

**NAME**

msgfmt – compile message catalog to binary format

**SYNOPSIS**

**msgfmt** [*OPTION*] *filename.po* ...

**DESCRIPTION**

Generate binary message catalog from textual translation description.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too. Similarly for optional arguments.

**Input file location:**

*filename.po* ...

input files

**-D, --directory=DIRECTORY**

add DIRECTORY to list for input files search

If input file is -, standard input is read.

**Operation mode:**

**-j, --java**

Java mode: generate a Java ResourceBundle class

**--java2**

like **--java**, and assume Java2 (JDK 1.2 or higher)

**--csharp**

C# mode: generate a .NET .dll file

**--csharp-resources**

C# resources mode: generate a .NET .resources file

**--tcl** Tcl mode: generate a tcl/msgcat .msg file

**--qt** Qt mode: generate a Qt .qm file

**--desktop**

Desktop Entry mode: generate a .desktop file

**--xml** XML mode: generate XML file

**Output file location:**

**-o, --output-file=FILE**

write output to specified file

**--strict**

enable strict Uniform mode

If output file is -, output is written to standard output.

**Output file location in Java mode:**

**-r, --resource=RESOURCE**

resource name

**-l, --locale=LOCALE**

locale name, either language or language\_COUNTRY

**--source**

produce a .java file, instead of a .class file

**-d DIRECTORY**

base directory of classes directory hierarchy

The class name is determined by appending the locale name to the resource name, separated with an underscore. The **-d** option is mandatory. The class is written under the specified directory.

**Output file location in C# mode:**

- r, --resource=RESOURCE**  
resource name
- l, --locale=LOCALE**  
locale name, either language or language\_COUNTRY
- d DIRECTORY**  
base directory for locale dependent .dll files

The **-l** and **-d** options are mandatory. The .dll file is written in a subdirectory of the specified directory whose name depends on the locale.

**Output file location in Tcl mode:**

- l, --locale=LOCALE**  
locale name, either language or language\_COUNTRY
- d DIRECTORY**  
base directory of .msg message catalogs

The **-l** and **-d** options are mandatory. The .msg file is written in the specified directory.

**Desktop Entry mode options:**

- l, --locale=LOCALE**  
locale name, either language or language\_COUNTRY
- o, --output-file=FILE**  
write output to specified file
- template=TEMPLATE**  
a .desktop file used as a template
- d DIRECTORY**  
base directory of .po files
- kWORD, --keyword=WORD**  
look for WORD as an additional keyword
- k, --keyword**  
do not to use default keywords

The **-l**, **-o**, and **--template** options are mandatory. If **-D** is specified, input files are read from the directory instead of the command line arguments.

**XML mode options:**

- l, --locale=LOCALE**  
locale name, either language or language\_COUNTRY
- L, --language=NAME**  
recognise the specified XML language
- o, --output-file=FILE**  
write output to specified file
- template=TEMPLATE**  
an XML file used as a template
- d DIRECTORY**  
base directory of .po files

The **-l**, **-o**, and **--template** options are mandatory. If **-D** is specified, input files are read from the directory instead of the command line arguments.

**Input file syntax:**

- P, --properties-input**  
input files are in Java .properties syntax
- stringtable-input**  
input files are in NeXTstep/GNUstep .strings syntax

**Input file interpretation:**

- c, --check**  
perform all the checks implied by **--check-format**, **--check-header**, **--check-domain**
- check-format**  
check language dependent format strings
- check-header**  
verify presence and contents of the header entry
- check-domain**  
check for conflicts between domain directives and the **--output-file** option
- C, --check-compatibility**  
check that GNU msgfmt behaves like X/Open msgfmt
- check-accelerators[=*CHAR*]**  
check presence of keyboard accelerators for menu items
- f, --use-fuzzy**  
use fuzzy entries in output

**Output details:**

- a, --alignment=*NUMBER***  
align strings to *NUMBER* bytes (default: 1)
- endianness=*BYTEORDER***  
write out 32-bit numbers in the given byte order (big or little, default depends on platform)
- no-hash**  
binary file will not include the hash table

**Informative output:**

- h, --help**  
display this help and exit
- V, --version**  
output version information and exit
- statistics**  
print statistics about translations
- v, --verbose**  
increase verbosity level

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**REPORTING BUGS**

Report bugs to <bug-gnu-gettext@gnu.org>.

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**SEE ALSO**

The full documentation for **msgfmt** is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the **info** and **msgfmt** programs are properly installed at your site, the command

**info msgfmt**

should give you access to the complete manual.