

NAME

reportbug – reports a bug to a debbugs server

SYNOPSIS

reportbug [*options*] <*package* | *pseudo-package* | *absolute-pathname*>

DESCRIPTION

reportbug is primarily designed to report bugs in the Debian distribution; by default, it creates an email to the Debian bug tracking system at *submit@bugs.debian.org* with information about the bug you've found, and makes a carbon copy of the report for you as well.

Using the **--bts** option, you can also report bugs to other servers that use the Debian bug tracking system, **debbugs**.

You may specify either a package name or a filename; if you use a filename, it must either be an absolute filename (so beginning with a */*) or if you want **reportbug** to search the system for a filename, see the **--filename** and **--path** options below. If installed, also **dlocate** is used to identify the filename location and thus the package containing it.

You can also specify a **pseudo-package**; these are used in the Debian bug tracking system to track issues that are not related to one specific package. Run **reportbug** without any arguments, then enter **other** at the package prompt, to see a list of the most commonly-used **pseudo-packages**.

OPTIONS

The program follows the usual GNU command line syntax, with long options starting with two dashes ('--'). A summary of options are included below.

-h, --help

Show summary of options.

--version

Show the version of **reportbug** and exit.

-A FILENAME, --attach=FILENAME

Attach a file to the bug report; both text and binary files are acceptable; this option can be specified multiple times to attach several files. This routine will create a MIME attachment with the file included; in some cases (usually text files), it is probably better to use **-i/--include** option. (Please note that Debian's bug tracking system has limited support for MIME attachments.)

This option supports also globbing (i.e. names with wildcards, like *file.**) but remember to include them between single quotes (the previous example becomes: *'file.*'*) else the shell would expand it before calling reportbug leading to an error.

Be aware that when using an external MUA to send the message (such as mutt), the attachment feature is not available and no file will be attached at all: the MUA feature to attach files must be used instead (so from within the MUA).

-b, --no-query-bts

Don't check the Debian bug tracking system to see if this problem has already been reported; useful for offline use or if you're **really** sure it's a bug.

--query-bts

Check the Debian bug tracking system to see if this problem has already been reported (default).

-B SYSTEM, --bts=SYSTEM

Instead of the Debian bug server (or the bug server specified in */etc/reportbug.conf*, use the server specified by **SYSTEM**.

--body=BODY

Use the specified *BODY* as the body of the message. The body text will be wrapped at 70 columns, and the normal **reportbug** headers and footers will be added as appropriate. The editor prompt and any "special" prompting will be bypassed.

--body-file=BODYFILE, --bodyfile=BODYFILE

The contents of the (assumed to be) text file *BODYFILE* will be used as the message body. This file is assumed to be properly formatted (i.e. reasonable line lengths, etc.). The usual headers and footers will be added, and the editor step and "special" prompts will be skipped. (*BODYFILE* may also be a named pipe; using a device special file may lead to unusual results.)

-c, --no-config-files

Omit configuration files from the bug report without asking. By default, you are asked if you want to include them; in some cases, doing so may cause sensitive information to be sent via email.

-C CLASS, --class=CLASS

Specify report class for GNATS BTSes.

--configure

Rerun the **reportbug** first time configuration routine, and write a new **\$HOME/.reportbugrc** file. This will erase any pre-existing settings in the file; however, a backup will be written as **\$HOME/.reportbugrc~**.

--check-available

Check for newer releases of the package at **packages.debian.org** (default). In **advanced** and **expert** mode, check **incoming.debian.org** and **http://ftp-master.debian.org/new.html** too.

--no-check-available

Do not check for newer releases of the package at **packages.debian.org**.

--debconf

Include debconf settings in your report.

--no-debconf

Do not include debconf settings from your report.

-d, --debug

Don't send a real bug report to Debian; send it to yourself instead. This is primarily used for testing by the maintainer.

--test Operate in test mode (maintainer use only).**--draftpath=DRAFTPATH**

Save the draft (for example, when exiting and saving the report without reporting it) into *DRAFTPATH* directory.

-e EDITOR, --editor=EDITOR

Specify the editor to use, overriding any **EDITOR** or **VISUAL** environment variable setting.

--email=ADDRESS

Set the email address your report should appear to be sent from (i.e. the address that appears in the **From** header). This should be the actual Internet email address on its own (i.e. without a real name or comment part, like **foo@example.com**). This setting will override the **EMAIL** and **DEBEMAIL** environment variables, but not **REPORTBUGEMAIL**.

--envelope-from

Specify the Envelope From mail header (also known as Return-path); by default it's the From address but it can be selected a different one in case the MTA doesn't canonicalize local users to public addresses.

--mbox-reader-cmd=MBOX_READER_CMD

Specify a command to open the bug reports mbox file. You can use **%s** to substitute the mbox file to be used, and **%%** to insert a literal percent sign. If no **%s** is specified, the mbox file name is supplied at the end of the argument list.

--exit-prompt

Display a prompt before exiting; this is useful if **reportbug** is run in a transient terminal (i.e. from its Debian menu entry).

-f FILENAME, --filename=FILENAME

Report a bug in the package containing *FILENAME* so you don't have to figure out what package the file belongs to. The path will be searched for an exact path for *FILENAME* before attempting to broaden the search to all files. If **dllocate** is installed, *FILENAME* is actually a regular expression.

--from-builddd=BUILDD_FORMAT

This options is a shortcut for builddd admins to report bugs from builddd log; the option expects a value in the format of *\$source_\$version* where *\$source* is the source package the bug will be reported against and *\$version* is its version.

--path If the **-f/--filename** option is also specified, only search the path for the specified *FILENAME*. Specifying an absolute path with the **-f/--filename** option (i.e. one beginning with a */*) overrides this behavior.

-g, --gnupg, --gpg

Attach a digital signature to the bug report using **GnuPG** (the GNU Privacy Guard). (This argument will be ignored if you are using an MUA to edit and send your report.)

-G, --gnus

Use the Gnus mail and news reader to send your report, rather than using the editor.

-H HEADER, --header=HEADER

Add a custom RFC2822 header to your email; for example, to send a carbon copy of the report to **debian-68k@lists.linux-m68k.org** you could use **-H 'X-Debbugs-CC: debian-68k@lists.linux-m68k.org'**

-i FILE, --include=FILE

Include the specified *FILE* as part of the body of the message to be edited. Can be used multiple times to add multiple files; text-only please! From a suggestion by Michael Alan Dorman in the **bug** mailing list. (See also the **-A/--attach** option.)

-I, --no-check-installed

Do not check whether the package is installed before filing a report. This is generally only useful when filing a report on a package you know is not installed on your system.

--check-installed

Check if the specified package is installed when filing reports. (This is the default behavior of **reportbug**.)

-j JUSTIFICATION, --justification=JUSTIFICATION

Bugs in Debian that have **serious**, **grave**, or **critical** severities must meet certain criteria to be classified as such. This option allows you to specify the justification for a release-critical bug, instead of being prompted for it.

-k, --kudos

Send appreciative email to the recorded maintainer address, rather than filing a bug report. (You can also send kudos to *packagename@packages.debian.org*, for packages in the Debian archive; however, this option uses the Maintainer address from the control file, so it works with other package sources too.)

-K KEYID, --keyid=KEYID

Private key to use for PGP/GnuPG signatures. If not specified, the first key in the secret keyring that matches your email address will be used.

--latest-first

Display the bug reports list sorted and with the latest reports at the top.

--license

Show **reportbug**'s copyright and license information on standard output.

--list-cc=ADDRESS

Send a carbon copy of the report to the specified list after a report number is assigned; this is the equivalent to the option `-H 'X-Debbugs-CC: ADDRESS'`. This option will only work as intended with **debbugs** systems.

--list-cc-me

Send a carbon copy of the report to your automatically detected email address after a report number is assigned. This sets an `X-Debbugs-CC` header specifying that address. This option will only work as intended with **debbugs** systems. See the documentation for the `--email` option and the *ENVIRONMENT* section for information on how reportbug detects your email address.

-m, --maintonly

Only send the bug to the package maintainer; the bug tracking system will not send a copy to the bug report distribution lists.

--max-attachment-size=MAX_ATTACHMENT_SIZE

Specify the maximum size any attachment file can have (this also include the file for `--body-file` option). If an attachment file is too big, there could be problems in delivering the email (and also to compose it), so we set a limit to attachment size. By default this is 10 megabytes.

--mirror=MIRRORS

Add a BTS mirror.

--mode=MODE

Set the operating mode for **reportbug**. **reportbug** currently has four operating modes: **novice** (the default), **standard**, **advanced**, and **expert**.

novice mode is designed to minimize prompting about things that "ordinary users" would be unlikely to know or care about, shifting the triage burden onto the maintainer. Checking for new versions is only done for the stable distribution in this mode. It is currently the default mode.

standard mode includes a relatively large number of prompts and tries to encourage users to not file frivolous or duplicate bug reports.

advanced mode is like **standard** mode, but may include shortcuts suitable for more advanced users of Debian, without being as close to the metal (and potential flamage) as **expert** mode. (Currently, the only differences from **standard** mode are that it assumes familiarity with the "incoming" queue; it allows the reporting of bugs on "dependency" packages; and it does not prompt where to insert the report text in the editor.)

expert mode is designed to minimize prompts that are designed to discourage frivolous or unnecessary bug reports, "severity inflation," and the like. In **expert** mode, **reportbug** assumes the user is thoroughly familiar with Debian policies. In practice, this means that reporters are no longer required to justify setting a high severity on a bug report, and certain automated cleanups of the message are bypassed. Individuals who do not regularly contribute to the Debian project are *highly* discouraged from using expert mode, as it can lead to flamage from maintainers when used improperly.

-M, --mutt

Instead of spawning an editor to revise the bug report, use the **mutt** mail reader to edit and send it.

--mta=MTA

Specify an alternate *MTA*, instead of `/usr/sbin/sendmail` (the default). Any **smtphost** setting will override this one.

--mua=MUA

Instead of spawning an editor to revise the bug report, use the specified *MUA* (mail user agent) to edit and send it. **--mutt** and **--nmh** options are processed.

-n, --mh, --nmh

Instead of spawning an editor to revise the bug report, use the **comp** command (part of the **nmh** and **mh** mail systems) to edit and send it.

-N BUGNUMBER, --bugnumber BUGNUMBER

Run **reportbug** against the specified bug report, useful when following-up a bug and its number is already known.

--no-bug-script

Do not execute the bug script (if present); this option can be useful together with **--template** to suppress every interactive actions, since some bug scripts can ask questions.

--no-cc-menu

Don't display the menu to enter additional addresses (CC).

--no-tags-menu

Don't display the menu to enter additional tags.

-o FILE, --output=FILE

Instead of sending an email, redirect it to the specified filename.

The output file is a full dump of the email message, so it contains both headers and mail body. If you want to use it as a template to create a new bug report, then you have to remove all the headers (mind the **Subject** one, though) and start the report at the **Package** pseudo-header.

-O, --offline

Disable all external queries. Currently has the same effect as **--no-check-available** **--no-query-bts**.

-p, --print

Instead of sending an email, print the bug report to standard output, so you can redirect it to a file or pipe it to another program.

This option only outputs a template for a bug report (but, differently from **--template** it's more interactive); you will need to fill in the long description.

--paranoid

Show the contents of the message before it is sent, including all headers. Automatically disabled if in template mode.

--no-paranoid

Don't show the full contents of the message before it is sent (default).

--pgp

Attach a digital signature to the bug report using **PGP** (Pretty Good Privacy). Please note, however, that the Debian project is phasing out the use of **PGP** in favor of **GnuPG**. (This argument will be ignored if using an MUA to edit and send your report.)

--proxy=PROXY, --http_proxy=PROXY

Specify the WWW proxy server to use to handle the query of the bug tracking system. You should only need this parameter if you are behind a firewall. The *PROXY* argument should be formatted as a valid HTTP URL, including (if necessary) a port number; for example, **http://192.168.1.1:3128/**.

-P PSEUDO-HEADER, --pseudo-header=PSEUDO-HEADER

Add a custom pseudo-header to your report; for example, to add the *mytag* usertag for the user *humberto@example.com* to the bug, you could use **-P 'User: humberto@example.com' -P 'Ustags: mytag'**.

- q, --quiet**
Suppress diagnostic messages to standard error.
- Q, --query-only**
Do not submit a bug report; just query the BTS. Option ignored if you specify **--no-bts-query**.
- query-source**
Query on all binary packages built by the same source, not just the binary package specified.
- no-query-source**
Only query on the binary package specified on the command line.
- realname=NAME**
Set the real name (human-readable name) to use for your report.
- report-quiet**
Register the bug in the bug tracking system, but don't send a report to the package maintainer or anyone else. Don't do this unless you're the maintainer of the package in question, or you really know what you are doing.
- reply-to=ADDRESS, --replyto=ADDRESS**
Set the **Reply-To** address header in your report.
- s SUBJECT, --subject=SUBJECT**
Set the subject of the bug report (i.e. a brief explanation of the problem, less than 60 characters). If you do not specify this switch, you will be prompted for a subject.
- security-team**
If the 'security' tag is set, this option will explicitly specify to send the report only to the Debian Security Team, as this is an undisclosed vulnerability.
- no-security-team**
If the 'security' tag is set, this option will explicitly specify to not send the report only to the Debian Security Team, as this is not an undisclosed vulnerability.
- S SEVERITY, --severity=SEVERITY**
Specify a severity level, from **critical**, **grave**, **serious**, **important**, **normal**, **minor**, and **wishlist**.
- smtphost=HOST[:PORT]**
Use the mail transport agent (MTA) at **HOST** to send your report, instead of your local **/usr/sbin/sendmail** program. This should generally be your ISP's outgoing mail server; you can also use 'localhost' if you have a working mail server running on your machine. If the **PORT** is omitted, the standard port for SMTP, port 25, is used.
- timeout=SECONDS**
Specify the network timeout, the number of seconds to wait for a resource to respond. If nothing is specified, a default timeout of 1 minute is selected.

In case of a network error, there are chances it's due to a too low timeout: try passing the **--time-**out option with a higher value than default.
- tls** If using SMTP, use Transport Layer Security (TLS) encryption to secure the connection to the mail server. Some SMTP servers may require this option.
- smtpuser=USERNAME**
If using SMTP, use the specified *USERNAME* for authentication.
- smtppasswd=PASSWORD**
If using SMTP, use the specified *PASSWORD* for authentication. If the password isn't specified on the command line or in the configuration file, a prompt will be displayed asking for it.

Use of this option is insecure on multiuser systems. Instead, you should set this option in **\$HOME/.reportbugrc** and ensure it is only readable by your user (e.g. with **chmod 600**

\$HOME/.reportbugrc).

--src, --source

Specify to report the bug against the source package, and not the binary package (default behaviour). In order for this option to work, you have to populate the relevant 'deb-src' lines in /etc/apt/sources.list so that apt cache will know about source packages too.

-t TYPE, --type=TYPE

Specify the type of report to be submitted; currently accepts either **gnats** or **debbugs**.

-T TAG, --tag=TAG

Specify a tag to be filed on this report, for example **--tag=patch**. Multiple tags can be specified using multiple **-T/--tag** arguments.

Alternatively, you can specify the 'tag' **none** to bypass the tags prompt without specifying any tags; this will also ignore any tags specified on the command line.

--template

Output a template report to standard output. Differently from **-p/--print**, it tries to be not interactive, and presents a template without user's input.

-u INTERFACE, --interface=INTERFACE, --ui=INTERFACE

Specify the user interface to use. Valid options are **text**, **urwid**, and **gtk**; default is taken from the **reportbug** configuration files.

-v, --verify

Verify the integrity of the package (if installed) using **debsums** before reporting.

--no-verify

Do not verify the integrity of the package with **debsums**.

-V VERSION, --package-version=VERSION

Specify the version of the package the problem was found in. This is probably most useful if you are reporting a bug in a package that is not installable or installed on a different system.

-x, --no-cc

Don't send a blind carbon copy (BCC) of the bug report to the submitter (i.e. yourself).

-z, --no-compress

Don't compress configuration files by removing comments and blank lines.

EXAMPLES

reportbug lynx-ssl

Report a bug in the lynx-ssl package.

reportbug --path --filename=ls

Report a bug in the installed package that includes a program in your path called **ls**.

CONFIGURATION FILES

From version 0.22 on, **reportbug** has supported a simple run control file syntax. Commands are read from **/etc/reportbug.conf** and **\$HOME/.reportbugrc** with commands in the latter overriding those in the former.

Commands are not case sensitive, and currently take 0 or 1 argument; arguments containing whitespace must be enclosed in quotes.

Any line starting with **#** is taken to be a comment and will be ignored.

Generally, options corresponding to the long options for **reportbug** are supported, without leading **--** sequences. See **reportbug.conf(5)** for all acceptable options and detailed information.

ENVIRONMENT

VISUAL

Editor to use for editing your bug report.

EDITOR

Editor to use for editing the bug report (overridden by **VISUAL**).

REPORTBUGEMAIL, DEBEMAIL, EMAIL

Email address to use as your from address (in this order). If no environment variable exists, the default is taken from your user name and **/etc/mailname**.

DEBFULLNAME, DEBNAME, NAME

Real name to use; default is taken from **/etc/passwd**.

REPLYTO

Address for **Reply-To** header in outgoing mail.

MAILCC

Use the specified CC address on your email. Note you can also use the **-H** option for this (and for Bcc's too).

MAILBCC

Use the specified BCC address, instead of your email address. (CC and BCC based on suggestions from Herbert Thielen in the **bug** wishlist).

http_proxy

Provides the address of a proxy server to handle the BTS query. This should be a valid **http** URL for a proxy server, including any required port number (simply specifying a hostname, or omitting a port other than 80, WILL NOT WORK).

NOTES

reportbug should probably be compatible with other bug tracking systems, like **bugzilla** (used by the GNOME and Mozilla projects) and **jitterbug** (used by Samba, AbiSource and FreeCiv) but it isn't.

SEE ALSO

reportbug.conf(5), <http://www.debian.org/Bugs/Developer#tags> for available tags, querybts(1)

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