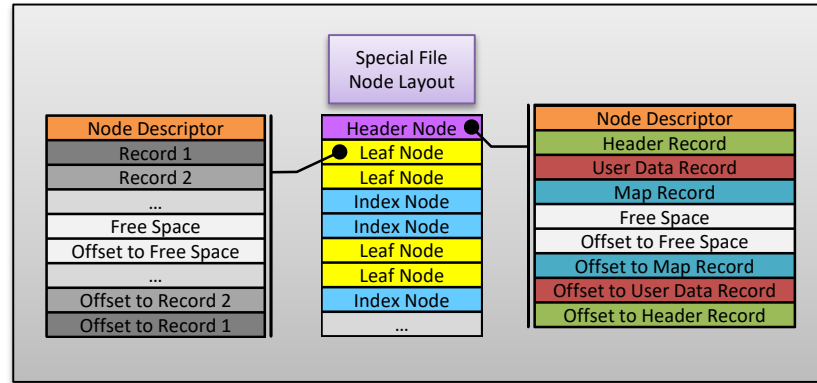
```
icat -f hfs -o <partitionoffset> *.dd <inode> > special_file
```

HFS+ File System Format References & Resources:

- Apple Tech Note 1150 – Available at for518.com/tn1150
- The Sleuth Kit Source – Available at for518.com/tskhs
- Mac OS X Internals: A Systems Approach by Amit Singh – Chapter 12
- Mac OS X and iOS Internals: To the Apple's Core by Jonathan Levin – Chapter 16
- Apple Open Source – for518.com/hfsformat

B-Tree Nodes

- Four types of B-Tree Nodes
- Only **one** Header Node per B-Tree
- Each B-Tree Specifies its size in the **Node Size** field of the Header Record



Node Descriptor [14 bytes]

Offset	Size (in bytes)	Field
0	4	Forward Link
4	4	Backward Link
8	1	Kind: 0xFF – Leaf Node (-1) 0x00 – Index Node (0) 0x01 – Header Node (1) 0x02 – Map Node (2)
9	1	Height
10	2	Number of Records
12	2	Reserved

Header Record [46 bytes]

Offset	Size (in bytes)	Field
0	2	Tree Depth
2	4	Root Node
6	4	Leaf Records
10	4	First Leaf Node
14	4	Last Leaf Node
18	2	Node Size
20	2	Max Key Length
22	4	Total Nodes
26	4	Free Nodes
30	2	Reserved
32	4	Clump Size
36	1	B-tree Type: 0x00 – HFS B-Tree (0) 0x80 – User B-Tree (128) 0xFF – Reserved (255)
37	1	Key Compare Type: 0xCF or 0xC7 – Case-insensitive 0xBC – Case-sensitive 0x00 – Unknown
38	4	Attributes:
42	4	Reserved [16] (64 bytes)

HFS+ Data is Big Endian
GPT is Little Endian

Catalog File

Catalog File Key

Size	Field
2	Key Length
4	Parent CNID (or CNID of file/folder for thread records)
Variable	Node Name (File or Folder Name)
HFSUniStr255	2 Byte Length + Variable Unicode Name (<=255)

Catalog File/Folder Record [88 or 248 bytes]

Size (in bytes)	Field
2	Record Type (0x0001 – Folder Record (0x0002) – File Record)
2	Flags
4	Valence (File Records - Reserved)
4	File or Folder ID (CNID)
4	Create Date
4	Content Modification Date
4	Attribute Modification Date
4	Access Date
4	Backup Date
HFSPlusBSDInfo [16 Bytes]	Permissions
FolderInfo or FileInfo [16 Bytes]	User Information
ExtendedFolder or FileInfo [16 Bytes]	Finder Information
4	Text Encoding
4	Reserved
Additional Fields for File Record – See “File Extents” Table	
HFSPlusForkData [80 Bytes]	Data Fork
HFSPlusForkData [80 Bytes]	Resource Fork

Catalog Thread Record

Size	Field
2 Bytes	Record Type (0x0003) – Folder Thread Record (0x0004) – File Thread Record
2 Bytes	Reserved
4 Bytes	Parent ID (CNID)
HFSUniStr255	Node Name (File or Folder Name) 2 Byte Length + Variable <=255 Unicode Name

Size (in bytes)	HFSPlusBSDInfo
4	Owner ID
4	Group ID
1	Admin Flags
1	Owner Flags
2	File Mode
4	iNode Number or Link Count or Raw Device

Attributes File

Attributes Key

Size (in bytes)	Field
2	Key Length
2	Pad
4	File ID (CNID)
4	Start Block
2	Attribute Name Length
Variable	Attribute Name

Attributes Record

Size (in bytes)	Field
4	Record Type (0x00000010)
	Inline Data Attribute
8	Reserved
4	Attribute Size
Variable	Attribute Data

Extents Overflow File

Extents Overflow Key [12 bytes]

Size (in bytes)	Field
2	Key Length
1	Fork Type 0x00 - Data 0xFF - Resource
1	Pad
4	File ID (CNID)
4	Start Block

Extents Overflow Record

Size (in bytes)	Field (For Each Eight Extents)
4	Start Block
4	Block Count

Allocation File (with Examples)

1 bit per allocation block (512 bytes),
8 blocks per byte (4,096)
Most Significant Bit – Status of block with lowest number
Least Significant Bit – Status of block with highest number

Hex	Binary	Allocation
0x00	00000000	No Blocks Allocated
0xFF	11111111	All Blocks Allocated
0x1F	00011111	Lowest three blocks are unallocated
0x80	10000000	Lowest block is allocated
0x07	00000111	Highest three blocks are allocated
0xF0	11110000	Highest four blocks are unallocated

SANS FOR518 Reference Sheet

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Directory Commands

cd ..	Change Directory...up one directory (../.. - two directories up)
cd /var/log	Change Directory...to /var/log
cd ~	Change Directory...to your home directory
cd /	Change Directory...to the root directory
ls	List Directory (Short Listing)
ls -l	List Directory (Long Listing)
ls -la	List Directory items...including hidden items (files beginning with ".")
ls -lh	List Directory items...with human readable sizes
ls -R	List Directory items...recursively
open .	Open Current Directory
pwd	Print Working Directory
mkdir	Create a Directory
rmdir	Remove a Directory
rm -r	Remove a Directory (and its contents)
.	Current Directory
..	Parent Directory

File Commands

pico <filename>	Open a file in a simple text editor (q - to quit editor)
xxd <filename>	Open a file in a hex editor
open <filename>	Opens a file in the default program
open -a <programname> <filename>	Opens a file in a specified program
cat <filename>	Concatenate a file to the terminal screen
<command> more	Pipe command output to more to show contents screen by screen
<command> less	Pipe command output to less to show contents screen by screen (and be able to go back and forth)
rm <filename>	Remove File
cp <filename> <newfilename>	Copy File
mv <filename> <newfilename>	Move File
<command> > <filename>	Redirect command output to a file
<command> >> <filename>	Append command output to a file
touch <filename>	Create an empty file
head <filename>	Show first 10 lines of a file
tail <filename>	Show last 10 lines of a file (-f to watch appended input)
strings <filename>	Show the strings of a file
exiftool <filename>	Show the exif/metadata of the file
plutil -p <propertylist>	Print the contents of a property list
file <filename>	Show a file signature type
grep -i <searchterm> <filename>	Search for term within a file (case-insensitive)
python <file>.py	Execute a Python program

Miscellaneous Commands

sudo <command>	Execute program as another user (default is root user)
sudo -s	Open a privileged shell
su -	Substitute User to root
whoami / id	Display Effective User ID / Show UID/GID Info
history	Command History
man <command>	Command Manual (q - to exit manual)

Terminal Shortcuts

Control + A	Jump to beginning of line
Control + E	Jump to end of line
Tab	Tab Completion
Control + C	Kill Current Command
Command + K or Control + L	Clear Screen (or clear command)
Command + T	New Terminal Tab
Command + W	Close Terminal Tab
Command + /-	Increase or Decrease Terminal Font Size
Option + Left/Right Arrow	Move back/forth by word
Option + Click in Command Line	Put command line cursor where mouse cursor is.

Generic Tool Compilation and Installation

```
tar -xvf <archive>.tar.gz
./configure
make
sudo make install
```

Disk Arbitration

sudo launchctl load /System/Library/LaunchDaemons/com.apple.diskarbitrationd.plist	Enable
sudo launchctl unload /System/Library/LaunchDaemons/com.apple.diskarbitrationd.plist	Disable
ps auxw grep diskarbitrationd	Determine Status

Live Response

date	Local System Time (-u for UTC)
hostname	System Hostname
uname -a	OS & Architecture Information
sw_vers	macOS Version & Build
netstat -anf inet or netstat -an	Active Network Connections
lsof -i	Active Network Connections (by process)
netstat -rn	Routing Table
arp -an ndp -an	ARP Table (IPv4 IPv6)
ifconfig	Network Interface Configuration
lsof	List Open Files
who -a, w	List Logged On Users
last	List user logins
ps aux	List Processes
system_profiler -xml -detaillevel full > file.spx	System Profiler (XML, Full Detail Level), open with System Information.app

Disk & Partitions

/dev/	Device Directory
diskutil list	List Connected Disks
diskutil info <disk>	Disk Information (use Disks /dev/disk#, disk#, or partitions /dev/disk#s#)
diskutil cs ap list	List partitions using CoreStorage (cs) or APFS Containers (ap)
gpt -r show [-l]	List partitions using GUID Partition Table Format (-l to show label rather than GUID) - 10.13+ SIP must be disabled.
csrutil disable enable	Disable/Enable SIP, must reboot into Recovery Mode (Reboot, Cmd+Option+R)
mmls <diskimage>	Display partitions using The Sleuth Kit
hdiutil imageinfo *.dmg	Disk Image Information including Partition Data

Keychains

security list-keychains	List Keychains on a system for a logged in user
security dump-keychains -d <keychain>	Dump contents of a Keychain

Extended Attributes

xattr -xl <file>	Show Extended Attributes of a file
xattr -p <attribute name> <file> xxd -r -p >output.plist	Extract embedded binary property list from extended attribute.
istat /dev/disk# <CNID>	Use The Sleuth Kit to view file information including extended attributes.
icat /dev/disk# <CNID>-<TSK Attribute Number>	View a specific extended attribute using The Sleuth Kit

Log Analysis

bzcat system.log.1.bz2	Create a "all-in-one" system.log file. Can also be used with gzcat for Gzip compressed log files.
system.log.0.bz2 >> system_all.log	
cat system.log >> system_all.log	
syslog -f <file> -d <directory>	View ASL File or Directory of ASL files
syslog -T utc -F raw -d /var/log/asl	Output ASL files the /var/log/asl directory and output in raw format with UTC timestamps.
praudit -xn /var/audit/*	View audit logs in XML format without user/group resolution.
sudo log collect	Create a logarchive bundle on live system, root required
log show	View logs in logarchive bundle (use with --predicate to filter)
log stream	View live logs (use with --predicate to filter)

Time Machine

tmutil uniquesize <machinedirectory_path>/*	Show the unique sizes of each snapshot
tmutil calculatedrift <machinedirectory_path>	Show the size changes (added/removed/changed) between each snapshot.
tmutil compare <snapshotdirectory1> <snapshotdirectory2>	Compare the file changes (added/removed/changed) between two snapshots..

Memory Analysis & Encrypted Containers

vol.py --profile=<profile> -f <memory image> <plugin>	Volatility Usage
hdiutil attach -readonly -nomount -stdinpass filevault2image.dmg	Mount a FileVault volume using a password
security unlock-keychain FileVaultMaster.keychain	Access and mount a FileVault volume using a master password
diskutil corestorage unlockvolume <UUID> -recoverykeychain FileVaultMaster.keychain	
diskutil corestorage unlockvolume <UUID> -passphrase <recovery key>	Mount a FileVault volume using the Recovery Key
hdiutil attach -readonly -nomount -stdinpass sekretstuff_USB.dmg	Mount an Encrypted DMG File
strings <MemoryImage> sort -u > dictionary.txt	Create a dictionary file

Spotlight

mdls <file>	List the Spotlight metadata for a file
mdfind "<attribute_name> == *"	Find files based on a specific metadata query
mdfind -onlyin /Volumes/mounted_disk	Find files only in a certain directory or mounted image.
mdimport -X -A	Print a list of attributes that can be queried.

Image Mount & Eject

AFPS with xmount (xmount v.0.7.*)	\$ sudo mkdir /Volumes/galaga_image/ \$ sudo mkdir /Volumes/galaga_mounted/ \$ sudo xmount --in ewf ~/FOR518/galaga.E01 --out dmg /Volumes/galaga_image/ \$ hdiutil attach -nomount /Volumes/galaga_image/galaga.dmg \$ sudo mount apfs -o rdonly,noexec,noowners /dev/disk# /Volumes/galaga_mounted/
HFS+ Method 1 - xmount (xmount v.0.7.*)	\$ mkdir /Volumes/dademurphy_image/ \$ mkdir /Volumes/dademurphy_mounted/ \$ sudo xmount --in ewf ~/FOR518/dademurphy.E01 --out dmg /Volumes/dademurphy_image/ \$ hdiutil attach -nomount /Volumes/dademurphy_image/dademurphy.dmg \$ mount hfs -j -o rdonly,noexec,noowners /dev/disk# /Volumes/dademurphy_mounted/
HFS+ Method 2 - mountewf	\$ mkdir /Volumes/dademurphy_image/ \$ mkdir /Volumes/dademurphy_mounted/ \$ ewfmount ~/FOR518/dademurphy.E01 /Volumes/dademurphy_image/ \$ ln -s /Volumes/dademurphy_image/ewf1 ~/FOR518/dadeimage.dmg \$ hdiutil attach -nomount ~/FOR518/dadeimage.dmg \$ mount hfs -j -o rdonly,noexec,noowners /dev/disk# /Volumes/dademurphy_mounted/
Eject Disk	\$ diskutil list \$ diskutil eject /dev/disk# \$ mount \$ sudo umount /Volumes/galaga_image/

Timestamp Formats

HFS+/MacOS	32-bit - Number of seconds from 1/1/1904 00:00:00 UTC
UNIX Epoch	32-bit - Number of seconds from 1/1/1970 00:00:00 UTC
Mac Epoch/Mac Absolute/Cocoa/WebKit	32-bit - Number of seconds from 1/1/2001 00:00:00 UTC
Property List Dates in Xcode	Local Host System Time



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Number of 512-byte Blocks Used

```
nibble:/ sledwards$ ls -la
total 1014190
drwxr-xr-x@ 41 root wheel 1462 Feb 16 21:14 .
drwxr-xr-x@ 41 root wheel 1462 Feb 16 21:14 ..
d--x--x--x+ 8 root wheel 272 Nov 5 01:11 .DocumentRevisions-V100
d-wx-wx-wt 2 root wheel 68 Nov 4 21:05 .Trashes
-rw-r--r--+ 1 sledwards admin 312 Mar 9 2013 .apdisk
srwxrwxrwx 1 root wheel 0 Feb 15 21:29 .dbfsevents
lrwxr-xr-x@ 1 root wheel 11 Sep 23 08:47 etc -> private/etc
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 root wheel 8393032 Sep 29 22:39 mach_kernel
```

Labels for the ls output:

- Entry Type
- Permissions
- Hard Link/ACLs
- Owner Name
- Group Name
- File Size (bytes)
- Last Modified Timestamp
- File / Directory

GPT Header

Offset	Size (bytes)	Field
0	8	Signature (EFI PART)
8	4	Revision (1.0)
12	4	Size of Header (bytes)
16	4	Header CRC32
20	4	Reserved
24	8	LBA of GPT Header
32	8	LBA of Backup GPT Header
40	8	First Usable LBA
48	8	Last Usable LBA
56	16	Disk GUID
72	8	Starting LBA of GUID Partition Table (Little Endian)
80	4	Number of Partition Entries Available (Little Endian)
84	4	Size of Partition Entry
88	4	Partition Entry Array CRC32
92	Rest	Reserved

GPT Reference

GPT Table Entry		
Offset	Size (bytes)	Field
0	16	Partition Type GUID
16	16	Unique Partition GUID
32	8	Starting LBA (Little Endian)
40	8	Ending LBA (Little Endian)
48	8	Attributes
56	72	Partition Name
128	Rest	Reserved

Type	Common GPT Partition GUIDs
EFI System Partition	C12A7328-F81F-11D2-BA4B-00A0C93EC93B
HFS+ Partition	48465300-0000-11AA-AA11-00306543ECAC
Apple Boot Partition	426F6F74-0000-11AA-AA11-00306543ECAC
Apple CoreStorage (possible FileVault or Fusion Drive)	53746F72-6167-11AA-AA11-00306543ECAC
APFS Partition	7C3457EF-0000-11AA-AA11-00306543ECAC
Basic Data Partition (Boot Camp)	EBD0A0A2-B9E5-4433-87C0-68B6B72699C7