



# **Using Intel® Virtualization Technology (Intel® VT) with Intel® QuickAssist Technology**

**Application Note**

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***April 2021***



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476488	1.1	Added Limitations	October 2012
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# 1 Introduction

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This document discusses the following topics related to using Intel® Virtualization Technology (Intel® VT) with the Intel® QuickAssist Technology (Intel® QAT) Software:

- Features and limitations
- Build and installation

## 1.1 About this Document

Users of this document are expected to be familiar with virtualization technologies.

In this document, for convenience:

- *Software package* is used as a generic term for the Intel® QuickAssist Technology Software package.
- *Acceleration drivers* is used as a generic term for the software that allows the Intel® QuickAssist Software Library APIs to access the Intel® QuickAssist Accelerator(s) integrated in Intel® QAT.

## 1.2 Related Documents and References

This section provides references to find current software and documentation.

Associated software and collateral can be found on the open source website: <https://01.org/intel-quickassist-technology>

The below table includes a list of related documentation.

**Table 1. Related Documents**

Document Title	Document Number
Intel® QuickAssist Technology API Programmer's Guide	330684
Intel® QuickAssist Technology Cryptographic API Reference Manual	330685
Intel® QuickAssist Technology Data Compression API Reference Manual	330686
Intel® QuickAssist Technology Software for Linux* - Getting Started Guide - HW version 1.7	336212
Intel® QuickAssist Technology Software for Linux* - Release Notes - HW version 1.7	336211
Intel® QuickAssist Technology Software for Linux* - Programmer's Guide - HW version 1.7	336210
Intel® QuickAssist Technology Driver for Linux* - HW version 1.7	NA

**Note:** Sample configuration files are included with the software package.

## 1.3 Terminology

The below table includes a list of related documentation.

**Table 2. Terminology**

Term	Description
CLI	Command Line Interface
GigE	Gigabit Ethernet
GUI	Graphical User Interface
Intel® QAT	Intel® QuickAssist Technology Software
Intel® VT	Intel® Virtualization Technology
IOMMU	Input-Output Memory Management Unit
KVM	Kernel-based Virtual Machine
PCH	Platform Controller Hub
PCI	Peripheral Component Interconnect
SR-IOV	Single-root Input/Output Virtualization
PF	Physical Function
VF	Virtual Function
VM	Virtual Machine

## 1.4 About Intel® QAT Software

This section lists the features and limitations of the software.

### 1.4.1 Features

- Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) pass-through with Kernel-based Virtual Machine (KVM).
- Single-root Input/Output Virtualization (SR-IOV) with KVM.

### 1.4.2 Limitations

- SR-IOV may not work on GNU\*/Linux\* kernel versions v2.6.38 or older.
- KVM limitation: the maximum number of Virtual Functions (VF) that can be mapped to a single VM that is specific to the qemu-kvm version.

## 1.5 Software Requirements

Software requirements will vary by the particular use case.

**Required:** Intel® QAT Software for Linux\*

**Note:** Intel® recommends using the same version of the Intel® QAT driver on both host and guest OS. Consult your Intel® representative if you have a requirement to use different versions of the driver.

These instructions were tested against the following Linux\* distribution: CentOS\*.

## 1.6 Supported Intel® QAT Endpoints and their Device IDs

The below table includes a list of related documentation.

**Table 3. Supported Intel® QAT Endpoints and Their Device IDs**

Intel® QAT Endpoint	Physical Function (PF) Device ID	VF Device ID
8925-8955	0435	0443
Intel® C620 Series Chipsets	37c8	37c9
Intel® Atom® C3000 Processor Product Family	19e2	19e3
Intel® Xeon® processor D family	6f54	6f55



## 2 Using Intel® QAT Software with KVM

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Intel® Virtualization Technology can use both SR-IOV and PCI pass-through for the acceleration services. SR-IOV enables the creation of VFs from a single Intel® QAT acceleration device to support acceleration for multiple Virtual Machines (VMs). If you do not need to share a single Platform Controller Hub (PCH) device with accelerator capabilities between multiple VMs, PCI pass-through is sufficient. The following sections describe the steps necessary to enable this functionality, with a focus on the SR-IOV use case.

### 2.1 Updating the BIOS Settings

**Note:** The BIOS settings for your system may differ from the following steps:

1. Power on the development board. Watch closely for the prompt to enter the BIOS setup. Press **F2** when prompted.
2. Enable the *VT-d* parameter in BIOS. The option may be available under:
3. Advanced > System Agent (SA) Configuration > VT-d
4. Enable the *SR-IOV* parameter in BIOS. The option may be available under:
5. Advanced > System Agent (SA) Configuration > SRIOV

**Note:** Enabling the SR-IOV BIOS parameter is not required if you are not using SR-IOV.

1. Press **F4** to Save and Exit. The BIOS changes are saved, and the system will boot.

### 2.2 Installing and Configuring the Host Operating System

1. Install the CentOS\* v7 64-bit version. If necessary, consult the Getting Started Guide section "Installing the OS on a Development Board" (refer to [Table 1](#)), taking note that this guide assumes one of those CentOS\* v7 64-bit versions as the host OS when SR-IOV is used.

**Note:** CentOS\* v7 requires the `intel_iommu=on` kernel boot parameter to use SR-IOV and VT-d functionality.

2. Install virtualization related packages using the following command (root privileges required):  

```
# yum -y install @virtualization
```

**Note:** Alternatively, use `yum -y groupinstall Virtualization`. This will install `qemu-kvm` `qemu-img` `virt-manager`, `libvirt*`, `libvirt* -python`, `python-virtinst` `libvirt* -client`, `virt-install`, `virt-viewer`, and all of the dependencies that are needed.

3. If the `libvirtd` service is not running, start it by using the commands:  

```
# chkconfig libvirtd on  
# service libvirtd start
```
4. Verify SR-IOV hardware capabilities using the command:

```
# lspci -vnd 8086:<Device ID>
```

Refer to Section 1.6 for a list of Intel® QAT supported devices and their device IDs.

It should display one of the capabilities as:

```
Capabilities: [140] Single Root I/O Virtualization (SR-IOV)
```

5. Verify BIOS settings using the command:

```
# lsmod | grep kvm
kvm_intel          42122 0
kvm                257132 1 kvm_intel
```

6. Ensure that the system supports VT extensions:

```
# egrep '^flags.*(vmx|svm)' /proc/cpuinfo
```

**Note:** If nothing is printed out after executing the above command, then the system does not support VT extensions.

7. If kernel boot parameters changed, restart the system:

```
# shutdown -r now
```

8. Power on the system and proceed with the instructions in the following sections.

9. Once the system is restarted, check for DMAR and IOMMU messages, similar to the following:

```
# dmesg | grep -e DMAR -e IOMMU
[ 0.000000] ACPI: DMAR 000000007b79c000 00080 (v01 INTEL INTEL ID
00000001 INTL 20091013)
[ 0.000000] Intel-IOMMU: enabled
[ 0.064454] dmar: IOMMU 0: reg_base_addr fbffc000 ver 1:0 cap
d2078c106f0466 ecap f020df
[ 0.065560] IOAPIC id 8 under DRHD base 0xfbffc000 IOMMU 0 [
0.065919] IOAPIC id 9 under DRHD base 0xfbffc000 IOMMU 0 [ 2.168898]
DMAR: No ATSR found
[ 2.169358] IOMMU 0 0xfbffc000: using Queued invalidation [
2.169728] IOMMU: Setting RMRR:
[ 2.170091] IOMMU: Setting identity map for device 0000:00:1d.0
[0x7a23f000 - 0x7a241fff]
[ 2.170767] IOMMU: Prepare 0-16MiB unity mapping for LPC
[ 2.171133] IOMMU: Setting identity map for device 0000:00:1f.0
[0x0 - 0xffffffff]
```

**Note:** If the above command fails, a BIOS update or kernel reconfiguration may be required.

## 2.3 Installing Guest OS Image

This section describes how to use the libvirt\* Virtual Machine Manager Graphical User Interface (GUI) to create the guest OS installation.

**Note:** The instructions in this section use the GUI approach; information on using the command line interface (CLI) is available at: <http://libvirt.org/virshcmdref.html>

Using the steps below, enter the root password when prompted.

1. Start the Virtual Machine Manager GUI by selecting it from the top main menu:

**Applications > System Tools > Virtual Machine Manager.**

2. Open a connection to a Hypervisor by choosing **File > Add Connection.**

3. Choose **QEMU\*/KVM** for Hypervisor.

4. Make sure **Connect to remote host** is NOT checked.
5. Make sure **Autoconnect** is checked.
6. Click **Connect**.
7. After a connection is opened, select the **localhost (QEMU\*)** and right click to select **New**.

Create a new VM with the *New VM* window displayed:

Enter the **Name** for the Guest VM, selecting **Local install media (ISO image or CDROM)**, and clicking **Forward**.

Select **Use CDROM or DVD**, insert the OS installation CDROM/DVD into the CDROM/DVD drive, and make sure that the mounted CDROM appears in box [**Media Unknown (dev/sr0)**]. Select the OS type and version and then click **Forward**.

Choose **Memory (RAM)** in MB and number of **CPUs** settings (assign a sufficient amount, but it should not affect the Host OS, e.g., for 4 GB RAM and 8 cores, allocate Guest OS < 2 GB RAM and 4 cores CPU). Click **Forward**.

**Note:** Many platforms will show twice the actual number of cores due to simultaneous multithreading.

Make sure **Enable storage for this VM** is checked. Select **Create a disk image on the computer's hard drive** and specify a sufficient amount of hard drive space in GB (20 GB is recommended, and at least 18 GB may be required). Make sure **Allocate entire disk now** is checked. Click **Forward**.

Review the information from Steps 1 through 4. Note the **Ready to begin installation of <Name>** and the **Storage** path to the Guest VM image (this will be used if using the QEMU\* CLI). Click **Finish** to begin the installation of the Guest OS.

8. Follow the steps provided in the "Installing CentOS\*" section of the appropriate *Getting Started Guide* (refer to [Table 1](#)) to install the Guest OS.
9. Shut down the guest OS.

By default, the guest image is created in the `/var/lib/libvirt/images` directory. This image can be used by libvirt\* APIs (virsh tools) and qemu-kvm to run the guest.

## 2.4 Installing and Configuring Intel® QuickAssist Technology Software

The following sections detail the steps to use the libvirt\* Virtual Machine Manager GUI, though similar steps are possible using the command line interface.

### 2.4.1 Installing Intel® QuickAssist Technology Software on Host

**Note:** If you are not using SR-IOV and are instead passing through a Physical Function (PF) for acceleration services on one guest only, it is not required to install the Intel® QAT Software package on the host.

**Note:** The configure script included with the software package will automatically take care of certain build environment details, including copying over the correct sample configuration files. If you are not using an included script to build and install the software, you must perform these operations yourself, using the included script as a guide.

**Note:** On more recent kernels, it may be required to have the vfio-pci module inserted with "disable\_denylist=1". Note that this can be done once with "sudo modprobe vfio-pci disable\_denylist=1" or persistently by adding the option "options vfio-pci disable\_denylist=1" to /etc/modprobe.d/vfio-pci.conf.

1. Enable the SR-IOV build on the host by using:  
# ./configure --enable-icp-sriov=host
2. Install the QAT software package:  
# make install
3. Restart qat\_service:  
# service qat\_service restart
4. Enable the QAT VFs:  
# service qat\_service\_vfs stop  
# service qat\_service\_vfs start

**Note:** A subset of QAT VFs can be started by altering the qat\_service\_vfs arguments.

## 2.4.2 Verifying SR-IOV on Host

**Note:** If you are not using SR-IOV, skip this section.

**Note:** Sample configuration files have been included in the software package.

1. **Optional:** View the sample SR-IOV configuration files that were copied to the /etc directory. Any software instances that are specified in the PF (non-VF) configuration files will not be created. The sample SR-IOV configuration file sets the number of kernel service instances to **0**.
2. Verify the VFs by running the following command in the host OS. As an example, with one high-end Intel® C620 Series Chipsets in the system, the output would have 16 or more 37c9 devices, as shown below:

```
# lspci -nd 8086:37c9
3d:01.0 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)
3d:01.1 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)
3d:01.2 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)
3d:01.3 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)
3d:01.4 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)
3d:01.5 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)
3d:01.6 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)
3d:01.7 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)
```

3d:02.0 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3d:02.1 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3d:02.2 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3d:02.3 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3d:02.4 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3d:02.5 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3d:02.6 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3d:02.7 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3f:01.0 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3f:01.1 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3f:01.2 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3f:01.3 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3f:01.4 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3f:01.5 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3f:01.6 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3f:01.7 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3f:02.0 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3f:02.1 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3f:02.2 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3f:02.3 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3f:02.4 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3f:02.5 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3f:02.6 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
3f:02.7 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
da:01.0 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
da:01.1 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
da:01.2 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
da:01.3 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
da:01.4 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
da:01.5 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
da:01.6 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
da:01.7 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
da:02.0 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
da:02.1 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
da:02.2 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
da:02.3 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)  
da:02.4 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)

```
da:02.5 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)
da:02.6 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)
da:02.7 0b40: 8086:37c9 (rev 04)
```

As another example, with one Intel® Communications Chipset 8925 to 8955 Series device in the system, the output would have 32 0443 devices, as shown below:

```
# lspci -nd 8086:0443
bb:01.0 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:01.1 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:01.2 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:01.3 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:01.4 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:01.5 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:01.6 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:01.7 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:02.0 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:02.1 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:02.2 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:02.3 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:02.4 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:02.5 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:02.6 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:02.7 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:03.0 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:03.1 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:03.2 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:03.3 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:03.4 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:03.5 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:03.6 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:03.7 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:04.0 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:04.1 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:04.2 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:04.3 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:04.4 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:04.5 0b40: 8086:0443
bb:04.6 0b40: 8086:0443
```

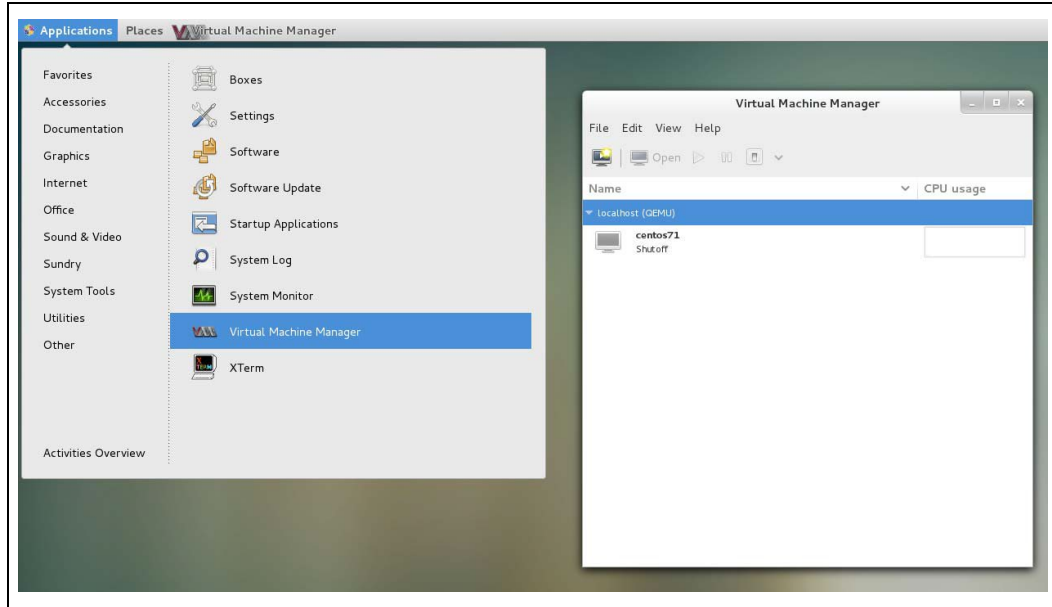
bb:04.7 0b40: 8086:0443

Refer to [Table 3](#) for supported devices and their device IDs.

### 2.4.3 Pass-through PCI Device

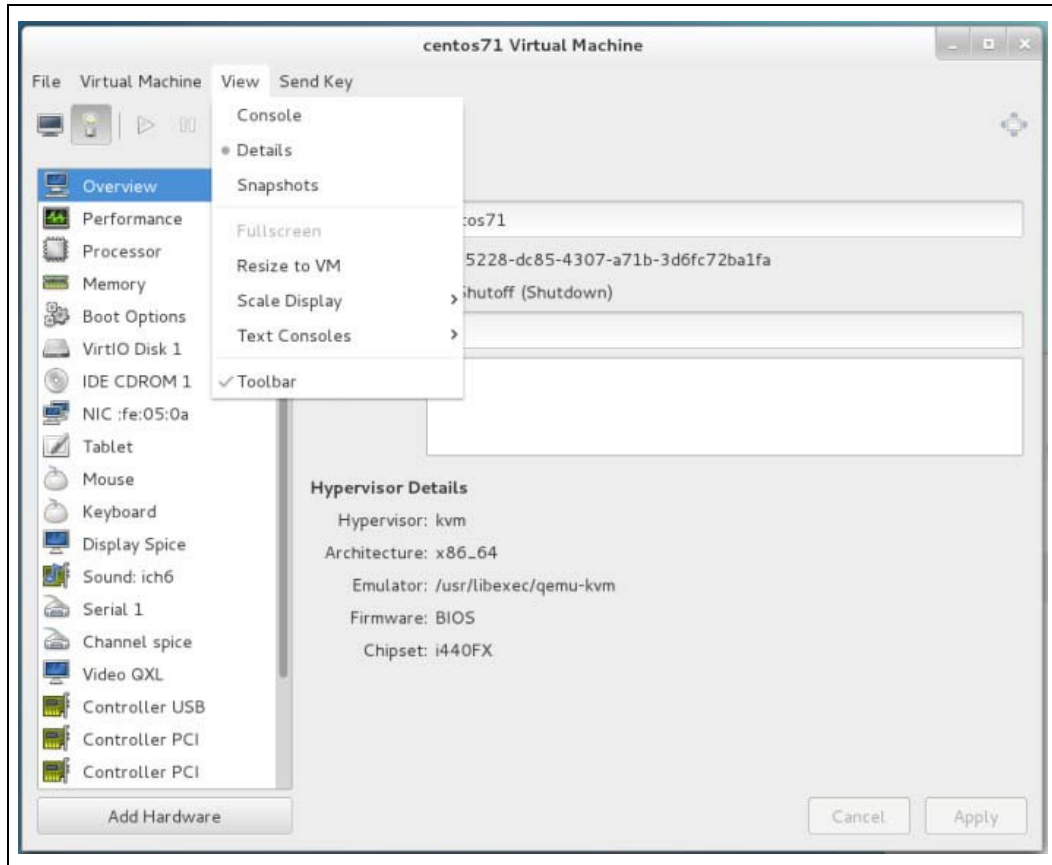
1. Start Virtual Machine Manager using **Application > System Tools > Virtual Machine Manager**.

Figure 1. Virtual Machine Manager



2. Right-click on the guest and click **Open** (Do not run the guest).  
A new window for the VM is displayed. Go to **View > Details**.

**Figure 2. View VM Details**

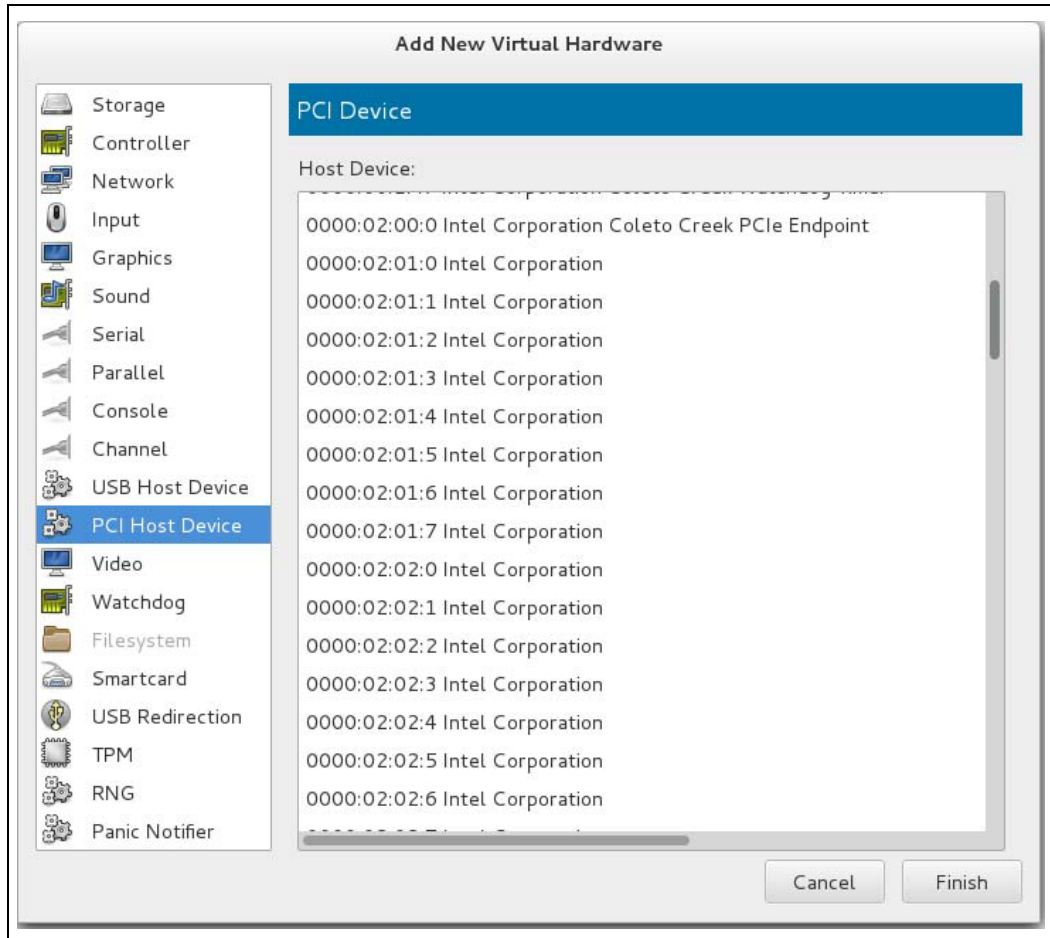


Configure the processor, memory, boot options, and virtual hardware for the guest.



- To add co-processor VFs (refer to [Table 3](#) for supported devices and their device IDs) or GigE ports, select **Add Hardware** in the bottom-left corner and click **PCI Host Device**.

**Figure 3. Add New Virtual Hardware**



Select the appropriate PCI device (for instance, in [Figure 3](#), 02:01:1 is one of the 0443 devices) to attach to Guest and click **Finish**. This newly added device should appear in the left column of details for the Guest.

**Note:** This action will internally unbind the PCI device from the Host driver currently being used and bind it to vfio-pci (CentOS\* v7.1). If using a CLI, a similar sequence is: `virsh-detach <pci_func>` and `virsh-attach <domain> <pci_func>`.

- Optional:** To detach a PCI device from the guest, click the PCI device to be detached from the details page left column and click **Remove** (bottom row).

**Note:** You can add and remove some PCI devices while the guest is running.

- To run the guest, go to **Virtual Machine > Run** or click **Play Radio** on the Menu bar.
- To view the guest console, go to **View > Console**.

## 2.4.4 Installing Intel® QuickAssist Technology Software on Guest

1. In the Guest OS, verify that the appropriate device has been passed through (see Section [2.4.3](#)), as evidenced by the `lspci` command. Refer to [Table 3](#) for the VF device IDs.
2. Install the Intel® QAT Software package on the Guest.
3. Enable the SR-IOV build on the host by using:

```
# ./configure --enable-icp-sriov=guest
```
4. Install the QAT software:

```
# make install
```

**Note:** This configuration file supports a limited number of service instances. Specifically, the limitations is a budget of 16 rings per VF. Refer to the relevant *Programmer's Guide* ([Table 1](#)) for more information on the configuration file formats. More devices can be passed through if more service instances are required.

§

## Appendix A FAQ

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### A.1 Q: How can I pass through the Intel® QAT PF to a guest?

Intel® QAT Hardware 1.6 and 1.7 devices are not fully compliant to PCI specs. For this reason, when a FLR is done on the device by a driver different than the Intel® QAT driver (e.g. `vfio-pci`), the value of MPS is restored to the reset value and not the previous value. This has an impact on full direct pass-through. Follow this procedure to assign a device (using 8086:37c8 as an example) to a guest using full direct passthrough:

**On the host:**

1. Load the `vfio-pci` driver.  
`modprobe vfio-pci`
2. Bind the `vfio` driver to Intel® QAT devices.  
`echo 8086 37c8 > /sys/bus/pci/drivers/vfio-pci/new_id`
3. Read the device MPS.  
`lspci -vvvnd 8086:37c8 | grep "MaxPayload [1-9]* bytes, Max"`

**On the guest:**

**Note:** Make sure Intel® QAT driver is not installed in the guest!

Enter a command of the form:

```
qemu-system-x86_64 -enable-kvm -hda <path to your HD image> -m <memory in MB>M -device vfio-pci,host=<BDF of your QAT device>
```

For example:

```
qemu-system-x86_64 -enable-kvm -hda /var/lib/libvirt/images/f24.qcow2 -m 2048M -smp 16,cores=8,threads=1,sockets=2,maxcpus=16 -device vfio-pci,host=03:00.0
```

**On the host:**

Set the MPS to its original value. For example, if the MPS in the upstream bridge is equal to 256, enter the command:

```
setpci -d 8086:37c8 0x7c.b=0x37
```

**On the guest:**

Install and use the driver.

**Note:** If the guest is rebooted, the MPS will be changed.