

NAME

clisp - ANSI Common Lisp compiler, interpreter and debugger.

SYNOPSIS

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clisp [[-h] | [--help]] [--version] [--license] [--help-image] [-B lisp-lib-dir]
      [-K linking-set] [-M mem-file] [-m memory-size] [-L language] [-N locale-dir]
      [-E domain encoding] [[-q] | [--quiet] | [--silent] | [-v] | [--verbose]]
      [-on-error action] [-repl] [-w] [-I] [[-ansi] | [-traditional]] [-modern]
      [-p package] [-C] [-norc] [-lp directory...] [-i init-file...]
      [-c [-l] lisp-file [-o output-file...] [-x expressions...] [lisp-file [argument...]]
```

DESCRIPTION

Invokes the **Common Lisp**[1] interpreter and compiler. When called without arguments, executes the *read-eval-print loop*[2], in which expressions are in turn **READ**[3] from the standard input, **EVAL**[4]uated by the lisp interpreter, and their results are **PRINT**[5]ed to the standard output. Invoked with **-c**, compiles the specified lisp files to a platform-independent bytecode which can be executed more efficiently.

OPTIONS

- h**
- help**
Displays a help message on how to invoke **CLISP**[6].
- version**
Displays the **CLISP**[6] version number, as given by the function **LISP-IMPLEMENTATION-VERSION**[7], the value of the variable **FEATURES**, as well some other information.
- license**
Displays a summary of the licensing information, the *GNU*[8] *GPL*[9].
- help-image**
Displays information about the memory image being invoked: whether is it suitable for scripting as well as the **:DOCUMENTATION** supplied to **EXT:SAVEINITMEM**.
- B *lisp-lib-dir***
Specifies the installation directory. This is the directory containing the linking sets and other data files. This option is normally not necessary, because the installation directory is already built-in into the **clisp** executable. Directory *lisp-lib-dir* can be changed dynamically using the *SYMBOL-MACRO*[10] **LIB-DIRECTORY**.
- K *linking-set***
Specifies the linking set to be run. This is a directory (relative to the *lisp-lib-dir*) containing at least a main executable (runtime) and an initial memory image. Possible values are
 - base**
the core **CLISP**[6]
 - full**
core plus all the modules with which this installation was built, see Section 32.2, “External Modules”.
 The default is **base**.
- M *mem-file***
Specifies the initial memory image. This must be a memory dump produced by the **EXT:SAVEINITMEM** function by this **clisp** runtime. It may have been compressed using *GNU*[8] *gzip*[11].
- m *memory-size***
Sets the amount of memory **CLISP**[6] tries to grab on startup. The amount may be given as

n
nB
 measured in bytes

n
nW
 measured in machine words ($4 \times n$ on 32-bit platforms, $8 \times n$ on 64-bit platforms)

nK
nKB
 measured in kilobytes

nKW
 measured in kilowords

nM
nMB
 measured in megabytes

nMW
 measured in megawords

The default is 3 megabytes. The argument is constrained above 100 KB.

This version of **CLISP**[6] is not likely to actually use the entire *memory-size* since garbage-collection will periodically reduce the amount of used memory. It is therefore common to specify 10 MB even if only 2 MB are going to be used.

–**L** *language*

Specifies the language **CLISP**[6] uses to communicate with the user. This may be one of **english**, **german**, **french**, **spanish**, **dutch**, **russian**, **danish**. Other languages may be specified through the *environment variable*[12] **LANG**, provided the corresponding message catalog is installed. The language may be changed dynamically using the *SYMBOL-MACRO*[10] *CUSTOM: *CURRENT-LANGUAGE**.

–**N** *locale-dir*

Specifies the base directory of locale files. **CLISP**[6] will search its message catalogs in *locale-dir/language/LC_MESSAGES/clisp.mo*. This directory may be changed dynamically using the *SYMBOL-MACRO*[10] *CUSTOM: *CURRENT-LANGUAGE**.

–**E** *domain encoding*

Specifies the encoding used for the given domain, overriding the default which depends on the *environment variable*[12]s **LC_ALL**, **LC_CTYPE**, **LANG**. *domain* can be

file

affecting *CUSTOM: *DEFAULT-FILE-ENCODING**

pathname

affecting *CUSTOM: *PATHNAME-ENCODING**

terminal

affecting *CUSTOM: *TERMINAL-ENCODING**

foreign

affecting *CUSTOM: *FOREIGN-ENCODING**

misc

affecting *CUSTOM: *MISC-ENCODING**

blank

affecting all of the above.

Warning

Note that the values of these *SYMBOL-MACRO*[10]s that have been saved in a memory image are ignored: these *SYMBOL-MACRO*[10]s are reset based on the OS environment **after** the memory image is loaded. You have to use the RC file, *CUSTOM:*INIT-HOOKS** or *init* function to set them on startup, but it is best to set the aforementioned *environment variable*[12]s appropriately for consistency with other programs. See Section 31.1, “Customizing CLISP Process Initialization and Termination”.

-q**--quiet****--silent****-v****--verbose**

Change verbosity level: by default, **CLISP**[6] displays a banner at startup and a good-bye message when quitting, and initializes **LOAD-VERBOSE**[13] and **COMPILE-VERBOSE**[14] to **T**[15], and **LOAD-PRINT**[13] and **COMPILE-PRINT**[14] to **NIL**[16], as per [ANSI CL standard]. The first **-q** removes the banner and the good-bye message, the second sets variables **LOAD-VERBOSE**[13], **COMPILE-VERBOSE**[14] and *CUSTOM:*SAVEINITMEM-VERBOSE** to **NIL**[16]. The first **-v** sets variables *CUSTOM:*REPORT-ERROR-PRINT-BACKTRACE**, **LOAD-PRINT**[13] and **COMPILE-PRINT**[14] to **T**[15], the second sets *CUSTOM:*LOAD-ECHO** to **T**[15]. These settings affect the output produced by **-i** and **-c** options. Note that these settings persist into the *read-eval-print loop*[2]. Repeated **-q** and **-v** cancel each other, e.g., **-q -q -v -v -v** is equivalent to **-v**.

-on-error action

Override (or force) the batch mode imposed by **-c**, **-x**, and *lisp-file*, depending on *action*:
PP appease

continuable[17] *ERROR*[18]s are turned into *WARNING*[19]s (with **EXT:APPEASE-CERRORS**) other *ERROR*[18]s are handled in the default way

debug

ERROR[18]s **INVOKE-DEBUGGER**[20] (the normal *read-eval-print loop*[2] behavior)

abort

continuable[17] *ERROR*[18]s are appeased, other *ERROR*[18]s are **ABORT**[21]ed with **EXT:ABORT-ON-ERROR**

exit

continuable[17] *ERROR*[18]s are appeased, other *ERROR*[18]s terminate **CLISP**[6] with **EXT:EXIT-ON-ERROR**

See also **EXT:SET-GLOBAL-HANDLER**.

-repl

Start an interactive *read-eval-print loop*[2] after processing the **-c**, **-x**, and *lisp-file* options and on any *ERROR*[18] **SIGNAL**[22]ed during that processing.

-w

Wait for a keypress after program termination.

-I

Interact better with *Emacs*[23] (useful when running **CLISP**[6] under *Emacs*[23] using *SLIME*[24], *ILISP*[25] et al). With this option, **CLISP**[6] interacts in a way that *Emacs*[23] can deal with:

- unnecessary prompts are not suppressed.

- The *GNU*[8] *readline*[26] library treats TAB (see TAB key) as a normal self-inserting character (see Q: A.4.6).
- ansi**
Comply with the [ANSI CL standard] specification even where **CLISP**[6] has been traditionally different by setting the *SYMBOL-MACRO*[10] *CUSTOM:*ANSI** to **T**[15].
- traditional**
Traditional: reverses the residual effects of –**ansi** in the saved memory image.
- modern**
Provides a modern view of symbols: at startup the **PACKAGE**[27] variable will be set to the “CS–COMMON–LISP–USER” package, and the **PRINT-CASE**[28] will be set to **:DOWNCASE**. This has the effect that symbol lookup is case-sensitive (except for keywords and old-style packages) and that keywords and uninterned symbols are printed with lower-case preference. See Section 11.5, “Package Case-Sensitivity”.
- p** *package*
At startup the value of the variable **PACKAGE**[27] will be set to the package named *package*. The default is the value of **PACKAGE**[27] when the image was saved, normally “COMMON-LISP-USER”[29].
- C**
Compile when loading: at startup the value of the variable *CUSTOM:*LOAD-COMPILING** will be set to **T**[15]. Code being **LOAD**[30]ed will then be **COMPILE**[31]d on the fly. This results in slower loading, but faster execution.
- norc**
Normally **CLISP**[6] loads the user “run control” (*RC*)[32] file on startup (this happens **after** the –**C** option is processed). The file loaded is *.clisprc.lisp* or *.clisprc.fas* in the home directory **USER–HOMEDIR–PATHNAME**[33], whichever is newer. This option, –**norc**, prevents loading of the RC file.
- lp** *directory*
Specifies directories to be added to *CUSTOM:*LOAD-PATHS** at startup. This is done **after** loading the RC file (so that it does not override the command-line option) but **before** loading the init-files specified by the –**i** options (so that the init-files will be searched for in the specified directories). Several –**lp** options can be given; all the specified directories will be added.
- i** *init-file*
Specifies initialization files to be **LOAD**[30]ed at startup. These should be lisp files (source or compiled). Several –**i** options can be given; all the specified files will be loaded in order.
- c** *lisp-file*
Compiles the specified *lisp-files* to bytecode (**.fas*). The compiled files can then be **LOAD**[30]ed instead of the sources to gain efficiency.
- o** *outputfile*
Specifies the output file or directory for the compilation of the last specified *lisp-file*.
- l**
Produce a bytecode **DISASSEMBLE**[34] listing (**.lis*) of the files being compiled. Useful only for debugging. See Section 24.1, “Function COMPILE-FILE” for details.
- x** *expressions*
Executes a series of arbitrary expressions instead of a *read-eval-print loop*[2]. The values of the expressions will be output to **STANDARD-OUTPUT**[35]. Due to the argument processing done by the shell, the *expressions* must be enclosed in double quotes, and double quotes and backslashes must be escaped with backslashes.

lisp-file [*argument ...*]

Loads and executes a *lisp-file*, as described in Script execution. There will be no *read-eval-print loop*[2]. Before *lisp-file* is loaded, the variable *EXT:*ARGS** will be bound to a list of strings, representing the *arguments*. The first line of *lisp-file* may start with *#!*, thus permitting **CLISP**[6] to be used as a script interpreter. If *lisp-file* is *—*, the **STANDARD-INPUT**[35] is used instead of a file.

This option is *disabled* if the memory image was created by **EXT:SAVEINITMEM** with **NIL**[16] **:SCRIPT** argument. In that case the *LIST*[36] *EXT:*ARGS** starts with *lisp-file*.

This option must be the last one.

No RC file will be executed.

As usual, *—* stops option processing and places all remaining command line arguments into *EXT:*ARGS**.

LANGUAGE REFERENCE

The language implemented is *ANSI*[38]/[37] **Common Lisp**[1]. The implementation mostly conforms to the ANSI Common Lisp standard, see Section 31.10, “Maximum ANSI CL compliance”.

[ANSI CL] ANSI CL standard 1994. ANSI INCITS 226-1994 (R1999) *Information Technology - Programming Language - Common Lisp*[39] [formerly ANSI X3.226-1994 (R1999)].

USAGE

help

get context-sensitive on-line help, see Chapter 25, Environment.

(APROPOS *name*)

list the *SYMBOL*[40]s matching *name*.

(DESCRIBE *symbol*)

describe the *symbol*.

(exit)

(quit)

(bye)

quit **CLISP**[6].

EOF (Control+D on **UNIX**[41])

leave the current level of the *read-eval-print loop*[2] (see also Section 1.1, “Special Symbols”).

arrow keys

for editing and viewing the input history, using the *GNU*[8] *readline*[26] library.

TAB key

Context sensitive:

- If you are in the “function position” (in the first symbol after an opening paren or in the first symbol after a *#'*[43]), the completion is limited to the symbols that name functions.
- If you are in the “filename position” (inside a string after *#P*[44]), the completion is done across file names, *bash*[45]–style.
- If you have not typed anything yet, you will get a help message, as if by the **help** command.
- If you have not started typing the next symbol (i.e., you are at a whitespace), the current function or macro is **DESCRIBED**.

- Otherwise, the symbol you are currently typing is completed.

FILES

clisp

startup driver (a script or an executable)

lisp.run

lisp.exe

main executable (runtime)

lispinit.mem

initial memory image

config.lisp

site-dependent configuration (should have been customized before **CLISP**[6] was built); see Section 31.12, “Customizing CLISP behavior”

**.lisp*

lisp source

**.fas*

lisp code, compiled by **CLISP**[6]

**.lib*

lisp source library information, generated by **COMPILE-FILE**, see Section 24.3, “Function REQUIRE”.

**.c*

C code, compiled from lisp source by **CLISP**[6] (see Section 32.3, “The Foreign Function Call Facility”)

For the **CLISP**[6] source files, see Chapter 34, The source files of CLISP.

ENVIRONMENT

All *environment variable*[12]s that **CLISP**[6] uses are read at most once.

CLISP_LANGUAGE

specifies the language **CLISP**[6] uses to communicate with the user. The legal values are identical to those of the **-L** option which can be used to override this *environment variable*[12].

LC_CTYPE

specifies the locale which determines the character set in use. The value can be of the form *language* or *language_country* or *language_country.charset*, where *language* is a two-letter ISO 639 language code (lower case), *country* is a two-letter ISO 3166 country code (upper case). *charset* is an optional character set specification, and needs normally not be given because the character set can be inferred from the language and country. This *environment variable*[12] can be overridden with the **-Edomain encoding** option.

LANG

specifies the language **CLISP**[6] uses to communicate with the user, unless it is already specified through the *environment variable*[12] **CLISP_LANGUAGE** or the **-L** option. It also specifies the locale determining the character set in use, unless already specified through the *environment variable*[12] **LC_CTYPE**. The value may begin with a two-letter ISO 639 language code, for example **en**, **de**, **fr**.

HOME

USER

used for determining the value of the function **USER-HOMEDIR-PATHNAME**[33].

SHELL

COMSPEC

is used to find the interactive command interpreter called by **EXT:SHELL**.

TERM

determines the screen size recognized by the pretty printer.

ORGANIZATION

for **SHORT-SITE-NAME**[46] and **LONG-SITE-NAME**[46] in *config.lisp*.

CLHSROOT

for **CUSTOM:CLHS-ROOT** in *config.lisp*.

IMPNOTES

for **CUSTOM:IMPNOTES-ROOT** in *config.lisp*.

EDITOR

for **editor-name** in *config.lisp*.

LOGICAL_HOST_host_FROM

LOGICAL_HOST_host_TO

LOGICAL_HOST_host

for *CUSTOM:*LOAD-LOGICAL-PATHNAME-TRANSLATIONS-DATABASE**

SEE ALSO

CLISP impnotes

CMU CL[47] – **cmucl**(1)

Emacs[23] – **emacs**(1)

XEmacs[48] – **xemacs**(1)

BUGS

When you encounter a bug in **CLISP**[6] or in its documentation (this manual page or CLISP impnotes), please report it to the **CLISP**[6] *SourceForge bug tracker*[49].

Before submitting a bug report, please take the following basic steps to make the report more useful:

1. Please do a clean build (remove your build directory and build **CLISP**[6] with **./configure --cbc build** or at least do a **make distclean** before **make**).
2. If you are reporting a “hard crash” (segmentation fault, bus error, core dump etc), please do **./configure --with-debug --cbc build-g ; cd build-g; gdb lisp.run**, then load the appropriate linking set by either **base** or **full gdb**[50] command, and report the backtrace (see also Q: A.1.1.10).
3. If you are using pre-built binaries and experience a hard crash, the problem is likely to be in the incompatibilities between the platform on which the binary was built and yours; please try compiling the sources and report the problem if it persists.

When submitting a bug report, please specify the following information:

1. What is your platform (**uname -a** on a **UNIX**[41] system)? Compiler version? *GNU*[8] *libc*[51] version (on *GNU*[8]/*Linux*[52])?
2. Where did you get the sources or binaries? When? (Absolute dates, e.g., “2006-01-17”, are preferred over the relative ones, e.g., “2 days ago”).
3. How did you build **CLISP**[6]? (What command, options &c.)
4. What is the output of **clisp --version**?

5. Please supply the full output (copy and paste) of all the error messages, as well as detailed instructions on how to reproduce them.

PROJECTS

- Enhance the compiler so that it can inline local functions.
- Add Multi-Threading capabilities, via OS threads.
- Embed **CLISP**[6] in *VIM*[53].

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Others

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NOTES

1. **Common Lisp**
<http://www.lisp.org>
2. read-eval-print loop
[sec_25-1-1](#)
3. **READ**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/fun_readcm_re_g-whitespace.html
4. **EVAL**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/fun_eval.html
5. **PRINT**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/fun_writcm_p_rintcm_princ.html
6. **CLISP**
<http://clisp.cons.org>
7. **LISP-IMPLEMENTATION-VERSION**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/fun_lisp-impl_tion-version.html
8. GNU
<http://www.gnu.org>
9. GPL
<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/gpl.html>
10. SYMBOL-MACRO
[mac_define-symbol-macro](#)
11. **gzip**
<http://www.gzip.org/>
12. environment variable
[basedefs/xbd_chap08.html](#)

13. **LOAD-VERBOSE**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/var_stload-pr_ad-verbosest.html
14. **COMPILE-VERBOSE**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/var_stcompile_le-verbosest.html
15. **T**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/convar_t.html
16. **NIL**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/convar_nil.html
17. **continuable**
clhs/glo
18. **ERROR**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/contyp_error.html
19. **WARNING**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/contyp_warning.html
20. **INVOKE-DEBUGGER**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/fun_invoke-debugger.html
21. **ABORT**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/fun_abortcm_c_cm_use-value.html
22. **SIGNAL**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/fun_signal.html
23. **Emacs**
<http://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/>
24. **SLIME**
<http://common-lisp.net/project/slime/>
25. **ILISP**
<http://sourceforge.net/projects/ilisp/>
26. **readline**
<http://tiswww.case.edu/php/chet/readline/readline.html>
27. **PACKAGE**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/var_stpackagest.html
28. **PRINT-CASE**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/var_stprint-casest.html
29. “COMMON-LISP-USER”
sec_11-1-2-2
30. **LOAD**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/fun_load.html
31. **COMPILE**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/fun_compile.html
32. “run
control” (RC)
<http://www.faqs.org/docs/artu/ch10s03.html>
33. **USER-HOMEDIR-PATHNAME**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/fun_user-homedir-pathname.html
34. **DISASSEMBLE**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/fun_disassemble.html

- 35. **STANDARD-OUTPUT**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/var_stdebug-i_ace-outputst.html
- 36. LIST
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/syscla_list.html
- 37. ANSI
<http://www.ansi.org/>
- 38. The American National Standards Institute
- 39. Information Technology - Programming Language - Common Lisp
[http://webstore.ansi.org/RecordDetail.aspx?sku=ANSI+INCITS+226-1994+\(R1999\)](http://webstore.ansi.org/RecordDetail.aspx?sku=ANSI+INCITS+226-1994+(R1999))
- 40. SYMBOL
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/syscla_symbol.html
- 41. **UNIX**
<http://www.unix.org/online.html>
- 42. *Win32*
<http://winehq.org/>
- 43. *#'*
sec_2-4-8-2
- 44. *#P*
sec_2-4-8-14
- 45. bash
<http://www.gnu.org/software/bash/>
- 46. **SHORT-SITE-NAME**
http://www.lisp.org/HyperSpec/Body/fun_short-sit_ng-site-name.html
- 47. **CMU CL**
<http://www.cons.org/cmucl/>
- 48. XEmacs
<http://www.xemacs.org>
- 49. SourceForge bug tracker
http://sourceforge.net/tracker/?func=add&group_id=1355&atid=101355
- 50. **gdb**
<http://sources.redhat.com/gdb/>
- 51. libc
<http://www.gnu.org/software/libc/>
- 52. *Linux*
<http://www.linux.org/>
- 53. VIM
<http://www.vim.org>