

Building Node.js with Ninja

The purpose of this guide is to show how to build Node.js using Ninja, as doing so can be significantly quicker than using `make`. Please see Ninja's site for installation instructions (Unix only).

Ninja is supported in the Makefile. Run `./configure --ninja` to configure the project to run the regular `make` commands with Ninja.

For example, `make` will execute `ninja -C out/Release` internally to produce a compiled release binary. It will also execute `ln -fs out/Release/node node`, so that you can execute `./node` at the project's root.

When running `make`, you will see output similar to the following if the build has succeeded:

```
ninja: Entering directory `out/Release`  
[4/4] LINK node, POSTBUILDS
```

The bottom line will change while building, showing the progress as `[finished/total]` build steps. This is useful output that `make` does not produce and is one of the benefits of using Ninja. Also, Ninja will likely compile much faster than even `make -j4` (or `-j<number of processor threads on your machine>`). You can still pass the number of processes to run for Ninja using the environment variable `JOBS`. This will be the equivalent to the `-j` parameter in the regular `make`:

```
JOBS=12 make
```

Producing a debug build

To create a debug build rather than a release build:

```
./configure --ninja --debug && make
```