

















# Object, Executable Files Inspection

Description	Keystroke	Function	Note
<div> <div>Inspecting Object, Executable and Binary Files</div> <div>  This page is a placeholder, showing which modes can be activated with PEL. Use <b>C-h m</b> in those modes to see the bindings.                 </div> <div>                     Last updated on: 2025-10-09                 </div> </div>	<div>                     Emacs does not have explicit support for inspecting the content of object files.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>However, the following external packages can be used to inspect the content of some object file formats:</li> </ul> </div> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <div> <div>ELF</div> <div>  <a href="#">elf-mode</a> </div> </div> <div>  <a href="#">pel-use-elf-mode</a> set to <b>t</b> activates it.                             <div>   Several forks of the original code exist. Some support customization.                                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The version currently supported by PEL has some customization under the <b>elf-mode</b> customization group.                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To customize with PEL, type: <b>&lt;f11&gt; &lt;f2&gt; g</b> <a href="#">elf-mode</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                 Once I have time I'd like to bring every fork together and provide more information on the various features. That's in my to-do list to update PEL to support the latest.                             </div> </div> </li> <li> <div> <div>Intel Hex</div> <div>  <a href="#">intel-hex-mode</a> </div> </div> <div>  <a href="#">pel-use-intel-hex-mode</a> set to <b>t</b> activates this mode.                              <a href="#">pel-intel-hex-activates-minor-modes</a> allows specifying other minors modes activated for .hex files.                         </div> </li> </ul> </div>		
<a href="#">elf-mode</a>	Open <a href="#">ELF</a> (Executable Linkable File) object files with <a href="#">elf-mode</a> activated by <b>pel-use-elf-mode</b> user-option. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When the elf-mode is active the following key bindings are available. The buffer opens in the <a href="#">elf-mode-symbols</a>, showing the symbols.</li> </ul>		
	<b>A</b>	( <a href="#">elf-mode-arch-specific</a> )	
	<b>G</b>	( <a href="#">elf-mode-section-groups</a> )	
	<b>I</b>	( <a href="#">elf-mode-histogram</a> )	
	<b>S</b>	( <a href="#">elf-mode-section-headers</a> )	Lists the object section headers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each section name is a <b>button</b>. Typing return on it opens a buffer that dumps the binary content of that section.</li> </ul>
	<b>V</b>	( <a href="#">elf-mode-version-info</a> )	
	<b>c</b>	( <a href="#">elf-mode-archive-index</a> )	
	<b>d</b>	( <a href="#">elf-mode-dynamic</a> )	
	<b>e</b>	( <a href="#">elf-mode-headers</a> )	
	<b>g</b>	( <a href="#">revert-buffer</a> &optional IGNORE-AUTO NOCONFIRM PRESERVE-MODES)	
	<b>h</b>	( <a href="#">elf-mode-header</a> )	
	<b>l</b>	( <a href="#">elf-mode-program-headers</a> )	
	<b>m</b>	( <a href="#">elf-mode-md5sum</a> )	Show the MD5sum of this object file.
	<b>n</b>	( <a href="#">elf-mode-notes</a> )	Show the notes found in the object file. Each note is on a line and have the following columns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Owner,</li> <li>Data size,</li> <li>Description,</li> <li>Build ID</li> </ul>
	<b>q</b>	( <a href="#">quit-window</a> &optional KILL WINDOW)	
	<b>r</b>	( <a href="#">elf-mode-relocs</a> )	List the relocation sections, the name of the section, number of entries inside each section and the data in the following columns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offset</li> <li>Info</li> <li>Type: Example: R_X86_64_PLT32 , RX86_64_32S</li> <li>Symbol's value</li> <li>Symbol's Name + Addend : Example: "printk - 4"</li> </ul>
Show symbols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buttons to objdump of functions.</li> </ul>	<b>s</b>	( <a href="#">elf-mode-symbols</a> )	List the symbol table (.symtab) in the object file, which has the following columns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Index number starting at 0</li> <li>Value</li> <li>Size (in bytes)</li> <li>Type: NOTYPE   FILE  SECTION   OBJECT   FUNC   ...</li> <li>Bind: LOCAL   GLOBAL</li> <li>Vis(ibility):</li> <li>Index: UND   ABS   #</li> <li>Name : The function names are <b>buttons</b>. Typing return on them opens a buffer with the objdump output showing the binary, the assembler code and the original source code and comment.</li> </ul>
	<b>u</b>	( <a href="#">elf-mode-unwind</a> )	Decode unwind sections
	<b>x</b>	( <a href="#">elf-mode-dyn-syms</a> )	
Show strings extracted from the object file	<b>z</b>	( <a href="#">elf-mode-strings</a> )	Prints the the output of running strings on the object file.
<div> <div>Hexadecimal Editing with nhexl</div> <div>                     See also: <a href="#">Buffers</a> </div> </div>	<div>  The <a href="#">nhexl-mode</a> external package used to display and manipulate the content of the current buffer in hexadecimal and manipulate hex dump files.                      PEL downloads installs and activates this package when the <b>pel-use-nhexl</b> user option is set to <b>t</b>.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the <b>&lt;f11&gt; b &lt;f2&gt;</b> key sequence to open the PEL buffer customization buffer to access this user option.</li> </ul>                     Once the hexadecimal mode is on, turn it off by executing the <a href="#">nhexl-mode</a> command again.                 </div> <div>  Good <a href="#">nhexl-mode</a> features:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <a href="#">nhexl-mode</a> keeps the undo history when you toggle the nhexl mode. Something that the helx mode does not do.</li> <li>You can use all of the normal navigation commands. You don't need to use specialized commands. PEL <b>home</b> and <b>end</b> commands work.</li> </ul> </div>		
Toggle buffer between normal and hex display	<b>&lt;f11&gt; b x</b>	( <a href="#">nhexl-mode</a> &optional ARG)	Toggle minor mode to edit files via hex-dump format. <div>  Requires the <a href="#">nhexl-mode</a> package  activated when <b>pel-use-nhexl</b> user option is <b>t</b>.                     </div>
Activate Hex nibble editing mode	<b>&lt;f11&gt; b x</b>	( <a href="#">nhexl-nibble-edit-mode</a> &optional ARG)	Minor mode to edit the hex nibbles in 'nhexl-mode'. <div>  <b>Note:</b> only works after nhexl-mode has been activated once.                     </div> <div>  Requires the <a href="#">nhexl-mode</a> package  activated when <b>pel-use-nhexl</b> user option is <b>t</b>.                     </div>