

**NAME**

autom4te – Generate files and scripts thanks to M4

**SYNOPSIS**

**autom4te** [*OPTION*]... [*FILES*]

**DESCRIPTION**

Run GNU M4 on the *FILES*, avoiding useless runs. Output the traces if tracing, the frozen file if freezing, otherwise the expansion of the *FILES*.

If some of the *FILES* are named '*FILE.m4f*' they are considered to be M4 frozen files of all the previous files (which are therefore not loaded). If '*FILE.m4f*' is not found, then '*FILE.m4*' will be used, together with all the previous files.

Some files may be optional, i.e., will only be processed if found in the include path, but then must end in '.m4?'; the question mark is not part of the actual file name.

**Operation modes:**

- h, --help**  
print this help, then exit
- V, --version**  
print version number, then exit
- v, --verbose**  
verbosely report processing
- d, --debug**  
don't remove temporary files
- o, --output=FILE**  
save output in FILE (defaults to '-', stdout)
- f, --force**  
don't rely on cached values
- W, --warnings=CATEGORY**  
report the warnings falling in CATEGORY
- l, --language=LANG**  
specify the set of M4 macros to use
- C, --cache=DIRECTORY**  
preserve results for future runs in DIRECTORY
- no-cache**  
disable the cache
- m, --mode=OCTAL**  
change the non trace output file mode (0666)
- M, --melt**  
don't use M4 frozen files

**Languages include:**

- 'Autoconf'  
create Autoconf configure scripts
- 'Autotest'  
create Autotest test suites
- 'M4sh' create M4sh shell scripts
- 'M4sugar'  
create M4sugar output

**Warning categories include:**

- cross cross compilation issues
- gnu GNU coding standards (default in gnu and gnits modes)
- obsolete
  - obsolete features or constructions (default)
- override
  - user redefinitions of Automake rules or variables
- portability
  - portability issues (default in gnu and gnits modes)
- portability-recursive
  - nested Make variables (default with **-Wportability**)
- extra-*portability*
  - extra portability issues related to obscure tools
- syntax dubious syntactic constructs (default)
- unsupported
  - unsupported or incomplete features (default)
- all all the warnings
- no-CATEGORY
  - turn off warnings in CATEGORY
- none turn off all the warnings
- error treat warnings as errors

The environment variables 'M4' and 'WARNINGS' are honored.

**Library directories:**

- B, --prepend-include=DIR**
  - prepend directory DIR to search path
- I, --include=DIR**
  - append directory DIR to search path

**Tracing:**

- t, --trace=MACRO[:FORMAT]**
  - report the MACRO invocations
- p, --preselect=MACRO**
  - prepare to trace MACRO in a future run

**Freezing:**

- F, --freeze**
  - produce an M4 frozen state file for FILES

**FORMAT defaults to '\$f:\$l:\$n:\$%', and can use the following escapes:**

- \$\$** literal \$
- \$f** file where macro was called
- \$l** line where macro was called
- \$d** nesting depth of macro call
- \$n** name of the macro
- \$NUM** argument NUM, unquoted and with newlines

**\$SEP@**

all arguments, with newlines, quoted, and separated by SEP

**\$SEP\*** all arguments, with newlines, unquoted, and separated by SEP

**\$SEP%** all arguments, without newlines, unquoted, and separated by SEP

SEP can be empty for the default (comma for @ and \*, colon for %), a single character for that character, or {STRING} to use a string.

## AUTHOR

Written by Akim Demaille.

## REPORTING BUGS

Report bugs to <bug-autoconf@gnu.org>.

GNU Autoconf home page: <<https://www.gnu.org/software/autoconf/>>.

General help using GNU software: <<https://www.gnu.org/gethelp/>>.

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## SEE ALSO

**autoconf(1)**, **automake(1)**, **autoreconf(1)**, **autoupdate(1)**, **autoheader(1)**, **autoscan(1)**, **config.guess(1)**, **config.sub(1)**, **ifnames(1)**, **libtool(1)**.

The full documentation for **autom4te** is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the **info** and **autom4te** programs are properly installed at your site, the command

**info autom4te**

should give you access to the complete manual.