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Developing Platform Independent Software using the AutoTool Suite

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Outline

- Why develop Platform Independent code
- From the users perspective
- From the developers perspective
- The Autotools Suite
 - □ Automake
 - □ Autoconf
- The NAM (<u>N</u>ot <u>A</u>uto<u>M</u>ake) System
 - □ Why
 - \Box How to use it





Why Platform Independent Code?



- Most software we develop is likely to be tools to gather or analyse data
 - □ Smaller
 - □ Possibly only used by you
- It may be useful enough to release
 - □ E.g. pckhisto and netsniff
- If others use FreeBSD
 - Environment could be configured differently, your Makefile or script might not work
- Other Platform OSs
 - □ Linux
 - □ MacOS X
 - Windows God forbid



Why Platform Independent Code?



- Developing Platform Independent Software
 - \Box The source code
 - □ Generic
 - □ Use platform independent libraries
 - □ Write standards compliant code (for different compilets)
 - □ Where necessary, group platform dependent code into a small file set so different versions can be compiled in
 - $\hfill\square$ The build environment
 - □ Locations of tools and libraries
 - $\hfill\square$ Names of tools and libraries
 - □ Version of make
 - □ How to install



Why Platform Independent Code?



- Need to distribute a project that
 - Examines the build system and determines if it can build the software
 - □ Creates a standard means of building and installing the software

□ Typically make, but make differs across platforms

- □ Source code written to be able to compile on different platforms and with different compilers
- Many options but fast becoming standard is the:
 - □ configure/make/make install cycle



The Users Perspective



Simplified Download/Compile/Installation Cycle

□ Download and uncompress source code

□ Execute

```
./configure
su root
make
make install
```

 Consistent across all platforms and increasingly among distributed software



The Users Perspective

- The configure script scans the system and build a (set of) Makefile(s) specific to the platform under consideration
- The standard Make tool is then used to compile and install the software
- Advantages
 - $\hfill\square$ Platform specific instructions are automatically handled
 - User doesn't have to worry about changing compile or install options
 - configure can check for required libraries/software/features and fail with an appropriate error message



The Developers Perspective



- Simplified Support Scenario
 - □ The same package is compatible with a number of different systems
- Complex Development
 - \Box How to write the **configure** script
 - $\hfill\square$ What to check for and how
 - $\hfill\square$ How to generate platform independent Makefiles
 - $\hfill\square$ Maintenance of installation system



The Developers Perspective



- configure must run on all systems have to use a standard scripting language (/bin/sh)
- Different systems:
 - \square Have libraries and tools installed in different locations
 - □ Install your application to different locations
 - □ Have different Make systems BSD Make is substantially different to GNU Make



The Autotools Suite

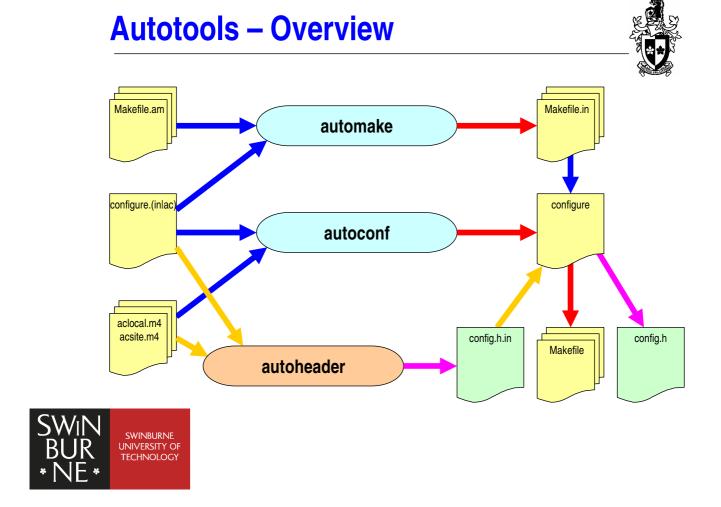


- The GNU Autotools suite was developed to help simplify the task of distribution of platform independent code
 - □ automake
 - □ autoconf
 - \Box autoheader
 - □ libtool

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Of most interest is automake and autoconf, used to generate a system independent configure script which can subsequently be used to generate system independent Makefile(s)





The Autotools Suite

The concept behind the GNU Autotools suite is a good one:

Remove the task of creating system checks and developing system independent build environments from the developer through the use of a simple tool set.

 But just how good are the individual tools within the suite – particularly **automake** and **autoconf**



Automake



Input files

□ Makefile.am

□ List of executables and libraries to build and sources for each target

□ configure.(aclin)

List of *Makefile.am* files to consider

□ List of macros to implement

Determination of which rules to include

Output files

□ Makefile.in

□ Input for **configure** script



Automake

- Advantages
 - □ *Makefile.am* format is simple and easy to read
 - □ Don't have to worry about writing a Makefile
 - □ Supports a large number of different types of targets



- Disadvantages
 - □ Difficult to add extra rules as discovered when Kris tried to add support for pre-compiled headers with gcc3.4
 - Generated *Makefile.in* files are complex and difficult to follow
 - □ Final *Makefile(s)* difficult to read
 - □ Debugging problems
 - □ Understanding build process
 - □ Running **make** produces ugly output



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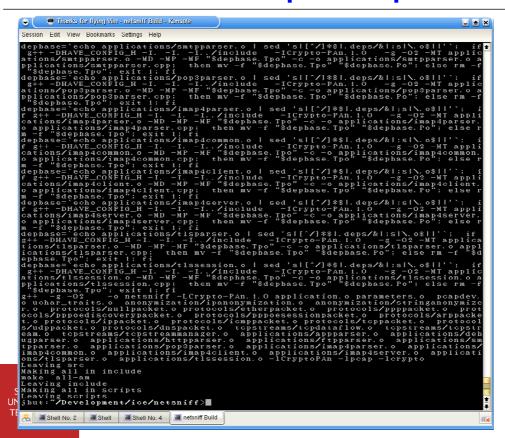
Automake – *Makefile* sample



applications/imap4client.cpp \
applications/imap4server.cp \
applications/tlsparser.cpp \
applications/tlssession.cpp
netsriff_DEPENDENCIES = Crypto-PAn.1.0
AUTOMAKE_OFTIONS = subdir-objects
AA CPPFLAGE = .ICrypto-PAn.1.0
nstaniff_UBFLAGS = .LCrypto-PAn 1.0
netsniff_LORD = -lCryptoPAn UNTVTINEPCLEANFILES = Makefile_in
all: all-recursive
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.SUFFIXES: cpp .o .obj
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\$\$dep)
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exit 1,, \ esa:
done: V
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cd \$(twp sredir) 56 \
\$(AUTOMAKE)gnu src/Makefile
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cd \$(top buildir) & \$ \$(3HELL .)config.status \$(aubdr)/10 am dopiler_maybe);
esec.
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\$(top_sicdir)/configure: \$(am_configure.deps)
cd s(top_builddir) && s(MANE) s(AM_MAKEFLAGS) amrefresh s(ACLOCAL_MA): s(am_aclocal_mA_daps)
cd %(top builded) & (MAE) \$(AMEALAGS) am-refresh
install-sbinPROGRAMS: \$(sbin PROGRAMS)
DS(NORMAL_INSTALL)
<pre>test -z "\$(sbindir)" \$(mkdir_p) "\$(DESTDIR)\$(sbindir)"</pre>
<pre>@list='\$(sbin_PROGRAMS)'; for p in \$\$list; do \</pre>
pt='echo \$\$p[sed 's/\$fEXEEXT)\$\$/// ¹ ; \
Line: 437 Col: 8 📔 INS NORM Makefile
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Automake – make output sample





Autoconf



Input files

□ configure.(aclin)

 \Box List of macros to scan and check on system

List of Makefiles to generate

□ aclocal.m4, acsite.m4

□ Set of M4 macros that can be used in the *configure.(aclin)* file that are not part of the standard **autoconf** macro set

Output files

□ configure

□ Script to execute to build the *Makefile(s)*



Autoheader



- Input files same as autoconf
- Output files

□ config.h.in

 \Box Used as input when running configure to generate config.h



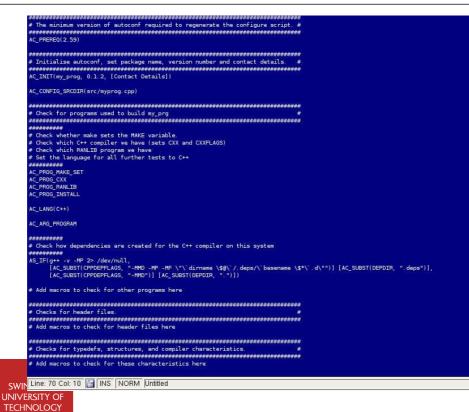
Autoconf

- Advantages
 - □ Pre-existing macro set to check for existence of:
 - □ Tools
 - □ Programs
 - □ Libraries
 - \Box Headers
 - □ M4 Macro language
 - □ Can put shell script into configure.(aclin)
 - □ Can be used without **automake**

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- Disadvantages
 - M4 Macro Language need to learn yet another language
 - Remembering cycle of applications to run to properly regenerate all required files

Autoconf – *configure.in* sample





Using Autoconf without Automake



- Need to write our own set of *Makefile.in(s)*
- More effort
- Greater care needed in writing to ensure compatibility
- Resultant Makefile(s) are as neat or messy as the source Makefile.in templates



Not AutoMake (NAM)

What is NAM

- □ Basically a set of files that implements core build functionality in a way that minimises the effort involved in writing a *Makefile.in* file
- □ Allows use of **autoconf** without **automake** AND simple generation of *Makefile.in*
- □ Based in spirit on the WINE setup which uses **autoconf** but not **automake**
- Why NAM
 - □ Nicer *Makefile(s)* and make output
 - □ Re-usable



NAM – What does it Offer

- Default targets all, clean, install, uninstall
- Recursive make in subdirectories
- C++ compilation
- Optional clean or verbose output during build
- Automatic dependency regeneration
- Automatic rerunning of **autoconf** and *configure* if necessary
- Readable Makefiles
- Linking or C++ archives and executables
- Installation of executable in \$(prefix)/bin and \$(prefix)/sbin
- Installation of man pages



NAM – Required Files

- NAM_rules.mk.in
 - □ Common build rules
 - □ Configure generates NAM_rules.mk
 - \Box Contains platform dependencies
 - □ Included into your Makefiles
- bsd.mk

□ BSD make specific instructions

- gnu.mk
 - □ GNU make specific instructions







NAM – Template Files

- configure.in
 - □ Minimal set of autoconf macros required to generate a NAM compatible project
 - Need to add extra tests and variables as per your project requirements
- Makefile.in
 - □ Sample Makefile.in with all possible options for NAM

 \Box Remove unrequired functionality

 \square Add extra and new compile rules



Creating NAM projects

Easier for a new project

□ Use the template *configure.in* and *Makefile.in* files and add to them as the project evolves

- More complex for an existing project
 - □ Use the template files and try to port macros from existing configure.in file not **automake** macros
 - □ Add rules to *Makefile.in* as needed
 - □ Possibly extend *NAM_rules.mk.in* with new default rule (and submit changes back to me)







Example – pkthisto



Recently converted pkthisto to use NAM

□ Existing package did not compile on FreeBSD 5.3

Used default configure.in template

 $\hfill\square$ Added tests for libraries and header files used by $\hfill pkthisto$

Developed Makefile.in to compile pkthisto

□ Link (and install) a single executable

 $\hfill\square$ List source files involved



Example – pkthisto (Makefile.in)



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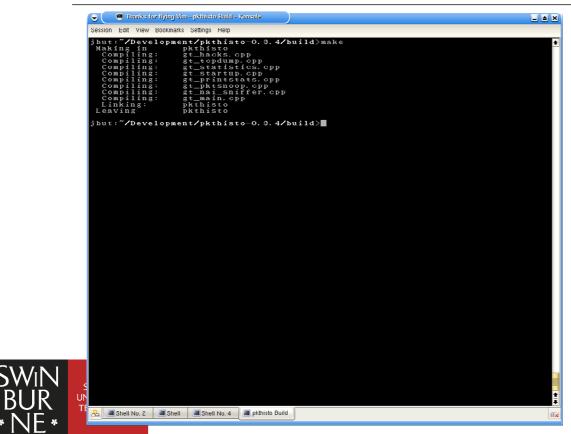
# Variables	required by the global make ruls.

# TOPSRCDIR	- Points to the top level directory of the project.
# SREDIR	- Points to the actual directory where the source code files for #
	this Makefile exists.
	directory. Must be equal to SRCDIR.
# TOPBUILDDI	
	generating nice output of the working directories.
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# Where to it	nstall the generated pkthisto application.
*******	======================================
NAM_RULES	
# End of File	
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Example – pkthisto (output)



Example – netsniff

- Even though a recent project, netsniff compilation has evolved
 - □ Initially a single *Makefile* that built the source with nice output
 - □ Converted (by Urs) to use autoconf and automake
 - $\hfill\square$ Converted (by me) to use autoconf and NAM
- More complex
 - □ Number of subdirectories
 - □ Temporary archive libraries
 - \Box More autoconf tests to run
 - □ More configure options enabled



Example – netsniff (clean output)



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Compiling:	rijndael.cpp	
Archiving: Indexing:	libCryptoPAn. a libCryptoPAn. a	
Leaving.	src/Crypto-PAn. 1. 0	
Compiling:	application.cpp	
Compiling: Compiling:	parameters.cpp pcapdev.cpp	
Compiling:	uchar_traits.cpp	
Compiling:	anonymization/ipanonymization.cpp	
Compiling:	anonymization/stringanonymizer.cpp	
Compiling:	protocols/nullpacket.cpp	
Compiling: Compiling:	protocols/etherpacket.cpp protocols/ppppacket.cpp	
Compiling:	protocols/ppppoediscoverypacket.cpp	
Compiling:	protocols/pppocessionpacket.cpp	
Compiling:	protocols/arppacket.cpp	
Compiling:	protocols/ippacket.cpp	
Compiling:	protocols/icmppacket.cpp protocols/tcppacket.cpp	
Compiling: Compiling:	protocols/udppacket.cpp	
Compiling:	protocols/dnspacket.cpp	
Compiling:	tcpstreams/tcpdataflow.cpp	
Compiling:	tcpstreams/tcpstream.cpp tcpstreams/tcpstreammanager.cpp	
Compiling:	tcpstreams/tcpstreammanager.cpp	
Compiling: Compiling:	applications/appparser.cpp applications/debugparser.cpp	
Compiling:	applications/httpparser.cpp	
Compiling:	applications/ftpparser.cpp	
Compiling: Compiling:	applications/smtpparser.cpp	
Compiling:	applications/pop3parser.cpp	
Compiling:	applications/imap4parser.cpp	
Compiling: Compiling:	applications/imap4common.cpp applications/imap4client.cpp	
Compiling:	applications/imap4server.cpp	
Compiling:	applications/tlsparser.cpp	
Compiling:	applications/tlssession.cpp	
Linking: Leaving	netsniff src	
Leaving	510	
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c		
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Example – netsniff (verbose output)



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	applications/tlssession.cpp	
	g++ -LCrypto-PAn. 1.0 -o netsniff application. o parameters. o pcapdev. o uchar_tr	a
	its. o anonymization/ipanonymization. o anonymization/stringanonymizer. o protocol	
	/nullpacket.o protocols/etherpacket.o protocols/ppppacket.o protocols/pppoedisc	0
	verypacket. o protocols/pppoesessionpacket. o protocols/arppacket. o protocols/ipp	a
	cket. o protocols/icmppacket. o protocols/tcppacket. o protocols/udppacket. o proto	c
	ols/dnspacket.o topstreams/topdataflow.o topstreams/topstream.o topstreams/tops	t
/IN	reammanager.o applications/appparser.o applications/debugparser.o applications/	h
	lttpparser.o_applications/ftpparser.o_applications/smtpparser.o_applications/pop	3
₹	parser o applications/imap4parser o applications/imap4common o applications/ima	p
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Using NAM



- Installing the required files
 - □ Obtain *NAM_rules.mk.in*, *bsd.mk* and *gnu.mk* and place a copy in the top directory of your project
 - □ *NAM_rules.mk* will be generated in the top build directory after running **configure**

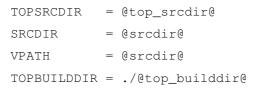


Using NAM



Writing Makefile.in(s)

- □ Obtain the template file *Makefile.in* and place a copy in the top directory of your project AND in each subdirectory you wish to recursively make
- □ The first four lines of the Makefile.in file are mandatory and MUST NOT be commented out or deleted





Using NAM

- Writing Makefile.in(s) variables
 - □ SUBDIRS list of subdirectories for make to recurse into
 - □ INCLUDES compiler flags to list extra directories to search for included files
 - D PROGRAMS list of executables to link
 - □ ARCHIVES list of temporary library archives (.a) to link
 - □ **xxx_SRCS** list of C++ source files to compile in order to build program **xxx**, where **xxx** is a program in the **PROGRAMS** or **ARCHIVES** variable
 - □ **xxx_LIBS** list of libraries to use when linking the program or archive xxx
 - □ **xxx_LDFLAGS** linker flags to use when linking the program or archive xxx
 - □ **PRECOMP_HEADER** list of header files to compile using precompiled headers (requires gcc3.4+)
 - □ INSTALL_BIN list of executables to install to \$(prefix)/bin
 - □ INSTALL_SBIN list of executables to install to \$(prefix)/sbin
 - **INSTALL_MAN** list of man pages to install to \$(prefix)/man



Using NAM

Writing Makefile.in(s)

 \square Do NOT delete the line

@NAM_RULES@

- □ This includes the rules defined in NAM_rules.mk
- □ Add any new and other rules AFTER the @NAM_RULES@ line
 - □ Can add extra dependencies for all, clean, install and uninstall targets
 - □ New targets (all, install, uninstall) with rules will be executed AFTER the default make of these targets
 - □ Any rules before @NAM_RULES@ will supercede make all as the default target







Using NAM



- Writing *configure.in*
 - $\hfill\square$ Do not remove any existing macros from this file
 - □ Add new macros to test for anything you need where specified in the file
 - Add a list of all Makefiles your project needs to the AC_CONFIG_FILES macro, you MUST ensure that your Makefile(s) are listed AFTER the NAM_rules.mk file already there

□ Otherwise your *Makefiles* will be generated with the old *NAM_rules.mk* and will be one configure cycle out of step



Using NAM

- Writing configure.in
 - □ Source for writing *configure.in* tests
 - Download the **autoconf** manual from <u>http://www.gnu.org/software/autoconf/manual/index.html</u>
 - □ Autoconf website <u>http://www.gnu.org/software/autoconf</u>
 - \Box Google search for help
 - □ Using the minimal *configure.in* will not be a problem, it just means that occasionally make will fail where it would be better if *configure* failed the idea is if configure completed successfully, the system is capable of building the application





Conclusions



- Concept behind the autotools suite is good
 - □ Autoconf is well implemented, automake is a mess
 - □ NAM allows use of **autoconf** and minimal work in writing *Makefile.in* files
- NAM takes advantage of a prewritten rule set to minimise work on the build environment
 - □ Leverage my 8 weeks effort into learning how autoconf works
 - □ Get readable Makefiles and build output with no effort
- Easy to use, especially for new projects
- Make your software development platform independent from the start
 - □ Lets you run tests at home if you have a different platform (such as Linux or MacOS
 - Lets your software be used by others



Questions



■ And the title says it all...

