

# Quick start: LLVM compiler framework

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# Understanding LLVM

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LLVM is a collection of components  
which is useful to build a compiler.

# What LLVM is made of

- C++ libraries
  - `src/include/llvm/...`
  - `src/lib/...`
- small application (tools)
  - `src/tools/...`
  - `src/utils/...`

You can find binaries of them in the installation directory under `root/bin/...`

# clang

- **clang** is a compiler based on LLVM.
- It compiles all major C-like languages
- It can be added as a tool in the LLVM framework but must be manually cloned in the tool directory
  - 1 `cd src/tools`
  - 2 `git clone http://llvm.org/git/clang`
- You can easily see on a production quality compiler the impact of changes you made on your local copy of LLVM

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# Commands

`llvm-as` LLVM assembler

`llvm-dis` LLVM disassembler

`opt` LLVM optimizer

`llc` LLVM static compiler

`lli` directly execute programs from LLVM bitcode

`llvm-link` LLVM bitcode linker

`llvm-lib` LLVM lib.exe compatible library tool

`llvm-nm` list LLVM bitcode and object file's symbol table

`llvm-config` Print LLVM compilation options

`llvm-stress` generate random .ll files

`llvm-dwarfdump` print contents of DWARF sections

For a complete reference, see LLVM command guide <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup><http://llvm.org/docs/CommandGuide/index.html>



.c source

└─ **gcc / clang**

└─ .bc / .ll

└─ **llvm-link**

libWhatever.a

└─ .bc / .ll

└─ **opt**

└─ .bc / .ll

└─ **llc**

└─ .s

└─ **llvm-mc / as**

└─ .o

dynLibWhatever.o

└─ **ld**

└─ executable

[ .ll → **llvm-as** → .bc ]

# Writing a LLVM pass

There are a lot of tutorials available:

- Official developer guide  
[llvm.org/docs/WritingAnLLVMPass](http://llvm.org/docs/WritingAnLLVMPass)
- Out-of-source pass  
[github.com/quarkslab/llvm-dev-meeting-tutorial-2015](https://github.com/quarkslab/llvm-dev-meeting-tutorial-2015)

We will follow the first one, with a few adjustments.

# Testing

LLVM has an internal testing infrastructure.<sup>2</sup> Please use it.

`llvm-lit` LLVM Integrated Tester

- ❶ Forge a proper LLVM-IR input file (`.ll`) for your test case
- ❷ Instrument it with `lit` script comments
- ❸ Run `lit` on your test
  - `llvm-lit /llvm/test/myTests/singleTest.ll`  
run a single test
  - `llvm-lit /llvm/test/myTests`  
run the test suite (folder)
- ❹ Run `lit` on the LLVM test suite (regression testing)

To submit a bug report to LLVM developers you will be asked to write a `lit` test case that highlights the bug.

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<sup>2</sup><http://llvm.org/docs/TestingGuide.html>