

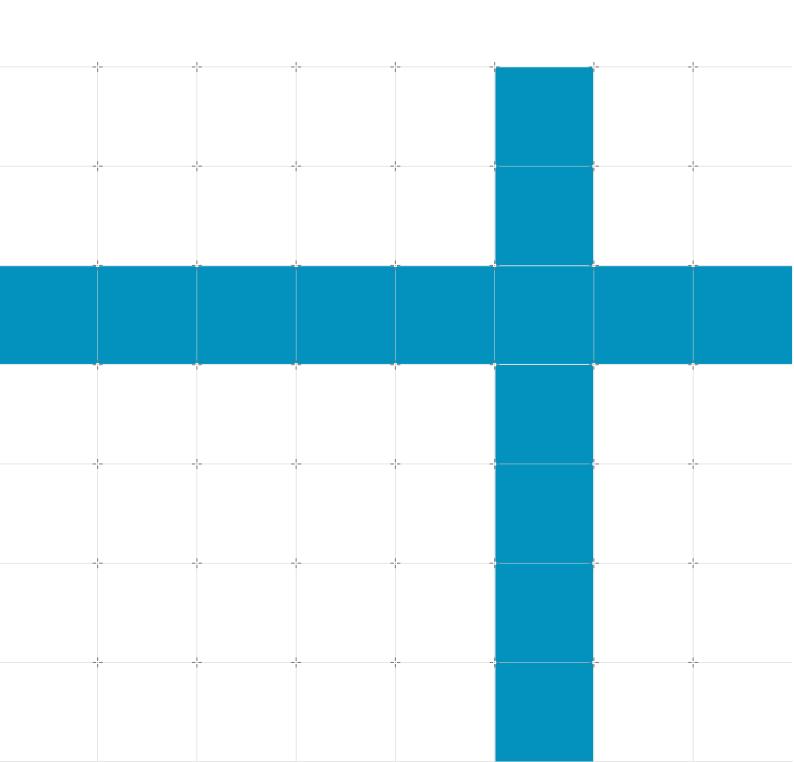
Morello Instruction Emulator User Guide

Non-confidential

Issue

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Morello Instruction Emulator User Guide

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Release Information

Document History

Issue	Date	Confidentiality	Change
0.1	October 2020	Non-Confidential	Initial version Morello IE release 1.0.
0.2	February 2021	Non-Confidential	Clarification of known issues and limitations. New command line options. Updates of instruction and memory tracer. New tools: debugger and cache model. Morello IE release 1.1.
0.3	July 2021	Non-Confidential	Added description of new features. Updated known issue and limitations. Code examples now use Musl C library. Morello IE release 1.2.
0.4	January 2022	Non-Confidential	Updated command line options and debugger commands. Updated Morello LLVM build instructions. Morello IE release 1.4.

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Product Status

The information in this document is for a Beta product, that is a product under development.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Product revision status

Morello Instruction Emulator version: 1.4.

1.2 Intended audience

Morello Instruction Emulator (Morello IE) is a tool for software developers and researchers who wish to experiment with the Morello architecture. It allows you to run userspace Morello applications on AArch64 Linux systems in a non-Morello environment. It also includes runtime instrumentation that can collect information about events and counters related to Morello. In addition, it includes an interactive debugger to help with running Morello applications.

The emulator can be used for:

- Experiments with Morello userspace applications on non-Morello AArch64 Linux systems.
- Evaluate compartmentalisation solutions and experiment with the Linux system call ABI.
- Test, debug and trace existing software being ported to Morello.
- Trace-based performance analysis and cache modelling for Morello applications.

Important: Morello IE is an experimental tool and it does not provide a full Morello user space environment. Do not use the Morello IE to run applications in a production environment.

1.3 System requirements

Morello IE is released in pre-built binary form and requires the following:

- Arm v8.0 64-bit hardware (v8.2 or above is recommended).
- Existing userspace GNU/Linux environment (for example, Red Hat 7.x or Ubuntu 18.04).
- The host system must have Glibc 2.17 or above.

1.4 Installation

The distribution bundle for Morello IE contains all required libraries and files. To install this tool, unpack the bundle at any location. To use the emulator launcher, extract the contents of the bundle and then add the bin directory of the installation folder to your PATH environment variable. The installation is self-consistent and portable. For example:

```
$ tar -xf morelloie-${VERSION}.tar.gz
$ export PATH=${PATH}:$(pwd)/morelloie-${VERSION}/bin
$ morelloie -version
```

Morello architecture is backwards compatible with AArch64, and you can run an AArch64 application with the emulator. To check that your installation is successful, run the following command:

```
$ morelloie -- uname -m
```

This command runs uname -m in the emulator, and displays aarch64.

The installation directory includes:

- bin directory with launcher and frontend binaries.
- 1ib directory with instrumentation clients.
- license_terms directory with licence information.
- README a short readme file with a brief description of included items.

1.5 Related information

This document contains information that is specific to this product. See the following documents for other related information:

Reference	Document name	Document ID
[Morello IE]	This document	102270
[Morello AAPCS] ¹	Morello extensions to PCS for the Arm 64-bit Architecture	102205
[Morello AAELF] ²	Morello extensions to ELF for the Arm 64-bit Architecture	102272
[Morello LLVM] ³	Morello extensions to ELF for the Arm 64-bit Architecture	102216
[CHERI] ⁴	CHERI C/C++ Programming Guide	

¹ https://github.com/ARM-software/abi-aa/blob/main/aapcs64-morello/aapcs64-morello.rst

 $^{^2\} https://github.com/ARM-software/abi-aa/blob/main/aaelf64-morello/aaelf64-morello.rst$

 $^{^3\} https://git.morello-project.org/morello/llvm-project-releases/-/blob/morello/release-docs-1.1/UserGuide.pdf$

⁴ https://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/techreports/UCAM-CL-TR-947.pdf

2 Overview

2.1 General description

Morello Instruction Emulator (Morello IE) is a dynamic binary translation tool. It is based on the JIT translation of each Morello instruction into a series of AArch64 instructions using DynamoRIO⁵ instrumentation. The emulator maintains a consistent emulated CPU state as well as emulated memory tags. It also provides a layer of compatibility between Morello user space applications and non-Morello C library and kernel. This compatibility layer creates an environment which allows Morello applications to work on a non-Morello system.

Morello IE can execute both hybrid and purecap Morello applications. It supports (see Fig 1):

- Applications linked to non-Morello C library (there are some limitations).
- Applications linked to Morello C library (using libshim) running on systems with non-Morello kernel.



Fig. 1: Two types of supported purecap applications: with non-Morello C library (left) and Morello C library (right).

Components of the emulation layer for the C library API are automatically switched on or off based on the presence of purecap implementations of C library functions. You can modify this behavior with command line options. See Frontend options (page 8) for details.

Morello IE implements the Morello ISA of version PROTO_REL_03.

2.2 Components

Morello IE includes the following components:

- Emulator and debugger (libmie. so instrumentation client library).
- Tracer and cache model (libtracer.so instrumentation client library).
- Morello IE frontend (morelloie and launcher binaries in the bin folder).

Emulator

Morello IE implements Morello instructions by replacing them with AArch64 code which can execute natively. The implementation relies on the emulated CPU state that is maintained by the emulator for each process thread. This state synchronizes on demand with real execution context, including the values of hardware registers and the objects and memory managed through the API of the C library.

⁵ https://dynamorio.org/

Debugger

The interactive debugger gives access to the emulated state and runtime information for every executed instruction. It supports basic commands such as printing the emulated CPU state, working with PC-based breakpoints, and identifying location of the current execution point (for example, printing backtrace). The debugger provides access to data within the emulator that is not available by means of 11db or gdb. Both emulator and debugger are parts of 1ibmie. so instrumentation client library.

Tracer

Instruction and memory access tracer is implemented as a separate instrumentation client for DynamoRIO and can be used independently of the instruction emulation client. For example, you can use it to analyze non-Morello AArch64 applications. It allows you to capture runtime trace of executed instructions and accesses to memory. You can configure the tracing scope to capture either the entire application execution flow, or a particular region(s) of interest.

Tracer also includes a module for collecting various micro-architectural statistics at runtime, including counters specific for Morello, and also data related to CPU cache modelling based on DynamoRIO's drcachesim tool. Tracer, statistics counter, and cache model are parts of the instrumentation client library libtracer.so.

Launcher

To run applications with instrumentation requires an additional launcher binary. The morelloie binary loads emulation and tracer clients, and exposes application execution to the dynamic binary translation instrumentation. In addition, morelloie simplifies the use of Morello IE, and allows you to mange its various components from a single point.

An additional launcher binary is also available. You can use this to control which instrumentation client libraries are loaded. For example, this could be useful when you use a DynamoRIO instrumentation client along with the Morello emulation client.

Note: Arm recommends that you use the morelloie binary.

2.3 Command line options

This section gives an overview of all the command line options supported by Morello Instruction Emulator (Morello IE).

Frontend options

Use Morello IE through its frontend, the morelloie binary. The usage template is:

\$ morelloie [options] -- application [application argument(s)]

The double-hyphen -- acts as a separator. Specify options for morelloie before the --, and specify the options for your application after the --.

In general, you can invert any boolean option by adding -no in front of the option. For example, use -no-enable-foo to invert option -enable-foo. For options that have a value, separate the option and the value with a single space. For options that take a PC address <pc>, provide the address value as a hexadecimal literal with or without 0x prefix. For example, -break 21035c. Use decimal integer literals to specify options that accept integer values. For example,

-l1-d-size 1024.

The frontend supports the following command line options.

Options to control instrumentation

-v

Use verbose output from the launcher or frontend. The output is directed to stderr. This option is also accepted by the launcher binary.

Default: verbose output is suppressed.

-f

Use the fork syscall instead of execve to launch the process. This option is also accepted by the launcher binary.

Default: execve is used to start new process.

-fsz <n>

Specify maximum fragment size for instrumentation. This option limits the number of application instructions included in a single instrumented block of code, and sets the max_bb_instrs option of DynamoRIO. Increasing this value might improve instrumentation performance, but might also result in exceeding internal code cache limits in DynamoRIO. This option is accepted by the launcher binary.

-Dr, <option> [<value>]

Supply raw option for DynamoRIO. This option can be used multiple times to provide several options that are relayed to DynamoRIO.

-no-nmapi

Disable wrappers for non-Morello system API functions. By default, Morello IE enables non-Morello API wrappers for C library functions that are compiled in A64 mode. If such a function is compiled in C64 (purecap) mode, the wrapper will be disabled automatically. Added in Morello IE 1.2.

Use this option to override the automatic behaviour.

This option also controls emulation for arguments of the main function.

Default: non-Morello API wrappers are selectively enabled based on the mode of startup code.

-wrap-main

Force non-Morello API wrapper for the main function. By default, wrapping of the main function is enabled for applications linked to a non-Morello C library and is disabled if the application has been linked to a Morello (purecap) version of the C library. Added in Morello IE 1.2.

Use this option to override the automatic behaviour.

Default: non-Morello wrapper for main is selectively enabled based on the mode of startup code.

-capdesc

Force processing of the capdesc relocation entries in the application (see [Morello AAELF]). By default, such relocation entries are processed for applications linked to a non-Morello C library and processing is disabled if the application has been linked to a Morello (purecap) version of the C library. Added in Morello IE 1.2.

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Use this option to override the automatic behaviour.

Default: processing of the capdesc relocations is selectively enabled based on the mode of startup code.

-skip-wrappers "name0, name1, name2, ..., nameN"

Skip certain wrappers for non-Morello system API. This option accepts a comma-separated list of function names. Added in Morello IE 1.2.

For example, use -skip-wrappers "malloc, free" to skip non-Morello API wrappers for the malloc and free functions only. Using -skip-wrappers main is equivalent to -no-wrap-main.

Use this option to override the automatic behaviour.

Default: empty string.

-fail-early "condition0, condition1,..., conditionN"

Interrupt execution on any of the specified conditions. This option accepts a comma-separated list of condition names. Currently only c64-a64 condition is supported. This condition holds when execution is about to switch to A64 mode from C64 mode. Added in Morello IE 1.3.

Default: empty string.

-no-mie

Disable use of Morello emulation client. This option can be helpful when only the tracer client needs to be used for analysing non-Morello applications. Only valid for morelloie binary.

Default: Morello emulation client is enabled.

Options to control Morello emulation client

Note: You can also supply the following options to the libmie.so instrumentation client. To do this, add the -c path/to/libmie.so option.

-f-cpu

Shows the CPU state on a capability fault. By default, this information is not shown when a capability fault occurs.

Default: false.

-f-debug

Enter debug mode on a capability fault. Normally, the application stops immediately after a capability fault. This option allows the client to enter debug mode for gathering additional information about runtime context (see Interactive debugger (page 24) for more information).

Default: false.

-break <pc>

-break <function>[+<offset>]

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Pauses execution immediately **before** executing the instruction at the given <pc> address and enters debug mode. The <pc> value can be specified as a function name with optional unsigned offset. In this case the address will be calculated as the function start address plus the offset in bytes. The address will be aligned to 4 bytes. If not specified explicitly, this option has no effect (there is no default value). Only a single instance of this option can be used on a command line. New in Morello IE 1.3.

Default: unset. Type: address (accepts hexadecimal values).

-break-fun-entry

Pauses execution immediately **before** executing the first instruction in every function. If not specified explicitly, this option has no effect (there is no default value). Only a single instance of this option can be used on a command line. Added in Morello IE 1.4.

Default: false.

-debug

Enable debug features. This option is automatically implied when using one of the -f-debug or -break <pc> options. If not specified explicitly, this option has no effect. This option must be used to enable tracking of instruction markers for the debugger (see Marker for debugger (page 16)).

Default: false.

-no-debug-sync-regs

Do not synchronise emulated and HW registers in debug mode. By default, the values of the hardware and emulated registers will be synchronised when emulator enters debug mode. This simulates the values of the emulated capability registers that are visible to the application. When this options is used, the synchronisation will not happen. See CPU state (page 28) for more details. Added in Morello IE 1.4.

-no-strict-a64-store

Disable tracking of tags for capabilities in memory during AArch64 stores. This stops invalidation of memory tags by AArch64 (non-Morello) store operations but also increases the speed of emulation.

Default: tracking of tags is enabled.

-no-strict-c64-mem

Disable checking all memory operations in purecap (C64) mode. This option ignores capability faults that would be generated by AArch64 (non-Morello) instructions but also increases the speed of emulation.

Default: all memory operations checking is enabled.

-no-strict-pcc

Disable PCC tag and permissions checking that normally happens at instruction fetch. Added in Morello IE 1.2.

Default: PCC permissions and bounds checking is enabled.

-no-signal

Do not emit OS signal on a capability fault. By default, every capability fault will result in a signal delivered to the application (see Capability faults (page 22)). This option can be used to override this behaviour. Added in Morello IE 1.2.

Default: signals are emitted for every capability fault.

-DDCB0

-PCCB0

-ADRDPB

-no-SBL

These options control the initial values of the control bits in the CCTRL_ELO emulated control register: bits DDCBO, PCCBO, ADRDPB are unset (have value 0) by default, bit SBL is set (has value 1) by default. Added in Morello IE 1.3.

-verbose

Show extra diagnostic messages from the Morello emulation client. When used with the frontend binary morelloie, this option affects both emulator and tracer.

Default: verbose output is suppressed.

-verb-capdesc

When used together with -verbose, this enables printing of the processed capdesc relocation entries. Added in Morello IE 1.2.

Default: verbose output is suppressed.

-verb-libc-thunk

When used together with -verbose, this enables printing additional information about wrappers for non-Morello C library API. Added in Morello IE 1.2.

Default: verbose output is suppressed.

Options to control tracer instrumentation client

Note: You can also supply the following options to the libtracer. so instrumentation client. To do this, add the -c path/to/libtracer.so option.

-instr

Enable instruction trace.

Default: instruction tracing is disabled.

-mem

Enable memory access trace.

Default: memory tracing is disabled.

-trace

Enable trace (instructions and memory), equivalent to using -instr -mem together.

Default: tracing is disabled.

-stat

Enable collection of micro-architectural statistics.

Default: collection of micro-architectural statistics is disabled.

-cache

Enable cache model and collecting associated data.

Default: cache model is not used.

-format <csv.simple>

Format for micro-architectural statistics and cache model results. Added in Morello IE 1.2.

Default: simple.

-verbose

Show extra diagnostic messages from the tracer instrumentation client. When used with the frontend binary morelloie, this option affects both emulator and tracer.

Default: verbose output is suppressed.

Options to control scope of tracing

By default, the scope of tracing corresponds to everything executed from the start of the main function up to and including the return from it. However, if you run an application without symbol information, all code is traced.

Use the following options to modify the scope tracing:

Note: The four following sets of options are mutually exclusive.

-all

Trace all instructions that execute, this includes instructions that execute outside of the main function.

-roi

Trace only instructions from the region(s) of interest which are defined by the tracer marker instructions (see Markers for tracing (page 16)).

-c64

Trace only instructions executed in purecap (C64) mode.

-fr <pc1> -to <pc2>

Define the tracing region of interest with addresses <pc1> and <pc1>. You must supply these two options together.

-main <name>

Use the name < name > instead of main for default tracing scope. This can be useful when the actual main function consists of a single branch instruction. Added in Morello IE 1.2.

-tid

Show thread id in the instruction and memory traces. Added in Morello IE 1.4.

Default: false.

Options for cache model

You must add the -cache option to use any of the following options:

-l1-d-size

L1 data cache size (in bytes), size must be power of two and multiple of the cache line size.

Default: 64 KiB. **Type:** integer (accepts integer decimal values).

-l1-i-size

L1 instruction cache size (in bytes), size must be power of two and multiple of the cache line size.

Default: 64 KiB. **Type:** integer (accepts integer decimal values).

-12-size

L2 cache size (in bytes), size must be power of two and multiple of the cache line size.

Default: 512 KiB. **Type:** integer (accepts integer decimal values).

-13-size

L3 cache size (in bytes), size must be power of two and multiple of the cache line size. Added in Morello IE 1.3.

Default: 1 MiB. Type: integer (accepts integer decimal values).

-cache-line-size

Cache line size (bytes), and size must be power of two.

Default: 64 bytes. **Type:** integer (accepts integer decimal values).

-l1-d-ways

L1 data cache associativity (number of ways), must be power of two.

Default: 4. **Type:** integer (accepts integer decimal values).

-l1-i-ways

L1 instruction cache associativity (number of ways), must be power of two.

Default: 4. **Type:** integer (accepts integer decimal values).

-12-ways

L2 cache associativity (number of ways), must be power of two.

Default: 8. **Type:** integer (accepts integer decimal values).

-13-ways

L3 cache associativity (number of ways), must be power of two. Added in Morello IE 1.3.

Default: 8. **Type:** integer (accepts integer decimal values).

-cache-cores

The number of cores in the cache model.

Default: 1. Type: integer (accepts integer decimal values).

-cache-prefetcher cache-prefetcher>

Hardware data prefetcher policy: nextline or none. Added in Morello IE 1.2.

Default: none.

-cache-rep-policy <policy>

Cache replacement policy (LRU – least recently used, LFU least frequently used, FIFO – first in first out). Added in Morello IE 1.2.

Default: LRU.

Miscellaneous options

-help

Display command line options for the instrumentation clients.

-h

Display command line options for the launcher executable.

-version

Display version information and exit.

Note: If you do not specify tracer options when you use the morelloie frontend binary, the tracer client libtracer. so will not load. This improves the performance of the emulation. To disable loading of Morello emulation client libmie.so, use the option -no-mie. This option is only available for the morelloie frontend binary.

Launcher options

Note: Arm recommends that you always use the morelloie frontend binary.

When the launcher binary is used directly, the usage template is:

```
launcher [options] [-c /path/to/lib/libtracer.so [tracer-options]] \
[-c /path/to/lib/libmie.so [emulator-options]] -- application [application argument(s)]
```

The general rule is that any options supplied before the -c option are consumed by the launcher itself. The -c option:

- starts command line for each instrumentation client,
- must be followed by the path to the client's library and optionally by the arguments intended for this client.

All options between -c and either the next -c option or the double hyphen delimiter -- are part of the command line for the corresponding client library. One or more instrumentation clients can be used together. Everything after the -- delimiter forms the command line to start the process of the application.

Most of the options described in Frontend options (page 8) also apply here.

2.4 Inline control instructions

Morello IE supports special marker instructions that you can embed in the source code applications. The following section describes the macros you can use to control the tracing scope or to introduce breakpoints for the built-in debugger.

Markers for tracing

You can use the following macros to embed start and stop tracing markers. Every time the execution reaches these instructions, tracing is enabled or disabled. To use these markers, specify the -roi option. Without this option, marker instructions have no effect. For example:

```
morelloie -roi -- ./app
```

You can define macros for the tracer instructions as shown below:

```
/* Start tracing */
#define __START_TRACE() __asm__ volatile ("hint #0b1000000")

/* Stop tracing */
#define __STOP_TRACE() __asm__ volatile ("hint #0b1000001")
```

The instructions that result from this code are valid AArch64 instruction equivalents of NOP and do not affect the functionality of the application.

Marker for debugger

When you enable debug mode, you can use the following macro to insert a breakpoint which the Morello emulation client will recognize. Use the -debug option to enable this mode.

```
/* Put breakpoint */
#define __MIE_DEBUG() __asm__ volatile ("hint #0b1000100")
```

The instructions that result from this code are valid AArch64 equivalents of NOP and do not affect the functionality of the application.

2.5 Limitations and known issues

Morello IE can run both purecap and hybrid Morello userspace applications on non-Morello AArch64 Linux systems. (See [Morello AAPCS for more details.) However, pay attention to the following exceptions and limitations.

Running stripped binaries

Stripped binaries that do not contain any symbol information may not run under Morello IE, because of the lack of symbol names that are required for correct detection of C64 thunks. This is required for the C library emulation layer to function properly.

When linking a Morello application to a Morello-aware version of the C library, this type of application will work correctly and there is no limitation.

By default, in stripped applications the entire execution flow is traced. By default, in non-stripped applications, tracing is enabled only for the code invoked by the main function.

Use of a non-Morello C library

On systems without a Morello C library, you can still build and link hybrid and purecap Morello applications using the existing (non-Morello) C library. This method allows you to create Morello applications that you can execute under Morello IE that emulate Morello-aware interface for the application. This helps you to experiment with Morello without having to port a C library to Morello.

Note: Non-Morello C library functions execute in A64 mode, and do not have Morello functionality.

Important: See Linking to non-Morello Glibc (page 17) for more details.

Inexact bounds

For a large allocation using malloc or a similar function, the returned capability may have bounds greater than the size requested, because Morello capabilities cannot exactly represent every possible combination of address and bounds.

Objects with inexact bounds allocated by the non-Morello malloc family of functions have their capability bounds set correctly which means that inexact bounds apply. However, the size of the allocated memory is exactly as requested and the capability bounds might be wider than the allocated size. There is a risk that unrelated heap objects have overlapping bounds.

Use -verbose option to display a message whenever inexact capability bounds are used.

Linking to Glibc with ifuncs

On systems with no Morello dynamic linker, purecap applications linked statically to Glibc with ifuncs will not function properly. This is related to the lack of dynamic linker support for processing of relocation entries required for ifuncs to be loaded correctly. A workaround is to use another C library (for example, Musl libc⁶) instead of Glibc.

Linking to non-Morello Glibc

When linking to a non-Morello version of Glibc, note that Glibc startup code manages a number of objects in memory. These objects will have incorrect offsets if an object is used from C64 (purecap) code while being defined in A64 code. For this reason an application linked to a non-Morello Glibc will most likely crash with the SIGSEGV error. For this reason, if a non-Morello C library is required, Arm recommends that you use the Musl C library.

Multi-threaded applications

Support for multi-threaded applications based on libpthread is incomplete.

⁶ https://musl.libc.org/

3 Advanced topics

3.1 Building Morello applications

You can use the Morello LLVM toolchain to build Morello applications. See [Morello LLVM] for more details about using the toolchain. This section shows some examples of building and running such applications. The following examples use Musl C library for linking purecap Morello applications (both non-Morello and Morello⁷ versions of this library can be used).

In the examples below, the \${MUSL} variable refers to the installation directory of the Musl C library. The \${MORELLO} variable refers to the installation folder of the Morello LLVM toolchain.

Note: The Morello LLVM toolchain can be built from source for AArch64 Linux host systems. Use the sources from https://git.morello-project.org/morello/llvm-project-releases and the commands described in Building Morello LLVM for AArch64 Linux hosts (page 31).

The current version of the emulator 1.4 can execute:

- statically linked purecap (C64) Morello applications,
- statically and dynamically linked hybrid Morello applications.

Note: See the [Morello AAPCS] for more details about the different types of Morello applications and their execution modes.

Running an application under Morello IE generates normal application output to stderr and stdout, while the output of the emulator itself always redirects to stderr.

Build and run a simple application

In the following examples, the command clang refers to the C compiler from Morello LLVM toolchain.

The following example shows the simplest hello world example for a purecap Morello application:

```
// hello.c
#include <stdio.h>

int main() {
    printf("hello Morello\n");
    return 0;
}
```

You can use most standard C library headers installed in your system to write source code of Morello applications. However, you must patch some of the headers (such as libio.h from Glibc) to make them compatible with Morello.

You can work around this issue by not including headers that contain references to the files requiring modification (for example, stdio.h when using Glibc headers). Instead, you can declare the functions explicitly:

⁷ https://git.morello-project.org/morello/musl-libc

```
// hello.c
int printf(const char *format, ...);
```

instead of

```
// hello.c
#include <stdio.h>
```

To compile the hello world example, use the following command:

```
$ clang -c -nostdinc -isystem ${MUSL}/include -march=morello+c64 -mabi=purecap hello.c -o hello.c.o
```

If the host system does not support Armv8.2 instructions, use -march=armv8-a+c64 instead of -march=morello+c64. This instructs the compiler to emit only Arm v8.0 code. This should not affect Morello functionality, however wherever possible Arm recommends that you use -march=morello+c64.

To link this example in a purecap Morello application, use this command:

```
$ clang -fuse-ld=lld -Wl,--morello-c64-plt -o hello \
    ${MUSL}/lib/crt1.o ${MUSL}/lib/crti.o \
    $(clang -print-file-name=clang_rt.crtbegin-aarch64.o) \
    hello.c.o \
    $(clang -print-file-name=clang_rt.crtend-aarch64.o) \
    ${MUSL}/lib/crtn.o -nostdlib -L${MUSL}/lib -lc -static
```

To run this example, use:

```
$ morelloie -- ./hello
```

Alternatively, you can run an application under Morello IE by using the launcher binary explicitly:

```
$ launcher -c /path/to/lib/libmie.so -- ./hello
```

When targeting purecap (C64) applications, to enable Morello support, provide the options:

- -march=morello+c64 and -mabi=purecap for compilation;
- -W1, --morello-c64-plt for linking.

For hybrid (A64) execution, to enable Morello support, specify the options:

- -march=morello for compilation;
- -W1, --morello-c64-plt for linking.

To link to the Morello application binary, use the LLVM linker from the Morello toolchain providing -fuse-1d=11d to invoke LLVM linker. To indicate that the binary must be statically linked, use the -static option.

Stack corruption example

This example demonstrates a deliberate capability fault that results from out of bounds access to memory protected by a capability.

Out of bounds writes to memory, allocated on stack, can modify content that is referenced by another variable. This process is also known as stack corruption. The following example demonstrates how a Morello application behaves when stack corruption is about to happen.

```
// stack.c
void fun(int *data) {
    data[3] = 3; // <--- access outside object bounds
}
int main() {
    int x = 0;
    int data[3] = {0, 1, 2};
    fun(data);
    return data[0] + x;
}</pre>
```

Try running this example:

This interrupts the execution and delivers SIGSEGV to the application due to an out of bounds access capability fault.

```
2342d0: 68 00 80 52 mov w8, #3
2342d4: 08 0c 00 b9 str w8, [c0, #12] // <---
```

Note: To explore runtime context when an out-of-bounds fault occurs, run the command with the -f-debug option. This enters debug mode when and out-of-bounds fault occurs.

Out of bounds access example

The following example shows the behavior of a Morello application when an out of bounds access occurs for a dynamically allocated block of memory that is protected by a capability.

```
// heap.c
#include <stdlib.h>

int main() {
    int *data = (int *)malloc(sizeof(int) * 3);
    int x = data[3]; // <--- reading outside of bounds
    return x;
}</pre>
```

To run the example:

Build and run hybrid Morello application

You can define capabilities explicitly in a hybrid Morello application. To do this, wrap a pointer into a capability to enable Morello to protect the memory access. For example:

```
// hybrid.c
#include <stdlib.h>

int main() {
    int* __capability cap = (__cheri_tocap int* __capability)malloc(3 * sizeof(int));
    __asm__ volatile ("hint #0b1000000"); // start tracing
    int x = cap[3]; // <--- reading outside of bounds
    __asm__ volatile ("hint #0b1000001"); // end tracing
    free((__cheri_fromcap void *)cap);
    return x;
}</pre>
```

To build this into a hybrid Morello application, run the following commands:

```
$ clang -march=morello -fuse-ld=lld hybrid.c -o hybrid
```

Try running the example with the -instr or -trace options together with -roi option. This enables instruction tracing for the region of interest. For example:

```
$ morelloie -trace -roi -- ./hybrid
   1 210758 (A64): c24007e0 ldr c0, [csp, #16]
М
        210758 (A64): MR16
                                    0000fffffe5bd0d0 ffffc000526c12600000ffff110b1260
        210758 (A64): CR01
                                      0000fffffe5bd0d0 1
      2 21075c (A64): e280c408 ldur w8, [x0, #12]
Simulated capability fault: out of bounds access at 210830
Range [0000ffff1a95001c, +4] is not in bounds [0000ffff1a950010, 0000ffff1a95001c]
Fault capability: 0x1:feffc000:401c0010:0000ffff:1a95001c
      tag: true
    value: 0x 0000ffff1a95001c
in bounds: false
  length: 12
Segmentation fault (core dumped)
```

In the trace above, the four Morello instructions execute in A64 mode.

Note: In the example above, the hybrid Morello application is linked to the default system C library.

3.2 Capability faults

If a capability fault occurs during execution, the emulator prints:

- Information about the fault.
- The PC value where the fault occurred.
- Details about faulty capability.

By default, Morello IE terminates the application with an appropriate OS signal. To disassemble the binary use the Morello toolchain 11vm-objdump tool. To locate the instruction that caused the fault, use the reported PC value. Alternatively, you can use the built-in Morello IE debugger.

You can suppress signals sent to the application with the -no-signal option.

The following table shows which signals are emulated for each type of capability faults:

Fault	Signal
Capability tag not set	SIGSEGV
Capability is sealed	SIGSEGV
Incorrect capability permission	SIGSEGV
Access out of capability bounds	SIGSEGV
Anything else	SIGSEGV

You can also provide the -f-debug option to pause execution immediately after the fault to gather additional information. For more details refer to Interactive debugger (page 24).

When a capability fault occurs, you can use the f-cpu option to show information about the emulated CPU state.

3.3 Instruction and memory trace

The tracer instrumentation client included in Morello IE allows the generation of runtime traces with information about executed instructions and memory accesses. To enable tracing, add the -trace option. For memory only trace, provide the -mem option, and for instruction trace only, provide the -instr option.

By default, code that is invoked directly or indirectly from main function is traced when tracing is switched on. In the case of a stripped binary, the entire application code is traced.

Important: To ensure correct execution, code inside a region defined by load-exclusive and store-exclusive instructions, is not instrumented and is not traced.

To change the scope of tracing, use one of the following mutually-exclusive options:

- To force tracing of all application code, use the -all option.
- To enable use of tracer marker instructions (see Markers for tracing (page 16)), use the -roi option.
- To trace only purecap (C64) code, use the -c64 option.
- To trace only code executed from the instruction at address <pc1> to the instruction at address <pc2> (inclusive),
 use a pair of options -fr <pc1> -to <pc2>.
- To trace code called directly or transitively from a given function, use -main <fun> option. The default value of this option is main.

Note: Provide the <pc> values as hexadecimal integer literals with or without 0x prefix.

The following example shows a trace output generated by Morello IE:

```
Seq PC
               Mode Encoding Opcode Operands
М
      1 212394 (C64): 028103ff sub csp, csp, #64, lsl #0
М
      2 212398 (C64): 0200f3e2 add
                                      c2, csp, #60, lsl #0
М
      3 21239c (C64): c2c23842 scbnds c2, c2, #4
# ...
Α
     14 2123c8 (C64): 2a1f03e8 orr
                                      %wzr %wzr lsl $0x00 -> %w8
     15 2123cc (C64): b9000048 str
Α
                                      %w8 -> (%x2)[4byte]
        2123cc (C64): MW04
                                      0000fffff72f09ac 00000000
Α
Α
        2123cc (C64): CW01
                                      0000ffffff72f09a0 0
# ...
     17 2123d4 (C64): c2000081 str
М
                                      c1, [c4, #0]
        2123d4 (C64): MW16
                                       0000fffff72f0990 dc1040004a500a300000fffff72f0a30
М
М
        2123d4 (C64): CW01
                                      0000ffffff72f0990 1
     18 2123d8 (C64): b9400068 ldr
                                     (%x3)[4byte] -> %w8
Α
        2123d8 (C64): MR04
                                       0000ffffff72f09a8 00000001
# ...
М
     20 2123e0 (C64): c2400080 ldr
                                      c0, [c4, #0]
        2123e0 (C64): MR16
                                       0000fffff72f0990 dc1040004a500a300000fffff72f0a30
М
        2123e0 (C64): CR01
                                      0000fffff72f0990 1
М
# ...
М
     28 212400 (C64): 020103ff add
                                      csp, csp, #64, lsl #0
     29 212404 (C64): c2c253c0 ret
```

Every instruction is shown with:

- a type (M for Morello instruction and A for A64 instruction),
- a sequential number (Seq),
- an address (PC),
- a mode of execution (A64 or C64),
- 32-bit encoding value,
- opcode,
- instruction operands.

The emulator prints the instruction trace entry before it executes the instruction. When an error occurs, if you have correctly configured the scope of tracing, the last instruction in the trace is the faulty instruction.

For memory accesses, additional information is provided when memory tracing is enabled:

- MW for memory write or MR for memory read.
- Transfer size in bytes: for example, MW32 means write of 32 bytes and MR04 means read of 4 bytes.
- Address used for memory access (64-bit value).
- Data which is loaded or stored.
- For loading and storing capabilities, tags are also shown in binary format. For example, CW02 with data 10 means that 2 tags have been written, one tag is 1 and the other tag is 0.

A memory trace entry always follows the corresponding instruction trace entry. When an instruction fails to execute, a memory trace entry is not shown.

When running multi-threaded applications, it might be useful to add thread id to the instruction or memory trace to help filter traces originating from different threads. To do this, use -tid option. For example,

```
morelloie -tid -trace -- ./app
```

3.4 Interactive debugger

Morello IE includes a simple interactive debugger that provides access to emulated state and runtime context of the executed application.

Entering debug mode

To use the interactive debugger, the Morello emulation client must be in debug mode. There are several ways to do this.

You can insert a breakpoint from the command line. Add the -break option with the value of the PC address at which the breakpoint must be inserted. For example:

```
$ morelloie -break 2342d4 -- ./app
$ morelloie -break main+16 -- ./app
```

Note: Provide the <pc> value for -break option as a hexadecimal integer literal with or without 0x prefix. You can also add a breakpoint at the start of a function by using its name as the value of the -break option.

To displace the breakpoint by the given number of bytes (with respect to the start address of the function), you can add

an unsigned integer offset to the function name following the + sign. For example, -break main+16 puts a breakpoint at address of 16 bytes (4 instructions) after the start address of the function main.

During runtime instrumentation Morello IE inserts code to pause the execution and to enter debug mode. Debug mode allows you to submit commands to request information about the current execution context. When execution is about to reach an instruction at given address, the application stops and waits for further user commands.

If the -f-debug option is used, every capability fault will trigger the launch of debug mode. In this case, a faulty instruction has been attempted but has failed. You can obtain information about the current execution context. However, when the emulator leaves debug mode, execution is interrupted with an appropriate OS signal sent to the application.

Finally, breakpoint marker instructions can be inserted in source code using this macro (see Marker for debugger (page 16) for details).

```
/* Put breakpoint */
#define __MIE_DEBUG() __asm__ volatile ("hint #0b1000100")
```

During runtime instrumentation, for every such instruction, Morello IE inserts code to pause the execution and to enter debug mode. To enable this, you must add the -debug option.

Note: The -debug option is implied when either -f-debug or -break <pc> options are used.

Debugger commands

This section describes commands. In the following commands and examples:

- The <pc> placeholder refers to a PC address in form of a hexadecimal literal with or without 0x prefix. This can also be a function name with an optional unsigned integer offset, for example main+64.
- The <addr> placeholder refers to memory address in form of a hexadecimal literal with or without 0x prefix. You can specify this as the value of the a register with optional signed integer offset, for example csp-32 or x0+8.
- The <reg> placeholder is a register name, for example X29 or CSP.
- The <sz> placeholder is the number of bytes to read from memory (a decimal integer literal).
- The <type> placeholder is a type name for loading data from memory, for example float or uint64.

These are the commands available in debugger.

m, h, help

Print help message.

q, quit, exit

Terminate application and exit.

c, continue

Disable debugging and continue execution ignoring any existing breakpoints. Execution continues until the process exits or a fault occurs.

r, run

Run process until the next breakpoint or until the process exits or a fault occurs.

s, n, next, step

Step to the next instruction (step in).

finish

Run until exit from current function (step out).

until <pc>

Set new breakpoint address to <pc> and run until it.

bt, backtrace

Show backtrace (last call shown first, see Backtrace (page 27) for details).

w, where

Show information about current and previous PC addresses.

info cpu, cpu

Print CPU state (emulated and hardware registers).

p <reg>, print <reg>

Print current value of a register: XSP, CSP, LR, CLR, PCC, DDC, X0 to X30, C0 to C30.

mem <sz> <addr>

Read <sz> bytes from memory address <addr> (maximum 1024 bytes can be read). You can also specify the address as the current value of a register (for example, mem 16 csp will attempt to load 16 bytes from the top of the current stack). You can use an optional signed offset with the register value, for example mem 16 csp+32.

mem <type> <addr>

Read data of type <type> from memory address <addr>. Supported types are: float, double, int64, uint64, int32, uint32, int16, uint16, int8, uint8. The output is formatted according to the specified type.

frame [n]

Show current (or, if specified, n-th) stack frame (n is 0-based) as a sequence of capabilities displaying the capability metadata for all valid capabilities in this memory region. If you omit number n of the stack frame, the current (lowest) stack frame displays.

view <addr> <addr>

Show the memory region between two specified addresses as a sequence of capabilities displaying capability metadata for all valid capabilities in this memory region.

cstr <sz> <addr>, cstr <sz> <reg>

Read <sz> chars from memory address <addr> as string. The string is printed up to the first null character.

tag <addr>, tag <reg>

Read memory tag for memory address <addr>.

cap <addr>, cap <reg>

Display capability that can be loaded from address <addr>.

br 1, br list, breakpoint list

List existing breakpoints (their PC addresses and functions containing them).

br set <pc>, br add <pc>, breakpoint set <pc>, breakpoint add <pc>

Create a new breakpoint at <pc>.

```
br del <pc>, br remove <pc>, br delete <pc>, breakpoint del <pc>
    Delete existing breakpoint at <pc>.
```

```
br c, br clear, breakpoint clear

Delete all breakpoints.
```

Backtrace

Backtrace is a sequence of function calls with information about caller address, callee address, start address of the calling function, mode of execution (A64 or C64), stack pointer (at the point of call), and frame pointer. If available, backtrace provides the name of the function. To show current backtrace use the bt or backtrace debugger command.

For example:

```
# SF Caller Mode Stack pointer Frame pointer Calling function
0 212ac0 C64 0000fffff6808570 0000fffff6808740 212ab0:printf
1 2123dc C64 0000fffff6808740 0000fffff6808780 212394:main
2 2126b0 C64 0000fffff6808780 0000000000000000 2120c0:_start
```

This example backtrace shows three function calls: _start calls __libc_start_main which in turn calls main. Start addresses of the functions are 234160, 2343b0, and 2342ac, respectively. In function _start, the call to __libc_start_main occurs at address 234188, and the call of main from __libc_start_main occurs at 234590. The current PC value is 2342c0 (which is the top-most element of the call stack). Finally, _start and __libc_start_main execute in A64 mode, because they are part of non-Morello C library. However, main executes in C64 mode, because it is part of the purecap Morello application.

Use the where command to traverse the execution path. This command prints the current PC address, as well as the target and source of the most recent jump instruction. It also displays whether or not this jump was a function call. In addition, the where command shows the current link register value. For example:

```
        branched from
        2123dc C64 [in `main`]

        branched to
        212ab0 C64 [in `printf`]

        current pc
        212ac0 C64 [in `printf`]

        link register
        2123e0 C64 [in `main`]

        branch type
        call

        process id
        29251

        thread id
        29251 (main thread)
```

For every PC value, the debugger shows mode of execution (C64 or A64) as well as executive or restricted state of execution.

You can use this information to trace back to a point of interest when no other means of tracing is available.

CPU state

The cpu or info cpu debugger commands show the current emulated and the actual CPU state. This includes all general purpose capability registers and system registers available at ELO.

When the -no-debug-sync-regs option is used (see Frontend options (page 8)), emulated and real hardware registers are displayed separately.

```
Emulated value
# Reg
                                      Hardware value
                                                    Sync Sealed
- C00 = 0x1:dc104000:6b306b20:0000ffff:ef216b20 (000000000000000) [ ]
- C01 = 0x1:dc104000:6bc06ba0:0000ffff:ef216ba0 (0000ffffef216ba0) [=]
- C02 = 0x1:dc104000:6da06bc0:0000ffff:ef216bc0 (0000ffffef216bc0) [=]
- C30 = 0x1:b090c000:80010005:000000000:002126b5 (00000000002126b5) [=] sealed RB
- CSP = 0x1:dc104000:00010005:0000ffff:ef216ae0 (0000ffffef216ae0) [=]
- DDC = 0x1:ffffc000:00010005:00000000:00000000
- PCC = 0x1:b090c000:3aff0044:00000000:00212399
- CID EL0
           - CTPIDR EL0
           = 0x1:dc104000:5e40dbc0:00000000:0024dd30
- PSTATE.C64 = 1
- PSTATE.NZCV = 0110 (0110)
- CCTLR
          = SBL = 1 ADRDPB = 0 DDCBO = 0 PCCBO = 0
- in restricted = no
```

Both emulated and real values are displayed for registers C0 to C30 and CSP. The real 64-bit hardware value is shown in brackets after the emulated 129-bit value. When lower 64 bits of emulated capability register are equal to the real value of the aliased register, the [=] symbol is shown on the right. This symbol indicates that the emulated and real values have been synchronised. However, this synchronisation might not always occur because it happens only when necessary for the next instruction to be executed (lazy synchronisation).

If a capability register is used in the next instruction as a source register, its value shown by the debugger is architecturally valid and the lower 64 bits are the same as 64 bits of the value of the corresponding hardware register. This is indicated with [=] symbol. However, if a capability register has not yet been used as a destination or a source operand, the emulated CPU state may contain its initial value. In this situation the real hardware register might have a different value set previously by a non-Morello instruction. Capability registers used as destination operands receive an architecturally correct value immediately after execution of the instruction. Lower 64 bits of its value are propagated to the corresponding hardware register immediately.

By default, the debugger will synchronize emulated and real registers to show the values that are visible to the application. In this case the output of the cpu command will display as follows:

Reg	T Capability	Base	Limit	Offset	Size Permissions Seal
C00	00000000:00000000:00000000:00000001				
C01	1 dc104000:65c025a0:0000ffff:dd7525a0	ffffdd7525a0	ffffdd7525c0	0	32 rw.RW.MLG
C02	1 dc104000:67a025c0:0000ffff:dd7525c0	ffffdd7525c0	ffffdd7527a0	0	480 rw.RW.MLG
C30	1 b090c000:80010005:00000000:002126b5	000000000000	000000000000	2172597	0 r.xR.EMSG RB
CSP	1 dc104000:00010005:0000ffff:dd7524e0	000000000000	000000000000	281474397185248	0 rw.RW.MLG
RCSP	00000000:00000000:00000000:00000000				

(continues on next page)

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```
0 rwxRWEMLsuSBCG
DDC
        0
RDDC
          00000000:00000000:00000000:00000000
PCC
        1 b090c000:3aff0044:00000000:00212399 000000200200 00000023d7c0
                                                                       74137 251328 r.xR.EM...S..G
CID
          00000000:00000000:00000000:00000000
CTPIDR 1 dc104000:5e40dbc0:00000000:0024dd30 00000024dbc0 00000024de40
                                                                         368
                                                                               640 rw.RW.ML....G
CTPIDRRO
         00000000:00000000:00000000:00000000
PSTATE.C64 1
PSTATE.NZCV 0110
CCTLR.SADP 1000
PCC.ES
```

To see more detailed information about each register, use the p <reg> debugger command. For capability registers this gives detailed information about capability, for example:

For hardware registers, the 64-bit value is printed.

3.5 Micro-architectural statistics and cache model

The results collected by statistics and cache model modules are printed to **stderr**. By default, simple format is used. In addition it also supports **-format** csv option.

Micro-architectural statistics

The tracer instrumentation client included in the Morello IE can collect runtime information about executed instructions and memory accesses including Morello-specific data such as memory tag operations:

- Total instructions executed (including Morello instructions and C64 instructions counter separately).
- Total writes to memory (including Morello writes and C64 writes counter separately, and also including writes of each transfer size counted independently for 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, and 32 bytes).
- Total reads from memory (including Morello reads and C64 reads counter separately, and also including reads of each transfer size counted independently for 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, and 32 bytes).
- Tag writes and reads of tags for capabilities in memory.

You can use the statistics gathering module to analyse non-Morello AArch64 applications as well. Use the -no-mie option to disable emulation of Morello code when executing AArch64 applications.

Note: The options controlling the scope of tracing, such as -roi or -c64, also control the scope of gathering of

statistics (see Frontend options (page 8) for more details).

Cache model

The cache model included in Morello IE is part of the tracer instrumentation client. It can be used to collect memory accesses and gather data related to use of CPU cache. The cache model is based on the drcachesim tool from DynamoRIO and has limited configurability. It has two levels of cache with independent instruction and data cache at level 1. You can adjust the size of each cache, the size of cache lines, and associativity of the L1 and L2 caches with command line options. For example:

```
morelloie -cache -l1-i-size 1024 -l1-d-size $((32*1024)) -l2-size $((128*1024)) -- ./app
```

This example sets the L1 instruction cache size to 1 KiB, L1 data cache size to 32 KiB and L2 cache size to 128 KiB (see the description of cache model options in Frontend options (page 8) for all the options controlling cache model).

The data returned from the cache model includes information such as number of hits and misses at L1 and L2, miss rates, and the number of executed instructions. When running Morello applications, both AArch64 and Morello instructions and memory access are taken into account.

You can also use the cache model to analyse non-Morello AArch64 applications. Use the -no-mie option to disable emulation of Morello code when executing AArch64 applications.

Note: The options controlling the scope of tracing, such as **-roi** or **-c64**, also control the scope of collection of memory references submitted to the cache model (see Frontend options (page 8) for more details).

3.6 Verbose logging

When the option -verbose is used, Morello IE produces extra diagnostic messages that redirect to stderr. This includes inexact bounds used for dynamic memory allocation and various runtime warnings.

To show the processed capability relocations (capdesc relocation entries), you must add the option -verb-capdesc. Each entry will include location, base, offset, size, and permissions as well as the resulting capability. For example:

```
cap desc {location = <loc> base = <base> offset = 0 size = 16 permissions = <perm>} --> <capability>
```

To show the detected and wrapped C64 thunks which are necessary for calling A64 code from C64 code, you must add the -verb-libc-thunk option. For example:

```
wrapping `main` at 21036c
wrapping `__C64ADRPThunk_malloc` at 21120c
```

To see relocated and cleared memory tags (for example, when using the realloc, memmove or free functions), use the -verbose option. For example:

```
210490: __C64ADRPThunk_realloc: relocated 1 mem tags from <addr> (<sz> bytes) to <addr>
```

The -verbose, -verb-capdesc and -verb-libc-thunk options can be helpful for diagnostic purposes.

4 Annex

4.1 Building Morello LLVM for AArch64 Linux hosts

A detailed description of the process of building the Morello LLVM toolchain (including notes on cross compilation) can be found at https://git.morello-project.org/morello/musl-libc/-/blob/morello/master/README.rst.