

vlink portable multi-format linker

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1 General

1.1 Introduction

`vlink` is a portable linker which can be configured to support multiple input and output file formats at once. It even allows to link input files with a different format in a single run and generate the output file format of your choice from it.

The linker supports linking with objects, object archives (static libraries) and shared objects or libraries. It can generate an executable file with or without additional information for dynamic linking, a shared object, or a new object suitable for another linker pass.

Empty sections and other unused data are deleted to achieve a size-optimized output.

1.2 Legal

`vlink` is copyright 1995-2017 by Frank Wille.

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An exception for commercial usage is granted, provided that the target OS is AmigaOS/68k. Resulting binaries may be distributed commercially without further licensing.

In all other cases you need my written consent.

1.3 Installation

`vlink` comes as a stand-alone program, so no further installation is necessary. To use `vlink` with `vbcc`, copy the binary to `vbcc/bin`, following the installation instructions for `vbcc`.

2 The Linker

2.1 Usage

`vlink` links the object and archive files given on the command line into a new object file. The output object file is either an executable program, a shared object suitable for loading at run-time, or an object file that can once again be processed by `vlink`.

Object files and archives are processed in the order given on the command line. Unlike other linkers you usually have to specify each library to link against only once, as `vlink` is smart enough to figure out all dependencies.

The file format of an input object file is determined automatically by the linker. The default output file format is compiled in (see `-v`) and may be changed by `-b`. Optionally, the default library search path can also be compiled in and is visible with `-v` as well.

The number of output file formats included is configurable at compile time.

2.2 Supported file formats

The following file formats are supported:

`a.out` Currently supported:

- `aoutnull` (Default with standard relocs and undefined endianness)
- `aoutbsd68k` (NetBSD/68k)
- `aoutbsd68k4k` (NetBSD/68k 4K page size)
- `aoutsun010` (SunOS 68010 and AmigaOS/Atari 68000/010)
- `aoutsun020` (SunOS 68020 and AmigaOS/Atari 68020-68060)
- `aoutbsdi386` (NetBSD/i386)
- `aoutpc386`
- `aoutmint` (Embeds `a.out` in TOS format for Atari MiNT executables)
- `aoutjaguar` (M68k with special, word-swapped RISC relocations)

Small data offset: `0x8000` (unused). Linker symbols: `__GLOBAL_OFFSET_TABLE_`, `__PROCEDURE_LINKAGE_TABLE_`, `__DYNAMIC`.

`amigahunk`

The AmigaDos hunk format for M68k. Requires AmigaOS 2.04 with `-Rshort`. No shared objects. Small data offset `0x7ffe`. Linker symbols:

- `._DATA_BAS_` (PhxAss)
- `._DATA_LEN_` (PhxAss)
- `._BSS_LEN_` (PhxAss)
- `._LinkerDB`
- `._BSSBAS` (SASC/StormC)
- `._BSSLEN` (SASC/StormC)
- `._ctors` (SASC/StormC)
- `._dtors` (SASC/StormC)

- `_RESLEN` (SASC)
- `_RESBASE` (SASC)
- `_NEWDATA1` (SASC)
- `__DATA_BAS` (DICE-C)
- `__DATA_LEN` (DICE-C)
- `__BSS_LEN` (DICE-C)
- `__RESIDENT` (DICE-C)
- `___machtype` (GNU-gcc)
- `___text_size` (GNU-gcc)
- `___data_size` (GNU-gcc)
- `___bss_size` (GNU-gcc)

Automatic constructor/destructor function tables: `___ctors` and `___dtors` (will be mapped automatically to `__CTOR_LIST__` and `__DTOR_LIST__`).

Referencing `_RESLEN` switches the hunk-format output module into Resident mode, which will append a special relocation table to the initialized part of the data-bss section and warns about absolute references from other sections. This mode can be used to create reentrant, "pure" programs, for use with the AmigaOS `resident` command.

Supports `-Rstd` and `-Rshort`. `-hunkattr` can be used to overwrite the memory flags of an input section. This format was called "amigaos" in former `vlink` versions.

- amigaehf** An extension of the AmigaDOS hunk format for the PowerPC, 32-bit, big endian, as introduced by Haage&Partner GmbH for WarpOS. No executables (they are in `amigahunk` format) or shared objects. The same linker symbols, constructors/destructors as under `amigahunk` are supported. Additionally, `@_name` symbols will be created on demand (when referenced). Supports `-Rstd`, `-Rshort` and `-hunkattr`.
- amsdos** Absolute raw binary output, similar to `rawbin2`, but with a header for Amstrad/Schneider CPC computers.
- ataritos** Atari-ST TOS file format. Executables only at the moment. Symbol table in extended DRI format. Symbols may be section- or start-based (option `-tos-textbased`). The internal linker script defines `_LinkerDB` for small data and supports `vbcc`-style constructor/destructor tables in the data section (`__CTOR_LIST__` and `__DTOR_LIST__`).
- cbmprg** Absolute raw binary output, similar to `rawbin2`, but with a header for Commodore 8-bit computers (PET, VIC-20, 64, etc.).
- elf32amigaos**
Identical to `elf32ppcbe`, but when doing dynamic linking it requires that also all references from shared objects are resolved at link time. This is due to a limitation of the AmigaOS4 dynamic link editor (`elf.library`).
- elf32arm** ELF (executable linkable format) for the ARM architecture. 32-bit, little endian. Small data offset: `0x1000`. Linker Symbols: `_SDA_BASE_`. Automatic

