

A Short Introduction to Makefile

Fangtian Zhong
CSCI 112

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Gianforte School of Computing
Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering
E-mail: fangtian.zhong@montana.edu

Basic Makefile Structure

Macros

- By using macros, we can avoid repeating text entries and makefile is easy to modify.
- Macro definitions have the form:
 - NAME = text string
 - e.g. we have: CC=g++
- Macros are referred to by placing the name in either parentheses or curly braces and preceding it with \$ sign.
 - E.g. \$(CC) main.o factorial.o hello.o -o prog

Basic Makefile Structure

Internal macros

- Internal macros are predefined in *make*.
- “*make -p*” to display a listing of all the macros, suffix rules and targets in effect for the current build.




Special macros

- The macro `@` evaluates to the name of the current target.
 - E.g.
prog1 : \$(objs)
 \$(CC) -o `$@` \$(objs)
is equivalent to
prog1 : \$(objs)
 \$(CC) -o prog1 \$(objs)

Suffix rules

- A way to define default rules or implicit rules that *make* can use to build a program. There are *double-suffix* and *single-suffix*.
 - Suffix rules are obsolete and are supported for compatibility. Use pattern rules (a rule contains character ‘%’) if possible.
 - Doubles-suffix is defined by the source suffix and the target suffix . E.g. .cpp.o:
\$(CC) \$(CFLAGS) -c \$<
 - This rule tells make that .o files are made from .c files.
 - \$< is a special macro which in this case stands for a .cpp file that is used to produce a .o file.

How Does Make Work?

-  The make utility compares the modification time of the target file with the modification times of the dependency files. Any dependency file that has a more recent modification time than its target file forces the target file to be recreated.
-  By default, the first target file is the one that is built. Other targets are checked only if they are dependencies for the first target.
-  Except for the first target, the order of the targets does not matter. The make utility will build them in the order required.

A New Makefile

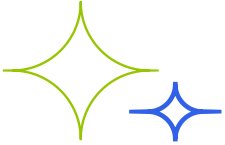
```
# This is a comment line
CC=g++
# CFLAGS will be the options passed to the compiler.
CFLAGS=-c -Wall
OBJECTS = main.o hello.o factorial.o

all: prog

prog: $(OBJECTS)
    $(CC) $(OBJECTS) -o prog

%.o: %.cpp
    $(CC) $(CFLAGS) $<

clean:
    rm -rf *.o
```



THE END

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