The main objective of using Autotools is to specify, at design-time, the compilation of the executable product using high-level abstractions such as "features", "dependencies" and source-code filenames.

Usually to compile the programs tree directives are used:

* ./configure
* make
* make install

“./configure” analyzes your system to see what kind of programs and libraries you have, so it knows how to build the program best. Then “make” does the actual building. After all, “make install” installs the program.

Autotool generally consist of tree tools:

Autoconf —is used to generate the “configure” shell script. It is the script that analyzes your system at compile-time. For example, does your system use “cc” or “gcc” as the C compiler?

Automake — is used to generate Makefiles. It uses information provided by Autoconf. For example, if your system has “gcc”, it will use “gcc” in the Makefile.

Libtool —is used to create shared libraries, platform-independently.