

NAME

deb-symbols – Debian’s extended shared library information file

SYNOPSIS

symbols

DESCRIPTION

The symbol files are shipped in Debian binary packages, and its format is a subset of the template symbol files used by **dpkg-gensymbols**(1) in Debian source packages.

The format for an extended shared library dependency information entry in these files is:

```
library-soname main-dependency-template
[| alternative-dependency-template]
[...]
[* field-name: field-value]
[...]
symbol minimal-version [id-of-dependency-template]
```

The *library-soname* is exactly the value of the SONAME field as exported by **objdump**(1). A *dependency-template* is a dependency where *#MINVER#* is dynamically replaced either by a version check like “(>= *minimal-version*)” or by nothing (if an unversioned dependency is deemed sufficient).

Each exported *symbol* (listed as *name@version*, with *version* being “Base” if the library is not versioned) is associated to a *minimal-version* of its dependency template (the main dependency template is always used and will end up being combined with the dependency template referenced by *id-of-dependency-template* if present). The first alternative dependency template is numbered 1, the second one 2, etc.

Each entry for a library can also have some fields of meta-information. Those fields are stored on lines starting with an asterisk. Currently, the only valid fields are:

Build-Depends-Package

It indicates the name of the “-dev” package associated to the library and is used by **dpkg-shlibdeps** to make sure that the dependency generated is at least as strict as the corresponding build dependency (since dpkg 1.14.13).

Ignore-Blacklist-Groups

It indicates what blacklist groups should be ignored, as a whitespace separated list, so that the symbols contained in those groups get included in the output file (since dpkg 1.17.6). This should only be necessary for toolchain packages providing those blacklisted symbols. The available groups are system dependent, for ELF and GNU-based systems these are **aeabi** and **gomp**.

EXAMPLES**Simple symbols file**

```
libftp.so.3 libftp3 #MINVER#
DefaultNetbuf@Base 3.1-1-6
FtpAccess@Base 3.1-1-6
[...]
```

Advanced symbols file

```
libGL.so.1 libgl1
| libgl1-mesa-glx #MINVER#
* Build-Depends-Package: libgl1-mesa-dev
publicGLSymbol@Base 6.3-1
[...]
implementationSpecificSymbol@Base 6.5.2-7 1
[...]
```

SEE ALSO

<https://wiki.debian.org/Projects/ImprovedDpkgShlibdeps>
dpkg-shlibdeps(1), **dpkg-gensymbols**(1).