



# **GDB: The GNU Project Debugger**

# GDB

When you compile your program, you run the option to add debugging symbols to your executable. Here's what you will see if you do not.

```
gcc MyProgram.c
```

```
gdb a.out
```

```
GNU gdb (GDB) Red Hat Enterprise Linux (7.0.1-45.el5)
Copyright (C) 2009 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
License GPLv3+: GNU GPL version 3 or later <http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.  Type "show copying"
and "show warranty" for details.
This GDB was configured as "x86_64-redhat-linux-gnu".
For bug reporting instructions, please see:
<http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/bugs/>...
Reading symbols from /home/f/fr/frenchdm/a.out...(no debugging symbols found)...
done.
```

# GDB

Compile your program with symbols on

```
gcc MyProgram.c -g
```

```
gdb a.out
```

```
GNU gdb (GDB) Red Hat Enterprise Linux (7.0.1-45.el5)
Copyright (C) 2009 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
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This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.  Type "show copying"
and "show warranty" for details.
This GDB was configured as "x86_64-redhat-linux-gnu".
For bug reporting instructions, please see:
<http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/bugs/>...
Reading symbols from /home/f/fr/frenchdm/a.out...done.
(gdb) █
```

# GDB

## How to exit the debugger

`quit`

```
[frenchdm@omega ~]$ gdb a.out
GNU gdb (GDB) Red Hat Enterprise Linux (7.0.1-45.el5)
Copyright (C) 2009 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
License GPLv3+: GNU GPL version 3 or later <http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.  Type "show copying"
and "show warranty" for details.
This GDB was configured as "x86_64-redhat-linux-gnu".
For bug reporting instructions, please see:
<http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/bugs/>...
Reading symbols from /home/f/fr/frenchdm/a.out...done.
(gdb) quit
[frenchdm@omega ~]$
```

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## **list**

`list 1` – will show the first 10 lines of the program

`list n` – will show the 5 lines before `n` and the 4 lines after `n` (total of 10 lines)

`list x, y` – will show lines `x` through `y`

`list function_name` – will show 4 lines before start of function and 5 lines after

`list` – will show the next 10 lines

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## **help**

`help` – list class of command topics

`help all` – lists all commands

`help command` – list specific command information

`apropos search-word` – finds all instances of search-word in help

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## Starting a debug session

`break main` – set a break point on `main()`

`run` – start program execution from the beginning of the program

`c` – continue execution to next break point

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## **break**

`break main` – set a break point on `main()`

`break function-name` – set a break point on *function-name*

`break line-number` – set a break point on *line-number*

`info break` – list breakpoints



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## **print**

`print variable` – print value stored in variable

`print /t variable` – print integer value in binary

`print /x variable` – print integer value in hex

`print *ArrayName@ArrayLength` – print values of *ArrayName*

`ptype variable` – prints type definition of variable

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## **clear**

`clear` – delete breakpoint

`clear function` – remove the breakpoints in *function*

`clear line-number` – remove breakpoint at *line-number*

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`step n`

execute *n* lines and displays the line. If the next line is a function, it executes *n* line inside the function.

`next n`

execute *n* lines and displays the line. If the next line is a function, it executes the whole function

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`backtrace` – display which functions have been called

`quit` – exit GDB

`kill` – quit the current debugging process but stay in GDB

`return retval` – exit the current function as return value *retval*

`finish` – execute the current function until the function returns the *retval*