

niminst User's manual nimversion

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1 Introduction

niminst is a tool to generate an installer for a Nim program. Currently it can create an installer for Windows via Inno Setup as well as installation/deinstallation scripts for UNIX. Later versions will support Linux' package management systems.

niminst works by reading a configuration file that contains all the information that it needs to generate an installer for the different operating systems.

2 Configuration file

niminst uses the Nim parsecfg module to parse the configuration file. Here's an example of how the syntax looks like:

```
# This is a comment.
; this too.

[Common]
cc=gcc      # '=' and ':' are the same
--foo="bar"  # '--cc' and 'cc' are the same, 'bar' and '"bar"' are the same
--verbose

[Windows]
isConsoleApplication=False ; another comment

[Posix]
isConsoleApplication=True

key1: "in this string backslash escapes are interpreted\n"
key2: r"in this string not"
key3: """triple quotes strings
are also supported. They may span
multiple lines."""

--"long option with spaces": r"c:\myfiles\test.txt"
```

The value of a key-value pair can reference user-defined variables via the `$variable` notation: They can be defined in the command line with the `-var:name=value` switch. This is useful to not hard-coding the program's version number into the configuration file, for instance.

It follows a description of each possible section and how it affects the generated installers.

2.1 Project section

The project section gathers general information about your project. It must contain the following key-value pairs:

2.2 files key

Many sections support the `files` key. Listed filenames can be separated by semicolon or the `files` key can be repeated. Wildcards in filenames are supported. If it is a directory name, all files in the directory are used:

```
[Config]
Files: "configDir"
Files: "otherconfig/*.conf;otherconfig/*.cfg"
```

2.3 Config section

The config section currently only supports the `files` key. Listed files will be installed into the OS's configuration directory.

| Key | description |
|-------------|---|
| Name | the project's name; this needs to be a single word |
| DisplayName | the project's long name; this can contain spaces. If not specified, this is the same as Name. |
| Version | the project's version |
| OS | the OSes to generate C code for; for example: "windows;linux;macosx" |
| CPU | the CPUs to generate C code for; for example: "i386;amd64;powerpc" |
| Authors | the project's authors |
| Description | the project's description |
| App | the application's type: "Console" or "GUI". If "Console", niminst generates a special batch file for Windows to open up the command line shell. |
| License | the filename of the application's license |

| Key | description |
|-----------|---|
| BinPath | paths to add to the Windows %PATH% environment variable. Example: BinPath: r"bin;dist\mingw\bin" |
| InnoSetup | boolean flag whether an Inno Setup installer should be generated for Windows. Example: InnoSetup: "Yes" |

2.4 Documentation section

The documentation section supports the `files` key. Listed files will be installed into the OS's native documentation directory (which might be `$appdir/doc`).

There is a `start` key which determines whether the Windows installer generates a link to e.g. the `index.html` of your documentation.

2.5 Other section

The other section currently only supports the `files` key. Listed files will be installed into the application installation directory (`$appdir`).

2.6 Lib section

The `lib` section currently only supports the `files` key. Listed files will be installed into the OS's native library directory (which might be `$appdir/lib`).

2.7 Windows section

The windows section supports the `files` key for Windows specific files. Listed files will be installed into the application installation directory (`$appdir`).

Other possible options are:

2.8 UnixBin section

The `UnixBin` section currently only supports the `files` key. Listed files will be installed into the OS's native bin directory (e.g. `/usr/local/bin`). The exact location depends on the installation path the user specifies when running the `install.sh` script.

2.9 Unix section

Possible options are:

| Key | description |
|-----------------|---|
| InstallScript | boolean flag whether an installation shell script should be generated. Example: InstallScript: "Yes" |
| UninstallScript | boolean flag whether a deinstallation shell script should be generated. Example: UninstallScript: "Yes" |

| Key | description |
|-------|---|
| path | Path to Inno Setup. Example: path = r"c:\inno setup 5\iscc.exe" |
| flags | Flags to pass to Inno Setup. Example: flags = "/Q" |

2.10 InnoSetup section

Possible options are:

2.11 C_Compiler section

Possible options are:

3 Real world example

The installers for the Nim compiler itself are generated by nminst. Have a look at its configuration file:

```
; This config file holds configuration information about the Nim compiler
; and project.

[Project]
Name: "Nim"
Version: "$version"
Platforms: ""
  windows: i386;amd64
  linux: i386;amd64;powerpc64;arm;sparc;mips;mipsel;mips64;mips64el;powerpc;powerpc64el;arm64;riscv64
  macosx: i386;amd64;powerpc64
  solaris: i386;amd64;sparc;sparc64
  freebsd: i386;amd64
  netbsd: i386;amd64
  openbsd: i386;amd64
  dragonfly: i386;amd64
  haiku: i386;amd64
  android: i386;arm;arm64
  nintendoswitch: arm64
""
```

Authors: "Andreas Rumpf"

Description: ""This is the Nim Compiler. Nim is a new statically typed, imperative programming language, that supports procedural, functional, object oriented and generic programming styles while remaining simple and efficient. A special feature that Nim inherited from Lisp is that Nim's abstract syntax tree (AST) is part of the specification - this allows a powerful macro system which can be used to create domain specific languages.

Nim is a compiled, garbage-collected systems programming language which has an excellent productivity/performance ratio. Nim's design

| Key | description |
|-------|--|
| path | Path to the C compiler. |
| flags | Flags to pass to the C Compiler. Example: flags = "-w" |

focuses on the 3E: efficiency, expressiveness, elegance (in the order of priority)."""

App: Console
License: "copying.txt"

[Config]
Files: "config/nim.cfg"
Files: "config/nimdoc.cfg"
Files: "config/nimdoc.tex.cfg"

[Documentation]
; Files: "doc/*.html"
; Files: "doc/*.cfg"
; Files: "doc/*.pdf"
; Files: "doc/*.ini"
Files: "doc/html/overview.html"
Start: "doc/html/overview.html"

[Other]
Files: "readme.txt;copying.txt;install.txt"
Files: "makefile"
Files: "koch.nim"
Files: "install_nimble.nims"
Files: "install_tools.nims"

Files: "icons/nim.ico"
Files: "icons/nim.rc"
Files: "icons/nim.res"
Files: "icons/nim_icon.o"
Files: "icons/koch.ico"
Files: "icons/koch.rc"
Files: "icons/koch.res"
Files: "icons/koch_icon.o"

Files: "compiler"
Files: "doc"
Files: "doc/html"
Files: "tools"
Files: "nimppretty"
Files: "testament"
Files: "nimsuggest"
Files: "nimsuggest/tests/*.nim"
Files: "web/website.ini"
Files: "web/ticker.html"
Files: "web/*.nim"
Files: "web/*.rst"
Files: "web/*.csv"
Files: "web/news/*.rst"
Files: "bin/nimblepkg/*.nim"
Files: "bin/nimblepkg/*.cfg"

[Lib]
Files: "lib"

[Other]
Files: "examples"
Files: "dist/nimble"
Files: "dist/nimsuggest"

Files: "tests"

[Windows]
Files: "bin/nim.exe"
Files: "bin/c2nim.exe"
Files: "bin/nimgrep.exe"
Files: "bin/nimsuggest.exe"
Files: "bin/nimble.exe"
Files: "bin/vccexe.exe"

```

Files: "bin/nimgrab.exe"

Files: "koch.exe"
Files: "finish.exe"
; Files: "bin/downloader.exe"

; Files: "dist/mingw"
Files: r"tools\start.bat"
BinPath: r"bin;dist\mingw\bin;dist"

;      Section | dir | zipFile | size hint (in KB) | url | exe start menu entry
Download: r"Documentation\doc\docs.zip|13824|https://nim-lang.org/download/docs-${version}.zip|overview.html"
Download: r"C Compiler (MingW)|dist\mingw.zip|82944|https://nim-lang.org/download/${mingw}.zip"
Download: r"Support DLLs\bin\nim_dlls.zip|479|https://nim-lang.org/download/dlls.zip"
Download: r"Aporia Text Editor\dist\aporia.zip|97997|https://nim-lang.org/download/aporia-0.4.0.zip|aporia-0.4.0"
; for now only NSIS supports optional downloads

[WinBin]
Files: "bin/makelink.exe"
Files: "bin/7zG.exe"
Files: "bin/*.dll"

[UnixBin]
Files: "bin/nim"

[Unix]
InstallScript: "yes"
UninstallScript: "yes"

[InnoSetup]
path = r"c:\Program Files (x86)\Inno Setup 5\iscc.exe"
flags = "/Q"

[NSIS]
flags = "/V0"

[C_Compiler]
path = r""
flags = "-w"

[deb]
buildDepends: "gcc (>= 4:4.3.2)"
pkgDepends: "gcc (>= 4:4.3.2)"
shortDesc: "The Nim Compiler"
licenses: "bin/nim,MIT;lib/*,MIT;"

[nimble]
pkgName: "compiler"
pkgFiles: "compiler/*;doc/basicopt.txt;doc/advopt.txt"

```