NAME

platform – directory of files specifying supported platforms

SYNOPSIS

.platform

DESCRIPTION

The Solaris 2.5 release includes the **.platform** directory, a new directory on the Solaris CD image. This directory contains files (created by SunSoft and Solaris OEMs) that define platform support. These files are generically referred to as *platform definition files*. They provide a means to map different platform types into a platform group.

Platform definition files in the .platform directory are used by the installation software to ensure that software appropriate for the architecture of the system will be installed.

SunSoft provides a platform definition file named **.platform/Solaris** . This file is the only one that can define platform groups to which other platform definition files can refer. For example, an OEM platform definition file can refer to any platform group specified in the Solaris platform definition file.

Other platform definition files are delivered by OEMs. To avoid name conflicts, OEMs will name their platform definition file with an OEM-unique string. OEM's should use whatever string they use to make their package names unique. This unique string is often the OEM's stock symbol.

Comments are allowed in a platform definition file. A "**#**" begins a comment and can be placed anywhere on a line.

Platform definition files are composed of keyword-value pairs, and there are two kinds of stanzas in the file: platform group definitions and platform identifications.

- Platform group definitions:

  The keywords in a platform group definition stanza are:

  PLATFORM_GROUP

  The **PLATFORM_GROUP** keyword *must* be the first keyword in the platform group definition stanza. The value assigned to this keyword is the name of the platform group, for example:

  PLATFORM_GROUP=sun4c

  The **PLATFORM_GROUP** name is an arbitrary name assigned to a group of platforms. However, **PLATFORM_GROUP** typically equals the output of the uname -m command. **PLATFORM_GROUP** value cannot have white space and is limited to 256 ASCII characters.

  INST_ARCH

  The instruction set architecture of all platforms in the platform group, for example:

  INST_ARCH=sparc

  The **INST_ARCH** keyword value must be the value returned by the uname -p command on all platforms in the platform group.

- Platform identifications:

The keywords in a platform identification stanza are:

PLATFORM_NAME
The **PLATFORM_NAME** keyword *must* be the first keyword in the platform identification stanza. The **PLATFORM_NAME** is the name assigned to the platform, for example:

PLATFORM_NAME=SUNW,SPARCstation-5

Typically, this name is the same as the value returned by the uname -i command on the machine, but it need not be the same.

The **PLATFORM_NAME** value cannot have white space and is limited to 256 ASCII characters. If it contains parentheses, it must contain only balanced parentheses. For example. the string "foo(bar)foo" is a valid value for this keyword, but "foo(bar" is not.

The other keywords in the platform identification stanza can be in any order, as long as the **PLATFORM_NAME** keyword is first.

PLATFORM_ID
The value returned by the uname -i command on the machine, for example:

PLATFORM_ID=SUNW,SPARCstation-5

MACHINE_TYPE
The value returned by the uname -m command on the machine, for example:

MACHINE_TYPE=sun4c

IN_PLATFORM_GROUP
The platform group of which the platform is a member, for example:

IN_PLATFORM_GROUP=sun4c

The platform group name must be specified in the same file as the platform identification stanza or in the platform definition file with the name **.platform/Solaris** .

The **IN_PLATFORM_GROUP** keyword is optional. A platform doesn't have to belong to a platform group. If a platform isn't explicitly assigned to a platform group, it essentially forms its own platform group, where the platform group name is the **PLATFORM_NAME** value.

The **IN_PLATFORM_GROUP** value typically equals the output of the uname -m command. **IN_PLATFORM_GROUP** value cannot have white space and is limited to 256 ASCII characters.

INST_ARCH
The instruction set architecture of the platform, for example:

INST_ARCH=sparc

This field is only required if the platform does not belong to a platform group.

The **INST_ARCH** keyword value must be the value returned by the uname -p command on all platforms in the platform group.

COMPATIBILITY

The installation program will remain compatible with the old Solaris CD format. If a Solaris CD image does not contain any platform definition files, the installation and upgrade programs will select the packages to be installed based on machine type (i.e., the value returned by the uname -m command).

EXAMPLES

1. The following example shows platform group definitions from the .platform/Solaris platform definition file.

```
#
PLATFORM_GROUP=sun4c
INST_ARCH=sparc
#
PLATFORM_GROUP=sun4d
INST_ARCH=sparc
#
PLATFORM_GROUP=sun4m
INST_ARCH=sparc
#
PLATFORM_GROUP=sun4u
INST_ARCH=sparc
```

2. The following example shows platform identification stanzas, which define systems that belong in a platform group, from the .platform/Solaris platform definition file.

```
#
PLATFORM_NAME=SUNW,Sun_4_20
PLATFORM_ID=SUNW,Sun_4_20
IN_PLATFORM_GROUP=sun4c
PLATFORM_NAME=SUNW,Sun_4_25
PLATFORM_ID=SUNW,Sun_4_25
IN_PLATFORM_GROUP=sun4c
#
PLATFORM_NAME=SUNW,SPARCstation-5
PLATFORM_ID=SUNW,SPARCstation-5
IN_PLATFORM_GROUP=sun4m
#
PLATFORM_NAME=SUNW,SPARCstation-10
PLATFORM_ID=SUNW,SPARCstation-10
IN_PLATFORM_GROUP=sun4m
```

FILES

The **.platform** directory must reside as / *cd_image*/**Solaris_***vers*/**.platform**, where

cd_image
Is the path to the mounted Solaris CD (/cdrom/cdrom0/s0 by default) or the path to a copy of the Solaris CD on a disk.

Solaris_*vers*

Is the version of Solaris: e.g., Solaris_2.5.

NOTES

Typically, a platform identification stanza contains either a **PLATFORM_ID** or a **MACHINE_TYPE** stanza, but *not* both. If both are specified, both must match for a platform to be identified as this platform type. Each platform identification stanza must contain either a **PLATFORM_ID** value or a **MACHINE_TYPE** value.

If a platform matches two different platform identification stanzas—one which matched on the value of **PLATFORM_ID** and one which matched on the value of **MACHINE_TYPE** , the one that matched on **PLATFORM_ID** will take precedence.

The **.platform** directory is part of the Solaris CD image, whether that be the Solaris CD or a copy of the Solaris CD on a system's hard disk.