

NAME

autom4te – Generate files and scripts thanks to M4

SYNOPSIS

autom4te [*OPTION*]... [*FILES*]

DESCRIPTION

Run GNU M4 on the *FILES*, avoiding useless runs. Output the traces if tracing, the frozen file if freezing, otherwise the expansion of the *FILES*.

If some of the *FILES* are named 'FILE.m4f' they are considered to be M4 frozen files of all the previous files (which are therefore not loaded). If 'FILE.m4f' is not found, then 'FILE.m4' will be used, together with all the previous files.

Some files may be optional, i.e., will only be processed if found in the include path, but then must end in '.m4?'; the question mark is not part of the actual file name.

Operation modes:

-h, --help

print this help, then exit

-V, --version

print version number, then exit

-v, --verbose

verbosely report processing

-d, --debug

don't remove temporary files

-o, --output=FILE

save output in FILE (defaults to '-', stdout)

-f, --force

don't rely on cached values

-W, --warnings=CATEGORY

report the warnings falling in CATEGORY (comma-separated list accepted)

-l, --language=LANG

specify the set of M4 macros to use

-C, --cache=DIRECTORY

preserve results for future runs in DIRECTORY

--no-cache

disable the cache

-m, --mode=OCTAL

change the non trace output file mode (0666)

-M, --melt

don't use M4 frozen files

Languages include:

'Autoconf'

create Autoconf configure scripts

'Autotest'

create Autotest test suites

'M4sh' create M4sh shell scripts

'M4sugar'

create M4sugar output

Warning categories are:

cross cross compilation issues
 gnu GNU coding standards (default in gnu and gnits modes)
 obsolete
 obsolete features or constructions (default)
 override
 user redefinitions of Automake rules or variables
 portability
 portability issues (default in gnu and gnits modes)
 portability-recursive
 nested Make variables (default with **-Wportability**)
 extra-portability
 extra portability issues related to obscure tools
 syntax dubious syntactic constructs (default)
 unsupported
 unsupported or incomplete features (default)

-W also understands:

all turn on all the warnings
 none turn off all the warnings
 no-CATEGORY
 turn off warnings in CATEGORY
 error treat all enabled warnings as errors
 The environment variables 'M4' and 'WARNINGS' are honored.

Library directories:

-B, --prepend-include=DIR
 prepend directory DIR to search path
-I, --include=DIR
 append directory DIR to search path

Tracing:

-t, --trace=MACRO[:FORMAT]
 report the MACRO invocations
-p, --preselect=MACRO
 prepare to trace MACRO in a future run

Freezing:

-F, --freeze
 produce an M4 frozen state file for FILES

FORMAT defaults to '\$f:\$l:\$n:\$%', and can use the following escapes:

\$\$ literal \$
\$f file where macro was called
\$l line where macro was called
\$d nesting depth of macro call
\$n name of the macro
\$NUM argument NUM, unquoted and with newlines

\$SEP@

all arguments, with newlines, quoted, and separated by SEP

\$SEP* all arguments, with newlines, unquoted, and separated by SEP

\$SEP% all arguments, without newlines, unquoted, and separated by SEP

SEP can be empty for the default (comma for @ and *, colon for %), a single character for that character, or {STRING} to use a string.

AUTHOR

Written by Akim Demaille.

REPORTING BUGS

Report bugs to bug-autoconf@gnu.org, or via Savannah:
<https://savannah.gnu.org/support/?group=autoconf>.

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SEE ALSO

autoconf(1), **automake(1)**, **autoreconf(1)**, **autoupdate(1)**, **autoheader(1)**, **autoscan(1)**, **config.guess(1)**, **config.sub(1)**, **ifnames(1)**, **libtool(1)**.

The full documentation for Autoconf is maintained as a Texinfo manual. To read the manual locally, use the command

info autoconf

You can also consult the Web version of the manual at <https://gnu.org/software/autoconf/manual/>.