

# The Hardware Configuration Interface On Toshiba Laptops

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## 1 Overview

The Hardware Configuration Interface (HCI) is a software interface that allows applications to read or setup the hardware configurations on Toshiba portable computers. It aims to conceal differences in hardware between different models from the software.

The Hardware Configuration Interface is implemented using the System Management Mode (SMM) of the Intel processor. To call the HCI the necessary registers are loaded with the values to indicate what function we wish to ask and a value is then read from port B2h. On reading from port B2h the SMM mode of the processor is enabled, whatever function requested is carried out and execution of the software continues from immediately after the `in` instruction.

The calls to the HCI can take place at *any* time and in whatever mode the processor happens to be in at the time i.e. real, protected, virtual8086 etc. While a call to the HCI is in progress all other functions of the processor are queued pending completion of the call. This includes all maskable and *non-maskable* interrupts.

## 2 General

The HCI is activated by reading a byte from port B2h into the AL register. There are two functions in the HCI one that enables a device setup status to be read and another that enables it to be set. The function that is then executed depends on the value held in the AX register, according to the following list

FE00h Read current status of device  
FF00h Setup device

Unlike the System Configuration Interface (SCI) it is not necessary to open or close an interface to the HCI.

## 3 Devices

### 3.1 Backlight

This function controls the backlight of the LCD panel. It enables it to be turned on and off.

## Read

Call:

AX = FE00h  
BX = 0002h

Return successful:

CF = 0  
AH = 00h  
CX = 0000h - backlight off  
      0001h - backlight on

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function  
      83h - Input data error

## Set

Call:

AX = FF00h  
BX = 0002h  
CX = 0000h - backlight off  
      0001h - backlight on

Return successful:

CF = 0  
AH = 00h

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function  
      83h - Input data error  
      84h - Write protected

## 3.2 AC Adaptor

This function enables you to determine whether the laptop is being power from the AC adaptor. This information is read only.

## Read

Call:

AX = FE00h  
BX = 0003h

Return successful:

CF = 0  
AH = 00h  
CX = 0003h - AC adaptor unavailable  
      0004h - AC adaptor powering laptop

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function  
      83h - Input data error

## 3.3 Fan

This function controls the status of the cooling fan. This method for controlling the fan works on all known models which have a fan apart from the Portage 610 and Tecra 700.

## Read

Call:

AX = FE00h  
BX = 0004h

Return successful:

CF = 0  
AH = 00h  
CX = 0000h - fan off  
      0001h - fan on

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function  
      83h - Input data error

## Set

Call:

AX = FF00h  
BX = 0004h  
CX = 0000h - fan off  
      0001h - fan on

Return successful:

CF = 0  
AH = 00h

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function  
      83h - Input data error  
      84h - Write protected

## 3.4 Software suspend

The function can be used to determine if a suspend is possible i.e. is the APM BIOS enabled. It can also be used to trigger a suspend sequence exactly as in a power triggered sequence. The suspend sequence takes place regardless whether the machines power up mode is boot or resume. When powered on the next time the machine will go through a resume sequence.

## Read

Call:

AX = FE00h  
BX = 0010h

Return successful:

CF = 0  
AH = 00h  
CX = 0000h - APM disabled (suspend not possible)  
      0001h - APM enabled (suspend possible)

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function

## Set

Call:

AX = FF00h  
 BX = 0010h  
 CX = 0001h - begin suspend sequence

Return successful:

CF = 0  
 AH = 00h

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
 AH = 80h - System does not support this function  
       83h - Input data error  
       84h - Write protected

### 3.5 Flat Panel Information

This function is used to determine the resolution and type of the LCD flat panel installed in the system. This information is read only.

#### Read

Call:

AX = FE00h  
 BX = 0011h

Return successful:

CF = 0  
 AH = 00h  
 CH = resolution  
       00h - 640×480  
       01h - 800×600  
       02h - 1024×768  
       03h - 1024×600  
       04h - 800×480  
 CL = LCD type  
       00h - STN monochrome  
       01h - STN colour  
       02h - 9bit TFT  
       03h - 12bit TFT  
       04h - 18bit TFT  
       05h - 24bit TFT

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
 AH = 80h - System does not support this function

### 3.6 SelectBay Status

This function can be used to determine what type of device if any is in the SelectBay of a laptop or docking station. The function returns the an 83h input error in under the following circumstances

- An undefined value is used in the cx register.
- On a machine that supports external SelectBay's no external SelectBay's are connected.
- On a machine that does not support external SelectBay's an attempt is made to read the status of an external SelectBay.
- On a machine that does not support 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ " SelectBay's an attempt is made to read the status of a 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ " SelectBay.

## Read

Call:

AX = FE00h  
BX = 0014h  
CX = 0000h - internal SelectBay  
0100h - SelectBay in docking station  
0180h - 5  $\frac{1}{4}$ " bay in docking station

Return successful:

CF = 0  
AH = 00h  
CX = 0000h - nothing inserted  
0001h - floppy disk drive  
0002h - ATAPI device such as CD-ROM or Zip  
0003h - IDE device such as hard disk  
0004h - 2nd battery

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function  
83h - Input data error

## 3.7 System Event FIFO

This function controls the system event FIFO. The system event is cleared after it is read and the reading pointer updated. The read function returns an 80h error if the system event function is disabled. The default state of the system event function is to be disabled.

## Read

Call:

AX = FE00h  
BX = 0016h

Return successful:

CF = 0  
AH = 00h  
CX = System event

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function  
8Ch - System event FIFO empty

## Enable/Disable

Call:

AX = FF00h  
BX = 0016h  
CX = 0000h - Disable  
0001h - Enable

Return successful:

CF = 0  
AH = 00h

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function

### 3.8 Panel Status

This function reads whether the LCD panel is open or closed. It is a read-only setting.

#### Read

Call:

AX = FE00h

BX = 0019h

Return successful:

CF = 0

AH = 00h

CX = 0000h - Panel closed

0001h - Panel open

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1

AH = 80h - System does not support this function

### 3.9 SIR/FIR Status

This function controls whether the IrDA is in Fast (FIR) or Standard (SIR) mode.

#### Set

Call:

AX = FF00h

BX = 001Bh

CX = 0000h - FIR disabled/SIR enabled

0001h - FIR enabled/SIR disabled

Return successful:

CF = 0

AH = 00h

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1

AH = 80h - System does not support this function

83h - Input data error

### 3.10 Display Device Status

This function determines whether the current display device is either internal, external or simultaneous.

#### Read

Call:

AX = FE00h

BX = 001Ch

Return successful:

CF = 0

AH = 00h

CX = 0000h - Internal

0001h - External

0002h - Simultaneous

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1

AH = 80h - System does not support this function

## Set

Call:

AX = FF00h  
BX = 001Ch  
CX = 0000h - Internal  
      0001h - External  
      0002h - Simultaneous

Return successful:

CF = 0  
AH = 00h

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function  
      83h - Input data error

## 3.11 Hotkey event status

The function controls the Hotkey event status reporting. When enabled if a key is pressed (i.e. a Fn key combination) it is entered into the system event FIFO. I also believe that it causes an APM OEM extension event to be issued. Currently enabling hotkey event status reporting causes Linux to lockup if the kernel has the APM driver active. Use the System Event FIFO call (BX=0016h) to read the values in the system event FIFO.

The hotkey event value placed in the system event FIFO goes through three phases. The values placed in the system event FIFO are 16bits wide. If the Fn key has been depressed in combination with another key and the other key is *still* held down then the value placed in the FIFO will be the BIOS scan code of with bit 8 *set*. If the key has been released but the Fn key is still held down then byte will hold the BIOS scan code of the key with bit 7 and bit 8 *set*. When the Fn key has been released the value 0100h is placed into the FIFO. It should be noted that the Fn key combinations that are used to emulate keys on a standard keyboard are not entered into the system event FIFO.

## Read

Call:

AX = FE00h  
BX = 001Eh

Return successful:

CF = 0  
AH = 00h  
CX = 0000h - Disable  
      0001h - Enable

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function

## Enable/Disable

Call:

AX = FF00h  
BX = 001Eh  
CX = 0000h - Disable  
      0001h - Enable

Return successful:

CF = 0  
AH = 00h

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function  
83h - Input data error

### 3.12 Unused Memory Information

This function sets unused memory size/address for hibernation in SM-RAM. This information can *only* be set. This function doesn't check whether the settings of the address and the size are appropriate or not. But each system checks the unused memory area number. If the unused memory area number is not supported by the system, the function returns 83h error.

#### Set

Call:

AX = FF00h  
BX = 0021h  
ECX = Physical memory address of unused area  
EDX = Unused memory size  
SI = Memory area number (0, 1, 2, ...)

Return successful:

CF = 0  
AH = 00h

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function  
83h - Input data error

### 3.13 SelectBay Lock Status

This function enables you to determine whether the SelectBay in question is locked. This information is read only.

#### Read

Call:

AX = FE00h  
BX = 0022h  
CX = 0000h - built in device  
0001h - internal SelectBay  
0002h - SelectBay in docking station  
0003h - 5  $\frac{1}{4}$ " bay in docking station

Return successful:

CF = 0  
AH = 00h  
CX = 0000h - locked  
0001h - unlocked

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function  
83h - Input data error



### 3.14 Boot Device

This function enables you to determine whether the selected device is the boot device. This information is read only.

#### Read

Call:

AX = FE00h  
BX = 0026h  
CX = 0000h - built in device  
      0001h - internal SelectBay  
      0002h - SelectBay in docking station  
      0003h - 5  $\frac{1}{4}$ " bay in docking station

Return successful:

CF = 0  
AH = 00h  
CX = 0000h - not the boot device  
      0001h - boot device

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function  
      83h - Input data error

### 3.15 Display Brightness Level

This function enables the brightness level of the internal LCD panel backlight to be read and set. If the system supports the SCI function to set the LCD panel backlight brightness, then the the panel backlight is controlled by the SCI function until this HCI function is called.

#### Get

Call:

AX = FE00h  
BX = 002Ah

Return successful:

CF = 0  
AH = 00h  
CX = brightness level  
DX = possible bits

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function

### 3.16 Hibernation Information

This function gets the size of the data header, maximum memory and VRAM. This enables the size of the hibernation file to be calculated. This information is read only.

#### Get

Call:

AX = FE00h  
BX = 002Dh

CX = parameter to get  
     0000h - data header size (BIOS information)  
     0001h - maximum memory size  
     0002h - VRAM size

Return successful:

CF = 0  
 AH = 00h  
 ECX = size in bytes

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
 AH = 80h - System does not support this function  
     83h - Input data error

### 3.17 Owner String

This function enables the owner string to be read and set. The owner string is displayed during power up. This information is tentative in that I have not yet been able to get it to work properly.

#### Get

Call:

AX = FE00h  
 BX = 0029h  
 SI = offset from beginning of string

Return successful:

CF = 0  
 AH = 00h  
 ECX = bits 0-15 : number of valid characters  
       bits 16-31 : size of owner string (always 513?)  
 EDX = bits 0-7 : first character  
       bits 8-15 : second character  
       bits 16-23 : third character  
       bits 24-31 : fourth character  
 EDI = bits 0-7 : fifth character  
       bits 8-15 : sixth character  
       bits 16-23 : seventh character  
       bits 24-31 : eighth character

Return unsuccessful:

CF = 1  
 AH = 80h - System does not support this function  
     83h - Input data error

### 3.18 Hibernation File Address

This gets or sets the Logical Block Address (LBA) of the hibernation data file.

#### Get

Call:

AX = FE00h  
 BX = 002Eh

Return successful:

CF = 0  
 AH = 00h

ECX = hibernation file address (LBA)  
Return unsuccessful:  
CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function

### **Set**

Call:  
AX = FF00h  
BX = 002Eh  
ECX = hibernation file address (LBA)  
Return successful:  
CF = 0  
AH = 00h  
Return unsuccessful:  
CF = 1  
AH = 80h - System does not support this function