AutoTools

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To create 'configure' from 'configure.ac', run the 'autoconf' program with no arguments. 'autoconf' processes 'configure.ac' with the M4 macro processor, using the Autoconf macros. If you give 'autoconf' an argument, it reads that file instead of 'configure.ac' and writes the configuration script to the standard output instead of to 'configure'. If you give 'autoconf' the argument '-', it reads from the standard input instead of 'configure.ac' and writes the configuration script to the standard output.

The Autoconf macros are defined in several files. Some of the files are distributed with Autoconf; 'autoconf' reads them first. Then it looks for the optional file 'acsite.m4' in the directory that contains the distributed Autoconf macro files, and for the optional file 'aclocal.m4' in the current directory. Those files can contain your site's or the package's own Autoconf macro definitions (*note Writing Autoconf Macros::, for more information). If a macro is defined in more than one of the files that 'autoconf' reads, the last definition it reads overrides the earlier ones.

doc how-to

\$ autoreconf --install