Subject: Mold - Alternative Linker on Linux
Posted by Klugier on Sun, 08 Dec 2024 15:28:24 GMT

Hello,

Today I found that there is an alternative linker called mold. Authors advertised it as a faster alternative to the default linkers associated with compilers such as ld for GCC and lld for Clang. I decieded to give it a chance and indeed it performs better on my machine (Ryzen 5900x):
- TheIDE Linking Debug (Stock Clang 1:32s vs 00.43s on Mold)
- TheIDE Linking Debug (Stock GCC 1:50s vs 0:46s on Mold)
- TheIDE Linking Debug (Old Xeon) (Stock Clang: 2:17s vs 1.05s on Mold)

I did some tests with BLITZ disabled and the timings are:
- UppWeb Linking Debug (Stock Clang 1.13s vs 0.23s on Mold) ~ 5 times faster, the whole build is decreased from 36.68s to 35.58s. Not much, but the gain is visible.

Mold is only available on Linux so far. So, if you want to use you need to download it. On my distro Manjaro it is available as a pacakge, so I used this option. After that there is a need to modify build method to switch to alternative linker and that's all. Just add "-fuse-ld=mold" to Common Link Options. My BM setup below:

If you could test it and post the benchmark on your system (Stock vs Mold), I would be grateful for that information.

Links:
- Mold Linker Performance Remains Very Compelling In 2024 Over GNU Gold/ld, LLVM lld - Phoronix

Klugier

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File Attachments
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1) MoldBM.png, downloaded 248 times

Subject: Re: Mold - Alternative Linker on Linux
Posted by Lance on Sat, 14 Dec 2024 16:08:05 GMT

Thanks for sharing the info. Will give it a try.