

An Example of Spec (OBC initialization)

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Every computer, to reach the state of executing its applications, requires first to execute an initialization sequence or bootstrap.

This software package is obviously present also in flight computers (OBC, payload instruments) and requires particular attention since it is essential to bring the computer to its operational mode.

Bootstrap software is a high critical software item, because it can't be modified after launch and provides support for in flight software maintenance of the other software parts such as application software.

Despite the different objectives of different missions, the bootstrap software should always implement the same basic functions in order to allow a stable starting point for designing and executing more advanced functionality offered by the mission specific applications.

In the presentation it will be summarized the result of the initial work performed inside ESA to define a consistent set of common requirements identifying the features that the initialization sequence of each flight computer should implement.