NAME

rgbfix — Game Boy header utility and checksum fixer

SYNOPSIS

DESCRIPTION

The **rgbfix** program changes headers of Game Boy ROM images. It also performs other correctness operations, such as padding.

Note that options can be abbreviated as long as the abbreviation is unambiguous: --verb is --verbose, but --ver is invalid because it could also be --version. The arguments are as follows:

-C, --color-only

Set the Game Boy Color–only flag: 0x143 = 0xC0. If both this and the -c flag are set, this takes precedence.

-c, --color-compatible

Set the Game Boy Color–compatible flag: 0x143 = 0x80. If both this and the -C flag are set, -C takes precedence.

-f fix_spec, --fix-spec fix_spec

Fix certain header values that the Game Boy checks for correctness. Alternatively, intentionally trash these values by writing their binary inverse instead. fix_spec is a string containing any combination of the following characters:

- 1 Fix the Nintendo logo (0x104-0x133).
- L Trash the Nintendo logo.
- h Fix the header checksum (0x14D).
- H Trash the header checksum.
- g Fix the global checksum (0x14E-0x14F).
- G Trash the global checksum.
- -i game_id, --game-id game_id

Set the game ID string (0x13F-0x142) to a given string of exactly 4 characters. If both this and the title are set, the game ID will overwrite the overlapping portion of the title.

-j, --non-japanese

Set the non-Japanese region flag: 0x14A = 1.

-k licensee_str, --new-licensee licensee_str

Set the new licensee string (0x144–0x145) to a given string, truncated to at most two characters.

-l licensee_id, --old-licensee licensee_id

Set the old licensee code, 0x14B, to a given value from 0 to 0xFF. This value is deprecated and should be set to 0x33 in all new software.

-m mbc_type, --mbc-type mbc_type

Set the MBC type, 0x147, to a given value from 0 to 0xFF.

-n rom_version, --rom-version rom_version

Set the ROM version, 0x14C, to a given value from 0 to 0xFF.

-p pad_value, --pad-value pad_value

Pad the image to a valid size with a given pad value from 0 to 0xFF. **rgbfix** will automatically pick a size from 32 KiB, 64 KiB, 128 KiB, ..., 8192 KiB. The cartridge size byte (0x148) will be changed to reflect this new size.

- -r ram_size, --ram-size ram_size
 - Set the RAM size, 0x149, to a given value from 0 to 0xFF.
- -s, --sgb-compatible

Set the SGB flag: 0x146 = 3. This flag will be ignored by the SGB unless the old licensee code is 0x33!

-t title, --title title

Set the title string (0x134-0x143) to a given string, truncated to at most 16 characters. It is recommended to use 15 characters instead, to avoid clashing with the CGB flag (-c or -c). If both this and the game ID are set, the game ID will overwrite the overlapping portion of the title.

-V, --version

Print the version of the program and exit.

-v, --validate Equivalent to -f lhg.

EXAMPLES

Most values in the ROM header are only cosmetic. The bare minimum requirements for a workable program are the header checksum, the Nintendo logo, and (if needed) the CGB/SGB flags. It is a good idea to pad the image to a valid size as well ("valid" meaning a power of 2, times 32 KiB).

The following will make a plain, non-color Game Boy game without checking for a valid size:

The following will make a SGB-enabled, color-enabled game with a title of "foobar", and pad it to a valid size. (The Game Boy itself does not use the title, but some emulators or ROM managers do.)

The following will duplicate the header (sans global checksum) of the game "Survival Kids":

\$ rgbfix -cjsv -k A4 -l 0x33 -m 0x1B -p 0xFF -r 3 -t SURVIVALKIDAVKE SurvivalKids.gbc

BUGS

Please report bugs on *GitHub*: https://github.com/gbdev/rgbds/issues.

SEE ALSO

rgbasm(1), rgblink(1), rgbds(7)

HISTORY

rgbfix was originally released by Carsten Sørensen as a standalone program called gbfix, and was later packaged in RGBDS by Justin Lloyd. It is now maintained by a number of contributors at https://github.com/gbdev/rgbds.