

NAME

dbus-monitor – debug probe to print message bus messages

SYNOPSIS

```
dbus-monitor [--system | --session | --address ADDRESS] [--profile | --monitor | --pcap | --binary]
[watch expressions]
```

DESCRIPTION

The **dbus-monitor** command is used to monitor messages going through a D-Bus message bus. See <https://www.freedesktop.org/wiki/Software/dbus/> for more information about the big picture.

There are two well-known message buses: the systemwide message bus (installed on many systems as the "messagebus" service) and the per-user-login-session message bus (started each time a user logs in). The **--system** and **--session** options direct **dbus-monitor** to monitor the system or session buses respectively. If neither is specified, **dbus-monitor** monitors the session bus.

dbus-monitor has two different text output modes: the 'classic'-style monitoring mode, and profiling mode. The profiling format is a compact format with a single line per message and microsecond-resolution timing information. The **--profile** and **--monitor** options select the profiling and monitoring output format respectively.

dbus-monitor also has two binary output modes. The binary mode, selected by **--binary**, outputs the entire binary message stream (without the initial authentication handshake). The PCAP mode, selected by **--pcap**, adds a PCAP file header to the beginning of the output, and prepends a PCAP message header to each message; this produces a binary file that can be read by, for instance, Wireshark.

If no mode is specified, **dbus-monitor** uses the monitoring output format.

In order to get **dbus-monitor** to see the messages you are interested in, you should specify a set of watch expressions as you would expect to be passed to the *dbus_bus_add_match* function.

The message bus configuration may keep **dbus-monitor** from seeing all messages, especially if you run the monitor as a non-root user.

OPTIONS

- system**
Monitor the system message bus.
- session**
Monitor the session message bus. (This is the default.)
- address ADDRESS**
Monitor an arbitrary message bus given at ADDRESS.
- profile**
Use the profiling output format.
- monitor**
Use the monitoring output format. (This is the default.)

EXAMPLE

Here is an example of using **dbus-monitor** to watch for the gnome typing monitor to say things

```
dbus-monitor "type='signal',sender='org.gnome.TypingMonitor',interface='org.gnome.TypingMonitor'"
```

AUTHOR

dbus-monitor was written by Philip Blundell. The profiling output mode was added by Olli Salli.

BUGS

Please send bug reports to the D-Bus mailing list or bug tracker, see
<https://www.freedesktop.org/wiki/Software/dbus/>