

Server

series

SIGNUM SYSTEMS CORPORATION

GDB Server for ARM, XScale and Cortex

Technical Specifications

SIGNUM
SYSTEMS

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SigGdbServer is an implementation of the GDB Server for the Signum JTAGjet emulator. It is used to debug ARM processors with GDB based debuggers on Windows systems.

Preliminaries

License

The SigGdbServer server is designed for the use with the Signum JTAGjet emulator. This server-emulator tandem requires a license. If your emulator does not have it, an external license file must be obtained from Signum Systems. Once received, the Jxxxxx-Gdb.lic file needs to be placed in the directory where SigGdbServer.exe resides. (The xxxxx part of the actual file name is the serial number of your JTAGjet emulator.) Alternately, the license file can be placed in the C:\Signum\Licenses folder where it becomes available to other applications, such as Chameleon Debugger or Flasher.

Installation

Installation on Windows

To install the server package on a Windows system, execute the `setup_sig gdbserver.exe` program. By default, the installation folder is `C:\Signum\SigGdbServer`.

If the system-level JTAGjet USB driver has not been installed on your computer earlier, the system will prompt you for the appropriate driver when the emulator is connected to the USB port for the first time. Point the installation program to the `Drivers\USB` subfolder of the installation folder (e.g., `C:\Signum\SigGdbServer\Drivers\USB`).

Installation Directory Content

Table 1 lists the files found in the GDB server installation directory.

DELIVERABLE	DESCRIPTION
<code>SigGdbServer.exe</code>	Command line GDB Server executable.
<code>.\bin*.*</code>	Server executable components.
<code>.\docs\sig gdb_server_um.pdf</code>	This document.
<code>.\docs*.*</code>	Additional documentation.
<code>.\cores*.def</code>	CP15 register definition files.
<code>.\boards*.par, *.ini</code>	CPU and target specific parameter and board initialization files.
<code>.\targets*.def</code>	Peripheral register definition files.
<code>.\Drivers\USB*.*</code>	JTAGjet USB driver.

TABLE 1 The contents of the installation directory.

First Time Run

Make sure that your emulator is connected to a USB port. A dialog box will prompt you to select the JTAGjet emulator to be used with the server. The information will be saved in the Windows registry and used in subsequent debug sessions. To connect to another emulator, use the `-connect` option, which allows you to specify a new emulator serial number.

Configuring the Server

Usage

```
SigGdbServer.exe displays usage information if executed with the -help option, or
without any options:
SigGdbServer Version 1.07 (C) Signum Systems Corp. 2006-2010
Usage:          SigGdbServer [options]
Options:
```

```

-help                - Display help.
-q [<file>]         - Quiet. Suppress messages or redirect to a file.
-s                  - Use in pipe.
-reg <file>         - Load peripherals definition file.
Target connection options:
-connect            - Specify connection via a dialog box.
-connect <sn>      - Connect to the JTAGjet with serial number <sn>.
-cpu <cputype>     - The CPU core type: ARM7TDMI, ARM926EJ-S, C166 etc.
                   The <cputype>.par file will be used if it exists.
-nocpu             - Ignore any CPU connection errors and continue.
-emu <file> ...    - Set emulation parameters from <file>. CPU dependent.
-emu <n>=<v> ...    - Set emulation parameter <n> to <v>. CPU dependent.

-init <file> ...   - The initialization script file. Board dependent.
-term <file> ...   - The termination script file. Board dependent.
Flash programming options:
-flash <flash-type>[@<address>]
                   - Flash type and base address, cfi@0x10_0000.
-ram <RAM-size>@<address>
                   - RAM for the flash programmer, 16k@0x0.
-no-flash-write    - Restrict flash write to context defined by commands
                   monitor flash before-load and
                   monitor flash after-load.

```

Examples

CONNECT TO THE IMX31 PROCESSOR (VERBOSE VERSION)

```
sigGdbServer -emu iMX31.par -init iMX31.ini
```

CONNECT TO THE IMX31 PROCESSOR

```
sigGdbServer -cpu iMX31 -init
```

This is a short version of the previous command line. The processor is specified using the -cpu iMX31 option. The emulation parameter file iMX31.par will be used if present. The -init option without a file name will use the iMX31.ini file if present.

CONNECT TO THE IMX31 PROCESSOR, LOAD PERIPHERAL REGISTERS

```
sigGdbServer -cpu iMX31 -init -reg iMX31
```

Additional peripheral register definitions will be loaded from the targets\iMX31.def file.

CONNECT TO THE IMX31 PROCESSOR WITH A NOR FLASH AT 0XA000_0000

```
sigGdbServer -cpu iMX31 -init \
-flash cfi@0xA000_0000 -ram 16k@0x1FFF_C000
```

CONNECT TO THE LUMINARY MICRO LM3SXXX PROCESSOR WITH AN INTERNAL FLASH

```
sigGdbServer -emu LM3S.par \
-flash LM3S -ram 2k@0x20000000
```

CONNECT TO ATMEL AT91SAM3 PROCESSOR WITH AN INTERNAL FLASH

```
sigGdbServer -cpu ARM7TDMI -flash SAM7S
```

CONNECT TO ST MICROELECTRONICS STM32 PROCESSOR WITH A 512KB INTERNAL FLASH

```
sigGdbServer -cpu STM32 -init \
-flash STM32@0x08000000,size=512 -ram 32k@0x20000000
```

CONNECT TO THE TOSHIBA TMPM3XX PROCESSOR WITH AN INTERNAL FLASH

```
sigGdbServer -cpu CORTEX-M3 \  
-flash TMPM3,TMPM330FDFG -ram 32k@0x20000000
```

CONNECT TO THE NXP LPC17XX PROCESSOR WITH AN INTERNAL FLASH

```
sigGdbServer -cpu Cortex-M3 -flash LPC
```

CONNECT TO THE NXP LPC2XXX PROCESSOR WITH AN INTERNAL FLASH RUNNING AT 12MHZ

```
sigGdbServer -cpu ARM7TDMI-S -flash LPC,f12000
```

Emulation Parameter File

The core and CPU dependent emulation parameters are stored in the .par file used in conjunction with the -emu option. These parameters are a subset of the parameter list displayed by the Chameleon emu command. Refer to the .par files provided with the package for guidelines for determining which of these parameters are essential to the operation of the server. If the server package includes a .par file designated for your target, you can use it unmodified.

It is possible to apply multiple -emu file options and set individual emulation parameters using the “-emu name=value” syntax.

Macro/Initialization Files

The .mac and .ini files used in conjunction with the -init and -term options allow you to utilize the following subset of Chameleon Debugger’s macro commands.

C O M M A N D	D E S C R I P T I O N
S8/SB/S16/SW/S32/SD <addr> = <value>	Set Byte, 16 bit Word, 32 bit Double word.
S8/SB/S16/SW/S32/SD <addr> = <value>	OR value with memory at <addr>
S8/SB/S16/SW/S32/SD <addr> &= <value>	AND value with memory at <addr>
S8/SB/S16/SW/S32/SD <addr> ^= <value>	XOR value with memory at <addr>
D8/DB/D16/DW/D32/DD <addr>	Reads Byte, 16 bit Word, 32 bit Double word. Displays them when ECHO is on.
ECHO ON OFF	ECHO control. OFF by default.
PAUSE <ms>	Pause the execution of commands for <ms> milliseconds. Use, for example, to allow the PLL to stabilize.
EMU <name> = <value>	Emulation parameters (the same as in Chameleon).

C O M M A N D	D E S C R I P T I O N
RESET [HALT]	Reset the CPU and, optionally, stop the CPU if it did not stop automatically after a reset.
STOP	Stop the CPU.
MEM SPACE	Display the current memory space (when ECHO is on).
MEM SPACE DEFAULT	Select the default (index 0) memory space.
MEM SPACE <space-index>	Select the memory space defined by an index. E.g., 0x1F - CP15 register access; 0x1E - CP14 register access.

TABLE 2 Chameleon macro commands that can be use with the `-init` and `-term` options.

Note: You cannot use Chameleon’s startup macro as is. However, most Chameleon macros can be modified for the use with the GDB server.

Board and CPU Customization

Connecting to custom-made boards and processors involves the following steps.

1. Appropriately modify the emulation parameter file specified in the `-emu` option. If Chameleon Debugger is connected to the CPU, some of the parameters returned by the `emu` command may need to be stored in this file. Start the GDB server to verify the connection to the target.
2. Adjust the startup macro and termination macro used with the `-init` and `-term` options, respectively. The initialization macro should enable RAM on the target, set up the PLL, and kill the watchdogs. If you are loading code to flash, enable write access to the flash.
3. When testing your macros, use the `ECHO ON` directive to receive screen feedback. Also, utilize the `DB`, `DW` and `DD` macro commands to validate your settings.

Loading to Flash

The GDB server can load the code directly to flash memory. The flash type and its base address should be provided through the `-flash` option. Examples of how to configure the GDB server for several microcontrollers with internal flash memory are shown on page 3.

The current version of the server supports the following flash types:

- external CFI compatible NOR flash,
- internal flash in most microcontrollers based on the ARM7, ARM9, and Cortex-M3 cores.

Some target systems utilize RAM to improve programming speed. Use the `-ram` option to specify the size and location of a RAM buffer on the target processor. Typically, 2KB of RAM is ample for efficient flash programming.

For more information on the supported flash types and flash specific parameters see *Command-Line Flasher for ARM, XScale and Cortex: User Manual*, available at signum.com/tecdoc.htm.

There is no need to define in the debugger where the flash is located. Writing to flash memory from within the debugger invokes the flash programmer automatically. This allows you both to download the code to the flash using simple load and file commands and to write directly at an arbitrary flash address using the `-data-write-memory` command or an assignment expression like this:

```
(gdb) set *(char *)0x100 = 0x12
```

To restrict flash programming to code loading, call the server with the `-no-flash-write` option. This option requires any loading to the flash to be preceded by the “monitor flash before-load” and followed by the “monitor flash after-load” GDB commands.

Configuring the Debugger

GNU GDB Debugger

Start the GDB server as described in the [Configuring the Server](#) section (page 2). The server should report a successful connection to the target processor.

```
C:\Signum\SigGdbServer>SigGdbServer -cpu iMX31 -reg iMX31 -init

SigGdbServer Version 1.07 (C) Signum Systems Corp. 2006-2010
Starting ...
OK - Connected to the emulator ...
Found boards/iMX31.par file ...
OK - Emulation configured using boards/iMX31.par file ...
OK - Connected to the CPU ...
OK - CPU initialization script executed ...
Waiting (romek2, 169.254.81.233):2000
```

Start the GDB debugger and execute the “target remote <host>:<port>” command to establish a connection with the GDB server, as shown in the following examples.

Connecting to the server from a remote host computer named “labstation” via port 2000:

```
target remote labstation:2000
```

Connecting to the server on the local machine:

```
target remote localhost:2000
```

The server will report a successful connection. If GDB can read an XML target description from a target, the server will load the available register definition files:

```
Connected from: (localhost, 127.0.0.1)
Loading registers from C:\Signum\SigGdbServer\targets\iMX31.def ...OK
Loading registers from C:\Signum\SigGdbServer\cores\ARM1136J-S.def ...OK
```

The following is an example of the initial stage of a typical remote debug session.

```
$ arm-elf-gdb x.elf
GNU gdb 5.3
Copyright 2002 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
GDB is free software, covered by the GNU General
Public License, and you are
```

```
welcome to change it and/or distribute copies of it
under certain conditions.
Type "show copying" to see the conditions.
There is absolutely no warranty for GDB. Type
"show warranty" for details.
This GDB was configured as "--host=i686-pc-cygwin -
-target=arm-elf"...
(gdb) set remote verbose-resume off
(gdb) target remote labstation:2000
Remote debugging using labstation:2000
main () at x.c:34
34 a = 0;
(gdb) load x.elf
Loading section .text, size 0x1f10 lma 0x8000
Loading section .rodata, size 0x29 lma 0x9f10
Loading section .data, size 0x850 lma 0xa03c
Loading section .ctors, size 0x8 lma 0xa88c
Loading section .dtors, size 0x8 lma 0xa894
Start address 0x8000, load size 10137
Transfer rate: 81096 bits in <1 sec, 151
bytes/write.
(gdb) p /x $pc
$1 = 0x8000
(gdb) break main
Breakpoint 1 at 0x8220: file x.c, line 34.
(gdb) c
Continuing.
Breakpoint 1, main () at x.c:34
34 a = 0;
...
```

Communicating with the GDB Server Via a Pipe

Usually, SigGdbServer is started independently of the debugger and acts as a standalone server that communicates with the debugger over a TCP/IP network connection. When GDB disconnects from the target, the server remains in standby, waiting for the debugger to initiate a new connection. Multiple debuggers can use the server to access the same target, albeit not simultaneously.

The server may also be started directly from the GDB debugger using a pipe. So started SigGdbServer receives commands from the debugger on its standard input and sends answers on its standard output. No network connection is used. This mode allows the debugger to run the GDB server locally, possibly connecting each time to a different target.

To start the server using a pipe, enter in GDB

```
target remote | C:/Signum/SigGdbServer/SigGdbServer.exe -s -cpu iMX31 -init
-target iMX31
```

The `-s` option enables communication through the standard input and output rather than through a TCP/IP network, while suppressing the informational messages displayed by the server on its console when started standalone. It is possible, however, to redirect the suppressed messages to a file using the `-q <file>` option.

Code Sourcery G++ IDE

1. Create a new Debug Configuration in the Sourcery G++ IDE debugger and set it up to work with the JTAGjet GDB Server.

Choose Debug Configuration from the Run menu to open the dialog box in Figure 1.

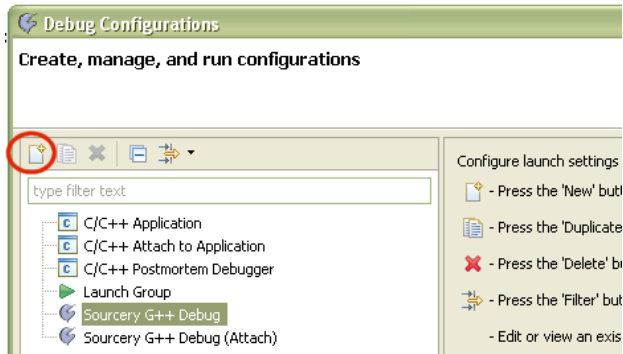


FIGURE 1 Creating a new debug configuration.

In the dialog box, select the Sourcery G++ Debug and press the New button to create a new configuration.

2. In the newly created “Debug with JTAGjet” configuration, open the Debugger tab. In the Debugger drop-down menu, select Sourcery G++ External Embedded Server for ARM EABI. In the Debugger Options group, open the Connection tab and specify the host name and a port number for the GDB server (Figure 2).

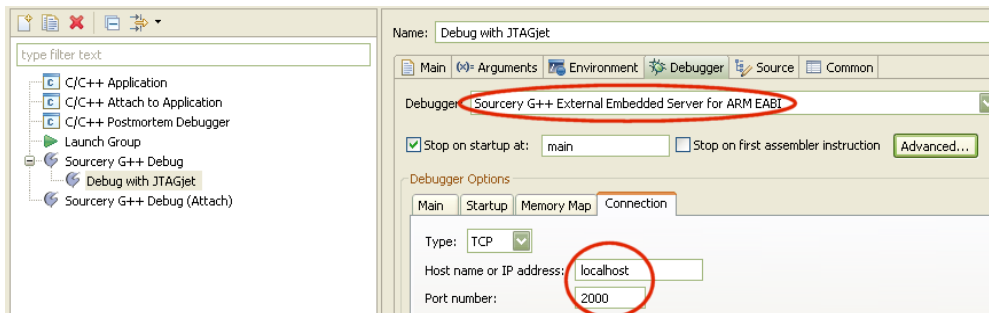


FIGURE 2 Selecting External Embedded Server and connection parameters.

3. JTAGjet GDB Server ver. 1.06 and earlier require the verbose-resume mode to be disabled. Add the following command to your .gdbinit file:

```
set remote verbose-resume off
```

Alternately, you can use the locgdb.ini file provided with the server. It is located in the SigGdbServer installation directory (C:\Signum\SigGdbServer\ in standard installation). Enter the path to it in the “GDB Command File” field in the Main tab (Figure 1).

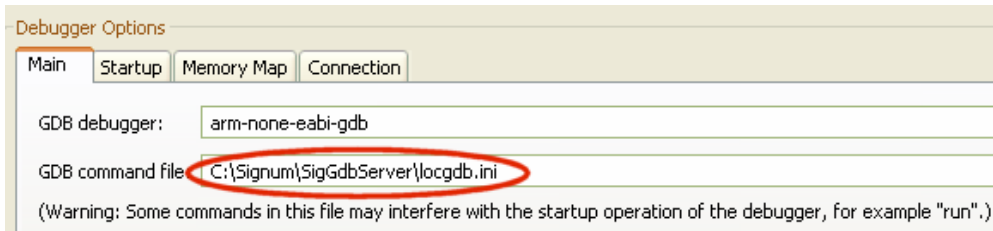


FIGURE 3 Using the GDB startup command file.

4. Before you open the debug perspective and begin a debugging session, run the GDB Server, as described in the **Configuring the Server** section (page 2). The server should report a successful connection to the target processor.
5. To start a new debugging session, from the debug history list, select the debug configuration you created—in our example, “Debug with JTAGjet”—or open the Debug Configuration dialog box by selecting Debug Configuration from the Debug As option in the project pop-up menu. Press the Debug button.

Using GDB with the GDB Server

The GDB Monitor Command

SigGdbServer provides the following commands for sending special requests to the GDB server.

```
JTAGjet GDB Server commands:
  flash before-load - before loading a new program
  flash after-load  - after loading a new program
  do <macro-file>   - execute a macro file
  Any macro language command (see SigGdbServer User Manual for a list of
  available commands)
```

Pre-load and post-load flash commands are described in section **Loading to Flash** (page 5).

The monitor command allows you to execute a set of commands stored in a file by invoking the `do <macro-file>` command, or execute any macro command listed in **Table 2** (page 5). The examples below illustrate the command usage.

```
monitor do C:\Signum\SigGdbServer\boards\iMX31.ini
monitor reset /halt
monitor d32 0x10000000
```

Coprocessor and Peripheral Registers

The GDB server provides access to the ARM coprocessor registers and memory mapped peripheral registers.

Peripheral Registers

A definition of peripheral registers may be loaded as a part of the server configuration, using the `-reg` option, like this:

```
sigGdbServer -cpu iMX31 -init -reg iMX31 -reg c:\myboard.def
```

Notice the repeated use of the `-reg` option which loads register definitions from multiple files. The `-reg` option accepts files in Signum Chameleon (.def) format only. See *Chameleon Debugger: User Manual* for the format description. If the file name extension or the file path matches its default value, it can be omitted. The default extension of the register definition file is .def, and the default file location is the “target” subfolder of the server’s installation folder.

The memory mapped peripheral registers are aggregated into the `io` structure. The `io` structure is subdivided into groups. (The structure and group names are case-sensitive.) The GDB `ptype` command returns information about the register list structure:

```
(gdb) ptype $io
type = struct io {
    CCM CCM;
    IOMUXC IOMUXC;
    GPIO1 GPIO1;
    ...
}
(gdb) ptype $io.CCM
type = struct CCM {
    int32_t CCMR;
    int32_t PDR0;
    int32_t PDR1;
    ...
    int32_t LTBR0;
}
```

To display a register value, use the `print` command.

```
(gdb) p /x $io.CCM.CCMR
$2 = 0x74b097d
```

A register can be modified using the `set var` command.

```
(gdb) set var $io.CCM.CCMR=0x74b0b7c
```

Some Eclipse debugger versions, such as Sourcery G++ IDE, display the peripheral registers in the register window as the IO group.

Coprocessor Registers

Coprocessor registers are defined for a core rather than a processor. The register description comes from the `cores\<core>.def` file which has the same format as the peripheral registers file. In our iMX31 processor (ARM1136J-S core) example, the register description is taken from the `core\ARM1136J-S.def` file. You should avoid modifying this file.

The `CP<nr>` structure contains the definition of the coprocessor register. For instance, all CP15 registers are members of the `$CP15` structure:

```
(gdb) ptype $CP15
type = struct CP15 {
    int32_t ID;
    int32_t CACHE_TYPE;
    int32_t TCM_STATUS;
    int32_t TLB_TYPE;
    int32_t CONTROL;
    ...
}
```

```
}
```

To display a register value, use the print command.

```
(gdb) p /x $CP15.CONTROL  
$1 = 0xe5287a
```

A register can be modified using the set var command:

```
(gdb) set var $CP15.CONTROL=0x51078
```

Alternatively, coprocessor registers may be accessed using one of the monitor commands. (See **Table 2** on page 5 for a list of available commands.) For instance,

```
monitor mem space 0x1F  
monitor s32 0x0400 = 0x78  
monitor d32 0x0400  
monitor s32 0x0C00 = 0xFFFFFFFF  
monitor d32 0x0C00  
monitor mem space default memory
```

□