

**NAME**

`gdb-add-index` – Add index files to speed up GDB

**SYNOPSIS**

`gdb-add-index filename`

**DESCRIPTION**

When GDB finds a symbol file, it scans the symbols in the file in order to construct an internal symbol table. This lets most GDB operations work quickly—at the cost of a delay early on. For large programs, this delay can be quite lengthy, so GDB provides a way to build an index, which speeds up startup.

To determine whether a file contains such an index, use the command `readelf -S filename`: the index is stored in a section named `.gdb_index`. The index file can only be produced on systems which use ELF binaries and DWARF debug information (i.e., sections named `.debug_*`).

**`gdb-add-index`** uses GDB and **`objdump`** found in the **`PATH`** environment variable. If you want to use different versions of these programs, you can specify them through the **`GDB`** and **`OBJDUMP`** environment variables.

See more in the GDB manual in node `Index Files` — shell command `info -f gdb -n "Index Files"`.

**OPTIONS****SEE ALSO**

The full documentation for GDB is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the `info` and `gdb` programs and GDB's Texinfo documentation are properly installed at your site, the command

```
info gdb
```

should give you access to the complete manual.

*Using GDB: A Guide to the GNU Source-Level Debugger*, Richard M. Stallman and Roland H. Pesch, July 1991.

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