Go 1.17 Release Notes

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Introduction to Go 1.17

The latest Go release, version 1.17, arrives six months after Go 1.16. Most of its changes are in the implementation of the toolchain, runtime, and libraries. As always, the release maintains the Go 1 promise of compatibility. We expect almost all Go programs to continue to compile and run as before.

Changes to the language

Go 1.17 includes three small enhancements to the language.

- Conversions from slice to array pointer: An expression s of type []T may now be converted to array pointer type *[N]T. If a is the result of such a conversion, then corresponding indices that are in range refer to the same underlying elements: &a[i] == &s[i] for 0 <= i < N. The conversion panics if len(s) is less than N.
- unsafe.Add: unsafe.Add(ptr, len) adds len to ptr and returns the updated pointer unsafe.Pointer(uintptr(ptr) + uintptr(len)).
- unsafe.Slice: For expression ptr of type *T, unsafe.Slice(ptr, len) returns a slice of type []T whose underlying array starts at ptr and whose length and capacity are len.

The package unsafe enhancements were added to simplify writing code that conforms to unsafe.Pointer's safety rules, but the rules remain unchanged. In particular, existing programs that correctly use unsafe.Pointer remain valid, and new programs must still follow the rules when using unsafe.Add or unsafe.Slice.

Note that the new conversion from slice to array pointer is the first case in which a type conversion can panic at run time. Analysis tools that assume type conversions can never panic should be updated to consider this possibility.

Ports

Darwin

As announced in the Go 1.16 release notes, Go 1.17 requires macOS 10.13 High Sierra or later; support for previous versions has been discontinued.

Windows

Go 1.17 adds support of 64-bit ARM architecture on Windows (the windows/arm64 port). This port supports cgo.

OpenBSD

The 64-bit MIPS architecture on OpenBSD (the openbsd/mips64 port) now supports cgo.

In Go 1.16, on the 64-bit x86 and 64-bit ARM architectures on OpenBSD (the openbsd/amd64 and openbsd/arm64 ports) system calls are made through libc, instead of directly using machine instructions. In Go 1.17, this is also done on the 32-bit x86 and 32-bit ARM architectures on OpenBSD (the openbsd/386 and openbsd/arm ports). This ensures compatibility with OpenBSD 6.9 onwards, which require system calls to be made through libc for non-static Go binaries.

ARM64

Go programs now maintain stack frame pointers on the 64-bit ARM architecture on all operating systems. Previously, stack frame pointers were only enabled on Linux, macOS, and iOS.

loong64 GOARCH value reserved

The main Go compiler does not yet support the LoongArch architecture, but we've reserved the GOARCH value "loong64". This means that Go files named *_loong64.go will now be ignored by Go tools except when that GOARCH value is being used.

Tools

Go command

Pruned module graphs in go 1.17 modules

If a module specifies go 1.17 or higher, the module graph includes only the *immediate* dependencies of other go 1.17 modules, not their full transitive dependencies. (See Module graph pruning for more detail.)

For the go command to correctly resolve transitive imports using the pruned module graph, the go.mod file for each module needs to include more detail about the transitive dependencies relevant to that module. If a module specifies go 1.17 or higher in its go.mod file, its go.mod file now contains an explicit require directive for every module that provides

a transitively-imported package. (In previous versions, the go.mod file typically only included explicit requirements for *directly*-imported packages.)

Since the expanded go.mod file needed for module graph pruning includes all of the dependencies needed to load the imports of any package in the main module, if the main module specifies go 1.17 or higher the go tool no longer reads (or even downloads) go.mod files for dependencies if they are not needed in order to complete the requested command. (See Lazy loading.)

Because the number of explicit requirements may be substantially larger in an expanded Go 1.17 go.mod file, the newly-added requirements on *indirect* dependencies in a go 1.17 module are maintained in a separate require block from the block containing direct dependencies.

To facilitate the upgrade to Go 1.17 pruned module graphs, the go mod tidy subcommand now supports a -go flag to set or change the go version in the go.mod file. To convert the go.mod file for an existing module to Go 1.17 without changing the selected versions of its dependencies, run:

```
go mod tidy -go=1.17
```

By default, go mod tidy verifies that the selected versions of dependencies relevant to the main module are the same versions that would be used by the prior Go release (Go 1.16 for a module that specifies go 1.17), and preserves the go. sum entries needed by that release even for dependencies that are not normally needed by other commands.

The -compat flag allows that version to be overridden to support older (or only newer) versions, up to the version specified by the go directive in the go.mod file. To tidy a go 1.17 module for Go 1.17 only, without saving checksums for (or checking for consistency with) Go 1.16:

```
go mod tidy -compat=1.17
```

Note that even if the main module is tidied with -compat=1.17, users who require the module from a go 1.16 or earlier module will still be able to use it, provided that the packages use only compatible language and library features.

The go mod graph subcommand also supports the -go flag, which causes it to report the graph as seen by the indicated Go version, showing dependencies that may otherwise be pruned out.

Module deprecation comments

Module authors may deprecate a module by adding a // Deprecated: comment to go.mod, then tagging a new version. go get now prints a warning if a module needed to build packages named on the command line is deprecated. go list -m -u prints deprecations for all dependencies (use -f or -json to show the full message). The go command considers

different major versions to be distinct modules, so this mechanism may be used, for example, to provide users with migration instructions for a new major version.

go get

The go get -insecure flag is deprecated and has been removed. To permit the use of insecure schemes when fetching dependencies, please use the GOINSECURE environment variable. The -insecure flag also bypassed module sum validation, use GOPRIVATE or GONOSUMDB if you need that functionality. See go help environment for details.

go get prints a deprecation warning when installing commands outside the main module (without the -d flag). go install cmd@version should be used instead to install a command at a specific version, using a suffix like @latest or @v1.2.3. In Go 1.18, the -d flag will always be enabled, and go get will only be used to change dependencies in go.mod.

go.mod files missing go directives

If the main module's go.mod file does not contain a go directive and the go command cannot update the go.mod file, the go command now assumes go 1.11 instead of the current release. (go mod init has added go directives automatically since Go 1.12.)

If a module dependency lacks an explicit go.mod file, or its go.mod file does not contain a go directive, the go command now assumes go 1.16 for that dependency instead of the current release. (Dependencies developed in GOPATH mode may lack a go.mod file, and the vendor/modules.txt has to date never recorded the go versions indicated by dependencies' go.mod files.)

vendor contents

If the main module specifies go 1.17 or higher, go mod vendor now annotates vendor/modules.txt with the go version indicated by each vendored module in its own go.mod file. The annotated version is used when building the module's packages from vendored source code.

If the main module specifies go 1.17 or higher, go mod vendor now omits go.mod and go.sum files for vendored dependencies, which can otherwise interfere with the ability of the go command to identify the correct module root when invoked within the vendor tree.

Password prompts

The go command by default now suppresses SSH password prompts and Git Credential Manager prompts when fetching Git repositories using SSH, as it already did previously for other Git password prompts. Users authenticating to private Git repos with password-protected SSH may configure an ssh-agent to enable the go command to use password-protected SSH keys.

go mod download

When go mod download is invoked without arguments, it will no longer save sums for downloaded module content to go.sum. It may still make changes to go.mod and go.sum needed to load the build list. This is the same as the behavior in Go 1.15. To save sums for all modules, use go mod download all.

//go:build lines

The go command now understands //go:build lines and prefers them over // +build lines. The new syntax uses boolean expressions, just like Go, and should be less error-prone. As of this release, the new syntax is fully supported, and all Go files should be updated to have both forms with the same meaning. To aid in migration, gofmt now automatically synchronizes the two forms. For more details on the syntax and migration plan, see https://golang.org/design/draft-gobuild.

go run

go run now accepts arguments with version suffixes (for example, go run example.com/cmd@v1.0.0). This causes go run to build and run packages in module-aware mode, ignoring the go.mod file in the current directory or any parent directory, if there is one. This is useful for running executables without installing them or without changing dependencies of the current module.

Gofmt

gofmt (and go fmt) now synchronizes //go:build lines with // +build lines. If a file only has // +build lines, they will be moved to the appropriate location in the file, and matching //go:build lines will be added. Otherwise, // +build lines will be overwritten based on any existing //go:build lines. For more information, see https://golang.org/design/draft-gobuild.

Vet

New warning for mismatched //go:build and // +build lines

The vet tool now verifies that //go:build and // +build lines are in the correct part of the file and synchronized with each other. If they aren't, gofmt can be used to fix them. For more information, see https://golang.org/design/draft-gobuild.

New warning for calling signal. Notify on unbuffered channels

The vet tool now warns about calls to signal. Notify with incoming signals being sent to an unbuffered channel. Using an unbuffered channel risks missing signals sent on them as signal. Notify does not block when sending to a channel. For example:

```
c := make(chan os.Signal)
// signals are sent on c before the channel is read from.
// This signal may be dropped as c is unbuffered.
signal.Notify(c, os.Interrupt)
```

Users of signal. Notify should use channels with sufficient buffer space to keep up with the expected signal rate.

New warnings for Is, As and Unwrap methods

The vet tool now warns about methods named As, Is or Unwrap on types implementing the error interface that have a different signature than the one expected by the errors package. The errors. {As, Is, Unwrap} functions expect such methods to implement either Is(error) bool, As(interface{}) bool, or Unwrap() error respectively. The functions errors. {As, Is, Unwrap} will ignore methods with the same names but a different signature. For example:

Cover

The cover tool now uses an optimized parser from golang.org/x/tools/cover, which may be noticeably faster when parsing large coverage profiles.

Compiler

Go 1.17 implements a new way of passing function arguments and results using registers instead of the stack. Benchmarks for a representative set of Go packages and programs show performance improvements of about 5%, and a typical reduction in binary size of about 2%. This is currently enabled for Linux, macOS, and Windows on the 64-bit x86 architecture (the linux/amd64, darwin/amd64, and windows/amd64 ports).

This change does not affect the functionality of any safe Go code and is designed to have no impact on most assembly code. It may affect code that violates the unsafe.Pointer rules when accessing function arguments, or that depends on undocumented behavior involving comparing function code pointers. To maintain compatibility with existing assembly functions, the compiler generates adapter functions that convert between the new register-based calling convention and the previous stack-based calling convention. These adapters are typically invisible to users, except that taking the address of a Go function in assembly code or taking the address of an assembly function in Go code using reflect.ValueOf(fn).Pointer() or unsafe.Pointer will now return the address of the adapter. Code that depends on the value of these code pointers may no longer behave as expected. Adapters also may cause a very small performance overhead in two cases: calling an assembly function indirectly from Go via a func value, and calling Go functions from assembly.

The format of stack traces from the runtime (printed when an uncaught panic occurs, or when runtime. Stack is called) is improved. Previously, the function arguments were printed as hexadecimal words based on the memory layout. Now each argument in the source code is printed separately, separated by commas. Aggregate-typed (struct, array, string, slice, interface, and complex) arguments are delimited by curly braces. A caveat is that the value of an argument that only lives in a register and is not stored to memory may be inaccurate. Function return values (which were usually inaccurate) are no longer printed.

Functions containing closures can now be inlined. One effect of this change is that a function with a closure may produce a distinct closure code pointer for each place that the function is inlined. Go function values are not directly comparable, but this change could reveal bugs in code that uses reflect or unsafe. Pointer to bypass this language restriction and compare functions by code pointer.

Linker

When the linker uses external linking mode, which is the default when linking a program that uses cgo, and the linker is invoked with a -I option, the option will now be passed to the external linker as a -Wl, --dynamic-linker option.

Core library

Cgo

The runtime/cgo package now provides a new facility that allows to turn any Go values to a safe representation that can be used to pass values between C and Go safely. See runtime/cgo.Handle for more information.

URL query parsing

The net/url and net/http packages used to accept ";" (semicolon) as a setting separator in URL queries, in addition to "&" (ampersand). Now, settings with non-percent-encoded semicolons are rejected and net/http servers will log a warning to Server.ErrorLog when encountering one in a request URL.

For example, before Go 1.17 the Query method of the URL example?a=1; b=2&c=3 would have returned map[a:[1] b:[2] c:[3]], while now it returns map[c:[3]].

When encountering such a query string, URL.Query and Request.FormValue ignore any settings that contain a semicolon, ParseQuery returns the remaining settings and an error, and Request.ParseForm and Request.ParseMultipartForm return an error but still set Request fields based on the remaining settings.

net/http users can restore the original behavior by using the new AllowQuerySemicolons handler wrapper. This will also suppress the ErrorLog warning. Note that accepting semicolons as query separators can lead to security issues if different systems interpret cache keys differently. See issue 25192 for more information.

TLS strict ALPN

When Config.NextProtos is set, servers now enforce that there is an overlap between the configured protocols and the ALPN protocols advertised by the client, if any. If there is no mutually supported protocol, the connection is closed with the no_application_protocol alert, as required by RFC 7301. This helps mitigate the ALPACA cross-protocol attack.

As an exception, when the value "h2" is included in the server's Config.NextProtos, HTTP/1.1 clients will be allowed to connect as if they didn't support ALPN. See issue 46310 for more information.

Minor changes to the library

As always, there are various minor changes and updates to the library, made with the Go 1 promise of compatibility in mind.

archive/zip

The new methods File.OpenRaw, Writer.CreateRaw, Writer.Copy provide support for cases where performance is a primary concern.

bufio

The Writer.WriteRune method now writes the replacement character U+FFFD for negative rune values, as it does for other invalid runes.

bytes

The Buffer.WriteRune method now writes the replacement character U+FFFD for negative rune values, as it does for other invalid runes.

compress/lzw

The NewReader function is guaranteed to return a value of the new type Reader, and similarly NewWriter is guaranteed to return a value of the new type Writer. These new types both implement a Reset method (Reader.Reset, Writer.Reset) that allows reuse of the Reader or Writer.

crypto/ed25519

The crypto/ed25519 package has been rewritten, and all operations are now approximately twice as fast on amd64 and arm64. The observable behavior has not otherwise changed.

crypto/elliptic

CurveParams methods now automatically invoke faster and safer dedicated implementations for known curves (P-224, P-256, and P-521) when available. Note that this is a best-effort approach and applications should avoid using the generic, not

constant-time CurveParams methods and instead use dedicated Curve implementations such as P256.

The P521 curve implementation has been rewritten using code generated by the fiat-crypto project, which is based on a formally-verified model of the arithmetic operations. It is now constant-time and three times faster on amd64 and arm64. The observable behavior has not otherwise changed.

crypto/rand

The crypto/rand package now uses the getentropy syscall on macOS and the getrandom syscall on Solaris, Illumos, and DragonFlyBSD.

crypto/tls

The new Conn. HandshakeContext method allows the user to control cancellation of an in-progress TLS handshake. The provided context is accessible from various callbacks through the new ClientHelloInfo.Context and CertificateRequestInfo.Context methods. Canceling the context after the handshake has finished has no effect.

Cipher suite ordering is now handled entirely by the crypto/tls package. Currently, cipher suites are sorted based on their security, performance, and hardware support taking into account both the local and peer's hardware. The order of the Config.CipherSuites field is now ignored, as well as the Config.PreferServerCipherSuites field. Note that Config.CipherSuites still allows applications to choose what TLS 1.0–1.2 cipher suites to enable.

The 3DES cipher suites have been moved to InsecureCipherSuites due to fundamental block size-related weakness. They are still enabled by default but only as a last resort, thanks to the cipher suite ordering change above.

Beginning in the next release, Go 1.18, the Config.MinVersion for crypto/tls clients will default to TLS 1.2, disabling TLS 1.0 and TLS 1.1 by default. Applications will be able to override the change by explicitly setting Config.MinVersion. This will not affect crypto/tls servers.

crypto/x509

CreateCertificate now returns an error if the provided private key doesn't match the parent's public key, if any. The resulting certificate would have failed to verify.

The temporary GODEBUG=x509ignoreCN=0 flag has been removed.

ParseCertificate has been rewritten, and now consumes ~70% fewer resources. The observable behavior when processing WebPKI certificates has not otherwise changed, except for error messages.

On BSD systems, /etc/ssl/certs is now searched for trusted roots. This adds support for the new system trusted certificate store in FreeBSD 12.2+.

Beginning in the next release, Go 1.18, crypto/x509 will reject certificates signed with the SHA-1 hash function. This doesn't apply to self-signed root certificates. Practical attacks against SHA-1 have been demonstrated in 2017 and publicly trusted Certificate Authorities have not issued SHA-1 certificates since 2015.

database/sql

The DB.Close method now closes the connector field if the type in this field implements the io.Closer interface.

The new NullInt16 and NullByte structs represent the int16 and byte values that may be null. These can be used as destinations of the Scan method, similar to NullString.

debug/elf

The SHT_MIPS_ABIFLAGS constant has been added.

encoding/binary

binary.Uvarint will stop reading after 10 bytes to avoid wasted computations. If more than 10 bytes are needed, the byte count returned is -11.

Previous Go versions could return larger negative counts when reading incorrectly encoded varints.

encoding/csv

The new Reader.FieldPos method returns the line and column corresponding to the start of a given field in the record most recently returned by Read.

encoding/xml

When a comment appears within a Directive, it is now replaced with a single space instead of being completely elided.

Invalid element or attribute names with leading, trailing, or multiple colons are now stored unmodified into the Name. Local field.

flag

Flag declarations now panic if an invalid name is specified.

go/build

The new Context. ToolTags field holds the build tags appropriate to the current Go toolchain configuration.

go/format

The Source and Node functions now synchronize //go:build lines with // +build lines. If a file only has // +build lines, they will be moved to the appropriate location in the file, and matching //go:build lines will be added. Otherwise, // +build lines will be overwritten based on any existing //go:build lines. For more information, see https://golang.org/design/draft-gobuild.

go/parser

The new SkipObjectResolution Mode value instructs the parser not to resolve identifiers to their declaration. This may improve parsing speed.

image

The concrete image types (RGBA, Gray16 and so on) now implement a new RGBA64Image interface. The concrete types that previously implemented draw. Image now also implement draw. RGBA64Image, a new interface in the image/draw package.

io/fs

The new FileInfoToDirEntry function converts a FileInfo to a DirEntry.

math

The math package now defines three more constants: MaxUint, MaxInt and MinInt. For 32-bit systems their values are 2^32 - 1, 2^31 - 1 and -2^31, respectively. For 64-bit systems their values are 2^64 - 1, 2^63 - 1 and -2^63, respectively.

mime

On Unix systems, the table of MIME types is now read from the local system's Shared MIME-info Database when available.

mime/multipart

Part.FileName now applies filepath.Base to the return value. This mitigates potential path traversal vulnerabilities in applications that accept multipart messages, such as net/http servers that call Request.FormFile.

net

The new method IP.IsPrivate reports whether an address is a private IPv4 address according to RFC 1918 or a local IPv6 address according RFC 4193.

The Go DNS resolver now only sends one DNS query when resolving an address for an IPv4-only or IPv6-only network, rather than querying for both address families.

The ErrClosed sentinel error and ParseError error type now implement the net.Error interface.

The ParseIP and ParseCIDR functions now reject IPv4 addresses which contain decimal components with leading zeros. These components were always interpreted as decimal, but some operating systems treat them as octal. This mismatch could hypothetically lead to security issues if a Go application was used to validate IP addresses which were then used in their original form with non-Go applications which interpreted components as octal. Generally, it is advisable to always re-encode values after validation, which avoids this class of parser misalignment issues.

net/http

The net/http package now uses the new (*tls.Conn). HandshakeContext with the Request context when performing TLS handshakes in the client or server.

Setting the Server ReadTimeout or WriteTimeout fields to a negative value now indicates no timeout rather than an immediate timeout.

The ReadRequest function now returns an error when the request has multiple Host headers.

When producing a redirect to the cleaned version of a URL, ServeMux now always uses relative URLs in the Location header. Previously it would echo the full URL of the request, which could lead to unintended redirects if the client could be made to send an absolute request URL.

When interpreting certain HTTP headers handled by net/http, non-ASCII characters are now ignored or rejected.

If Request.ParseForm returns an error when called by Request.ParseMultipartForm, the latter now continues populating Request.MultipartForm before returning it.

net/http/httptest

ResponseRecorder.WriteHeader now panics when the provided code is not a valid three-digit HTTP status code. This matches the behavior of ResponseWriter implementations in the net/http package.

net/url

The new method Values. Has reports whether a query parameter is set.

os

The File.WriteString method has been optimized to not make a copy of the input string.

reflect

The new Value. CanConvert method reports whether a value can be converted to a type. This may be used to avoid a panic when converting a slice to an array pointer type

if the slice is too short. Previously it was sufficient to use Type.ConvertibleTo for this, but the newly permitted conversion from slice to array pointer type can panic even if the types are convertible.

The new StructField.IsExported and Method.IsExported methods report whether a struct field or type method is exported. They provide a more readable alternative to checking whether PkgPath is empty.

The new VisibleFields function returns all the visible fields in a struct type, including fields inside anonymous struct members.

The ArrayOf function now panics when called with a negative length.

Checking the Type.ConvertibleTo method is no longer sufficient to guarantee that a call to Value.Convert will not panic. It may panic when converting `[]T` to `*[N]T` if the slice's length is less than N. See the language changes section above.

The Value.Convert and Type.ConvertibleTo methods have been fixed to not treat types in different packages with the same name as identical, to match what the language allows.

runtime/metrics

New metrics were added that track total bytes and objects allocated and freed. A new metric tracking the distribution of goroutine scheduling latencies was also added.

runtime/pprof

Block profiles are no longer biased to favor infrequent long events over frequent short events.

strconv

The strconv package now uses Ulf Adams's Ryū algorithm for formatting floating-point numbers. This algorithm improves performance on most inputs and is more than 99% faster on worst-case inputs.

The new QuotedPrefix function returns the quoted string (as understood by Unquote) at the start of input.

strings

The Builder.WriteRune method now writes the replacement character U+FFFD for negative rune values, as it does for other invalid runes.

sync/atomic

atomic. Value now has Swap and CompareAndSwap methods that provide additional atomic operations.

syscall

The GetQueuedCompletionStatus and PostQueuedCompletionStatus functions are now deprecated. These functions have incorrect signatures and are superseded by equivalents in the golang.org/x/sys/windows package.

On Unix-like systems, the process group of a child process is now set with signals blocked. This avoids sending a SIGTTOU to the child when the parent is in a background process group.

The Windows version of SysProcAttr has two new fields.

AdditionalInheritedHandles is a list of additional handles to be inherited by the new child process. ParentProcess permits specifying the parent process of the new process.

The constant MSG_CMSG_CLOEXEC is now defined on DragonFly and all OpenBSD systems (it was already defined on some OpenBSD systems and all FreeBSD, NetBSD, and Linux systems).

The constants SYS_WAIT6 and WEXITED are now defined on NetBSD systems (SYS_WAIT6 was already defined on DragonFly and FreeBSD systems; WEXITED was already defined on Darwin, DragonFly, FreeBSD, Linux, and Solaris systems).

testing

Added a new testing flag - shuffle which controls the execution order of tests and benchmarks.

The new T.Setenv and B.Setenv methods support setting an environment variable for the duration of the test or benchmark.

text/template/parse

The new SkipFuncCheck Mode value changes the template parser to not verify that functions are defined.

time

The Time type now has a GoString method that will return a more useful value for times when printed with the %#v format specifier in the fmt package.

The new Time. IsDST method can be used to check whether the time is in Daylight Savings Time in its configured location.

The new Time.UnixMilli and Time.UnixMicro methods return the number of milliseconds and microseconds elapsed since January 1, 1970 UTC respectively. The new UnixMilli and UnixMicro functions return the local Time corresponding to the given Unix time.

The package now accepts comma "," as a separator for fractional seconds when parsing and formatting time. For example, the following time layouts are now accepted:

- 2006-01-02 15:04:05,99999999 -0700 MST
- Mon Jan _2 15:04:05,000000 2006
- Monday, January 2 15:04:05,000 2006

The new constant Layout defines the reference time.

unicode

The Is, IsGraphic, IsLetter, IsLower, IsMark, IsNumber, IsPrint, IsPunct, IsSpace, IsSymbol, and IsUpper functions now return false on negative rune values, as they do for other invalid runes.