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Products/ECF/API Reference/2752

# **ECF API Reference**

Version

2.2.1

## Version 2.2.1

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### **1** General operations

### 1.1 ECF\_Init

The ECF\_Init function initialises the ECF file system driver. It must be called before any of the other functions can be called.

ECF\_ErrorCode ECF\_Init(void);

#### Parameters

None

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

If you haven't defined ECF\_OPT\_USE\_MUTEX and aren't using a multithreaded system, ECF\_Init() cannot fail and there is no need to check the return code.

#### Remarks

There is no need to uninitialise ECF. Just make sure you have unmounted all the drives when you exit.

#### **Example Code**

See ECF\_Mount



### 1.2 ECF\_GetErrorMessage

The ECF\_GetErrorMessage function translates an ECF\_ErrorCode to a readable string.

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```
const char * ECF_GetErrorMessage(
    ECF_ErrorCode err
);
```

#### Parameters

err

This is the ECF\_ErrorCode to translate.

#### **Return value**

Returns a const string that can be displayed to the end user.

#### Remarks

Error codes between ECFERR\_BLOCKDRIVER\_ERROR\_FIRST and ECFERR\_BLOCKDRIVER\_ERROR\_LAST are reserved for block driver errors and ECF\_GetErrorMessage will not return a meaningful error message for these error codes.

#### **Example Code**

See ECF\_Mount



### 2 Block device operations

### 2.1 ECF\_Mount

The ECF\_Mount function mounts a file system.

```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_Mount(
    char cDriveLetter,
    struct ECF_BlockDriver *pBlockDeviceDriver,
    WORD wFlags
);
```

#### Parameters

#### cDriveLetter

This is the drive letter you want to use to refer to this file system. E.g. 'A'

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#### pBlockDeviceDriver

This is a pointer to the ECF\_BlockDriver struct that allows the file system to access your block device.

#### wFlags

These are flags specifying which partition to mount.

#### ECF MOUNT PARTITION AUTO:

Attempts to mount partition 1 if a partition table exists but will mount partitionless if not. This is the default and recommended for most applications.

#### ECF MOUNT PARTITION1:

Mounts partition 1 on the block device. This is usually the case for mounting an SD Card.

#### ECF\_MOUNT\_PARTITION2:

Mounts partition 2 on the block device.

ECF\_MOUNT\_PARTITION3: Mounts partition 3 on the block device.

ECF\_MOUNT\_PARTITION4: Mounts partition 4 on the block device.

ECF MOUNT PARTITIONLESS:

Mounts a block device that does not contain a partition table. This is usually the case when mounting a block device that resides on an embedded flash.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

#### Remarks

This must be called before accessing files on the disk.

#### Example Code

#include <stdio.h>

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#include <ECF/ECF.h>

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```
// Use this buffer as a 32kb RAM Disk
BYTE abRamDisk[64][512];
ECF ErrorCode RamDriver ReadSector(
   struct ECF BlockDriver *,
   DWORD dwSector,
  BYTE *pbData)
{
  memcpy(pbData, abRamDisk[dwSector], 512);
   return ECFERR SUCCESS;
}
ECF ErrorCode RamDriver WriteSector(
   struct ECF BlockDriver *,
  DWORD dwSector,
  BYTE *pbData)
£
  memcpy(abRamDisk[dwSector], pbData, 512);
   return ECFERR SUCCESS;
}
ECF ErrorCode RamDriver GetVolumeInformation(
   struct ECF BlockDriver *,
   WORD* pwSectorSize,
   DWORD* pdwNumberOfSectors)
{
   *pwSectorSize = 512;
   *pdwNumberOfSectors = 64;
   return ECFERR_SUCCESS;
}
int main(int argc, char **argv)
Ł
   struct ECF BlockDriver bd;
   ECF ErrorCode err;
   ECF Init();
   memset(&bd, 0, sizeof(bd));
   bd.fnReadSector = RamDriver ReadSector;
   bd.fnWriteSector = RamDriver WriteSector;
   bd.fnGetVolumeInformation = RamDriver GetVolumeInformation;
   err = ECF_Format(&bd, ECF_FORMAT_QUICK);
   if(err != ECFERR_SUCCESS) {
      printf("Block device could not be formatted. Error: %s\r\n",
        ECF_GetErrorMessage(err));
      return 1;
   }
   err = ECF_Mount('A', &bd, ECF_MOUNT_PARTITION_AUTO);
   if(err != ECFERR SUCCESS) {
      printf("Block device could not be mounted. Error: %s\r\n",
   ECF_GetErrorMessage(err));
      return 1;
   }
```



```
// ... Read or write some files to the disk ...
err = ECF_Unmount('A');
if(err != ECFERR_SUCCESS) {
    printf("Block device could not be unmounted. Error: %s\r\n",
ECF_GetErrorMessage(err));
    return 1;
}
```

See also

}

ECF\_Format, ECF\_Unmount

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### 2.2 ECF\_Unmount

The ECF\_Unmount function unmounts a file system. It is very important to unmount a file system after usage so that all the data is saved.

#### Parameters

#### cDriveLetter

This is the drive letter of the file system you wish to unmount. E.g. 'A'.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

#### Remarks

This must be called when you are done using a drive. If you are worried about power loss or similar scenarios you do not need to call ECF\_Unmount()/ECF\_Mount() repeatedly. Call ECF\_Flush() instead to write all data to disk.

#### Example Code

See ECF\_Mount

#### See also

ECF\_Mount, ECF\_Flush



### 2.3 ECF\_Format

The ECF\_Format function formats a block device to prepare it to hold files. It will erase all existing data on the block device.

```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_Format(
   struct ECF_BlockDriver *pBlockDeviceDriver,
   WORD wClusterSize,
   WORD wFlags
);
```

#### Parameters

#### pBlockDeviceDriver

This is a pointer to the ECF\_BlockDriver struct that allows the file system to access your block device.

#### wClusterSize

This is the desired cluster size. Valid values are 512, 1024, 2048, 4096, 8192, 16384 and 32768.

#### wFlags

Options to ECF\_Format(). Several options can be used and are OR:ed together.

Specify only one or none of the ECF\_FORMAT\_PARTITIONLESS, ECF\_FORMAT\_CREATE\_PARTITION1 and ECF\_FORMAT\_PARTITIONx flags. If none of these flags is specified, ECF\_FORMAT\_PARTITIONLESS will be used as the default.

ECF FORMAT PARTITIONLESS:

Format this block device without using a partition table. Recommended setting when formatting an internal flash and you only want to use one partition. This is the default.

```
ECF FORMAT CREATE PARTITION1:
```

This will clear the partition table, create a partition that occupies the entire block device and format it. Recommended setting when formatting an SD card and you only want to use one partition.

```
ECF FORMAT PARTITION1:
```

This will format partition 1. The partition must already exist.

```
ECF_FORMAT_PARTITION2:
```

This will format partition 2. The partition must already exist.

```
ECF_FORMAT_PARTITION3:
```

This will format partition 3. The partition must already exist.

ECF FORMAT PARTITION4:

This will format partition 4. The partition must already exist.

ECF\_FORMAT\_QUICK:

Performs a quick format by not clearing the data area of the disk when formatting.

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Note: If you are using Trim support, the entire area will always be trimmed regardless of this flag.

#### ECF\_FORMAT\_ALIGN:

Aligns the cluster placement to the cluster size. This is useful if you are using flash memory to store your file system. By using this flag and a suitable cluster size you can be sure that each of the clusters is aligned to an even page boundary on your flash.

As an example, if you are using a flash with a page size of 4096 bytes it is recommended that you enable the ECF\_FORMAT\_ALIGN flag and set the cluster size to 4096 for best results.

#### ECF\_FORMAT\_ONLY\_FAT12:

Will force the FAT12 format. This will possibly waste space and create a FAT12 that is as big as possible. It is useful if you want to make sure the formatted disk is compatible with ECF Lite.

### Return value

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

#### Remarks

ECF\_Format will erase all the data on the block device. It needs to be called for an unformatted block device before it can be mounted.

You need to specify ECF\_OPT\_SUPPORT\_FORMAT in your Project.h for ECF to compile with support for this function.

#### Example Code

See ECF\_Mount

#### See also

ECF\_Mount, ECF\_CreatePartitionTable, ECF\_CreatePartition

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### 2.4 ECF\_CreatePartitionTable

The ECF\_CreatePartitionTable function creates an empty partition table. If one exists, it will be overwritten.

```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_CreatePartitionTable(
    struct ECF_BlockDriver *blockDevice,
    WORD wFlags
);
```

#### Parameters

#### blockDevice

This is a pointer to a struct ECF\_BlockDriver of the disk you want to create the partition table on.

wFlags

Flags. No flags are currently defined, specify 0.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

#### Remarks

You need to specify ECF\_OPT\_SUPPORT\_FORMAT in your Project.h for ECF to compile with support for this function.

#### **Example Code**

```
void InitializeDisk(struct ECF BlockDriver *blockDriver)
{
   // Error checking omitted, sector size of 512 assumed.
   // Initialize the partition table
  ECF CreatePartitionTable(blockDriver, 0);
   // Create partition 1: A 2 MiB FAT partition for configuration
   ECF CreatePartition (blockDriver, ECF PARTITION TYPE FAT,
2*1024*1024/512, 0);
   // Create partition 2: A 10 MiB FAT partition for logs
   ECF CreatePartition(blockDriver, ECF PARTITION TYPE FAT,
10*1024*1024/512, 0);
   // Create partition 3: The rest of the space as a RAW partition
   // that we write data to directly
  ECF_CreatePartition(blockDriver, ECF_PARTITION TYPE RAW, 0, 0);
   // Format partition 1
  ECF Format(blockDriver, 512, ECF FORMAT PARTITION1);
   // Format partition 2
   ECF_Format(blockDriver, 512, ECF_FORMAT_PARTITION2);
}
```

See also

ECF\_CreatePartition, ECF\_Format

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### 2.5 ECF\_CreatePartition

The ECF\_CreatePartition function creates a partition on the supplied block device.

```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_CreatePartition(
    struct ECF_BlockDriver *blockDevice,
    BYTE pbPartitionType,
    DWORD dwSizeInSectors,
    WORD wFlags
);
```

#### Parameters

blockDevice

This is a pointer to a struct ECF\_BlockDriver of the disk you want to create the partition on.

### pbPartitionType

The partition type:

ECF\_PARTITION\_TYPE\_FAT:

Create a FAT partition to store a FAT file system on.

ECF\_PARTITION\_TYPE\_RAW:

Create a RAW partition to store raw data in.

#### *dwSizeInSectors*

The size of the partition in sectors. Specify 0 to use all of the remaining space.

#### wFlags

Flags. No flags are currently defined, just specifiy 0.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

#### Remarks

Call ECF\_CreatePartitionTable() first to create/clear the partition table. Then call ECF\_CreatePartition() for each partition you want to create.

You need to specify ECF\_OPT\_SUPPORT\_FORMAT in your Project.h for ECF to compile with support for this function.

#### **Example Code**

See example for ECF\_CreatePartitionTable

#### See also

ECF\_CreatePartitionTable, ECF\_Format



### 2.6 ECF\_GetPartitionInfo

The ECF\_GetPartitionInfo function returns information about a partition on a block device.

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```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_GetPartitionInfo(
    struct ECF_BlockDriver *blockDevice,
    BYTE bPartitionNo,
    BYTE *pbPartitionType,
    DWORD *pdwStartSector,
    DWORD *pdwPartitionSizeSectors
);
```

Parameters

#### blockDevice

This is a pointer to a struct ECF\_BlockDriver of the disk for which you want the partition information.

#### **bPartitionNo**

The number of the partition you wish to get info for. 1-4 are valid values.

#### pbPartitionType

A pointer to a BYTE that will receive the partition type

#### pdwStartSector

A pointer to a DWORD that will receive the start sector of the partition.

#### pdwPartitionSizeSectors

A pointer to a DWORD that will receive the size of the partition in sectors.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

Returns ECFERR\_NOPARTITION if the specified partition does not exist.

Returns ECFERR\_NOPARTITIONTABLE if a partition table does not exist.

#### Remarks

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# 3 File system operations

### 3.1 ECF\_Flush

ECF\_Flush writes all unsaved data in the sector cache to the block device.

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```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_Flush(
    char cDriveLetter
);
```

Parameters

#### cDriveLetter

This is the drive letter you want to use to refer to this file system. E.g. 'A'.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

#### Remarks

Some systems that can experience sudden power loss can benefit from calling ECF\_Flush when it wants to make sure that all data has been written to the block device.

After a successful call to ECF\_Flush the data is guaranteed to be written to the block device.

#### Example Code

```
#include <ECF/ECF.h>
```

```
void WriteToLogFile(struct ECF_FileHandle *fileHandle, const char
*szLogEntry)
{
    // Error checking omitted
    ECF_WriteFile(&fileHandle, strlen(szLogEntry), szLogEntry);
    // Make sure the log entry is actually written to disk.
    // We assume that the file is located on drive 'A'.
    ECF_Flush('A');
}
```

#### See also

ECF\_Mount, ECF\_Flush



# 3.2 ECF\_CalculateFreeSpace

The ECF\_CalculateFreeSpace function calculates the amount of free disk space on a mounted filesystem.

Version

2.2.1

```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_CalculateFreeSpace(
    char cDriveLetter,
    DWORD *pdwFreeSectors,
    WORD *pwSectorSize
);
```

#### Parameters

#### cDriveLetter

This is the drive letter of the file system you which to calculate the free space of. E.g. 'A'

#### pdwFreeSectors

This is a pointer to a DWORD that will receive the number of free sectors.

#### pwSectorSize

This is a pointer to a WORD that will receive the sector size. This parameter is not mandatory and may be NULL.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

#### Remarks

ECF\_CalculateFreeSpace needs to scan the entire FAT table to get an accurate count of the number of free sectors which may take some time.



### 4 File operations

### 4.1 ECF\_OpenFile

ECF\_OpenFile opens a file on a mounted file system.

```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_OpenFile(
    struct ECF_FileHandle *pFileHandle,
    const char *filename,
    BYTE bMode
);
```

#### Parameters

#### pFileHandle

This is a pointer to a struct ECF\_FileHandle structure to hold data about the open file. The contents of the struct ECF\_FileHandle will be cleared. There is no need to initialize it.

#### filename

This is the name of the file to open. Files are always specified with their full paths including the drive letter. To open a file called "Log.txt" on drive A you will need to specify the filename: A:\Log.txt (which is "A:\Log.txt" when entered as a C string)

To open a file called "My file.data" in the directory "My folder" on drive B you need to specify the filename: B:\My folder\My file.data ("B:\\My folder\\My file.data" as a C string)

The maximum total path length including the trailing NUL character is 260 characters.

#### bMode

Specifies in which mode the file should be opened. Supported modes are:

#### ECF\_MODE\_READ:

Opens the file for reading. Reading will start at the beginning of the file.

#### ECF MODE READ WRITE:

Opens the file for reading and writing. Reading and writing will start from the beginning of the file. If the file doesn't exist it will be created.

#### ECF\_MODE\_APPEND:

Opens the file for reading and writing. Writing the file will write to the end of it. If the file doesn't exist it will be created.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

#### Remarks

If the call to ECF\_OpenFile was successful you can now use your file handle to call other file operations.

You may open the same file several times but you may only open it once in write mode. This enables you to have one process that logs data to a file while another process reads it.

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#### Example Code

#### See also

ECF\_ReadFile, ECF\_WriteFile, ECF\_SeekFile, ECF\_GetFileSize, ECF\_CloseFile



### 4.2 ECF\_CloseFile

ECF\_CloseFile closes an open file handle.

```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_CloseFile(
    struct ECF_FileHandle *pFileHandle
);
```

#### Parameters

pFileHandle

The pointer to an open file handle.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

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#### Remarks

Note: If you have opened a file in read/write mode, ECF will often write to the block device when a file is closed. Since this might fail, it is important to check the error code even when you close the file.

#### Example Code

See example for ECF\_OpenFile()

#### See also

ECF\_OpenFile



### 4.3 ECF\_ReadFile

ECF\_ReadFile reads data from an open file.

```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_ReadFile(
    struct ECF_FileHandle *pFileHandle,
    BYTE *data,
    UINT size
);
```

#### Parameters

pFileHandle

A pointer to an open file handle.

data

A pointer to a buffer big enough to hold the read data.

size

The number of bytes to read.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

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#### Remarks

None.

#### **Example Code**

```
#include <ECF/ECF.h>
```

```
#define COPYFILE BUFFERSIZE
                              4096
void CopyFile(const char *cszSource, const char *cszDestination)
  struct ECF FileHandle srcFile;
  struct ECF FileHandle destFile;
  DWORD dwDataLeftToCopy;
  DWORD dwDataToCopyNow;
  BYTE abCopyBuffer[COPYFILE BUFFERSIZE];
  // Error checking omitted
  ECF OpenFile(&srcFile, cszSource, ECF MODE READ);
  ECF OpenFile(&destFile, cszDestination, ECF MODE READ WRITE);
  ECF GetFileSize(&srcFile, &dwDataLeftToCopy);
  while (dwDataLeftToCopy)
   {
      dwDataToCopyNow = COPYFILE BUFFERSIZE;
      if (dwDataToCopyNow > dwDataLeftToCopy)
         dwDataToCopyNow = dwDataLeftToCopy;
     ECF ReadFile(&srcFile, abCopyBuffer, dwDataToCopyNow);
     ECF WriteFile(&destFile, abCopyBuffer, dwDataToCopyNow);
```



```
dwDataLeftToCopy -= dwDataToCopyNow;
}
```

```
ECF_CloseFile(&destFile);
ECF_CloseFile(&srcFile);
```

See also

}

ECF\_OpenFile



### 4.4 ECF\_WriteFile

ECF\_WriteFile writes data to an open file.

```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_WriteFile(
    struct ECF_FileHandle *pFileHandle,
    BYTE *data,
    UINT size
);
```

#### Parameters

pFileHandle

A pointer to an open file handle.

data

A pointer to a buffer that holds the data to be written.

size

The number of bytes to write.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

Version

2.2.1

#### Remarks

If you attempt to write past the end of the file, the file will be extended to hold all the written data.

#### Example Code

See example for ECF\_ReadFile.

#### See also

ECF\_OpenFile



### 4.5 ECF\_SeekFile

ECF\_SeekFile changes the position of the file cursor within a file.

Version

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```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_SeekFile(
    struct ECF_FileHandle *pFileHandle,
    DWORD dwPosition
);
```

#### Parameters

#### pFileHandle

A pointer to an open file handle.

dwPosition

The absolute position within the file to move the file cursor to.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

#### Remarks

This function only moves the cursor to an absolute position within the file. If you want to move it relative to the current position or relative to the end of the file, you need to call ECF\_GetFileSize() and ECF\_GetFilePosition() to calculate where to move.

#### See also

ECF\_GetFilePosition, ECF\_GetFileSize



### 4.6 ECF\_GetFileSize

ECF\_GetFileSize function gets the size of a currently open file.

```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_GetFileSize(
    struct ECF_FileHandle *pFileHandle,
    DWORD *pdwFileSize
);
```

#### Parameters

#### pFileHandle

A pointer to an open file handle.

#### pdwFileSize

A pointer to a DWORD to hold the file size.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

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#### Remarks

This can only be used to retrieve the size of an open file. To get the size of a file on disk, use ECF\_GetFileInfo instead.

#### See also

ECF\_GetFileInfo



### 4.7 ECF\_GetFilePosition

ECF\_GetFilePosition function retrieves the position of the cursor in a currently open file.

```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_GetFilePosition(
    struct ECF_FileHandle *pFileHandle,
    DWORD *pdwFilePosition
);
```

#### Parameters

#### pFileHandle

A pointer to an open file handle.

#### pdwFilePosition

A pointer to a DWORD to hold the file position.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

#### Remarks



### 4.8 ECF\_Rename

The ECF\_Rename function renames a file or directory.

```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_Rename(
    const char *oldPath,
    const char *newPath
);
```

#### Parameters

#### oldPath

This is the path of the file or directory to rename.

#### newPath

This is the new path of the file or directory.

The maximum total path length including the trailing NUL character is 260 characters.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

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#### Remarks

oldPath and newPath must be on the same drive.

The subdirectories in the new path does not need to exist. If they don't exist, they will be created.

You must not rename an open file or a directory that is being scanned.



### 4.9 ECF\_Delete

The ECF\_Delete function deletes a file or directory.

```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_Delete(
    const char *path
);
```

#### Parameters

path

This is the path of the file or directory to delete.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

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#### Remarks

If a directory is given as argument, ECF\_Delete() will also recursively remove all the directories and files contained within that directory.

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### 4.10 ECF\_PathExists

The ECF\_PathExists function checks if a path exists on a mounted filesystem.

Version

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```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_PathExists(
    const char *path,
    BOOL *bDirectory
);
```

#### Parameters

*path* The path to check.

#### bDirectory

A pointer to a BOOL which will be set to TRUE if the supplied path is a directory. This parameter is not mandatory and may be NULL.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success).

ECFERR\_PATHNOTFOUND will be returned if the path does not exist.

#### Remarks



### 4.11 ECF\_GetFileInfo

The ECF\_GetFileInfo function retrieves information about a specific file or directory.

Version

2.2.1

```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_GetFileInfo(
    const char *path,
    struct ECF_FileDirectoryData *fileDirectoryData
);
```

#### Parameters

#### path

This is the path to the file or directory to retrieve data about.

#### fileDirectoryData

This is a pointer to a struct that will be filled with information about the file or directory.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

#### Remarks



### **5** Directory operations

### 5.1 ECF\_CreateDirectory

The ECF\_CreateDirectory function creates a new directory.

```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_CreateDirectory(
   const char *path
);
```

#### **Parameters**

#### path

This is the name of directory to create. E.g. "A:\My new directory" ("A:\My new directory" as a C string)

The maximum total path length including the trailing NUL character is 260 characters.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

#### Remarks

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### 5.2 ECF\_ScanDirBegin

The ECF\_ScanDirBegin function starts the scan of a directory.

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```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_ScanDirBegin(
    struct ECF_FileHandle *scanDirPosition,
    const char *path
);
```

#### Parameters

#### scanDirPosition

This a pointer to a struct ECF\_FileHandle that ECF will use to keep track of the directory scan. You do not need to initialize the struct, ECF\_ScanDirBegin will initialize it for you.

#### path

This is the path to scan. E.g. "A:\My directory" ("A:\\My directory" as a C string).

The maximum total path length including the trailing NUL character is 260 characters.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

#### Remarks

None.

#### Example Code

```
void ListDirectory(const char *path)
     ł
        ECF_ErrorCode err;
        struct ECF FileHandle scanHandle;
        struct ECF FileDirectoryData fileData;
        // Error checking omitted
        ECF_ScanDirBegin(&scanHandle, path));
        while(ECFERR_SUCCESS == ECF_ScanDirNext(&scanHandle, &fileData))
        ſ
           // Skip the entry if it starts with .
           if(fileData.m szFileName[0] == '.')
              continue;
           if(fileData.m dirAttr & ECF ATTR DIRECTORY)
              printf("%s <DIR>\r\n", fileData.m_szFileName);
           else
              printf("%s\r\n", fileData.m_szFileName);
        }
See also
```

ECF\_ScanDirNext



### 5.3 ECF\_ScanDirNext

The ECF\_ScanDirNext function retrieves information about the next file or directory in a directory scan.

```
ECF_ErrorCode ECF_ScanDirNext(
    struct ECF_FileHandle *scanDirPosition,
    struct ECF_FileDirectoryData *fileDirectoryData
);
```

#### Parameters

#### scanDirPosition

This is a pointer to the struct previously initialized by ECF\_ScanDirBegin.

#### fileDirectoryData

This struct will be filled with information about the next available file/directory.

#### **Return value**

Returns one of the ECF error codes (ECFERR\_SUCCESS on success)

Returns ECF\_NOMOREFILES when all the entries in the directory have been scanned.

#### Remarks

When you scan a directory, the special entries "." and ".." (for the current and the parent directory) will be returned. Most users want to ignore these so be sure to check for these names.

#### Example Code

See example for ECF\_ScanDirBegin().

#### See also

ECF\_ScanDirBegin

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### 6 Data structures

### 6.1 struct ECF\_BlockDriver

struct ECF\_BlockDriver is used by ECF\_Mount() and ECF\_Format() to get access to the storage device.

```
struct ECF_BlockDriver
{
    ECF_ErrorCode (*fnReadSector)(struct ECF_BlockDriver *,
        DWORD sector, BYTE *data);
    ECF_ErrorCode (*fnWriteSector)(struct ECF_BlockDriver *,
        DWORD sector, BYTE *data);
    ECF_ErrorCode (*fnGetVolumeInformation)(struct ECF_BlockDriver *,
        WORD* pwSectorSize, DWORD* pdwNumberOfSectors);
    ECF_ErrorCode (*fnTrimSectorRange)(struct ECF_BlockDriver *,
        DWORD dwStartSector, DWORD dwEndSector);
    ECF_ErrorCode (*fnWriteTrimmedSector)(struct ECF_BlockDriver *,
        DWORD sector, BYTE *data);
    void *m_BlockDriverData;
};
```

#### Members

#### fnReadSector:

This is a pointer to a function that ECF can call to read a sector from the storage device.

#### fnWriteSector:

This is a pointer to a function that ECF can call to write a sector to the storage device.

#### fnGetVolumeInformation:

This is a pointer to a function that ECF can call to get information about the sector size and total size of the storage device.

fnTrimSector:

This is a pointer to a function that ECF can call to trim a sector. This is optional and can be NULL.

#### fnWriteTrimmedSector:

This is a pointer to a function that ECF can call to write a trimmed sector. If provided, this function will be called when ECF writes a sector that has previously been trimmed. This is optional and can be NULL even if m\_fnTrimSectorRange is not NULL. If not provided, m\_fnWriteSector will be called instead.

#### m\_BlockDriverData:

A void pointer that can be used by the block driver to store private data. ECF will pass a pointer to the ECF\_BlockDriver struct when it calls any of the functions above. The block driver can use these to access its private data.

#### Remarks

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These functions must be created by the user. An instance of the struct ECF\_BlockDriver must be cleared, filled with pointers to these functions and passed to ECF\_Mount() and ECF\_Format().

If your block driver only supports one instance, you don't need to use m\_BlockDriverData, you can just use global variables instead.

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#### 6.1.1 fnReadSector

fnReadSector reads a single sector from the block device (usually an SD card or flash memory).

```
ECF_ErrorCode fnReadSector(
    struct ECF_BlockDriver *bd,
    DWORD sector,
    BYTE *data
);
```

#### Parameters

#### bd

This is a pointer to the struct ECF\_BlockDriver that the function is a member of. It can be used by the block driver to access the m\_BlockDriverData member or to call the other functions.

#### sector

This specifies which sector to read.

#### data

This points to a BYTE array that the block driver needs to fill with the read data.

#### **Return value**

Return ECFERR\_SUCCESS if the read was successful.

If the read fails, return one of the ECF error codes defined in ECF.h. You can also define your own error codes, error no 64 to 127 are reservered for custom block driver errors.

#### Remarks

ECF will call this function when it wants to read a sector from the storage device. The fnReadSector function is part of struct ECF\_BlockDriver. You need to supply it when writing a block driver.

On both single- and multithreaded systems, ECF will make certain that it will not call any of the other block driver functions until this call has been completed so you do not need to implement any locking in the block driver unless it is needed for other purposes.

#### **Example Code**

```
// Create a global to hold our data. Make it 32 kb
BYTE ramDriveData[64][512];
ECF_ErrorCode RAM_GetVolumeInformation(
    struct ECF_BlockDriver *bd,
    WORD* pwSectorSize,
    DWORD* pdwNumberOfSectors)
{
    *pwSectorSize = 512;
    *pdwNumberOfSectors = 64;
    return ECFERR_SUCCESS;
}
ECF_ErrorCode RAM_ReadSector(struct ECF_BlockDriver *bd, DWORD sector,
BYTE *data)
```

Document name: ECF API Reference Internal reference:

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```
{
   if(sector >= 64)
      return ECFERR_PARAMETERERROR;
  memcpy(data, ramDriveData[sector], 512);
   return ECFERR SUCCESS;
}
ECF ErrorCode RAM WriteSector(struct ECF BlockDriver *bd, DWORD
sector, BYTE *data)
{
   if(sector >= 64)
      return ECFERR PARAMETERERROR;
  memcpy(ramDriveData[sector], data, 512);
  return ECFERR SUCCESS;
}
int main(void)
ł
   • • •
   struct ECF_BlockDriver bd;
  memset(&bd, 0, sizeof(struct ECF_BlockDriver));
  bd.fnReadSector
                             = RAM_ReadSector;
  bd.fnWriteSector
                           = RAM WriteSector;
  bd.fnGetVolumeInformation = RAM_GetVolumeInformation;
   // You can now call ECF Mount() or ECF Format() with bd
   . . .
}
```

Version

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## 6.1.2 fnWriteSector

fnWriteSector writes a single sector to the block device (usually an SD card or flash memory).

```
ECF_ErrorCode fnWriteSector(
    struct ECF_BlockDriver *bd,
    DWORD sector,
    BYTE *data
);
```

### Parameters

#### bd

This is a pointer to the struct ECF\_BlockDriver that the function is a member of. It can be used by the block driver to access the m\_BlockDriverData member or to call the other functions.

#### sector

This specifies which sector to write.

### data

This points to a BYTE array with the data for the block driver to write.

### **Return value**

Return ECFERR\_SUCCESS if the read was successful.

If the write fails, return one of the ECF error codes defined in ECF.h. You can also define your own error codes, error no 64 to 127 are reservered for custom block driver errors.

#### Remarks

The fnWriteSector function is part of struct ECF\_BlockDriver. You need to supply it when writing a block driver. ECF will call this function when it wants to write a sector to the storage device.

On both single- and multithreaded systems, ECF will make certain that it will not call any of the other block driver functions until this call has been completed so you do not need to implement any locking in the block driver unless it is needed for other purposes.

### Example Code

See example for fnReadSector



## 6.1.3 fnGetVolumeInformation

fnGetVolumeInformation returns information about the disk size and sector size of a block device.

```
ECF_ErrorCode fnGetVolumeInformation(
    struct ECF_BlockDriver *bd,
    WORD *pSectorSize,
    DWORD *pNumberOfSectors
);
```

### Parameters

### bd

This is a pointer to the struct ECF\_BlockDriver that the function is a member of. It can be used by the block driver to access the m\_BlockDriverData member or to call the other functions.

### pSectorSize

This is a pointer to a WORD that should be set with the sector size.

### pNumberOfSectors

This is a pointer to a DWORD that should be set with the number of sectors.

### **Return value**

Return ECFERR\_SUCCESS if the read was successful.

If the write fails, return one of the ECF error code defined in ECF.h. You can also define your own error codes, error no 64 to 127 are reservered for custom block driver errors.

#### Remarks

The fnGetVolumeInformation function is part of struct ECF\_BlockDriver. You need to supply it when writing a block driver. ECF will call this function to determine the sector size and how many sectors are there are on a block device.

On both single- and multithreaded systems, ECF will make certain that it will not call any of the other block driver functions until this call has been completed so you do not need to implement any locking in the block driver unless it is needed for other purposes.

### Example Code

See example for fnReadSector

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## 6.1.4 fnTrimSectorRange

fnTrimSectorRange trims a range of sectors on the block device. By trimming sectors, ECF signals that these sectors are not used and does not need to be stored.

```
ECF_ErrorCode fnTrimSectorRange(
    struct ECF_BlockDriver *bd,
    DWORD startSector,
    DWORD endSector
);
```

Parameters

#### bd

This is a pointer to the struct ECF\_BlockDriver that the function is a member of. It can be used by the block driver to access the m\_BlockDriverData member or to call the other functions.

#### startSector

This specifies the first sector to trim.

#### endSector

This specifies the last sector to trim.

#### **Return value**

Return ECFERR\_SUCCESS if the read was successful.

If the trim fails, return one of the ECF error codes defined in ECF.h. You can also define your own error codes, error no 64 to 127 are reservered for custom block driver errors.

#### Remarks

The fnTrimSectorRange function is part of struct ECF\_BlockDriver. You may supply it when writing a block driver. This function is not mandatory in a block driver and can be NULL.

ECF will call this function to trim sectors. The purpose of trimming is to tell the block device that a sector is no longer in use. Some block drivers benefit from knowning which sectors are in use by e.g. pre-erasing these sectors or by using the unused storage area for something else.

The sector range from and including startSector to and including endSector should be trimmed. That is, fnTrimSectorRange(&bd, 5, 7) trims sectors 5, 6 and 7. fnTrimSectorRange(&bd, 9, 9) trims sector 9.

Since most block drivers will pre-erase a sector when fnTrimSectorRange is called, ECF will try to call fnTrimSectorRange with as large ranges as possible so if the underlying hardware supports erases larger than a sector, it is useful to check the range and see if a more effecient operation can be performed.

On both single- and multithreaded systems, ECF will make certain that it will not call any of the other BlockDriver functions until this call has been completed so you do not need to implement any locking in the block driver unless it is needed for other purposes.

#### **Example Code**

// Assume a flash chip with 1024 pages where there is a page-erase,

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```
// a block-erase (16 pages on this chip) and a chip-erase.
ECF_ErrorCode FlashDriver_TrimSectorRange(struct ECF_BlockDriver *bd,
DWORD startSector, DWORD endSector)
{
  DWORD sector;
   if(startSector == 0 && endSector == 1023) {
      EraseFlashChip();
   } else if( (startSector & 0xF) == 0 && (endSector & 0xF) == 0xF) {
      for(sector = startSector;sector <= endSector;sector += 16)</pre>
         EraseFlashBlock(sector>>4);
   } else {
      for(sector = startSector;sector <= endSector;sector++)</pre>
         EraseFlashSector(sector);
   }
  return ECFERR SUCCESS;
}
```



## 6.1.5 fnWriteTrimmedSector

fnWriteTrimmedSector writes a single sector to the block device that has previously been trimmed.

```
ECF_ErrorCode fnWriteTrimmedSector(
    struct ECF_BlockDriver *bd,
    DWORD sector,
    BYTE *data
);
```

### Parameters

### bd

This is a pointer to the struct ECF\_BlockDriver that the function is a member of. It can be used by the block driver to access the m\_BlockDriverData member or to call the other functions.

### sector

This specifies which sector to write.

### data

This points to a BYTE array with the data for the block driver to write.

### **Return value**

Return ECFERR\_SUCCESS if the read was successful.

If the write fails, return one of the ECF error code defined in ECF.h. You can also define your own error codes, error no 64 to 127 are reservered for custom block driver errors.

### Remarks

ECF will call this function when it wants to write a sector to the storage device and that sector has previously been trimmed. The fnWriteTrimmedSector function is part of struct ECF\_BlockDriver. You may supply it when writing a block driver. If fnWriteTrimmedSector is not supplied, fnWriteSector will be called instead, even for sectors that have previously been trimmed.

Please note that although ECF guarantees that it will always call fnTrimSectorRange at some point before calling fnWriteTrimmedSector for a sector, this can not be guaranteed during software or power failures. This means that if you pre-erase sectors when fnTrimSectorRange is called, you should verify that they are actually erased before writing them even if fnWriteTrimmedSector is called.

On both single- and multithreaded systems, ECF will make certain that it will not call any of the other block driver functions until this call has been completed so you do not need to implement any locking in the block driver unless it is needed for other purposes.

#### Example Code

```
ECF_ErrorCode FlashDriver_WriteSector(struct ECF_BlockDriver *bd,
DWORD sector, BYTE *data)
{
    // Error checking omitted
    EraseFlashSector(sector);
    WriteFlashData(sector, data);
```



```
return ECFERR_SUCCESS;
}
ECF_ErrorCode FlashDriver_WriteTrimmedSector(struct ECF_BlockDriver
*bd, DWORD sector, BYTE *data)
{
    // Error checking omitted
    if(!CheckIfFlashSectorIsErased(sector))
        EraseFlashSector(sector);
    WriteFlashData(sector, data);
    return ECFERR_SUCCESS;
}
```



# 6.2 struct ECF\_FileHandle

struct ECF\_FileHandle is used by the ECF file handling functions to represent a handle to an open file. It is also used by the ECF\_ScanDir\* functions to keep track of the current directory scan.

```
struct ECF_FileHandle
{
    ...
};
```

### Members

The internal members of ECF\_FileHandle must not be accessed directly by the user.

### See also

ECF\_OpenFile(), ECF\_ScanDirBegin().



# 6.3 struct ECF\_FileDirectoryData

struct ECF\_FileDirectoryData is used by ECF\_ScanDirNext() and ECF\_GetFileInfo() to return information about a specific file or directory entry.

```
struct ECF_FileDirectoryData
{
    char m_szFileName[256];
    char m_szShortFileName[13];
    BYTE m_dirAttr;
    struct ECF_DateTime m_creationTime;
    struct ECF_DateTime m_lastAccessTime;
    struct ECF_DateTime m_lastWriteTime;
    DWORD m_dirFileSize;
    ...
};
```

### Members

#### m\_szFileName:

This is the name of the file or directory. This field contains the long name and is only available if ECF\_OPT\_SUPPORT\_LONG\_FILENAMES is defined.

### m\_szShortFileName:

This is the short name of the file.

#### m\_dirAttr:

The entry's attributes. Valid flags are ECF\_ATTR\_READ\_ONLY, ECF\_ATTR\_HIDDEN, ECF ATTR SYSTEM, ECF ATTR DIRECTORY and ECF ATTR ARCHIVE.

#### m\_creationTime:

Timestamp of when the file/directory was created. Has a resolution of 0,01 seconds.

#### m\_lastAccessTime:

Timestamp of when the file/directory was last access. Has a resolution of 1 day. Note: ECF will not update this value when doing file reads to avoid unnecessary writes.

### m\_lastWriteTime:

Timestamp of when the file/directory was last written. Has a resolution of 2 seconds.

#### *m\_dirFileSize:*

The size of the file.



# 6.4 struct ECF\_DateTime

struct ECF\_DateTime is used to represent time within ECF. But note that the FAT file system does not support the full resolution for all dates and times for all its fields. See comment for each field on what resolution is supported.

```
struct ECF_DateTime
{
    WORD m_wYear;
    BYTE m_bMonth;
    BYTE m_bDay;
    BYTE m_bHour;
    BYTE m_bHour;
    BYTE m_bSecond;
    BYTE m_bHundredth;
};
```

### Members

*m\_wYear:* The year. E.g. 2012

### m\_bMonth:

The month. 1 = January, 12 = December.

m\_bDay:

The day of the month. 1 – 28,29,30 or 31 depending on which month it is.

m\_bHour:

The hour of the day. 0 - 23.

## m\_bMinute:

Minute. 0 - 59

## m\_bSecond:

Second. 0 - 59.

## m\_bHundredth:

Hundredths (1/100 parts) of a second. 0 - 99.

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# 6.4.1 Converting to time\_t

You can use the code below to convert from an ECF\_DateTime into a time\_t (with epoch of 1970-01-01 00:00:00)

```
// Will convert a struct ECF DateTime to time t (seconds since epoch
// 1970-01-01 00:00:00)
// Valid for times between 1970 and 2037 for a signed 32-bit time t
// Valid for times between 1970 and 2099 for an unsigned 32-bit time_t
// Hundredths will be lost in the conversion
ECF ErrorCode ECF DateTimeToTimeT(struct ECF DateTime *dateTime,
time_t *t)
{
   const BYTE bDaysInMonth[13] =
      \{31, 28, 31, 30, 31, 30, 31, 31, 30, 31, 30, 255\};
   WORD days;
   BYTE month;
   BYTE year;
   BOOL isLeapYear;
   if(dateTime->m wYear < 1970 ||</pre>
      dateTime->m wYear >= 2100 ||
      dateTime->m bMonth > 12 ||
      dateTime->m bMonth < 1 ||
      dateTime->m bDay < 1 ||
      dateTime->m bHour > 23 ||
      dateTime->m bMinute > 59 ||
      dateTime->m bSecond > 59)
         goto exit function and fail;
   year = dateTime->m wYear-1970;
   isLeapYear = (((year+2) & 3) == 0);
   days = (year*365 + (year+1)/4);
   for (month = 0;month < (dateTime->m bMonth-1);month++)
   {
      days += bDaysInMonth[month];
      if(month == 1 && isLeapYear) // February on a leap year
         days++;
   }
   days += dateTime->m bDay-1;
   if((dateTime->m bDay-1) >= bDaysInMonth[dateTime->m bMonth-1])
   {
      if(dateTime->m bMonth != 2 &&
         dateTime->m bDay == 29 &&
         !isLeapYear)
         goto exit function and fail;
   }
   *t = (time t)((time t)days*86400 + dateTime->m bHour*3600 +
         dateTime->m bMinute*60 + dateTime->m bSecond);
   return ECFERR SUCCESS;
exit function and fail:
   *t = 0;
   return ECFERR PARAMETERERROR;
}
```

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# 6.4.2 Converting from time\_t

You can use the code below to convert from an a time\_t (with epoch of 1970-01-01 00:00:00) into an ECF\_DateTime

```
// Will convert a struct ECF DateTime to time t (seconds since epoch
1970 - 01 - 01 \ 00:00:00)
// Valid for times between 1970 and 2037 for a signed 32-bit time t
// Valid for times between 1970 and 2099 for an unsigned 32-bit time t
ECF ErrorCode ECF TimeTToDateTime(time t t, struct ECF DateTime
*dateTime)
{
   const BYTE bDaysInMonth[13] =
      {31,28,31,30,31,30,31,31,30,31,30,255};
   WORD days = (WORD) (t / 86400);
   DWORD secondsInDay = (DWORD)t % 86400;
   BYTE month = 0;
   BYTE daysInFebruary = 28;
   BYTE year;
   year = (days - ((days / 365)+1)/4) / 365;
   days -= year*365 + (year+1)/4;
   if(((year+2) & 3) == 0)
      daysInFebruary++;
   if(days >= 31) // January
   {
      month++;
      days -= 31;
      if(days >= daysInFebruary) { // February
         month++;
         days -= daysInFebruary;
         while(days >= bDaysInMonth[month])
            days -= bDaysInMonth[month++];
      }
   }
   dateTime->m wYear = year+1970;
   dateTime->m bMonth = month+1;
   dateTime->m_bDay = (BYTE) days+1;
   dateTime->m_bHour = (BYTE) (secondsInDay/3600);
   dateTime->m_bMinute = (BYTE)((secondsInDay/60) % 60);
   dateTime->m bSecond = (BYTE) (secondsInDay % 60);
   dateTime->m bHundredth = 0;
   return ECFERR SUCCESS;
}
```



# 7 Options (defines)

ECF will include a file called Project.h. You should make all your ECF defines in Project.h.

# 7.1 ECF\_OPT\_SUPPORT\_ALL\_SECTORSIZES

Define to support all possible sector sizes. If defined, 512, 1024, 2048 and 4096 will supported as sector sizes. If not, the only supported sector size will be 512.

Most devices uses a 512 bytes sector size but if you need to support unknown devices you need to define ECF\_OPT\_SUPPORT\_ALL\_SECTORSIZES. But by defining it, ECF and the cache will use more memory.

# 7.2 ECF\_OPT\_SUPPORTED\_MOUNTPOINTS

Defines how many drives can be mounted. If not defined, a default of 1 will be used. Values between 1 and 26 are supported.

# 7.3 ECF\_OPT\_SUPPORT\_FORMAT

Define if you need ECF\_Format(), ECF\_CreatePartitionTable() and/or ECF\_CreatePartition().

# 7.4 ECF\_OPT\_SUPPORT\_LONG\_FILENAMES

Define if you want to support long file names.

# 7.5 ECF\_OPT\_SECTOR\_CACHE

Define how many sectors will be held in the cache. Recommended value is 4 or above but you can set it to 1 if you need to save memory and don't mind a slower speed.

# 7.6 ECF\_OPT\_ATTEMPT\_ORDERED\_WRITE

Define to make ECF flush its cache in order rather than by usage. Useful for devices that internally have bigger page sizes than a sector and benefits from having the sectors written in order.

# 7.7 ECF\_OPT\_USE\_MUTEX

Define to use a mutex to lock the file system. You will also need to define:

```
ECF_OPT_MUTEX_TYPE
ECF_OPT_MUTEX_INIT(m)
ECF_OPT_MUTEX_ACQUIRE(m)
ECF_OPT_MUTEX_RELEASE(m)
ECF_OPT_MUTEX_CLEANUP(m)
```

## Example for FreeRTOS:

In Project.h:

### #define ECF\_OPT\_USE\_MUTEX

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#define	ECF_OPT_MUTEX_TYPE	void *
#define	ECF_OPT_MUTEX_INIT(m)	Mutex_Init(&m)
#define	ECF_OPT_MUTEX_ACQUIRE(m)	Mutex Acquire(m)
#define	ECF OPT MUTEX RELEASE (m)	Mutex Release(m)
#define	ECF_OPT_MUTEX_CLEANUP (m)	Mutex_CleanUp(m)

Somewhere in a .c file:

```
BOOL Mutex_Init(void **m)
{
    vSemaphoreCreateBinary(*m);
    return TRUE;
}
void Mutex_Acquire(void *m)
{
    xSemaphoreTake(m, portMAX_DELAY);
}
void Mutex_Release(void *m)
{
    xSemaphoreGive(m);
}
void Mutex_CleanUp(void *m)
{
    vSemaphoreDelete(m);
}
```

# 7.8 ECF\_OPT\_PROGRESS\_CALLBACK

Set to define a progress callback for lengthy operations. Currently only used by ECF\_Format()

# 7.9 ECF\_OPT\_WATCHDOG\_CALLBACK

Will be called when ECF performs a lengthy operation about once for every block driver operation.

Please note the following:

- Although ECF will reset the watchdog during lengthy operations, you will still need to occasionally reset it in your other code that does not call ECF.
- If you are using a very large cache, ECF might not need to call the block driver and the watchdog will not be reset. But since all operations are in the cache, they should be fast and ECF should return quickly.
- Although most blockdriver operations are relatively quick in comparison to the watchdog timer, fnTrimSectorRange () might be called with a wide range and may take a lot of time to complete. So you might need to add a watchdog reset in your fnTrimSectorRange() function.

# 7.10 ECF\_OPT\_CURRENT\_TIME\_FUNCTION

Define to make ECF aware of time and write appropriate time stamps.

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Somewhere in a .c file:

```
void Runtime_RetrieveDateTime(struct ECF_DateTime *dateTime)
{
    int year, month, day, hour, minute, second, milliseconds;
    // TODO: Retreive year, month, day, hour, minute, second
    // and milliseconds
    dateTime.m_wYear = year; // I.e 2012
    dateTime.m_bMonth = month; // 1 = January, 12 = December
    dateTime.m_bDay = day; // Day of the month 1-28,29,30,31
    dateTime.m_bHour = hour; // Hour of the day 0 - 23
    dateTime.m_bMinute = minute; // Minute 0-59
    dateTime.m_bSeconds = seconds; // Seconds 0-59
    dateTime.m_bHundredth = milliseconds/10;
}
```

Note: The function you define is supposed to return quickly so if you have real time clock (RTC) that is slow to access, you should periodically check your RTC, store the values in RAM and return these values then the function is called.