



Settarg

Robert McLay

Dec. 7, 2021

Settarg

- ► What is settarg and how did it get started?
- ► What are the goals of settarg?
- ► What does settarg actually do?
- ► Examples
- ► Personalizing settarg: user, projects
- Conclusions



What is settarg?

- ► The settarg module connects the build system to:
 - ▶ What modules are loaded: compiler, mpi, ...
 - ► Type of build: debug/optimize/...
 - ► Machine Arch: x86 64, ppc64le, arm64, ...
- Provides environment variables to connnect to the build system
- ► Makes it easy to switch between different builds
- Integrated with Lmod and is installed with it.

Story: What led to settarg

- ▶ When processor speeds where measured in MHz and not GHz
- ► Worked in a lab that had incompatible architectures with a shared home file system.
- ► Wanted to build programs w/o doing a make clean in-between.
- ► How about different optimization levels? (dbg, opt, mdbg?)
- ► Different compilers or MPI stacks?

Where the settarg name came from

- ► Originally wanted \$TARGET
- ▶ But many other projects (PETSc, etc) already use that
- ► \$TARGET shorten to \$TARG
- ▶ This tool was designed to set $TARG \Rightarrow$ settarg

Goals of settarg

- ► Make switching between DBG/OPT builds easier.
- ► Make switching between compiler/mpi and cmplr/mpi versions easier
- ► Integrate with Build process via Env. Vars.
- ► Integrate with \$PATH
- Optionally report status in titlebar
- ► Settarg became part of Lmod (because I can't remember to do two things at once!?)

The 4 things that settarg does

- ► Reads the state of the loaded modules
- ► Build \$TARG variables
- ► Change \$PATH with new \$TARG
- ► Optionally changes the titlebar

Reasons to use settarg

- Switching compiler can be helpful.
- ► C++ error msgs are confusing,
- Different compilers might make better sense.
- Debugging with gcc; Use intel for performance
- Comparing two different version of a compiler with your application.

Typical \$TARG variables in dbg state

- ► TARG: OBJ/_x86_64_dbg_gcc-9.3.0_mpich-3.3.2
- ► TARG_BUILD_SCENARIO: dbg
- ► TARG_COMPILER_FAMILY: gcc
- ► TARG_MPI_FAMILY: mpich
- ► TARG_COMPILER: gcc-9.3.0
- ► TARG_MPI: mpich-3.3.2

Typical \$TARG variables in opt state

- ► TARG: OBJ/ x86 64 opt gcc-9.3.0 mpich-3.3.2
- ► TARG BUILD SCENARIO: opt
- ► TARG COMPILER_FAMILY: gcc
- ► TARG MPI FAMILY: mpich
- ► TARG COMPILER: gcc-9.3.0
- ► TARG MPI: mpich-3.3.2

\$PATH and \$TARG

- ► settarg inserts \$TARG into \$PATH.
- ► dbg ⇒ PATH=OBJ/_x86_64_dbg:~/bin:.:/usr/local/bin:/bin
- ► opt ⇒ PATH=OBJ/_x86_64_opt:~/bin::/usr/local/bin:/bin

\$PATH searching can be dynamic!

- ► Normally shells build a table of all exec's in path
- rehash can be required for new exec's
- ▶ But relative paths are evaluated *everytime*.

The settarg module defines the following commands

- ▶ $dbg \Rightarrow debug$
- ▶ opt \Rightarrow optimize
- ► mdbg ⇒ max debug
- ► empty ⇒ no build scenario
- ightharpoonup cdt \Rightarrow cd \$TARG
- ► targ ⇒ echo \$TARG
- ► settarg -stt ⇒ settarg state stored in environment
- ightharpoonup settarg –report \Rightarrow how settarg is configured.

How is settarg connected to Lmod?

- ► The settarg command is part of the module command.
- ► module () { eval \$(\$LMOD CMD bash "\$@") && eval \$(\${LMOD_SETTARG_CMD:-:} -s sh)}
- ► Normally \$LMOD_SETTARG_CMD is ":" or "" so 2nd cmd is a no-op.
- ▶ With settarg loaded it becomes: \$LMOD DIR/settarg cmd

What do dbg/opt/mdbg do?

- ► They all set \$TARG_BUILD_SCENARIO
- ► It is up to the Makefile to interpret
- ► $dbg \Rightarrow CFLAGS = -g -O0$
- ▶ opt \Rightarrow CFLAGS = -O3
- ▶ mdbg ⇒ CFLAGS = -g -O0 and array subscript checking

Show examples

- ► dbg/opt/mdbg ⇒ \$TARG, \$PATH
- ▶ ml -impi \Rightarrow \$TARG
- ▶ ml -intel \Rightarrow \$TARG

Example w/o Makefile changes

- ► cd xalt; mkdir -p \$TARG; cdt;
- ► ../../configure ...
- ▶ make install

contrib/settarg/make example/Makefile.simple

```
ifeg ($(TARG COMPILER FAMILY).gcc)
   CC := gcc
endif
ifeq ($(TARG_COMPILER_FAMILY), intel)
   CC := icc
endif
ifneg ($(TARG),)
  override O_DIR := $(TARG)/
endif
EXEC := $(O_DIR)hello
SRC := main.c hello.c
OBJS := $(O DIR)main.o $(O DIR)hello.o
all: $(O_DIR) $(EXEC)
$(O DIR):
        mkdir -p $(O_DIR)
$(EXEC): $(OBJS)
        $(LINK.c) -o $@ $^
$(0 DIR)%.0 : %.c
        $(COMPILE.c) -o $@ -c $<
$(O DIR)main.o : main.c hello.h
$(O DIR)hello.o: hello.c hello.h
```

Show examples with Makefile.simple

- ▶ dbg; make -f Makefile.simple; type hello
- ▶ opt; make -f Makefile.simple; type hello
- ► ml gcc; dbg; make -f Makefile.simple; type hello

Show examples with Makefile

- ► rm -rf OBJ/
- ▶ dbg; make -f Makefile; type hello
- ▶ opt; make -f Makefile; type hello
- ► ml gcc; dbg; make -f Makefile.simple; type hello

Personal/Directory setting of settarg

- ► Loading order of all settarg config files:
- System settarg lmod/settarg/settarg_rc.lua
- ► ~/.settarg.lua
- Current or parent directory .settarg.lua
- ▶ all are loaded with over-write of table entries.

settarg -report

- ► Reports the current state of rules for settarg
- ► Show example with a directory .settarg.lua

a directory .settarg.lua

Show example of \$TARG with above .settarg.lua

- ► \$TARG
- ightharpoonup cd w/dao; \Rightarrow \$TARG
- ightharpoonup ml petsc; \Rightarrow \$TARG

Conclusions for Settarg modules

- ► A way to switch between different kinds of builds: dbg/opt/mdbg
- ► Avoiding make clean in-between.
- ► Highly customizable for your needs.
- Can be made to work where you have settarg and other don't
- ► More detail: https://lmod.readthedocs.io/en/latest/310_settarg.html

Future Topics

- ► Lmod Testing System?
- ► More internals of Lmod?
- ► collections?
- ► Guest Presentation of special issues?