

ARM® Compiler v5.06 for μVision®

Version 5

fromelf User Guide



ARM® Compiler v5.06 for μVision®**fromelf User Guide**

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Preface

This preface introduces the *ARM® Compiler v5.06 for μVision® fromelf User Guide*.

It contains the following:

- [About this book](#) on page 8.

About this book

ARM® Compiler for μVision® fromelf User Guide. This manual provides information on how to use the fromelf utility. It is also available as a PDF.

Using this book

This book is organized into the following chapters:

Chapter 1 Overview of the fromelf Image Converter

Gives an overview of the fromelf image converter provided with ARM® Compiler.

Chapter 2 Using fromelf

Describes how to use the fromelf image converter provided with ARM Compiler.

Chapter 3 fromelf Command-line Options

Describes the command-line options of the fromelf image converter provided with ARM Compiler.

Chapter 4 Via File Syntax

Describes the syntax of via files accepted by fromelf.

Glossary

The ARM Glossary is a list of terms used in ARM documentation, together with definitions for those terms. The ARM Glossary does not contain terms that are industry standard unless the ARM meaning differs from the generally accepted meaning.

See the [ARM Glossary](#) for more information.

Typographic conventions

italic

Introduces special terminology, denotes cross-references, and citations.

bold

Highlights interface elements, such as menu names. Denotes signal names. Also used for terms in descriptive lists, where appropriate.

monospace

Denotes text that you can enter at the keyboard, such as commands, file and program names, and source code.

monospace

Denotes a permitted abbreviation for a command or option. You can enter the underlined text instead of the full command or option name.

monospace italic

Denotes arguments to monospace text where the argument is to be replaced by a specific value.

monospace bold

Denotes language keywords when used outside example code.

<and>

Encloses replaceable terms for assembler syntax where they appear in code or code fragments. For example:

```
MRC p15, 0, <Rd>, <CRn>, <CRm>, <Opcode_2>
```

SMALL CAPITALS

Used in body text for a few terms that have specific technical meanings, that are defined in the *ARM glossary*. For example, IMPLEMENTATION DEFINED, IMPLEMENTATION SPECIFIC, UNKNOWN, and UNPREDICTABLE.

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Other information

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- [Support and Maintenance](#).
- [ARM Glossary](#).

Chapter 1

Overview of the fromelf Image Converter

Gives an overview of the `fromelf` image converter provided with ARM® Compiler.

It contains the following sections:

- [1.1 About the fromelf image converter](#) on page 1-11.
- [1.2 fromelf execution modes](#) on page 1-12.
- [1.3 Getting help on the fromelf command](#) on page 1-13.
- [1.4 fromelf command-line syntax](#) on page 1-14.

1.1 About the fromelf image converter

The `fromelf` image conversion utility allows you to modify ELF image and object files, and to display information on those files.

`fromelf` allows you to:

- Process ARM ELF object and image files that the compiler, assembler, and linker generate.
- Process all ELF files in an archive that `armar` creates, and output the processed files into another archive if necessary.
- Convert ELF images into other formats that for use by ROM tools or for direct loading into memory. The formats available are:
 - Plain binary.
 - Motorola 32-bit S-record.
 - Intel Hex-32.
 - Byte oriented (Verilog Memory Model) hexadecimal.
- Display information about the input file, for example, disassembly output or symbol listings, to either `stdout` or a text file.

Note

If your image is produced without debug information, `fromelf` cannot:

- Translate the image into other file formats.
- Produce a meaningful disassembly listing.

Note

The command-line option descriptions and related information in the individual ARM Compiler tools documents describe all the features that ARM Compiler supports. Any features not documented are not supported and are used at your own risk. You are responsible for making sure that any generated code using unsupported features is operating correctly.

Related references

[1.2 fromelf execution modes on page 1-12.](#)

[1.4 fromelf command-line syntax on page 1-14.](#)

[Chapter 3 fromelf Command-line Options on page 3-21.](#)

1.2 fromelf execution modes

You can run fromelf in various execution modes.

The execution modes are:

- Text mode (`--text`, and others), to output information about an object or image file.
- Format conversion mode (`--bin`, `--m32`, `--i32`, `--vbx`).

Related references

[3.2 --bin on page 3-24.](#)

[3.27 --i32 on page 3-53.](#)

[3.36 --m32 on page 3-62.](#)

[3.46 --text on page 3-72.](#)

[3.48 --vbx on page 3-75.](#)

1.3 Getting help on the fromelf command

Use the `--help` option to display a summary of the main command-line options.

This is the default if you do not specify any options or files.

To display the help information, enter:

```
fromelf --help
```

Related references

[1.4 fromelf command-line syntax](#) on page 1-14.

[3.26 --help](#) on page 3-52.

1.4 fromelf command-line syntax

You can specify an ELF file or library of ELF files on the `fromelf` command-line.

Syntax

`fromelf options input_file`

options

fromelf command-line options.

input_file

The ELF file or library file to be processed. When some options are used, multiple input files can be specified.

Related references

[Chapter 3 fromelf Command-line Options](#) on page 3-21.

[3.32 input_file](#) on page 3-58.

Chapter 2

Using fromelf

Describes how to use the `fromelf` image converter provided with ARM Compiler.

It contains the following sections:

- [2.1 General considerations when using fromelf on page 2-16.](#)
- [2.2 Examples of processing ELF files in an archive on page 2-17.](#)
- [2.3 Option to print specific details of ELF files on page 2-18.](#)
- [2.4 Using fromelf to find where a symbol is placed in an executable ELF image on page 2-19.](#)

2.1 General considerations when using fromelf

There are some changes that you cannot make to an image with `fromelf`.

When using `fromelf` you cannot:

- Change the image structure or addresses, other than altering the base address of Motorola S-record or Intel Hex output with the `--base` option.
- Change a scatter-loaded ELF image into a non scatter-loaded image in another format. Any structural or addressing information must be provided to the linker at link time.

Related references

[3.1 --base \[\[object_file::\]load_region_ID=\]num](#) on page 3-23.

[3.32 input_file](#) on page 3-58.

2.2 Examples of processing ELF files in an archive

Examples of how you can process all ELF files in an archive, or a subset of those files. The processed files together with any unprocessed files are output to another archive.

Examples

Consider an archive, `test.a`, containing the following ELF files:

```
bmw.o  
bmwl.o  
call_c_code.o  
newtst.o  
shapes.o  
strmtst.o
```

This example prints the global and static addresses for each object file in an archive.

```
fromelf --text -a test.a
```

Related references

[3.32 `input\_file` on page 3-58.](#)

[3.39 `--output=destination` on page 3-65.](#)

2.3 Option to print specific details of ELF files

You can specify the elements of an ELF object that you want to appear in the textual output with the `--emit` option.

The output includes ELF header and section information. You can specify these elements as a comma separated list.

Note

You can specify some of the `--emit` options using the `--text` option.

Examples

To print the contents of the data sections of an ELF file, `infile.axf`, enter:

```
fromelf --emit=data infile.axf
```

To print relocation information and the dynamic section contents for the ELF file `infile2.axf`, enter:

```
fromelf --emit=relocation_tables,dynamic_segment infile2.axf
```

Related references

[1.4 fromelf command-line syntax](#) on page 1-14.

[3.20 --emit=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-43.

[3.46 --text](#) on page 3-72.

2.4 Using fromelf to find where a symbol is placed in an executable ELF image

You can find where a symbol is placed in an executable ELF image.

To find where a symbol is placed in an ELF image file, use the `--text -s -v` options to view the symbol table and detailed information on each segment and section header, for example:

The symbol table identifies the section where the symbol is placed.

Do the following:

Procedure

1. Create the file `s.c` containing the following source code:

```
long long altstack[10] __attribute__((section ("STACK"), zero_init));
int main()
{
    return sizeof(altstack);
}
```

2. Compile the source:

```
armcc --target=arm-arm-none-eabi -c s.c -o s.o
```

3. Link the object `s.o` and keep the `STACK` symbol:

```
armlink --keep=s.o(STACK) s.o --output=s.axf
```

4. Run the `fromelf` command to display the symbol table and detailed information on each segment and section header:

```
fromelf --text -s -v s.o
```

5. Locate the `STACK` and `altstack` symbols in the `fromelf` output, for example:

```
...
** Section #9
Name      : .symtab
Type      : SHT_SYMTAB (0x00000002)
Flags     : None (0x00000000)
Addr      : 0x00000000
File Offset : 2792 (0xae8)
Size      : 2896 bytes (0xb50)
Link      : Section 10 (.strtab)
Info      : Last local symbol no = 115
Alignment : 4
Entry Size : 16

Symbol table .symtab (180 symbols, 115 local)

# Symbol Name      Value      Bind  Sec  Type  Vis  Size
=====
...
16  STACK          0x00008228  Lc   2   Sect  De   0x50
...
179 altstack       0x00008228  Gb   2   Data  Hi   0x50
...
```

The `Sec` column shows the section where the stack is placed. In this example, section 2.

6. Locate the section identified for the symbol in the `fromelf` output, for example:

```
...
=====
** Section #2
Name      : ER_ZI
Type      : SHT_NOBITS (0x00000008)
Flags     : SHF_ALLOC + SHF_WRITE (0x00000003)
Addr      : 0x000081c8
File Offset : 508 (0x1fc)
Size      : 176 bytes (0xb0)
Link      : SHN_UNDEF
Info      : 0
Alignment : 8
Entry Size : 0
=====
...
```

This shows that the symbols are placed in a ZI execution region.

Related references

[3.46](#) *--text* on page 3-72.

Chapter 3

fromelf Command-line Options

Describes the command-line options of the `fromelf` image converter provided with ARM Compiler.

It contains the following sections:

- [3.1 --base \[\[object_file::\]load_region_ID=num](#) on page 3-23.
- [3.2 --bin](#) on page 3-24.
- [3.3 --bincombined](#) on page 3-25.
- [3.4 --bincombined_base=address](#) on page 3-26.
- [3.5 --bincombined_padding=size,num](#) on page 3-27.
- [3.6 --cad](#) on page 3-28.
- [3.7 --cadcombined](#) on page 3-30.
- [3.8 --compare=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-31.
- [3.9 --continue_on_error](#) on page 3-32.
- [3.10 --cpu=list](#) on page 3-33.
- [3.11 --cpu=name](#) on page 3-34.
- [3.12 --datasymbols](#) on page 3-35.
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- [3.16 --diag_style={arm|ide|gnu}](#) on page 3-39.
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- [3.18 --diag_warning=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-41.
- [3.19 --dump_build_attributes](#) on page 3-42.
- [3.20 --emit=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-43.
- [3.21 --expandarrays](#) on page 3-45.
- [3.22 --extract_build_attributes](#) on page 3-46.
- [3.23 --fieldoffsets](#) on page 3-47.

- 3.24 `--fpu=list` on page 3-49.
- 3.25 `--fpu=name` on page 3-50.
- 3.26 `--help` on page 3-52.
- 3.27 `--i32` on page 3-53.
- 3.28 `--i32combined` on page 3-54.
- 3.29 `--ignore_section=option[,option,...]` on page 3-55.
- 3.30 `--ignore_symbol=option[,option,...]` on page 3-56.
- 3.31 `--info=topic[,topic,...]` on page 3-57.
- 3.32 `input_file` on page 3-58.
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- 3.34 `--liclinger=seconds` on page 3-60.
- 3.35 `--licretry` on page 3-61.
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- 3.38 `--only=section_name` on page 3-64.
- 3.39 `--output=destination` on page 3-65.
- 3.40 `--qualify` on page 3-66.
- 3.41 `--relax_section=option[,option,...]` on page 3-67.
- 3.42 `--relax_symbol=option[,option,...]` on page 3-68.
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- 3.44 `--show_cmdline` on page 3-70.
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- 3.46 `--text` on page 3-72.
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- 3.50 `--vsr` on page 3-77.
- 3.51 `-w` on page 3-78.
- 3.52 `--widthxbanks` on page 3-79.

3.1 --base [[object_file::]load_region_ID=num]

Enables you to alter the base address specified for one or more load regions in Motorola S-record and Intel Hex file formats.

Syntax

--base [[object_file::]load_region_ID=num]

Where:

- object_file*
An optional ELF input file.
- load_region_ID*
An optional load region. This can either be a symbolic name of an execution region belonging to a load region or a zero-based load region number, for example #0 if referring to the first region.
- num*
Either a decimal or hexadecimal value.

You can:

- Use wildcard characters ? and * for symbolic names in *object_file* and *load_region_ID* arguments.
- Specify multiple values in one *option* followed by a comma-separated list of arguments.

All addresses encoded in the output file start at the base address *num*. If you do not specify a --base option, the base address is taken from the load region address.

Restrictions

You must use one of the output formats --i32, --i32combined, --m32, or --m32combined with this option. Therefore, you cannot use this option with object files.

Examples

The following table shows examples:

Table 3-1 Examples of using --base

--base 0	decimal value
--base 0x8000	hexadecimal value
--base #0=0	base address for the first load region
--base foo.o::*=0	base address for all load regions in foo.o
--base #0=0, #1=0x8000	base address for the first and second load regions

Related concepts

[2.1 General considerations when using fromelf on page 2-16.](#)

Related references

- [3.27 --i32 on page 3-53.](#)
- [3.28 --i32combined on page 3-54.](#)
- [3.36 --m32 on page 3-62.](#)
- [3.37 --m32combined on page 3-63.](#)

3.2 *--bin*

Produces plain binary output, one file for each load region. You can split the output from this option into multiple files with the *--widthxbanks* option.

Restrictions

The following restrictions apply:

- You cannot use this option with object files.
- You must use *--output* with this option.

Considerations when using *--bin*

If you convert an ELF image containing multiple load regions to a binary format, *fromelf* creates an output directory named *destination* and generates one binary output file for each load region in the input image. *fromelf* places the output files in the *destination* directory.

Note

For multiple load regions, the name of the first non-empty execution region in the corresponding load region is used for the filename.

A file is only created when the load region describes code or data that is present in the ELF file. For example a load region containing only execution regions with ZI data in them does not result in a output file.

Example

To convert an ELF file to a plain binary file, for example *outfile.bin*, enter:

```
fromelf --bin --output=outfile.bin infile.axf
```

Related references

[3.39 *--output=destination* on page 3-65.](#)

[3.52 *--widthxbanks* on page 3-79.](#)

3.3 **--bincombined**

Produces plain binary output. It generates one output file for an image containing multiple load regions.

Usage

By default, the start address of the first load region in memory is used as the base address. *fromelf* inserts padding between load regions as required to ensure that they are at the correct relative offset from each other. Separating the load regions in this way means that the output file can be loaded into memory and correctly aligned starting at the base address.

Use this option with *--bincombined_base* and *--bincombined_padding* to change the default values for the base address and padding.

Restrictions

The following restrictions apply:

- You cannot use this option with object files.
- You must use *--output* with this option.

Considerations when using *--bincombined*

Use this option with *--bincombined_base* to change the default value for the base address.

The default padding value is 0xFF. Use this option with *--bincombined_padding* to change the default padding value.

If you use a scatter file that defines two load regions with a large address space between them, the resulting binary can be very large because it contains mostly padding. For example, if you have a load region of size 0x100 bytes at address 0x00000000 and another load region at address 0x30000000, the amount of padding is 0x2FFFFFF0 bytes.

ARM recommends that you use a different method of placing widely spaced load regions, such as *--bin*, and make your own arrangements to load the multiple output files at the correct addresses.

Examples

To produce a binary file that can be loaded at start address 0x1000, enter:

```
fromelf --bincombined --bincombined_base=0x1000 --output=out.bin in.axf
```

To produce plain binary output and fill the space between load regions with copies of the 32-bit word 0x12345678, enter:

```
fromelf --bincombined --bincombined_padding=4,0x12345678 --output=out.bin in.axf
```

Related references

[3.4 *--bincombined_base=address* on page 3-26.](#)

[3.5 *--bincombined_padding=size,num* on page 3-27.](#)

[3.39 *--output=destination* on page 3-65.](#)

[3.52 *--widthxbanks* on page 3-79.](#)

Related information

[Input sections, output sections, regions, and Program Segments.](#)

3.4 --bincombined_base=address

Enables you to lower the base address used by the --bincombined output mode. The output file generated is suitable to be loaded into memory starting at the specified address.

Syntax

--bincombined_base=address

Where *address* is the start address where the image is to be loaded:

- If the specified address is lower than the start of the first load region, fromelf adds padding at the start of the output file.
- If the specified address is higher than the start of the first load region, fromelf gives an error.

Default

By default the start address of the first load region in memory is used as the base address.

Restrictions

You must use --bincombined with this option. If you omit --bincombined, a warning message is displayed.

Example

```
--bincombined --bincombined_base=0x1000
```

Related references

[3.3 --bincombined](#) on page 3-25.

[3.5 --bincombined_padding=size,num](#) on page 3-27.

Related information

Input sections, output sections, regions, and Program Segments.

3.5 --bincombined_padding=size,num

Enables you to specify a different padding value from the default used by the --bincombined output mode.

Syntax

--bincombined_padding=size,num

Where:

size

Is 1, 2, or 4 bytes to define whether it is a byte, halfword, or word.

num

The value to be used for padding. If you specify a value that is too large to fit in the specified size, a warning message is displayed.

Note

fromelf expects that 2-byte and 4-byte padding values are specified in the appropriate endianness for the input file. For example, if you are translating a big endian ELF file into binary, the specified padding value is treated as a big endian word or halfword.

Default

The default is --bincombined_padding=1,0xFF.

Restrictions

You must use --bincombined with this option. If you omit --bincombined, a warning message is displayed.

Examples

The following examples show how to use --bincombined_padding:

--bincombined --bincombined_padding=4,0x12345678

This example produces plain binary output and fills the space between load regions with copies of the 32-bit word 0x12345678.

--bincombined --bincombined_padding=2,0x1234

This example produces plain binary output and fills the space between load regions with copies of the 16-bit halfword 0x1234.

--bincombined --bincombined_padding=2,0x01

This example when specified for big endian memory, fills the space between load regions with 0x0100.

Related references

[3.3 --bincombined on page 3-25.](#)

[3.4 --bincombined_base=address on page 3-26.](#)

3.6 --cad

Produces a C array definition or C++ array definition containing binary output.

Usage

You can use each array definition in the source code of another application. For example, you might want to embed an image in the address space of another application, such as an embedded operating system.

If your image has a single load region, the output is directed to `stdout` by default. To save the output to a file, use the `--output` option together with a filename.

If your image has multiple load regions, then you must also use the `--output` option together with a directory name. Unless you specify a full path name, the path is relative to the current directory. A file is created for each load region in the specified directory. The name of each file is the name of the corresponding execution region.

Use this option with `--output` to generate one output file for each load region in the image.

Restrictions

You cannot use this option with object files.

Considerations when using --cad

A file is only created when the load region describes code or data that is present in the ELF file. For example a load region containing only execution regions with ZI data in them does not result in a output file.

Example

The following examples show how to use `--cad`:

- To produce an array definition for an image that has a single load region, enter:

```
fromelf --cad myimage.axf
unsigned char LR0[] = {
    0x00,0x00,0x00,0xEB,0x28,0x00,0x00,0xEB,0x2C,0x00,0x8F,0xE2,0x00,0x0C,0x90,0xE8,
    0x00,0xA0,0x8A,0xE0,0x00,0xB0,0x8B,0xE0,0x01,0x70,0x4A,0xE2,0x0B,0x00,0x5A,0xE1,
    0x00,0x00,0x1A,0x20,0x00,0x00,0xEB,0x0F,0x00,0xBA,0xE8,0x18,0xE0,0x4F,0xE2,
    0x01,0x00,0x13,0xE3,0x03,0xF0,0x47,0x10,0x03,0xF0,0xA0,0xE1,0xAC,0x18,0x00,0x00,
    0xBC,0x18,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x30,0xB0,0xE3,0x00,0x40,0xB0,0xE3,0x00,0x50,0xB0,0xE3,
    0x00,0x60,0xB0,0xE3,0x10,0x20,0x52,0xE2,0x78,0x00,0xA1,0x28,0xFC,0xFF,0xFF,0x8A,
    0x82,0x2E,0xB0,0xE1,0x30,0x00,0xA1,0x28,0x00,0x30,0x81,0x45,0x0E,0xF0,0xA0,0xE1,
    0x70,0x00,0x51,0xE3,0x66,0x00,0x00,0x0A,0x64,0x00,0x51,0xE3,0x38,0x00,0x00,0x0A,
    0x00,0x00,0xB0,0xE3,0x0E,0xF0,0xA0,0xE1,0x1F,0x40,0x2D,0xE9,0x00,0x00,0xA0,0xE1,
    :
    :
    0x3A,0x74,0x74,0x00,0x43,0x6F,0x6E,0x73,0x74,0x72,0x75,0x63,0x74,0x65,0x64,0x20,
    0x41,0x20,0x23,0x25,0x64,0x20,0x61,0x74,0x20,0x25,0x70,0x0A,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,
    0x44,0x65,0x73,0x74,0x72,0x6F,0x79,0x65,0x64,0x20,0x41,0x20,0x23,0x25,0x64,0x20,
    0x61,0x74,0x20,0x25,0x70,0x0A,0x00,0x00,0x0C,0x99,0x00,0x00,0x0C,0x99,0x00,0x00,
    0x50,0x01,0x00,0x00,0x44,0x80,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,
    0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00
};
```

- For an image that has multiple load regions, the following commands create a file for each load region in the directory `root\myprojects\multiload\load_regions`:

```
cd root\myprojects\multiload
fromelf --cad image_multiload.axf --output load_regions
```

If `image_multiload.axf` contains the execution regions `EXEC_ROM` and `RAM`, then the files `EXEC_ROM` and `RAM` are created in the `load_regions` subdirectory.

Related references

[3.7 --cadcombined on page 3-30.](#)

[3.39 --output=destination on page 3-65.](#)

Related information

Input sections, output sections, regions, and Program Segments.

3.7 **--cadcombined**

Produces a C array definition or C++ array definition containing binary output.

Usage

You can use each array definition in the source code of another application. For example, you might want to embed an image in the address space of another application, such as an embedded operating system.

The output is directed to `stdout` by default. To save the output to a file, use the `--output` option together with a filename.

Restrictions

You cannot use this option with object files.

Example

The following commands create the file `load_regions.c` in the directory `root\myprojects\multiload`:

```
cd root\myprojects\multiload
fromelf --cadcombined image_multiload.axf --output load_regions.c
```

Related references

[3.6 *--cad* on page 3-28.](#)

[3.39 *--output=destination* on page 3-65.](#)

3.8 --compare=option[,option,...]

Compares two input files and prints a textual list of the differences.

Usage

The input files must be the same type, either two ELF files or two library files. Library files are compared member by member and the differences are concatenated in the output.

All differences between the two input files are reported as errors unless specifically downgraded to warnings by using the `--relax_section` option.

Syntax

`--compare=option[,option,...]`

Where *option* is one of:

section_sizes

Compares the size of all sections for each ELF file or ELF member of a library file.

`section_sizes::object_name`

Compares the sizes of all sections in ELF objects with a name matching *object_name*.

`section_sizes::section_name`

Compares the sizes of all sections with a name matching *section_name*.

sections

Compares the size and contents of all sections for each ELF file or ELF member of a library file.

`sections::object_name`

Compares the size and contents of all sections in ELF objects with a name matching *object_name*.

`sections::section_name`

Compares the size and contents of all sections with a name matching *section_name*.

function_sizes

Compares the size of all functions for each ELF file or ELF member of a library file.

`function_sizes::object_name`

Compares the size of all functions in ELF objects with a name matching *object_name*.

`function_size::function_name`

Compares the size of all functions with a name matching *function_name*.

global_function_sizes

Compares the size of all global functions for each ELF file or ELF member of a library file.

`global_function_sizes::function_name`

Compares the size of all global functions in ELF objects with a name matching *function_name*.

You can:

- Use wildcard characters `?` and `*` for symbolic names in *section_name*, *function_name*, and *object_name* arguments.
- Specify multiple values in one *option* followed by a comma-separated list of arguments.

Related references

[3.29 --ignore_section=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-55.

[3.30 --ignore_symbol=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-56.

[3.41 --relax_section=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-67.

[3.42 --relax_symbol=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-68.

3.9 --continue_on_error

Reports any errors and then continues.

Usage

Use --diag_warning=error instead of this option.

Related references

[3.18 --diag_warning=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-41.

3.10 --cpu=list

Lists the architecture and processor names that are supported by the --cpu=name option.

Syntax

--cpu=list

Related references

[3.11 --cpu=name on page 3-34.](#)

3.11 --cpu=name

Affects the way machine code is disassembled by options such as `-c` or `--disassemble`, so that it is disassembled in the same way that the specified processor interprets it.

Syntax

`--cpu=name`

Where *name* is the name of a processor. Enter *name* as shown on ARM data sheets, for example, Cortex-M3.

Processor names are not case-sensitive.

Usage

The following general points apply to processor options:

Processors

- Selecting the processor selects the appropriate architecture, *Floating-Point Unit* (FPU), and memory organization.

FPU

- Some specifications of `--cpu` imply an `--fpu` selection.

————— **Note** —————

Any explicit FPU, set with `--fpu` on the command line, overrides an *implicit* FPU.

- If no `--fpu` option is specified and no `--cpu` option is specified, `--fpu=softvfp` is used.

Example

To specify the Cortex®-M4 processor, use:

`--cpu=Cortex-M4`

Related references

[3.10 --cpu=list](#) on page 3-33.

[3.31 --info=topic\[,topic,...\]](#) on page 3-57.

[3.46 --text](#) on page 3-72.

3.12 --datasymbols

Modifies the output information of data sections so that symbol definitions are interleaved.

Usage

You can use this option only with `--text -d`.

Related references

[3.46 --text on page 3-72](#).

3.13 --decode_build_attributes

Prints the contents of the build attributes section in human-readable form for standard build attributes or raw hexadecimal form for nonstandard build attributes.

Note

The standard build attributes are documented in the *Application Binary Interface for the ARM Architecture*.

Restrictions

You can use this option only in text mode.

Example

The following example shows the output for --decode_build_attributes:

```
** Section #12 '.ARM.attributes' (SHT_ARM_ATTRIBUTES)
  Size : 69 bytes
  'aeabi' file build attributes:
0x000000: 05 41 52 4d 37 54 44 4d 49 00 06 02 08 01 11 01 .ARM7TDMI.....
0x000010: 12 02 14 02 17 01 18 01 19 01 1a 01 1e 03 20 02 .....
0x000020: 41 52 4d 00 ARM.
      Tag_CPU_name = "ARM7TDMI"
      Tag_CPU_arch = ARM v4T (=2)
      Tag_ARM_ISA_use = ARM instructions were permitted to be used (=1)
      Tag_ABI_PCS_GOT_use = Data are imported directly (=1)
      Tag_ABI_PCS_wchar_t = Size of wchar_t is 2 (=2)
      Tag_ABI_FP_denormal = This code was permitted to require that the sign of a flushed-
to-zero number be preserved in the sign of 0 (=2)
      Tag_ABI_FP_number_model = This code was permitted to use only IEEE 754 format FP
numbers (=1)
      Tag_ABI_align8_needed = Code was permitted to depend on the 8-byte alignment of 8-
byte data items (=1)
      Tag_ABI_align8_preserved = Code was required to preserve 8-byte alignment of 8-byte
data objects (=1)
      Tag_ABI_enum_size = Enum values occupy the smallest container big enough to hold all
values (=1)
      Tag_ABI_optimization_goals = Optimized for small size, but speed and debugging
illusion preserved (=3)
      Tag_compatibility = 2, "ARM"
  'ARM' file build attributes:
0x000000: 04 01 12 01 ....
```

Related references

- [3.19 --dump_build_attributes](#) on page 3-42.
- [3.20 --emit=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-43.
- [3.22 --extract_build_attributes](#) on page 3-46.

Related information

Application Binary Interface for the ARM Architecture.

3.14 --diag_error=tag[,tag,...]

Sets diagnostic messages that have a specific tag to Error severity.

Syntax

--diag_error=tag[, tag,...]

Where *tag* can be:

- A diagnostic message number to set to error severity. This is the four-digit number, *nnnn*, with the tool letter prefix, but without the letter suffix indicating the severity.
- *warning*, to treat all warnings as errors.

Related references

[3.15 --diag_remark=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-38.

[3.16 --diag_style={arm|ide|gnu}](#) on page 3-39.

[3.17 --diag_suppress=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-40.

[3.18 --diag_warning=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-41.

3.15 --diag_remark=tag[,tag,...]

Sets diagnostic messages that have a specific tag to Remark severity.

Syntax

`--diag_remark=tag[,tag,...]`

Where *tag* is a comma-separated list of diagnostic message numbers. This is the four-digit number, *nnnn*, with the tool letter prefix, but without the letter suffix indicating the severity.

Related references

[3.14 --diag_error=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-37.

[3.16 --diag_style={arm|ide|gnu}](#) on page 3-39.

[3.17 --diag_suppress=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-40.

[3.18 --diag_warning=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-41.

3.16 --diag_style={arm|ide|gnu}

Specifies the display style for diagnostic messages.

Syntax

--diag_style=*string*

Where *string* is one of:

arm

Display messages using the ARM compiler style.

ide

Include the line number and character count for any line that is in error. These values are displayed in parentheses.

Usage

--diag_style=ide matches the format reported by Microsoft Visual Studio.

Default

The default is --diag_style=arm.

Related references

[3.14 --diag_error=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-37.

[3.15 --diag_remark=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-38.

[3.17 --diag_suppress=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-40.

[3.18 --diag_warning=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-41.

3.17 --diag_suppress=tag[,tag,...]

Suppresses diagnostic messages that have a specific tag.

Syntax

--diag_suppress=tag[,tag,...]

Where *tag* can be:

- A diagnostic message number to be suppressed. This is the four-digit number, *nnnn*, with the tool letter prefix, but without the letter suffix indicating the severity.
- *error*, to suppress all errors that can be downgraded.
- *warning*, to suppress all warnings.

Related references

[3.14 --diag_error=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-37.

[3.15 --diag_remark=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-38.

[3.16 --diag_style={arm|ide|gnu}](#) on page 3-39.

[3.18 --diag_warning=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-41.

3.18 --diag_warning=tag[,tag,...]

Sets diagnostic messages that have a specific tag to Warning severity.

Syntax

--diag_warning=tag[, tag,...]

Where *tag* can be:

- A diagnostic message number to set to warning severity. This is the four-digit number, *nnnn*, with the tool letter prefix, but without the letter suffix indicating the severity.
- *error*, to set all errors that can be downgraded to warnings.

Related references

[3.14 --diag_error=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-37.

[3.15 --diag_remark=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-38.

[3.16 --diag_style={arm|ide|gnu}](#) on page 3-39.

[3.18 --diag_warning=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-41.

3.19 --dump_build_attributes

Prints the contents of the build attributes section in raw hexadecimal form.

Restrictions

You can use this option only in text mode.

Example

The following example shows the output for --dump_build_attributes:

```
...
** Section #12 '.ARM.attributes' (SHT_ARM_ATTRIBUTES)
   Size : 69 bytes
0x000000: 41 33 00 00 00 61 65 61 62 69 00 01 29 00 00 00 A3...aeabi...)...
0x000010: 05 41 52 4d 37 54 44 4d 49 00 06 02 08 01 11 01 .ARM7TDMI.....
0x000020: 12 02 14 02 17 01 18 01 19 01 1a 01 1e 03 20 02 .....
0x000030: 41 52 4d 00 11 00 00 00 41 52 4d 00 01 09 00 00 ARM.....ARM.....
0x000040: 00 04 01 12 01 .....
```

Related references

[3.13 --decode_build_attributes](#) on page 3-36.

[3.20 --emit=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-43.

[3.22 --extract_build_attributes](#) on page 3-46.

[3.46 --text](#) on page 3-72.

3.20 --emit=option[,option,...]

Enables you to specify the elements of an ELF object that you want to appear in the textual output. The output includes ELF header and section information.

Restrictions

You can use this option only in text mode.

Syntax

--emit=option[,option,...]

Where *option* is one of:

addresses

Prints global and static data addresses (including addresses for structure and union contents). It has the same effect as `--text -a`.

This option can only be used on files containing debug information. If no debug information is present, a warning message is generated.

Use the `--select` option to output a subset of the data addresses.

If you want to view the data addresses of arrays, expanded both inside and outside structures, use the `--expandarrays` option with this text category.

build_attributes

Prints the contents of the build attributes section in human-readable form for standard build attributes or raw hexadecimal form for nonstandard build attributes. The produces the same output as the `--decode_build_attributes` option.

code

Disassembles code, alongside a dump of the original binary data being disassembled and the addresses of the instructions. It has the same effect as `--text -c`.

data

Prints contents of the data sections. It has the same effect as `--text -d`.

data_symbols

Modifies the output information of data sections so that symbol definitions are interleaved.

debug_info

Prints debug information. It has the same effect as `--text -g`.

dynamic_segment

Prints dynamic segment contents. It has the same effect as `--text -y`.

exception_tables

Decodes exception table information for objects. It has the same effect as `--text -e`.

got

Prints the contents of the *Global Offset Table* (GOT) objects.

raw_build_attributes

Prints the contents of the build attributes section in raw hexadecimal form, that is, in the same form as data.

relocation_tables

Prints relocation information. It has the same effect as `--text -r`.

string_tables

Prints the string tables. It has the same effect as `--text -t`.

summary

Prints a summary of the segments and sections in a file. It is the default output of `fromelf --text`. However, the summary is suppressed by some `--info` options. Use `--emit summary` to explicitly re-enable the summary, if required.

symbol_tables

Prints the symbol and versioning tables. It has the same effect as `--text -s`.

vfe

Prints information about unused virtual functions.

You can specify multiple options in one *option* followed by a comma-separated list of arguments.

Related references

[3.13 --decode_build_attributes](#) on page 3-36.

[3.21 --expandarrays](#) on page 3-45.

[3.46 --text](#) on page 3-72.

3.21 --expandarrays

Prints data addresses, including arrays that are expanded both inside and outside structures.

Restrictions

You can use this option with `--text -a` or with `--fieldoffsets`.

Example

The following example shows the output for a struct containing arrays when `--fieldoffsets` `--expandarrays` is specified:

```
< more foo.c
struct S {
    char A[8];
    char B[4];
};
struct S s;

struct S* get()
{
    return &s;
}

< armcc --debug -c foo.c
< fromelf --fieldoffsets --expandarrays foo.o

; Structure, S , Size 0xc bytes, from foo.c
S.A|          EQU    0      ; array[8] of char
S.A[0]|        EQU    0      ; char
S.A[1]|        EQU    0x1    ; char
S.A[2]|        EQU    0x2    ; char
S.A[3]|        EQU    0x3    ; char
S.A[4]|        EQU    0x4    ; char
S.A[5]|        EQU    0x5    ; char
S.A[6]|        EQU    0x6    ; char
S.A[7]|        EQU    0x7    ; char
S.B|          EQU    0x8    ; array[4] of char
S.B[0]|        EQU    0x8    ; char
S.B[1]|        EQU    0x9    ; char
S.B[2]|        EQU    0xa    ; char
S.B[3]|        EQU    0xb    ; char
; End of Structure S

END
```

Related references

[3.23 --fieldoffsets](#) on page 3-47.

[3.46 --text](#) on page 3-72.

3.22 --extract_build_attributes

Prints only the build attributes in a form that depends on the type of attribute.

Usage

Prints the build attributes in:

- Human-readable form for standard build attributes.
- Raw hexadecimal form for nonstandard build attributes.

Restrictions

You can use this option only in text mode.

Example

The following example shows the output for --extract_build_attributes:

```
=====
** Object/Image Build Attributes
   'aeabi' file build attributes:
0x000000:  05 41 52 4d 37 54 44 4d 49 00 06 02 08 01 11 01  .ARM7TDMI.....
0x000010:  12 02 14 02 17 01 18 01 19 01 1a 01 1e 03 20 02  .....
0x000020:  41 52 4d 00                                     ARM.
      Tag_CPU_name = "ARM7TDMI"
      Tag_CPU_arch = ARM v4T (=2)
      Tag_ARM_ISA_use = ARM instructions were permitted to be used (=1)
      Tag_ABI_PCS_GOT_use = Data are imported directly (=1)
      Tag_ABI_PCS_wchar_t = Size of wchar_t is 2 (=2)
      Tag_ABI_FP_denormal = This code was permitted to require that the sign of a flushed-
to-zero number be preserved in the sign of 0 (=2)
      Tag_ABI_FP_number_model = This code was permitted to use only IEEE 754 format FP
numbers (=1)
      Tag_ABI_align8_needed = Code was permitted to depend on the 8-byte alignment of 8-
byte data items (=1)
      Tag_ABI_align8_preserved = Code was required to preserve 8-byte alignment of 8-byte
data objects (=1)
      Tag_ABI_enum_size = Enum values occupy the smallest container big enough to hold all
values (=1)
      Tag_ABI_optimization_goals = Optimized for small size, but speed and debugging
illusion preserved (=3)
      Tag_compatibility = 2, "ARM"
   'ARM' file build attributes:
0x000000:  04 01 12 01                                     ....
```

Related references

[3.13 --decode_build_attributes](#) on page 3-36.

[3.19 --dump_build_attributes](#) on page 3-42.

[3.20 --emit=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-43.

[3.46 --text](#) on page 3-72.

3.23 --fielddoffsets

Prints a list of assembly language EQU directives that equate C++ class or C structure field names to their offsets from the base of the class or structure.

Usage

The input ELF file can be a relocatable object or an image.

Use `--output` to redirect the output to a file. Use the `INCLUDE` command from `armasm` to load the produced file and provide access to C++ classes and C structure members by name from assembly language.

This option outputs all structure information. To output a subset of the structures, use `--select select_options`.

If you do not require a file that can be input to `armasm`, use the `--text -a` options to format the display addresses in a more readable form. The `-a` option only outputs address information for structures and static data in images because the addresses are not known in a relocatable object.

Restrictions

This option:

- Is not available if the source file does not have debug information.
- Can be used in text mode and with `--expandarrays`.

Examples

The following examples show how to use `--fielddoffsets`:

- To produce an output listing to `stdout` that contains all the field offsets from all structures in the file `inputfile.o`, enter:

```
fromelf --fielddoffsets inputfile.o
```

- To produce an output file listing to `outputfile.s` that contains all the field offsets from structures in the file `inputfile.o` that have a name starting with `p`, enter:

```
fromelf --fielddoffsets --select=p* --output=outputfile.s inputfile.o
```

- To produce an output listing to `outputfile.s` that contains all the field offsets from structures in the file `inputfile.o` with names of tools or `moretools`, enter:

```
fromelf --fielddoffsets --select=tools.*,moretools.* --output=outputfile.s inputfile.o
```

- To produce an output file listing to `outputfile.s` that contains all the field offsets of structure fields whose name starts with `number` and are within structure field `top` in structure `tools` in the file `inputfile.o`, enter:

```
fromelf --fielddoffsets --select=tools.top.number* --output=outputfile.s inputfile.o
```

The following is an example of the output, and includes `name.` and `name...member` that arise because of anonymous structs and unions:

```
; Structure, Table , Size 0x104 bytes, from inputfile.cpp
|Table.TableSize|          EQU    0          ; int
|Table.Data|             EQU    0x4         ; array[64] of MyClassHandle
; End of Structure Table
; Structure, Box2 , Size 0x8 bytes, from inputfile.cpp
|Box2.|                  EQU    0          ; anonymous
|Box2..|                 EQU    0          ; anonymous
|Box2...Min|             EQU    0          ; Point2
|Box2...Min.x|           EQU    0          ; short
|Box2...Min.y|           EQU    0x2        ; short
|Box2...Max|             EQU    0x4        ; Point2
|Box2...Max.x|           EQU    0x4        ; short
|Box2...Max.y|           EQU    0x6        ; short
; Warning: duplicate name (Box2..) present in (inputfile.cpp) and in (inputfile.cpp)
; please use the --qualify option
|Box2..|                  EQU    0          ; anonymous
|Box2...Left|            EQU    0          ; unsigned short
|Box2...Top|             EQU    0x2        ; unsigned short
```

```
|Box2...Right|          EQU    0x4      ; unsigned short
|Box2...Bottom|        EQU    0x6      ; unsigned short
; End of Structure Box2
; Structure, MyClassHandle , Size 0x4 bytes, from inputfile.cpp
|MyClassHandle.Handle| EQU    0        ; pointer to MyClass
; End of Structure MyClassHandle
; Structure, Point2 , Size 0x4 bytes, from defects.cpp
|Point2.x|             EQU    0        ; short
|Point2.y|             EQU    0x2      ; short
; End of Structure Point2
; Structure, __fpos_t_struct , Size 0x10 bytes, from C:\Program Files\DS-5\bin\..\include
\stdio.h
|__fpos_t_struct.__pos| EQU    0        ; unsigned long long
|__fpos_t_struct.__mbstate| EQU    0x8    ; anonymous
|__fpos_t_struct.__mbstate.__state1| EQU    0x8    ; unsigned int
|__fpos_t_struct.__mbstate.__state2| EQU    0xc    ; unsigned int
; End of Structure __fpos_t_struct
END
```

Related references

- [3.21 --expandarrays on page 3-45.](#)
- [3.40 --qualify on page 3-66.](#)
- [3.43 --select=select_options on page 3-69.](#)
- [3.46 --text on page 3-72.](#)

Related information

[EQU.](#)
[GET or INCLUDE.](#)

3.24 --fpu=list

Lists the FPU architectures that are supported by the --fpu=name option.
Deprecated options are not listed.

Related references

[3.25 --fpu=name](#) on page 3-50.

3.25 --fpu=name

Specifies the target FPU architecture.

To obtain a full list of FPU architectures use the `--fpu=list` option.

Syntax

`--fpu=name`

Where *name* is one of:

- ul style="list-style-type: none;">
- `none` Selects no floating-point option. No floating-point code is to be used.
- `vfpv2` Selects a hardware floating-point unit conforming to architecture VFPv2.
- `vfpv3` Selects a hardware vector floating-point unit conforming to architecture VFPv3. VFPv3 is backwards compatible with VFPv2 except that VFPv3 cannot trap floating-point exceptions.
- `vfpv3_fp16` Selects a hardware vector floating-point unit conforming to architecture VFPv3 that also provides the half-precision extensions.
- `vfpv3_d16` Selects a hardware vector floating-point unit conforming to VFPv3-D16 architecture.
- `vfpv3_d16_fp16` Selects a hardware vector floating-point unit conforming to VFPv3-D16 architecture, that also provides the half-precision extensions.
- `vfpv4` Selects a hardware floating-point unit conforming to the VFPv4 architecture.
- `vfpv4_d16` Selects a hardware floating-point unit conforming to the VFPv4-D16 architecture.
- `fpv4-sp` Selects a hardware floating-point unit conforming to the single precision variant of the FPv4 architecture.
- `fpv5_d16` Selects a hardware floating-point unit conforming to the FPv5-D16 architecture.
- `fpv5-sp` Selects a hardware floating-point unit conforming to the single precision variant of the FPv5 architecture.
- `softvfp` Selects software floating-point support where floating-point operations are performed by a floating-point library, `fp11b`. This is the default if you do not specify a `--fpu` option, or if you select a CPU that does not have an FPU.
- `softvfp+vfpv2` Selects a hardware floating-point unit conforming to VFPv2, with software floating-point linkage. Select this option if you are interworking Thumb code with ARM code on a system that implements a VFP unit.
- `softvfp+vfpv3` Selects a hardware vector floating-point unit conforming to VFPv3, with software floating-point linkage.
- `softvfp+vfpv3_fp16` Selects a hardware vector floating-point unit conforming to VFPv3-fp16, with software floating-point linkage.
- `softvfp+vfpv3_d16` Selects a hardware vector floating-point unit conforming to VFPv3-D16, with software floating-point linkage.

`softvfp+vfpv3_d16_fp16`

Selects a hardware vector floating-point unit conforming to VFPv3-D16-fp16, with software floating-point linkage.

`softvfp+vfpv4`

Selects a hardware floating-point unit conforming to FPv4, with software floating-point linkage.

`softvfp+vfpv4_d16`

Selects a hardware floating-point unit conforming to VFPv4-D16, with software floating-point linkage.

`softvfp+fpv4-sp`

Selects a hardware floating-point unit conforming to FPv4-SP, with software floating-point linkage.

`softvfp+fpv5_d16`

Selects a hardware floating-point unit conforming to FPv5-D16, with software floating-point linkage.

`softvfp+fpv5-sp`

Selects a hardware floating-point unit conforming to FPv5-SP, with software floating-point linkage.

Usage

This option selects disassembly for a specific FPU architecture. It affects how fromelf interprets the instructions it finds in the input files.

If you specify this option, it overrides any implicit FPU option that appears on the command line, for example, where you use the `--cpu` option.

Any FPU explicitly selected using the `--fpu` option always overrides any FPU implicitly selected using the `--cpu` option.

Default

The default target FPU architecture is derived from use of the `--cpu` option.

If the CPU you specify with `--cpu` has a VFP coprocessor, the default target FPU architecture is the VFP architecture for that CPU.

Related references

[3.24 --fpu=list](#) on page 3-49.

[3.31 --info=topic\[,topic,...\]](#) on page 3-57.

[3.46 --text](#) on page 3-72.

3.26 **--help**

Displays a summary of the main command-line options.

Default

This is the default if you specify `fromelf` without any options or source files.

Related references

[3.44 *--show_cmdline* on page 3-70.](#)

[3.47 *--version_number* on page 3-74.](#)

[3.50 *--vsn* on page 3-77.](#)

3.27 *--i32*

Produces Intel Hex-32 format output. It generates one output file for each load region in the image.

You can specify the base address of the output with the *--base* option.

Restrictions

The following restrictions apply:

- You cannot use this option with object files.
- You must use *--output* with this option.

Considerations when using *--i32*

If you convert an ELF image containing multiple load regions to a binary format, *fromelf* creates an output directory named *destination* and generates one binary output file for each load region in the input image. *fromelf* places the output files in the *destination* directory.

Note

For multiple load regions, the name of the first non-empty execution region in the corresponding load region is used for the filename.

A file is only created when the load region describes code or data that is present in the ELF file. For example a load region containing only execution regions with ZI data in them does not result in a output file.

Example

To convert the ELF file *infile.axf* to an Intel Hex-32 format file, for example *outfile.bin*, enter:

```
fromelf --i32 --output=outfile.bin infile.axf
```

Related references

[3.1 *--base* *\[\[object_file::\]load_region_ID=\]num*](#) on page 3-23.

[3.28 *--i32combined*](#) on page 3-54.

[3.39 *--output=destination*](#) on page 3-65.

3.28 **--i32combined**

Produces Intel Hex-32 format output. It generates one output file for an image containing multiple load regions.

You can specify the base address of the output with the `--base` option.

Restrictions

The following restrictions apply:

- You cannot use this option with object files.
- You must use `--output` with this option.

Considerations when using **--i32combined**

If you convert an ELF image containing multiple load regions to a binary format, *fromelf* creates an output directory named *destination* and generates one binary output file for all load regions in the input image. *fromelf* places the output file in the *destination* directory.

ELF images contain multiple load regions if, for example, they are built with a scatter file that defines more than one load region.

Example

To create a single output file, `outfile2.bin`, from an image file `infile2.axf`, with two load regions, and with a start address of `0x1000`, enter:

```
fromelf --i32combined --base=0x1000 --output=outfile2.bin infile2.axf
```

Related references

[3.1 --base \[\[object_file::\]load_region_ID=\]num](#) on page 3-23.

[3.27 --i32](#) on page 3-53.

[3.39 --output=destination](#) on page 3-65.

3.29 --ignore_section=option[,option,...]

Specifies the sections to be ignored during a compare. Differences between the input files being compared are ignored if they are in these sections.

Syntax

--ignore_section=option[,option,...]

Where *option* is one of:

object_name::

All sections in ELF objects with a name matching *object_name*.

object_name::*section_name*

All sections in ELF objects with a name matching *object_name* and also a section name matching *section_name*.

section_name

All sections with a name matching *section_name*.

You can:

- Use wildcard characters ? and * for symbolic names in *symbol_name* and *object_name* arguments
- Specify multiple values in one *option* followed by a comma-separated list of arguments.

Restrictions

You must use --compare with this option.

Related references

[3.8 --compare=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-31.

[3.30 --ignore_symbol=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-56.

[3.41 --relax_section=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-67.

3.30 --ignore_symbol=option[,option,...]

Specifies the symbols to be ignored during a compare. Differences between the input files being compared are ignored if they are related to these symbols.

Syntax

--ignore_symbol=option[,option,...]

Where *option* is one of:

object_name::

All symbols in ELF objects with a name matching *object_name*.

object_name::*symbol_name*

All symbols in ELF objects with a name matching *object_name* and also a symbols name matching *symbol_name*.

symbol_name

All symbols with a name matching *symbol_name*.

You can:

- Use wildcard characters ? and * for symbolic names in *symbol_name* and *object_name* arguments
- Specify multiple values in one *option* followed by a comma-separated list of arguments.

Restrictions

You must use --compare with this option.

Related references

[3.8 --compare=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-31.

[3.29 --ignore_section=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-55.

[3.42 --relax_symbol=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-68.

3.31 --info=topic[,topic,...]

Prints information about specific topics.

Syntax

--info=topic[,topic,...]

Where *topic* is a comma-separated list from the following topic keywords:

instruction_usage

Categorizes and lists the ARM and Thumb instructions defined in the code sections of each input file.

function_sizes

Lists the names of the global functions defined in one or more input files, together with their sizes in bytes and whether they are ARM or Thumb functions.

function_sizes_all

Lists the names of the local and global functions defined in one or more input files, together with their sizes in bytes and whether they are ARM or Thumb functions.

sizes

Lists the Code, RO Data, RW Data, ZI Data, and Debug sizes for each input object and library member in the image. Using this option implies --info=sizes,totals.

totals

Lists the totals of the Code, RO Data, RW Data, ZI Data, and Debug sizes for input objects and libraries.

Note

Code related sizes also include the size of any execute-only code.

The output from --info=sizes,totals always includes the padding values in the totals for input objects and libraries.

Note

Spaces are not permitted between topic keywords in the list. For example, you can enter --info=sizes,totals but not --info=sizes, totals.

Restrictions

You can use this option only in text mode.

Related references

[3.46 --text on page 3-72.](#)

3.32 input_file

Specifies the ELF file or archive containing ELF files to be processed.

Usage

Multiple input files are supported if you:

- Output `--text` format.
- Use the `--compare` option.
- Specify an output directory using `--output`.

If *input_file* is a scatter-loaded image that contains more than one load region and the output format is one of `--bin`, `--cad`, `--m32`, `--i32`, or `--vbx`, then `fromelf` creates a separate file for each load region.

If *input_file* is a scatter-loaded image that contains more than one load region and the output format is one of `--cadcombined`, `--m32combined`, or `--i32combined`, then `fromelf` creates a single file containing all load regions.

If *input_file* is an archive, you can process all files, or a subset of files, in that archive. To process a subset of files in the archive, specify a filter after the archive name as follows:

```
archive.a(filter_pattern)
```

where *filter_pattern* specifies a member file. To specify a subset of files use the following wildcard characters:

- *
Matches zero or more characters.
- ?
Matched any single character.

Any files in the archive that are not processed are included in the output archive together with the processed files.

Example

To convert all files in the archive beginning with `s`, and create a new archive, `my_archive.a`, containing the processed and unprocessed files, enter:

```
fromelf archive.a(s*.o) --output=my_archive.a
```

Related concepts

[2.2 Examples of processing ELF files in an archive on page 2-17.](#)

Related references

- [3.2 --bin on page 3-24.](#)
- [3.6 --cad on page 3-28.](#)
- [3.7 --cadcombined on page 3-30.](#)
- [3.8 --compare=option\[,option,...\] on page 3-31.](#)
- [3.27 --i32 on page 3-53.](#)
- [3.28 --i32combined on page 3-54.](#)
- [3.36 --m32 on page 3-62.](#)
- [3.37 --m32combined on page 3-63.](#)
- [3.39 --output=destination on page 3-65.](#)
- [3.46 --text on page 3-72.](#)
- [3.48 --vbx on page 3-75.](#)

3.33 --interleave=option

Inserts the original source code as comments into the disassembly if debug information is present.

Syntax

`--interleave=option`

Where *option* can be one of the following:

line_directives

Interleaves #line directives containing filenames and line numbers of the disassembled instructions.

line_numbers

Interleaves comments containing filenames and line numbers of the disassembled instructions.

none

Disables interleaving. This is useful if you have a generated makefile where the fromelf command has multiple options in addition to `--interleave`. You can then specify `--interleave=none` as the last option to ensure that interleaving is disabled without having to reproduce the complete fromelf command.

source

Interleaves comments containing source code. If the source code is no longer available then fromelf interleaves in the same way as `line_numbers`.

source_only

Interleaves comments containing source code. If the source code is no longer available then fromelf does not interleave that code.

Usage

Use this option with `--emit=code` or `--text -c`.

Use this option with `--source_directory` if you want to specify additional paths to search for source code.

Default

The default is `--interleave=none`.

Related references

[3.20 --emit=option\[,option,...\] on page 3-43.](#)

[3.45 --source_directory=path on page 3-71.](#)

[3.46 --text on page 3-72.](#)

3.34 --liclinger=seconds

The time in seconds that a license is to remain checked out.

Syntax

`--liclinger=seconds`

3.35 **--licretry**

If you are using floating licenses, *fromelf* makes up to 10 attempts to obtain a license when invoked.

Note

This option is always enabled. *fromelf* ignores this option if you specify it.

Related information

Toolchain environment variables.

ARM DS-5 License Management Guide.

3.36 *--m32*

Produces Motorola 32-bit format (32-bit S-records) output. It generates one output file for each load region in the image.

You can specify the base address of the output with the *--base* option.

Restrictions

The following restrictions apply:

- You cannot use this option with object files.
- You must use *--output* with this option.

Considerations when using *--m32*

If you convert an ELF image containing multiple load regions to a binary format, *fromelf* creates an output directory named *destination* and generates one binary output file for each load region in the input image. *fromelf* places the output files in the *destination* directory.

Note

For multiple load regions, the name of the first non-empty execution region in the corresponding load region is used for the filename.

A file is only created when the load region describes code or data that is present in the ELF file. For example a load region containing only execution regions with ZI data in them does not result in a output file.

Example

To convert the ELF file *infile.axf* to a Motorola 32-bit format file, for example *outfile.bin*, enter:

```
fromelf --m32 --output=outfile.bin infile.axf
```

Related references

[3.1 *--base* \[\[*object_file::*\]*load_region_ID*=\]*num*](#) on page 3-23.

[3.37 *--m32combined*](#) on page 3-63.

[3.39 *--output=destination*](#) on page 3-65.

3.37 `--m32combined`

Produces Motorola 32-bit format (32-bit S-records) output. It generates one output file for an image containing multiple load regions.

You can specify the base address of the output with the `--base` option.

Restrictions

The following restrictions apply:

- You cannot use this option with object files.
- You must use `--output` with this option.

Considerations when using `--m32combined`

If you convert an ELF image containing multiple load regions to a binary format, *fromelf* creates an output directory named *destination* and generates one binary output file for all load regions in the input image. *fromelf* places the output file in the *destination* directory.

ELF images contain multiple load regions if, for example, they are built with a scatter file that defines more than one load region.

Example

To create a single Motorola 32-bit format output file, `outfile2.bin`, from an image file `infile2.axf`, with two load regions, and with a start address of `0x1000`, enter:

```
fromelf --m32combined --base=0x1000 --output=outfile2.bin infile2.axf
```

Related references

[3.1 `--base` `\[\[object\_file::\]load\_region\_ID=\]num` on page 3-23.](#)

[3.36 `--m32` on page 3-62.](#)

[3.39 `--output=destination` on page 3-65.](#)

3.38 --only=section_name

Filters the list of sections that are displayed in the main section-by-section output from `--text`. It does not affect any additional output after the main section-by-section output.

Syntax

`--only=section_name`

Where *section_name* is the name of the section to be displayed.

You can:

- Use wildcard characters `?` and `*` for a section name.
- Use multiple `--only` options to specify additional sections to display.

Examples

The following examples show how to use `--only`:

- To display only the symbol table, `.symtab`, from the section-by-section output, enter:

```
fromelf --only=.symtab --text -s test.axf
```

- To display all `ERn` sections, enter:

```
fromelf --only=ER? test.axf
```

- To display the HEAP section and all symbol and string table sections, enter:

```
fromelf --only=HEAP --only=.*tab --text -s -t test.axf
```

Related references

[3.46 --text on page 3-72.](#)

3.39 **--output=destination**

Specifies the name of the output file, or the name of the output directory if multiple output files are created.

Syntax

`--output=destination`

`--o destination`

Where *destination* can be either a file or a directory. For example:

--output=foo

is the name of an output file

--output=foo/

is the name of an output directory.

Usage

Usage with `--bin`:

- You can specify a single input file and a single output filename.
- If you specify many input filenames and specify an output directory, then the output from processing each file is written into the output directory. Each output filename is derived from the corresponding input file. Therefore, specifying an output directory in this way is the only method of converting many ELF files to a binary or hexadecimal format in a single run of *fromelf*.
- If you specify an archive file as the input, then the output file is also an archive. For example, the following command creates an archive file called `output.o`:

```
fromelf archive.a(s*.o) --output=output.o
```

- If you specify a pattern in parentheses to select a subset of objects from an archive, *fromelf* only converts the subset. All the other objects are passed through to the output archive unchanged.

Related references

[3.2 `--bin` on page 3-24.](#)

[3.46 `--text` on page 3-72.](#)

3.40 --qualify

Modifies the effect of the `--fieldoffsets` option so that the name of each output symbol includes an indication of the source file containing the relevant structure.

Usage

This enables the `--fieldoffsets` option to produce functional output even if two source files define different structures with the same name.

If the source file is in a different location from the current location, then the source file path is also included.

Examples

A structure called `foo` is defined in two headers for example, `one.h` and `two.h`.

Using `fromelf --fieldoffsets`, the linker might define the following symbols:

- `foo.a`, `foo.b`, and `foo.c`.
- `foo.x`, `foo.y`, and `foo.z`.

Using `fromelf --qualify --fieldoffsets`, the linker defines the following symbols:

- `oneh_foo.a`, `oneh_foo.b` and `oneh_foo.c`.
- `twoh_foo.x`, `twoh_foo.y` and `twoh_foo.z`.

Related references

[3.23 --fieldoffsets on page 3-47.](#)

3.41 --relax_section=option[,option,...]

Changes the severity of a compare report for the specified sections to warnings rather than errors.

Restrictions

You must use --compare with this option.

Syntax

--relax_section=option[,option,...]

Where *option* is one of:

object_name::

All sections in ELF objects with a name matching *object_name*.

object_name::*section_name*

All sections in ELF objects with a name matching *object_name* and also a section name matching *section_name*.

section_name

All sections with a name matching *section_name*.

You can:

- Use wildcard characters ? and * for symbolic names in *symbol_name* and *object_name* arguments
- Specify multiple values in one *option* followed by a comma-separated list of arguments.

Related references

[3.8 --compare=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-31.

[3.29 --ignore_section=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-55.

[3.42 --relax_symbol=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-68.

3.42 --relax_symbol=option[,option,...]

Changes the severity of a compare report for the specified symbols to warnings rather than errors.

Restrictions

You must use --compare with this option.

Syntax

--relax_symbol=option[,option,...]

Where *option* is one of:

object_name::

All symbols in ELF objects with a name matching *object_name*.

object_name::section_name

All symbols in ELF objects with a name matching *object_name* and also a symbol name matching *symbol_name*.

symbol_name

All symbols with a name matching *symbol_name*.

You can:

- Use wildcard characters ? and * for symbolic names in *symbol_name* and *object_name* arguments
- Specify multiple values in one *option* followed by a comma-separated list of arguments.

Related references

[3.8 --compare=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-31.

[3.30 --ignore_symbol=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-56.

[3.41 --relax_section=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-67.

3.43 --select=select_options

When used with --fieldoffsets or --text -a options, displays only those fields that match a specified pattern list.

Syntax

--select=select_options

Where *select_options* is a list of patterns to match. Use special characters to select multiple fields:

- Use a comma-separated list to specify multiple fields, for example:
 a*,b*,c*
- Use the wildcard character * to match any name.
- Use the wildcard character ? to match any single letter.
- Prefix the *select_options* string with + to specify the fields to include. This is the default behavior.
- Prefix the *select_options* string with ~ to specify the fields to exclude.

If you are using a special character on Unix platforms, you must enclose the options in quotes to prevent the shell expanding the selection.

Usage

Use this option with either --fieldoffsets or --text -a.

Example

The output from the --fieldoffsets option might include the following data structure:

```
structure.f1|          EQU    0      ; int16_t
structure.f2|          EQU    0x2    ; int16_t
structure.f3|          EQU    0x4    ; int16_t
structure.f11|         EQU    0x6    ; int16_t
structure.f21|         EQU    0x8    ; int16_t
structure.f31|         EQU    0xA    ; int16_t
structure.f111|        EQU    0xC    ; int16_t
```

To output only those fields that start with f1, enter:

```
fromelf --select=structure.f1* --fieldoffsets infile.axf
```

This produces the output:

```
structure.f1|          EQU    0      ; int16_t
structure.f11|         EQU    0x6    ; int16_t
structure.f111|        EQU    0xC    ; int16_t

END
```

Related references

[3.23 --fieldoffsets on page 3-47.](#)

[3.46 --text on page 3-72.](#)

3.44 --show_cmdline

Outputs the command line used by the ELF file converter.

Usage

Shows the command line after processing by the ELF file converter, and can be useful to check:

- The command line a build system is using.
- How the ELF file converter is interpreting the supplied command line, for example, the ordering of command-line options.

The commands are shown normalized, and the contents of any via files are expanded.

The output is sent to the standard error stream (`stderr`).

Related references

[3.49 --via=file on page 3-76.](#)

3.45 --source_directory=path

Explicitly specifies the directory of the source code.

Syntax

`--source_directory=path`

Usage

By default, the source code is assumed to be located in a directory relative to the ELF input file. You can use this option multiple times to specify a search path involving multiple directories.

You can use this option with `--interleave`.

Related references

[3.33 --interleave=option](#) on page 3-59.

3.46 --text

Prints image information in text format. You can decode an ELF image or ELF object file using this option.

Syntax

--text [*options*]

Where *options* specifies what is displayed, and can be one or more of the following:

- a Prints the global and static data addresses (including addresses for structure and union contents).
This option can only be used on files containing debug information. If no debug information is present, a warning is displayed.
Use the --select option to output a subset of fields in a data structure.
If you want to view the data addresses of arrays, expanded both inside and outside structures, use the --expandarrays option with this text category.
- c This option disassembles code, alongside a dump of the original binary data being disassembled and the addresses of the instructions.

Note
The disassembly cannot be input to the assembler.
- d Prints contents of the data sections.
- e Decodes exception table information for objects. Use with -c when disassembling images.
- g Prints debug information.
- r Prints relocation information.
- s Prints the symbol and versioning tables.
- t Prints the string tables.
- v Prints detailed information on each segment and section header of the image.
- w Eliminates line wrapping.
- y Prints dynamic segment contents.
- z Prints the code and data sizes.

These options are only recognized in text mode.

Usage

If you do not specify a code output format, --text is assumed. That is, you can specify one or more options without having to specify --text. For example, fromelf -a is the same as fromelf --text -a.

If you specify a code output format, such as --bin, then any --text options are ignored.

If *destination* is not specified with the `--output` option, or `--output` is not specified, the information is displayed on `stdout`.

Use the `--only` option to filter the list of sections.

Examples

The following examples show how to use `--text`:

- To produce a plain text output file that contains the disassembled version of an ELF image and the symbol table, enter:

```
fromelf --text -c -s --output=outfile.lst infile.axf
```

- To list to `stdout` all the global and static data variables and all the structure field addresses, enter:

```
fromelf -a --select=* infile.axf
```

- To produce a text file containing all of the structure addresses in `infile.axf` but none of the global or static data variable information, enter:

```
fromelf --text -a --select=*. * --output=structaddress.txt infile.axf
```

- To produce a text file containing addresses of the nested structures only, enter:

```
fromelf --text -a --select=*. *. * --output=structaddress.txt infile.axf
```

- To produce a text file containing all of the global or static data variable information in `infile.axf` but none of the structure addresses, enter:

```
fromelf --text -a --select=*,~*. * --output=structaddress.txt infile.axf
```

- To output only the `.symtab` section information in `infile.axf`, enter:

```
fromelf --only .symtab -s --output=symtab.txt infile.axf
```

Related tasks

[2.4 Using *fromelf* to find where a symbol is placed in an executable ELF image](#) on page 2-19.

Related references

- [3.11 `--cpu=name`](#) on page 3-34.
- [3.20 `--emit=option\[,option,...\]`](#) on page 3-43.
- [3.21 `--expandarrays`](#) on page 3-45.
- [3.31 `--info=topic\[,topic,...\]`](#) on page 3-57.
- [3.33 `--interleave=option`](#) on page 3-59.
- [3.38 `--only=section\_name`](#) on page 3-64.
- [3.39 `--output=destination`](#) on page 3-65.
- [3.43 `--select=select\_options`](#) on page 3-69.
- [3.51 `-w`](#) on page 3-78.

Related information

[Linker options for getting information about images.](#)

3.47 **--version_number**

Displays the version of *fromelf* you are using.

Usage

The ELF file converter displays the version number in the format *nnnbbbb*, where:

- *nnn* is the version number.
- *bbbb* is the build number.

Example

Version 5.06 build 0019 is displayed as 5060019.

Related references

[3.26 *--help* on page 3-52.](#)

[3.50 *--vsn* on page 3-77.](#)

3.48 `--vhx`

Produces Byte oriented (Verilog Memory Model) hexadecimal format output.

Usage

This format is suitable for loading into the memory models of *Hardware Description Language* (HDL) simulators. You can split output from this option into multiple files with the `--widthxbanks` option.

Restrictions

The following restrictions apply:

- You cannot use this option with object files.
- You must use `--output` with this option.

Considerations when using `--vhx`

If you convert an ELF image containing multiple load regions to a binary format, *fromelf* creates an output directory named *destination* and generates one binary output file for each load region in the input image. *fromelf* places the output files in the *destination* directory.

Note

For multiple load regions, the name of the first non-empty execution region in the corresponding load region is used for the filename.

A file is only created when the load region describes code or data that is present in the ELF file. For example a load region containing only execution regions with ZI data in them does not result in a output file.

Examples

To convert the ELF file `infile.axf` to a byte oriented hexadecimal format file, for example `outfile.bin`, enter:

```
fromelf --vhx --output=outfile.bin infile.axf
```

To create multiple output files, in the `regions` directory, from an image file `multiload.axf`, with two 8-bit memory banks, enter:

```
fromelf --vhx --8x2 multiload.axf --output=regions
```

Related references

[3.39 `--output=destination` on page 3-65.](#)

[3.52 `--widthxbanks` on page 3-79.](#)

3.49 --via=file

Reads an additional list of input filenames and ELF file converter options from *filename*.

Syntax

--via=*filename*

Where *filename* is the name of a via file containing options to be included on the command line.

Usage

You can enter multiple --via options on the ELF file converter command line. The --via options can also be included within a via file.

3.50 --vsn

Displays the version information and the license details.

Example

```
> fromelf --vsn
Product: ARM Compiler N.nn
Component: ARM Compiler N.nn (toolchain_build_number)
Tool: fromelf [build_number]
License_type
Software supplied by: ARM Limited
```

Related references

[3.26 --help](#) on page 3-52.

[3.47 --version_number](#) on page 3-74.

3.51 -w

Causes some text output information that usually appears on multiple lines to be displayed on a single line.

Usage

This makes the output easier to parse with text processing utilities such as Perl.

Example

```
> fromelf --text -w -c test.axf
=====
** ELF Header Information
.
.
.
=====
** Section #1 '.text' (SHT_PROGBITS) [SHF_ALLOC + SHF_EXECINSTR]   Size   : 36 bytes
(alignment 4)   Address: 0x00000000   $a
.text
.
.
.
** Section #7 '.rel.text' (SHT_REL)   Size   : 8 bytes (alignment 4)   Symbol table #6
'.symtab'   1 relocations applied to section #1 '.text'
** Section #2 '.ARM.exidx' (SHT_ARM_EXIDX) [SHF_ALLOC + SHF_LINK_ORDER]   Size   : 8 bytes
(alignment 4)   Address: 0x
00000000   Link to section #1 '.text'
** Section #8 '.rel.ARM.exidx' (SHT_REL)   Size   : 8 bytes (alignment 4)   Symbol table
#6 '.symtab'   1 relocations applied to section #2 '.ARM.exidx'
** Section #3 '.arm_vfe_header' (SHT_PROGBITS)   Size   : 4 bytes (alignment 4)
** Section #4 '.comment' (SHT_PROGBITS)   Size   : 74 bytes
** Section #5 '.debug_frame' (SHT_PROGBITS)   Size   : 140 bytes
** Section #9 '.rel.debug_frame' (SHT_REL)   Size   : 32 bytes (alignment 4)   Symbol
table #6 '.symtab'   4 relocations applied to section #5 '.debug_frame'
** Section #6 '.symtab' (SHT_SYMTAB)   Size   : 176 bytes (alignment 4)   String table #11
'.strtab'   Last local symbol no. 5
** Section #10 '.shstrtab' (SHT_STRTAB)   Size   : 110 bytes
** Section #11 '.strtab' (SHT_STRTAB)   Size   : 223 bytes
** Section #12 '.ARM.attributes' (SHT_ARM_ATTRIBUTES)   Size   : 69 bytes
```

Related references

[3.46 --text on page 3-72.](#)

3.52 --widthxbanks

Outputs multiple files for multiple memory banks.

Syntax

`--widthxbanks`

Where:

banks

specifies the number of memory banks in the target memory system. It determines the number of output files that are generated for each load region.

width

is the width of memory in the target memory system (8-bit, 16-bit, 32-bit, or 64-bit).

Valid configurations are:

```
--8x1
--8x2
--8x4
--16x1
--16x2
--32x1
--32x2
--64x1
```

Usage

fromelf uses the last specified configuration if more than one configuration is specified.

If the image has one load region, fromelf generates the same number of files as the number of *banks* specified. The filenames are derived from the `--output=destination` argument, using the following naming conventions:

- If there is one memory bank (*banks* = 1) the output file is named *destination*.
- If there are multiple memory banks (*banks* > 1), fromelf generates *banks* number of files named *destinationN* where *N* is in the range 0 to *banks* - 1. If you specify a file extension for the output filename, then the number *N* is placed before the file extension. For example:

```
fromelf --vbx --8x2 test.axf --output=test.txt
```

This generates two files named *test0.txt* and *test1.txt*.

If the image has multiple load regions, fromelf creates a directory named *destination* and generates *banks* files for each load region in that directory. The files for each load region are named *Load_regionN* where *Load_region* is the name of the load region, and *N* is in the range 0 to *banks* - 1. For example:

```
fromelf --vbx --8x2 multiload.axf --output=regions/
```

This might produce the following files in the *regions* directory:

```
EXEC_ROM0
EXEC_ROM1
RAM0
RAM1
```

The memory width specified by *width* controls the amount of memory that is stored in a single line of each output file. The size of each output file is the size of memory to be read divided by the number of files created. For example:

- `fromelf --vbx --8x4 test.axf --output=file` produces four files (*file0*, *file1*, *file2*, and *file3*). Each file contains lines of single bytes, for example:

```
00
00
2D
00
2C
```

```
8F
```

```
...
```

- `fromelf --vhx --16x2 test.axf --output=file` produces two files (`file0` and `file1`). Each file contains lines of two bytes, for example:

```
0000
```

```
002D
```

```
002C
```

```
...
```

Restrictions

You must use `--output` with this option.

Related references

[3.2 *--bin* on page 3-24.](#)

[3.39 *--output=destination* on page 3-65.](#)

[3.48 *--vhx* on page 3-75.](#)

Chapter 4

Via File Syntax

Describes the syntax of via files accepted by `fromelf`.

It contains the following sections:

- [4.1 Overview of via files on page 4-82.](#)
- [4.2 Via file syntax rules on page 4-83.](#)

4.1 Overview of via files

Via files are plain text files that allow you to specify ELF file converter command-line arguments and options.

Typically, you use a via file to overcome the command-line length limitations. However, you might want to create multiple via files that:

- Group similar arguments and options together.
- Contain different sets of arguments and options to be used in different scenarios.

Note

In general, you can use a via file to specify any command-line option to a tool, including `--via`. This means that you can call multiple nested via files from within a via file.

Via file evaluation

When the ELF file converter is invoked it:

1. Replaces the first specified `--via via_file` argument with the sequence of argument words extracted from the via file, including recursively processing any nested `--via` commands in the via file.
2. Processes any subsequent `--via via_file` arguments in the same way, in the order they are presented.

That is, via files are processed in the order you specify them, and each via file is processed completely including processing nested via files before processing the next via file.

Related references

[4.2 Via file syntax rules on page 4-83.](#)

[3.49 --via=file on page 3-76.](#)

4.2 Via file syntax rules

Via files must conform to some syntax rules.

- A via file is a text file containing a sequence of words. Each word in the text file is converted into an argument string and passed to the tool.
- Words are separated by whitespace, or the end of a line, except in delimited strings, for example:

```
--vhx --8x2 (two words)
```

```
--vhx--8x2 (one word)
```

- The end of a line is treated as whitespace, for example:

```
--vhx
--8x2
```

This is equivalent to:

```
--vhx --8x2
```

- Strings enclosed in quotation marks ("), or apostrophes (') are treated as a single word. Within a quoted word, an apostrophe is treated as an ordinary character. Within an apostrophe delimited word, a quotation mark is treated as an ordinary character.

Use quotation marks to delimit filenames or path names that contain spaces, for example:

```
--output C:\My Project\output.txt (three words)
```

```
--output "C:\My Project\output.txt" (two words)
```

Use apostrophes to delimit words that contain quotes, for example:

```
-DNAME=' "ARM Compiler" ' (one word)
```

- Characters enclosed in parentheses are treated as a single word, for example:

```
--option(x, y, z) (one word)
```

```
--option (x, y, z) (two words)
```

- Within quoted or apostrophe delimited strings, you can use a backslash (\) character to escape the quote, apostrophe, and backslash characters.
- A word that occurs immediately next to a delimited word is treated as a single word, for example:

```
--output"C:\Project\output.txt"
```

This is treated as the single word:

```
--outputC:\Project\output.txt
```

- Lines beginning with a semicolon (;) or a hash (#) character as the first nonwhitespace character are comment lines. A semicolon or hash character that appears anywhere else in a line is not treated as the start of a comment, for example:

```
-o objectname.axf      ;this is not a comment
```

A comment ends at the end of a line, or at the end of the file. There are no multi-line comments, and there are no part-line comments.

Related concepts

[4.1 Overview of via files on page 4-82.](#)

Related references

[3.49 --via=file on page 3-76.](#)