

ARM[®] Compiler

Version 6.02

fromelf User Guide

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ARM® Compiler**fromelf User Guide**

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Preface

This preface introduces the *ARM® Compiler fromelf User Guide*.

It contains the following:

- [About this book on page 9.](#)

About this book

ARM® Compiler fromelf User Guide provides information on how to use the fromelf utility.

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 the 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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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 1-12.
- *1.2 fromelf execution modes* on page 1-13.
- *1.3 Getting help on the fromelf command* on page 1-14.
- *1.4 fromelf command-line syntax* on page 1-15.

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. (AArch32 state only)
 - Intel Hex-32. (AArch32 state only)
 - 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 concepts

[2.3 Options to protect code in image files with `fromelf` on page 2-19.](#)

[2.4 Options to protect code in object files with `fromelf` on page 2-20.](#)

Related references

[1.2 `fromelf` execution modes on page 1-13.](#)

[1.4 `fromelf` command-line syntax on page 1-15.](#)

[Chapter 3 `fromelf` Command-line Options on page 3-25.](#)

1.2 fromelf execution modes

You can run fromelf in various execution modes.

The execution modes are:

- ELF mode (`--elf`), to resave a file as ELF.
- 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 3-28.

[3.22 --elf](#) on page 3-51.

[3.33 --i32](#) on page 3-65.

[3.43 --m32](#) on page 3-76.

[3.59 --text](#) on page 3-93.

[3.61 --vbx](#) on page 3-96.

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.

Example 1-1 Examples

To display the help information, enter:

```
fromelf --help
```

Related references

[1.4 fromelf command-line syntax](#) on page 1-15.

[3.30 --help](#) on page 3-62.

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 3-25.

[3.39 input_file](#) on page 3-71.

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 2-17.*
- *2.2 Examples of processing ELF files in an archive on page 2-18.*
- *2.3 Options to protect code in image files with fromelf on page 2-19.*
- *2.4 Options to protect code in object files with fromelf on page 2-20.*
- *2.5 Option to print specific details of ELF files on page 2-22.*
- *2.6 Using fromelf to find where a symbol is placed in an executable ELF image on page 2-23.*

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 3-27.

[3.39 input_file](#) on page 3-71.

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

The following examples show how to process ELF files in an archive, `test.a`, that contains:

```

bmw.o
bmw1.o
call_c_code.o
newtst.o
shapes.o
strmtst.o

```

Example of processing all files in the archive

This example removes all debug, comments, notes and symbols from all the files in the archive:

```
fromelf --elf --strip=all test.a -o strip_all/
```

This creates an output archive with the name `test.a` in the subdirectory `strip_all`

Example of processing a subset of files in the archive

To remove all debug, comments, notes and symbols from only the `shapes.o` and the `strmtst.o` files in the archive, enter:

```
fromelf --elf --strip=all test.a(s*.o) -o subset/
```

This creates an output archive with the name `test.a` in the subdirectory `subset`. The archive contains the processed files together with the remaining files that are unprocessed.

To process the `bmw.o`, `bmw1.o`, and `newtst.o` files in the archive, enter:

```
fromelf --elf --strip=all test.a(??w*) -o subset/
```

Example of displaying a disassembled version of files in an archive

To display the disassembled version of `call_c_code.o` in the archive, enter:

```
fromelf --disassemble test.a(c*)
```

Related references

- [3.20 --disassemble](#) on page 3-49.
- [3.22 --elf](#) on page 3-51.
- [3.39 input_file](#) on page 3-71.
- [3.46 --output=destination](#) on page 3-79.
- [3.57 --strip=option\[option,...\]](#) on page 3-90.

2.3 Options to protect code in image files with fromelf

If you are delivering images to third parties, then you might want to protect the code they contain.

To help you to protect this code, fromelf provides the `--strip` option and the `--privacy` option. These options remove or obscure the symbol names in the image. The option you choose depends on the how much information you want to remove. The effect of these options is different for image files.

Restrictions

You must use `--elf` with these options. Because you have to use `--elf`, you must also use `--output`.

Effect of the options for protecting code in image files

For image files:

Table 2-1 Effect of fromelf `--privacy` and `--strip` options on images files

Option	Local symbols	Section names	Mapping symbols	Build attributes
fromelf <code>--elf --privacy</code>	Removes the whole symbol table.			
	Removes the <code>.comment</code> section name. This is marked as [Anonymous Section] in the fromelf <code>--text</code> output.			
	Gives section names a default value. For example, changes code section names to <code>'.text'</code> .			
fromelf <code>--elf --strip=symbols</code>	Removes whole symbol table.	Section names remain the same.		
fromelf <code>--elf --strip=localsymbols</code>	Removed	Present	Removed	Present

Example 2-1 Examples

To produce a new ELF executable image with the complete symbol table removed and various section names changed, enter:

```
fromelf --elf --privacy --output=outfile.axf infile.axf
```

Related concepts

[2.4 Options to protect code in object files with fromelf on page 2-20.](#)

Related references

[1.4 fromelf command-line syntax on page 1-15.](#)

[3.22 `--elf` on page 3-51.](#)

[3.46 `--output=destination` on page 3-79.](#)

[3.47 `--privacy` on page 3-80.](#)

[3.57 `--strip=option\[,option,...\]` on page 3-90.](#)

2.4 Options to protect code in object files with fromelf

If you are delivering objects to third parties, then you might want to protect the code they contain.

To help you to protect this code, fromelf provides the `--strip` option and the `--privacy` option. These options remove or obscure the symbol names in the object. The option you choose depends on the how much information you want to remove. The effect of these options is different for object files.

Restrictions

You must use `--elf` with these options. Because you have to use `--elf`, you must also use `--output`.

Effect of the options for protecting code in object files

For object files:

Table 2-2 Effect of fromelf `--privacy` and `--strip` options on object files

Option	Local symbols	Section names	Mapping symbols	Build attributes
<code>fromelf --elf --privacy</code>	Removes those local symbols that can be removed without loss of functionality. Symbols that cannot be removed, such as the targets for relocations, are kept. For these symbols, the names are removed. These are marked as [Anonymous Symbol] in the <code>fromelf --text</code> output.	Gives section names a default value. For example, changes code section names to <code>'.text'</code>	Present	Present
<code>fromelf --elf --strip=symbols</code>	Removes those local symbols that can be removed without loss of functionality. Symbols that cannot be removed, such as the targets for relocations, are kept. For these symbols, the names are removed. These are marked as [Anonymous Symbol] in the <code>fromelf --text</code> output.	Section names remain the same	Present	Present
<code>fromelf --elf --strip=localsymbols</code>	Removes those local symbols that can be removed without loss of functionality. Symbols that cannot be removed, such as the targets for relocations, are kept. For these symbols, the names are removed. These are marked as [Anonymous Symbol] in the <code>fromelf --text</code> output.	Section names remain the same	Present	Present

Example

To produce a new ELF object with the complete symbol table removed and various section names changed, enter:

```
fromelf --elf --privacy --output=outfile.o infile.o
```

Related concepts

[2.3 Options to protect code in image files with fromelf on page 2-19.](#)

Related references

[1.4 fromelf command-line syntax on page 1-15.](#)

3.22 *--elf* on page 3-51.

3.46 *--output=destination* on page 3-79.

3.47 *--privacy* on page 3-80.

3.57 *--strip=option[,option,...]* on page 3-90.

2.5 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 1-15.

[3.23 --emit=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-52.

[3.59 --text](#) on page 3-93.

2.6 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:

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

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

```
armlink --cpu=8-A.32 --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 : 776 (0x308)
Size      : 2816 bytes (0xb00)
Link      : Section 5 (.strtab)
Info      : Last local symbol no = 111
Alignment : 4
Entry Size : 16

Symbol table .symtab (175 symbols, 111 local)

# Symbol Name                Value      Bind  Sec  Type  Vis  Size
=====
...
13  STACK                      0x00008200 Lc   2   Sect  De   0x50
...
174 altstack                   0x00008200 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      : 0x0000819c
File Offset : 464 (0x1dc)
Size      : 180 bytes (0xb4)
Link      : SHN_UNDEF
Info      : 0
Alignment : 8
Entry Size : 0
=====
...

```

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

Related references

[3.59 --text](#) on page 3-93.

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 3-27.
- [3.2 --bin](#) on page 3-28.
- [3.3 --bincombined](#) on page 3-29.
- [3.4 --bincombined_base=address](#) on page 3-30.
- [3.5 --bincombined_padding=size,num](#) on page 3-31.
- [3.6 --cad](#) on page 3-32.
- [3.7 --cadcombined](#) on page 3-34.
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- [3.12 --datasymbols](#) on page 3-40.
- [3.13 --debugonly](#) on page 3-41.
- [3.14 --decode_build_attributes](#) on page 3-42.
- [3.15 --diag_error=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-44.
- [3.16 --diag_remark=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-45.
- [3.17 --diag_style={arm|ide|gnu}](#) on page 3-46.
- [3.18 --diag_suppress=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-47.
- [3.19 --diag_warning=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-48.
- [3.20 --disassemble](#) on page 3-49.
- [3.21 --dump_build_attributes](#) on page 3-50.

- 3.22 `--elf` on page 3-51.
- 3.23 `--emit=option[,option,...]` on page 3-52.
- 3.24 `--expandarrays` on page 3-54.
- 3.25 `--extract_build_attributes` on page 3-55.
- 3.26 `--fieldoffsets` on page 3-56.
- 3.27 `--fpu=list` on page 3-58.
- 3.28 `--fpu=name` on page 3-59.
- 3.29 `--globalize=option[,option,...]` on page 3-61.
- 3.30 `--help` on page 3-62.
- 3.31 `--hide=option[,option,...]` on page 3-63.
- 3.32 `--hide_and_localize=option[,option,...]` on page 3-64.
- 3.33 `--i32` on page 3-65.
- 3.34 `--i32combined` on page 3-66.
- 3.35 `--ignore_section=option[,option,...]` on page 3-67.
- 3.36 `--ignore_symbol=option[,option,...]` on page 3-68.
- 3.37 `--in_place` on page 3-69.
- 3.38 `--info=topic[,topic,...]` on page 3-70.
- 3.39 `input_file` on page 3-71.
- 3.40 `--interleave=option` on page 3-73.
- 3.41 `--linkview, --no_linkview` on page 3-74.
- 3.42 `--localize=option[,option,...]` on page 3-75.
- 3.43 `--m32` on page 3-76.
- 3.44 `--m32combined` on page 3-77.
- 3.45 `--only=section_name` on page 3-78.
- 3.46 `--output=destination` on page 3-79.
- 3.47 `--privacy` on page 3-80.
- 3.48 `--qualify` on page 3-81.
- 3.49 `--relax_section=option[,option,...]` on page 3-82.
- 3.50 `--relax_symbol=option[,option,...]` on page 3-83.
- 3.51 `--rename=option[,option,...]` on page 3-84.
- 3.52 `--select=select_options` on page 3-85.
- 3.53 `--show=option[,option,...]` on page 3-86.
- 3.54 `--show_and_globalize=option[,option,...]` on page 3-87.
- 3.55 `--show_cmdline` on page 3-88.
- 3.56 `--source_directory=path` on page 3-89.
- 3.57 `--strip=option[,option,...]` on page 3-90.
- 3.58 `--symbolversions, --no_symbolversions` on page 3-92.
- 3.59 `--text` on page 3-93.
- 3.60 `--version_number` on page 3-95.
- 3.61 `--vhx` on page 3-96.
- 3.62 `--via=file` on page 3-97.
- 3.63 `--vsn` on page 3-98.
- 3.64 `-w` on page 3-99.
- 3.65 `--wide64bit` on page 3-100.
- 3.66 `--widthxbanks` on page 3-101.

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.

————— **Note** —————

Not supported for AArch64 state inputs.

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 2-17.](#)

Related references

[3.33 --i32 on page 3-65.](#)

[3.34 --i32combined on page 3-66.](#)

[3.43 --m32 on page 3-76.](#)

[3.44 --m32combined on page 3-77.](#)

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

[3.46 --output=destination](#) on page 3-79.

[3.66 --widthxbanks](#) on page 3-101.

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 3-30.](#)
- [3.5 `--bincombined_padding=size,num` on page 3-31.](#)
- [3.46 `--output=destination` on page 3-79.](#)
- [3.66 `--widthxbanks` on page 3-101.](#)

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 3-29.

[3.5 --bincombined_padding=size,num](#) on page 3-31.

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 3-29.](#)

[3.4 --bincombined_base=address on page 3-30.](#)

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, 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, 0x00, 0x0C, 0x99, 0x00, 0x00, 0x00, 0x99, 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,
};
```

- 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 3-34.](#)

[3.46 --output=destination on page 3-79.](#)

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 3-32.

[3.46 --output=destination](#) on page 3-79.

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

[3.35 --ignore_section=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-67.

[3.36 --ignore_symbol=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-68.

[3.49 --relax_section=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-82.

[3.50 --relax_symbol=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-83.

3.9 --continue_on_error

Reports any errors and then continues.

Usage

Use --diag_warning=error instead of this option.

Related references

[3.19 --diag_warning=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-48.

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 3-38.](#)

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 or architecture interprets it.

Syntax

`--cpu=name`

Where *name* is the name of a processor or architecture:

Processor and architecture names are not case-sensitive.

Wildcard characters are not accepted.

The following table shows examples of supported processor names for each architecture. For a complete list of the supported architecture and processor names, specify the `--cpu=list` option.

Table 3-2 Supported ARM architectures

Processor and architecture name	Description	Example processor names
7	ARMv7 with Thumb (Thumb-2 technology) only, and without hardware divide	-
7-A	ARMv7 application profile supporting virtual MMU-based memory systems, with ARM, Thumb (Thumb-2 technology) and ThumbEE, DSP support, and 32-bit SIMD support	Cortex-A5, Cortex-A7, Cortex-A8, Cortex-A9, Cortex-A15, Cortex-A17
7-A.security	Enables the use of the SMC instruction (formerly SMI) when assembling for the v7-A architecture	Cortex-A5, Cortex-A7, Cortex-A8, Cortex-A9, Cortex-A15, Cortex-A17
8-A.32	ARMv8, AArch32 state	-
8-A.32.crypto	ARMv8, AArch32 state with cryptographic instructions	-
8-A.32.no_neon	ARMv8, AArch32 state without Advanced SIMD instructions	-
8-A.64	ARMv8, AArch64 state	-
8-A.64.crypto	ARMv8, AArch64 state with cryptographic instructions	-
8-A.64.no_neon	ARMv8, AArch64 state without Advanced SIMD instructions	-

Note

- 7-A.security is not an actual ARM architecture, but rather refers to 7-A plus Security Extensions.
- The full list of supported architectures and processors depends on your license.

Usage

The following general points apply to processor and architecture options:

Processors

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

Architectures

- If you specify an architecture name for the --cpu option, machine code is disassembled by options such as -c or --disassemble for that architecture. If you specify --disassemble, then the disassembly can be assembled for any processor supporting that architecture.

For example, --cpu=7-A --disassemble produces disassembly that can be assembled for the Cortex®-A7 processor.

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.

Default

If you do not specify a --cpu option, then fromelf disassembles machine instructions in an architecture-independent way. This means that fromelf disassembles anything that it recognizes as an instruction by some architecture.

Example

To specify the Cortex-M4 processor, use:

```
--cpu=Cortex-A17
```

Related references

- [3.10 --cpu=list on page 3-37.](#)
- [3.20 --disassemble on page 3-49.](#)
- [3.38 --info=topic\[,topic,...\] on page 3-70.](#)
- [3.59 --text on page 3-93.](#)

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

[3.59 --text on page 3-93](#).

3.13 --debugonly

Removes the content of any code or data sections.

Usage

This option ensures that the output file contains only the information required for debugging, for example, debug sections, symbol table, and string table. Section headers are retained because they are required to act as targets for symbols.

Restrictions

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

Example 3-1 Examples

To create an ELF file, `debugout.axf`, from the ELF file `infile.axf`, containing only debug information, enter:

```
fromelf --elf --debugonly --output=debugout.axf infile.axf
```

Related references

[3.22 --elf](#) on page 3-51.

3.14 --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 for 8-A.32 targets.

This option has no effect for 8-A.64 targets.

Example

The following example shows the output for --decode_build_attributes:

```

armclang --target=arm-arm-eabi-none -march=armv8-a -c hello.c -o hello.o
fromelf -v --decode_build_attributes hello.o

...
** Section #6

Name      : .ARM.attributes
Type      : SHT_ARM_ATTRIBUTES (0x70000003)
Flags     : None (0x00000000)
Addr      : 0x00000000
File Offset : 112 (0x70)
Size      : 74 bytes (0x4a)
Link      : SHN_UNDEF
Info      : 0
Alignment : 1
Entry Size : 0

'aeabi' file build attributes:
0x000000:  43 32 2e 30 39 00 05 63 6f 72 74 65 78 2d 61 35    C2.09..cortex-a5
0x000010:  33 00 06 0e 07 41 08 01 09 02 0a 07 0c 03 0e 00    3....A.....
0x000020:  11 01 12 04 14 01 15 01 17 03 18 01 19 01 1a 02    .....
0x000030:  22 00 24 01 26 01 2a 01 44 03                      ".$.&.*.D.
      Tag_conformance = "2.09"
      Tag_CPU_name = "cortex-a53"
      Tag_CPU_arch = ARM v8 (=14)
      Tag_CPU_arch_profile = The application profile 'A' (e.g. for Cortex A8)
(=65) Tag_ARM_ISA_use = ARM instructions were permitted to be used (=1)
      Tag_THUMB_ISA_use = Thumb2 instructions were permitted (implies Thumb in
structions permitted) (=2)
      Tag_VFP_arch = Use of the ARM v8-A FP ISA was permitted (=7)
      Tag_NEON_arch = Use of the ARM v8-A Advanced SIMD Architecture (Neon) wa
s permitted (=3)
      Tag_ABI_PCS_R9_use = R9 used as V6 (just another callee-saved register)
(=0)  Tag_ABI_PCS_GOT_use = Data are imported directly (=1)
      Tag_ABI_PCS_wchar_t = Size of wchar_t is 4 (=4)
      Tag_ABI_FP_denormal = This code was permitted to require IEEE 754 denorm
al numbers (=1)
      Tag_ABI_FP_exceptions = This code was permitted to check the IEEE 754 in
exact exception (=1)
      Tag_ABI_FP_number_model = This code may use all the IEEE 754-defined FP
encodings (=3)
      Tag_ABI_align8_needed = Code was permitted to depend on the 8-byte align
ment of 8-byte data items (=1)
      Tag_ABI_align8_preserved = Code was required to preserve 8-byte alignmen
t of 8-byte data objects (=1)
      Tag_ABI_enum_size = Enum containers are 32-bit (=2)
      Tag_CPU_unaligned_access = The producer was not permitted to make unalig
ned data accesses (=0)
      Tag_VFP_HP_extension = The producer was permitted to use the VFPv3/Advan
ced SIMD optional half-precision extension (=1)
      Tag_ABI_FP_16bit_format = The producer was permitted to use IEEE 754 for
mat 16-bit floating point numbers (=1)
      Tag_MPextension_use = Use of the ARM v7 MP extension was permitted (=1)

```

```
Tag_Virtualization_use = Use of TrustZone and virtualization extensions  
was permitted (=3)  
...
```

Related references

- [3.21 --dump_build_attributes](#) on page 3-50.
- [3.23 --emit=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-52.
- [3.25 --extract_build_attributes](#) on page 3-55.

Related information

Application Binary Interface for the ARM Architecture.

3.15 --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*, without the tool letter prefix and the letter suffix indicating the severity.
- `warning`, to treat all warnings as errors.

Related references

[3.16 --diag_remark=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-45.

[3.17 --diag_style={arm|ide|gnu}](#) on page 3-46.

[3.18 --diag_suppress=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-47.

[3.19 --diag_warning=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-48.

3.16 --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*, without the tool letter prefix and the letter suffix indicating the severity.

Related references

[3.15 --diag_error=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-44.

[3.17 --diag_style={arm|ide|gnu}](#) on page 3-46.

[3.18 --diag_suppress=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-47.

[3.19 --diag_warning=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-48.

3.17 --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.

gnu

Display messages in the format used by gcc.

Usage

--diag_style=gnu matches the format reported by the GNU Compiler, gcc.

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

Default

The default is --diag_style=arm.

Related references

[3.15 --diag_error=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-44.

[3.16 --diag_remark=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-45.

[3.18 --diag_suppress=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-47.

[3.19 --diag_warning=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-48.

3.18 --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*, without the tool letter prefix and the letter suffix indicating the severity.
- `error`, to suppress all errors that can be downgraded.
- `warning`, to suppress all warnings.

Related references

[3.15 --diag_error=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-44.

[3.16 --diag_remark=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-45.

[3.17 --diag_style={arm|ide|gnu}](#) on page 3-46.

[3.19 --diag_warning=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-48.

3.19 --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*, without the tool letter prefix and the letter suffix indicating the severity.
- *error*, to set all errors that can be downgraded to warnings.

Related references

[3.15 --diag_error=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-44.

[3.16 --diag_remark=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-45.

[3.17 --diag_style={arm|ide|gnu}](#) on page 3-46.

[3.19 --diag_warning=tag\[,tag,...\]](#) on page 3-48.

3.20 --disassemble

Displays a disassembled version of the image to `stdout`.

Usage

If you use this option with `--output destination`, you can reassemble the output file with `armasm`.

You can use this option to disassemble either an ELF image or an ELF object file.

————— **Note** —————

The output is not the same as that from `--emit=code` and `--text -c`.

Example

To disassemble the ELF file `infile.axf` for the Cortex-A7 processor and create a source file `outfile.asm`, enter:

```
fromelf --cpu=Cortex-A7 --disassemble --output=outfile.asm infile.axf
```

Related references

[3.11 --cpu=name](#) on page 3-38.

[3.23 --emit=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-52.

[3.40 --interleave=option](#) on page 3-73.

[3.46 --output=destination](#) on page 3-79.

[3.59 --text](#) on page 3-93.

3.21 --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 for 8-A.32 targets.

This option has no effect for 8-A.64 targets.

Example

The following example shows the output for --dump_build_attributes:

```

...
** Section #10 '.ARM.attributes' (SHT_ARM_ATTRIBUTES)
   Size   : 89 bytes

0x000000:  41 47 00 00 00 61 65 61 62 69 00 01 3d 00 00 00  AG...aeabi...=...
0x000010:  43 32 2e 30 36 00 05 38 2d 41 2e 33 32 00 06 0a  C2.06..8-A.32...
0x000020:  07 41 08 01 09 02 0a 05 0c 02 11 01 12 02 14 02  .A.....
0x000030:  17 01 18 01 19 01 1a 01 1c 01 1e 03 22 01 24 01  .....".$.
0x000040:  42 01 44 03 46 01 2c 02 11 00 00 41 52 4d 00  B.D.F.,....ARM.
0x000050:  01 09 00 00 00 12 01 16 01  .....
  
```

Related references

[3.14 --decode_build_attributes](#) on page 3-42.

[3.23 --emit=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-52.

[3.25 --extract_build_attributes](#) on page 3-55.

[3.59 --text](#) on page 3-93.

3.22 --elf

Selects ELF output mode.

Usage

Use with `--strip=debug,symbols` to remove debug information from an ELF image.

Restrictions

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

Related references

[3.37 --in_place](#) on page 3-69.

[3.46 --output=destination](#) on page 3-79.

[3.57 --strip=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-90.

3.23 --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`.

————— **Note** —————

Unlike `--disassemble`, the disassembly cannot be input to the assembler.

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`.

frame_directives

Prints the contents of FRAME directives in disassembled code as specified by the debug information embedded in an object module.

Use this option with `--disassemble`.

got

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

heading_comments

Prints heading comments at the beginning of the disassembly containing tool and command-line information from `.comment` sections.

Use this option with `--disassemble`.

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_annotations

Prints symbols in disassembled code and data annotated with comments containing the respective property information.

Use this option with `--disassemble`.

symbol_tables

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

vfe

Prints information about unused virtual functions.

whole_segments

Prints disassembled executables or shared libraries segment by segment even if it has a link view.

Use this option with `--disassemble`.

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

Related references

[3.20 --disassemble](#) on page 3-49.

[3.14 --decode_build_attributes](#) on page 3-42.

[3.24 --expandarrays](#) on page 3-54.

[3.59 --text](#) on page 3-93.

3.24 --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;
}

< armclang -target arm-arm-none-eabi -march=armv8-a -g -c foo.c
< fromelf --fieldoffsets --expandarrays foo.o
; Structure, S , Size 0xc bytes, from foo.c
S.A|
S.A[0]|
S.A[1]|
S.A[2]|
S.A[3]|
S.A[4]|
S.A[5]|
S.A[6]|
S.A[7]|
S.B|
S.B[0]|
S.B[1]|
S.B[2]|
S.B[3]|
; End of Structure S

EQU    0      ; array[8] of char
EQU    0      ; char
EQU    0x1    ; char
EQU    0x2    ; char
EQU    0x3    ; char
EQU    0x4    ; char
EQU    0x5    ; char
EQU    0x6    ; char
EQU    0x7    ; char
EQU    0x8    ; array[4] of char
EQU    0x8    ; char
EQU    0x9    ; char
EQU    0xa    ; char
EQU    0xb    ; char

END

```

Related references

[3.26 --fieldoffsets](#) on page 3-56.

[3.59 --text](#) on page 3-93.

3.25 --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 for 8-A.32 targets.

This option has no effect for 8-A.64 targets.

Example

The following example shows the output for --extract_build_attributes:

```

=====
** Object/Image Build Attributes

'aeabi' file build attributes:
0x000000:  43 32 2e 30 36 00 05 38 2d 41 2e 33 32 00 06 0a  C2.06..8-A.32...
0x000010:  07 41 08 01 09 02 0a 05 0c 02 11 01 12 02 14 02  .A.....
0x000020:  17 01 18 01 19 01 1a 01 1c 01 1e 03 22 01 24 01  .....$.
0x000030:  42 01 44 03 46 01 2c 02  B.D.F.,.
    Tag_conformance = "2.06"
    Tag_CPU_name = "8-A.32"
    Tag_CPU_arch = ARM v7 (=10)
    Tag_CPU_arch_profile = The application profile 'A' (e.g. for Cortex A8) (=65)
    Tag_ARM_ISA_use = ARM instructions were permitted to be used (=1)
    Tag_THUMB_ISA_use = Thumb2 instructions were permitted (implies Thumb instructions
permitted) (=2)
    Tag_VFP_arch = VFPv4 instructions were permitted (implies VFPv3 instructions were
permitted) (=5)
    Tag_NEON_arch = Use of Advanced SIMD Architecture version 2 was permitted (=2)
    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_VFP_args = FP parameter/result passing conforms to the VFP variant of the
AAPCS (=1)
    Tag_ABI_optimization_goals = Optimized for small size, but speed and debugging
illusion
preserved (=3)
    Tag_CPU_unaligned_access = The producer was permitted to generate architecture v6-
style unaligned
data accesses (=1)
    Tag_VFP_HP_extension = The producer was permitted to use the VFPv3/Advanced SIMD
optional half-precision
extension (=1)
    Tag_T2EE_use = Use of the T2EE extension was permitted (=1)
    Tag_Virtualization_use = Use of TrustZone and virtualization extensions was
permitted (=3)
    Tag_MPextension_use = Use of the ARM v7 MP extension was permitted (=1)
    Tag_v7DIV_use = Code was permitted to use SDIV and UDIV; code is intended to execute
on a CPU conforming to architecture v7 with the integer division extension (=2)

'ARM' file build attributes:
0x000000:  12 01 16 01  ....

```

Related references

- [3.14 --decode_build_attributes on page 3-42.](#)
- [3.21 --dump_build_attributes on page 3-50.](#)
- [3.23 --emit=option\[,option,...\] on page 3-52.](#)
- [3.59 --text on page 3-93.](#)

3.26 --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

- [3.24 --expandarrays on page 3-54.](#)
- [3.48 --qualify on page 3-81.](#)
- [3.52 --select=select_options on page 3-85.](#)
- [3.59 --text on page 3-93.](#)

Related information

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

3.27 --fpu=list

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

Related references

[3.28 --fpu=name](#) on page 3-59.

3.28 --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:

`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.

`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.

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

[3.20 --disassemble](#) on page 3-49.

[3.27 --fpu=list](#) on page 3-58.

[3.38 --info=topic\[,topic,...\]](#) on page 3-70.

[3.59 --text](#) on page 3-93.

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

Converts the selected symbols to global symbols.

Syntax

--globalize=option[,option,...]

Where *option* is one of:

object_name::

All symbols in ELF objects with a name matching *object_name* are converted to global symbols.

object_name::*symbol_name*

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

symbol_name

All symbols with a symbol name matching *symbol_name* are converted to global symbols.

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 --elf with this option.

Related references

[3.22 --elf](#) on page 3-51.

[3.31 --hide=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-63.

3.30 --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

[3.55 --show_cmdline](#) on page 3-88.

[3.60 --version_number](#) on page 3-95.

[3.63 --vsn](#) on page 3-98.

3.31 --hide=option[,option,...]

Changes the symbol visibility property to mark selected symbols as hidden.

Syntax

--hide=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 symbol name matching *symbol_name*.

symbol_name

All symbols with a symbol 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 --elf with this option.

Related references

[3.22 --elf](#) on page 3-51.

[3.53 --show=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-86.

3.32 --hide_and_localize=option[,option,...]

Changes the symbol visibility property to mark selected symbols as hidden, and converts the selected symbols to local symbols.

Syntax

--hide_and_localize=option[,option,...]

Where *option* is one of:

object_name::

All symbols in ELF objects with a name matching *object_name* are marked as hidden and converted to local symbols.

object_name::*symbol_name*

All symbols in ELF objects with a name matching *object_name* and also a symbol name matching *symbol_name* are marked as hidden and converted to local symbols.

symbol_name

All symbols with a symbol name matching *symbol_name* are marked as hidden and converted to local symbols.

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 --elf with this option.

Related references

[3.22 --elf](#) on page 3-51.

3.33 *--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:

- Not supported for AArch64 state.
- 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 3-27.

[3.34 *--i32combined*](#) on page 3-66.

[3.46 *--output=destination*](#) on page 3-79.

3.34 **--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:

- Not supported for AArch64 state.
- 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 3-27.](#)

[3.33 `--i32` on page 3-65.](#)

[3.46 `--output=destination` on page 3-79.](#)

3.35 --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 3-35.

[3.36 --ignore_symbol=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-68.

[3.49 --relax_section=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-82.

3.36 --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 3-35.

[3.35 --ignore_section=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-67.

[3.50 --relax_symbol=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-83.

3.37 --in_place

Enables the translation of ELF members in an input file to overwrite the previous content.

Restrictions

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

Example

To remove debug information from members of the library file `test.a`, enter:

```
fromelf --elf --in_place --strip=debug test.a
```

Related references

[3.22 --elf](#) on page 3-51.

[3.57 --strip=option\[option,...\]](#) on page 3-90.

3.38 --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 A32 and T32 instructions defined in the code sections of each input file.

————— **Note** —————

Not supported for AArch64 state.

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 A32 or T32 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 A32 or T32 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

[3.59 --text](#) on page 3-93.

3.39 *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.
- Use `--elf` with `--in_place`.
- 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 `--vhx`, 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.

————— Note —————

On Unix systems your shell typically requires the parentheses and these characters to be escaped with backslashes. Alternatively, enclose the archive name and filter in single quotes, for example:

```
'archive.a(??str*)'
```

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 2-18.](#)

Related references

- [3.2 `--bin` on page 3-28.](#)
- [3.6 `--cad` on page 3-32.](#)
- [3.7 `--cadcombined` on page 3-34.](#)
- [3.8 `--compare=option\[,option,...\]` on page 3-35.](#)
- [3.22 `--elf` on page 3-51.](#)
- [3.33 `--i32` on page 3-65.](#)
- [3.34 `--i32combined` on page 3-66.](#)

- 3.37 *--in_place* on page 3-69.
- 3.43 *--m32* on page 3-76.
- 3.44 *--m32combined* on page 3-77.
- 3.46 *--output=destination* on page 3-79.
- 3.59 *--text* on page 3-93.
- 3.61 *--vhx* on page 3-96.

3.40 --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`, `--text -c`, or `--disassemble`.

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 --disassemble](#) on page 3-49.

[3.23 --emit=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-52.

[3.56 --source_directory=path](#) on page 3-89.

[3.59 --text](#) on page 3-93.

3.41 --linkview, --no_linkview

Controls the section-level view from the ELF image.

Usage

--no_linkview discards the section-level view and retains only the segment-level view (load time view).

Discarding the section-level view eliminates:

- The section header table.
- The section header string table.
- The string table.
- The symbol table.
- All debug sections.

All that is left in the output is the program header table and the program segments.

Note

This option is deprecated.

Restrictions

The following restrictions apply:

- You must use --elf with --linkview and --no_linkview.

Example

To get ELF format output for `image.axf`, enter:

```
fromelf --no_linkview --elf image.axf --output=image_nlk.axf
```

Related references

[3.22 --elf](#) on page 3-51.

[3.47 --privacy](#) on page 3-80.

[3.57 --strip=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-90.

Related information

[--privacy linker option.](#)

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

Converts the selected symbols to local symbols.

Syntax

--localize=option[,option,...]

Where *option* is one of:

object_name::

All symbols in ELF objects with a name matching *object_name* are converted to local symbols.

object_name::*symbol_name*

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

symbol_name

All symbols with a symbol name matching *symbol_name* are converted to local symbols.

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 --elf with this option.

Related references

[3.22 --elf](#) on page 3-51.

[3.31 --hide=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-63.

3.43 `--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:

- Not supported for AArch64 state.
- 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 3-27.](#)

[3.44 `--m32combined` on page 3-77.](#)

[3.46 `--output=destination` on page 3-79.](#)

3.44 `--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:

- Not supported for AArch64 state.
- 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 3-27.](#)

[3.43 `--m32` on page 3-76.](#)

[3.46 `--output=destination` on page 3-79.](#)

3.45 `--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

[3.59 `--text` on page 3-93.](#)

3.46 `--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` or `--elf`:

- You can specify a single input file and a single output filename.
- If you specify many input files and use `--elf`, you can use `--in_place` to write the output of processing each file over the top of the input file.
- 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 as the input, then the output is also an archive. For example, the following command creates an archive file called `output.o`:

```
fromelf --elf --strip=debug archive.a --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 3-28.](#)

[3.22 `--elf` on page 3-51.](#)

[3.59 `--text` on page 3-93.](#)

3.47 --privacy

Modifies the output file to protect your code in images and objects that are delivered to third parties.

Usage

The effect of this option is different for images and object files.

For images, this option:

- Changes section names to a default value, for example, changes code section names to `.text`
- Removes the complete symbol table in the same way as `--strip symbols`
- Removes the `.comment` section name, and is marked as `[Anonymous Section]` in the `fromelf --text` output.

For object files, this option:

- Changes section names to a default value, for example, changes code section names to `.text`.
- Keeps mapping symbols and build attributes in the symbol table.
- Removes those local symbols that can be removed without loss of functionality.

Symbols that cannot be removed, such as the targets for relocations, are kept. For these symbols, the names are removed. These are marked as `[Anonymous Symbol]` in the `fromelf --text` output.

Related references

[3.57 --strip=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-90.

Related information

[--locals, --no_locals linker option.](#)

[--privacy linker option.](#)

3.48 **--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

[3.26 `--fieldoffsets` on page 3-56.](#)

3.49 --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 3-35.

[3.35 --ignore_section=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-67.

[3.50 --relax_symbol=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-83.

3.50 --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 3-35.

[3.36 --ignore_symbol=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-68.

[3.49 --relax_section=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-82.

3.51 --rename=option[,option,...]

Renames the specified symbol in an output ELF object.

Restrictions

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

Syntax

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

Where *option* is one of:

object_name::*old_symbol_name*=*new_symbol_name*

This replaces all symbols in the ELF object *object_name* that have a symbol name matching *old_symbol_name*.

old_symbol_name=*new_symbol_name*

This replaces all symbols that have a symbol name matching *old_symbol_name*.

You can:

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

Example

This example renames the `clock` symbol in the `timer.axf` image to `myclock`, and creates a new file called `mytimer.axf`:

```
fromelf --elf --rename=clock=myclock --output=mytimer.axf timer.axf
```

Related references

[3.22 --elf](#) on page 3-51.

[3.46 --output=destination](#) on page 3-79.

3.52 --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

[3.26 --fieldoffsets on page 3-56.](#)

[3.59 --text on page 3-93.](#)

3.53 --show=option[,option,...]

Changes the symbol visibility property of the selected symbols, to mark them with default visibility.

Syntax

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

Where *option* is one of:

object_name :

All symbols in ELF objects with a name matching *object_name* are marked as having default visibility.

object_name : *symbol_name*

All symbols in ELF objects with a name matching *object_name* and also a symbol name matching *symbol_name* are marked as having default visibility.

symbol_name

All symbols with a symbol name matching *symbol_name* are marked as having default visibility.

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 `--elf` with this option.

Related references

[3.22 --elf](#) on page 3-51.

[3.31 --hide=option\[,option,...\]](#) on page 3-63.

3.54 --show_and_globalize=option[,option,...]

Changes the symbol visibility property of the selected symbols, to mark them with default visibility, and converts the selected symbols to global symbols.

Syntax

```
--show_and_globalize=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 symbol name matching *symbol_name*.

symbol_name

All symbols with a symbol 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 --elf with this option.

Related references

[3.22 --elf](#) on page 3-51.

3.55 --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

[3.62 --via=file on page 3-97.](#)

3.56 --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

[3.40 --interleave=option](#) on page 3-73.

3.57 --strip=option[,option,...]

Helps to protect your code in images and objects that are delivered to third parties. You can also use it to help reduce the size of the output image.

Syntax

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

Where *option* is one of:

all

For object modules, this option removes all debug, comments, notes and symbols from the ELF file. For executables, this option works the same as `--no_linkview`.

debug

Removes all debug sections from the ELF file.

comment

Removes the `.comment` section from the ELF file.

filesymbols

The `STT_FILE` symbols are removed from the ELF file.

localsymbols

The effect of this option is different for images and object files.

For images, this option removes all local symbols, including mapping symbols, from the output symbol table.

For object files, this option:

- Keeps mapping symbols and build attributes in the symbol table.
- Removes those local symbols that can be removed without loss of functionality.

Symbols that cannot be removed, such as the targets for relocations, are kept. For these symbols, the names are removed. These are marked as `[Anonymous Symbol]` in the `fromelf --text` output.

notes

Removes the `.notes` section from the ELF file.

pathnames

Removes the path information from all symbols with type `STT_FILE`. For example, an `STT_FILE` symbol with the name `C:\work\myobject.o` is renamed to `myobject.o`.

Note

This option does not strip path names that are in the debug information.

symbols

The effect of this option is different for images and object files.

For images, this option removes the complete symbol table, and all static symbols. If any of these static symbols are used as a static relocation target, then these relocations are also removed. In all cases, `STT_FILE` symbols are removed.

For object files, this option:

- Keeps mapping symbols and build attributes in the symbol table.
- Removes those local symbols that can be removed without loss of functionality.

Symbols that cannot be removed, such as the targets for relocations, are kept. For these symbols, the names are removed. These are marked as `[Anonymous Symbol]` in the `fromelf --text` output.

Note

Stripping the symbols, path names, or file symbols might make the file harder to debug.

Restrictions

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

Example 3-2 Examples

To produce an `output.axf` file without debug from the ELF file `infile.axf` originally produced with debug, enter:

Related references

[3.22 --elf](#) on page 3-51.

[3.41 --linkview, --no_linkview](#) on page 3-74.

[3.47 --privacy](#) on page 3-80.

Related information

About mapping symbols.

--locals, --no_locals linker option.

--privacy linker option.

3.58 --symbolversions, --no_symbolversions

Turns off the decoding of symbol version tables.

Restrictions

If you use --elf with this option, you must also use --output.

Related information

About symbol versioning.

Base Platform ABI for the ARM Architecture.

3.59 --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

Unlike --disassemble, 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.

Note

Not supported for AArch64 state.

- 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

[2.6 Using *fromelf* to find where a symbol is placed in an executable ELF image](#) on page 2-23.

Related references

- [3.11 `--cpu=name`](#) on page 3-38.
- [3.23 `--emit=option\[,option,...\]`](#) on page 3-52.
- [3.24 `--expandarrays`](#) on page 3-54.
- [3.38 `--info=topic\[,topic,...\]`](#) on page 3-70.
- [3.40 `--interleave=option`](#) on page 3-73.
- [3.45 `--only=section_name`](#) on page 3-78.
- [3.46 `--output=destination`](#) on page 3-79.
- [3.52 `--select=select_options`](#) on page 3-85.
- [3.64 `-w`](#) on page 3-99.

Related information

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

3.60 --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.

Related references

[3.30 --help](#) on page 3-62.

[3.63 --vsn](#) on page 3-98.

3.61 `--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

[3.46 `--output=destination` on page 3-79.](#)

[3.66 `--widthxbanks` on page 3-101.](#)

3.62 --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.

3.63 --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

[3.30 --help](#) on page 3-62.

[3.60 --version_number](#) on page 3-95.

3.64 -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

[3.59 --text](#) on page 3-93.

3.65 --wide64bit

Causes all addresses to be displayed with a width of 64 bits.

Usage

Without this option fromelf displays addresses as 32 bits where possible, and only displays them as 64 bits when necessary.

This option is ignored if the input file is not an AArch64 state file.

Related references

[3.39 *input_file* on page 3-71.](#)

3.66 --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 --cpu=8-A.32 --vhx --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 --cpu=8-A.32 --vhx --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 --cpu=8-A.32 --vhx --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 3-28.](#)

[3.46 *--output=destination* on page 3-79.](#)

[3.61 *--vhx* on page 3-96.](#)

Chapter 4

Via File Syntax

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

It contains the following sections:

- [4.1 Overview of via files on page 4-104.](#)
- [4.2 Via file syntax rules on page 4-105.](#)

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 4-105.](#)

[3.62 `--via=file` on page 3-97.](#)

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 4-104.](#)

Related references

[3.62 --via=file on page 3-97.](#)