

Release Notes: LLVM FOR RENESAS RL78 10.0.0.202309

30th of September, 2023

CyberThor Studios Ltd. is releasing the LLVM for Renesas RL78 10.0.0.202309, a cross compiler tool for Renesas RL78 micro-controllers.

SALIENT FEATURES

The LLVM for Renesas RL78 10.0.0.202309 toolchain is based on:

- ❖ LLVM 10.0.0 [released]
- ❖ Compiler-rt 10.0.0 [released]
- ❖ Libcxx 10.0.0 [released]
- ❖ Libcxx-abi 10.0.0 [released]
- ❖ Newlib 4.1.0 [released]
- ❖ GDB 7.8.2 [released]

LLVM RL78 comes with significant performance improvements (both code size and speed) compared to GCC RL78. It also comes with support for latest language standards: full support for C17 and C++17 and experimental support for the C2x (next C standard) and partial support for C++20.

The latest patches are applied to the LLVM sources.



ABOUT LLVM FOR RENESAS RL78 10.0.0.202309

Release Version:	LLVM for Renesas RL78 10.0.0.202309
Release Date:	30th of September, 2023
Platforms Supported:	Ubuntu 18.04 or later (or compatible distribution) Windows 7 or later macOS Ventura 13.4 on Apple M1 (experimental)
Language:	C, C++
Targets:	G23, G1X, I1X, D1X, LIN MCP, F1X, and L1X
Object File Format:	ELF



CHANGES IN LLVM FOR RENESAS RL78 10.0.0.202309

This toolchain is the successor of GCC RL78 toolchain and it is meant as a direct replacement to GCC RL78. This section describes the fixes made in the LLVM for Renesas RL78 10.0.0.202309 release.

1. [Improvement] Various codegen optimizations

Code speed and size optimizations were made in the compiler.

2. [Bug fix] Various codegen bug fixes

Bug fixes were made in the code generator.

3. [Bug fix] GDB crash

A bug regarding register dwarf numbers was fixed that caused GDB to crash when debugging executables produced by the compiler.

Notes:

This installer does not provide an option to integrate the LLVM RL78 toolchain with e2 studio, as the e2 studio IDE will automatically detect the LLVM RL78 toolchain installation on start-up for integration. Alternatively, you may use the 'Toolchain Management' feature in e2 studio to achieve this.

For details on e2 studio please visit the following link below:

<https://www.renesas.com/eu/en/software-tool/e-studio>

There is no support in this installer to integrate the toolchain with the HEW IDE.



The following is a list of known issues for the tools we include for the LLVM for Renesas RL78 10.0.0.202309 toolchain:

1. Assembly parsing issue of callt instruction operand.

The assembly parser cannot handle any complex expressions as operands for callt instruction, only constant values are allowed at the moment.

2. Missing assembly listing support (-a[cdhlms] option in GNU AS).

There's no equivalent in the LLVM for the -a[cdhlms] GNU AS option.

The alternative solution is to use llvm-objdump to obtain source code interleaved with assembly (-S, --source option).

3. Binding of references to packed fields.

Creating references to struct members which are declared as packed, e.g. `__attribute__((packed))`, is incorrect as it can cause unaligned access issues. The compiler should return an error in this case however this is not currently the case. This will be fixed in a future release.

4. Inline assembly missing constraints and modifiers support for parameters.

Clang supports, in the case of RL78, inline assembly constructs without parameters, e.g. `asm (AssemblerTemplate)`.

The extended syntax available in GCC, `asm (AssemblerTemplate : OutputOperands : InputOperands : Clobbers : GotoLabels)`, is not currently supported. This will be fixed in the next release, however the constraints will not be the same as in GCC.

5. Far address space handling in C++ code

Currently far data, far rom and far code handling in C++ are not supported.

6. Newlib format specifiers

The pre-built newlib library included with the toolchain is built without using the `-enable-newlib-io-c99-formats` configure flag.

Without this flag, handling for some format specifiers will not be included in the resulting library.

Using libgen, users can build their own newlib, specifying the `-D_WANT_IO_C99_FORMATS=1` option to include the extra format specifiers, at the cost of code size.



7. PLT usage for function calls over 64K

For each near call, where the callee was allocated over the 0xFFFF boundary, the linker will create an entry for the callee (if it doesn't exist yet) in the Procedure Linkage Table(PLT).

The entry will consist of a BR !!<Callee> instruction and the address written to the call instruction will be the address of the PLT entry.

This indirection allows developers to increase the address range they can allocate their code, without the usage of `_far` functions.

Example:

test.c:

```
void bar() __attribute__((section(".far_section")));
void foo() {
    bar();
}
```

linkerscript.ld:

```
...
.far_section 0x111D8 : AT(0x111D8)
{
    . = ALIGN(2);
    *(.far_section)
    . = ALIGN(2);
} >ROM
...
```

will result in the following ELF file:

```
...
000000d8 .lowtext:
      d8: ec d8 11 01          br !!_bar
...
00003004 _foo:
      3004: fd d8 00          call !.lowtext
      3007: d7                ret
...
000111d8 _bar:
```

8. Incompatibility of -save-temps and -frenesas-extensions options

Using `-save-temps` and `-frenesas-extensions` together will result in an error.

9. Other issues, non-specific to RL78

LLVM tries to be a complete replacement. As such there are still a couple of missing features from GCC which will be implemented in future releases. In particular, the following issues should be noted:

lld: Information printed using `--print-gc-sections` is not as nice as when using the GNU ld. [Bug 46783](#)

llvm-ar: Errors when printing multiple members with the same name. [Bug 42521](#)



llvm-dwarfdump: Does not print section attribute flags yet. [Bug 38488](#)

llvm-nm: Unable to understand symbols built with gcc-lto [Bug 41437](#)

llvm-nm: Needs support for --line-numbers to llvm-nm [Bug 40001](#)

llvm-objcopy: Unknown argument '--change-section-address'. [Bug 45217](#)

llvm-objcopy: Objcopy zero-size section might cause huge binaries. [Bug 46299](#)

llvm-objdump: Prints wrong line number info for obj file compiled with -ffunction-sections. [Bug 40703](#)

llvm-objdump: Wrong behavior for non-relocatable objects when suing llvm-objdump with -r option. Bug [Bug 41901](#)

llvm-readobj: Make GNU style symbol printing invalid symbol section indexes match GNU readelf [Bug 43850](#)

llvm-readelf: Relocation addends printed style does not match GNU readelf [Bug 45235](#)

llvm-string: Short option with argument grouping not GNU compatible [Bug 42942](#)

llvm-string: Allow "-<integer>" as an alias for "-n <integer>" [Bug 42964](#)

llvm-symbolizer: Shows incorrect source line info if --gc-sections used [Bug 41124](#)

llvm-symbolizer: llvm-addr2line does not exit when passed a non-existent file [Bug 42754](#)



10. Other issues

Finally, for better understanding regarding the status of the toolchain please visit <https://bugs.llvm.org/> .
In particular, the following queries will help better understand the status of each tool.

https://bugs.llvm.org/buglist.cgi?bug_status=UNCONFIRMED&bug_status=NEW&bug_status=CONFIRMED&bug_status=REOPENED&component=ELF&product=lld&query_format=advanced&resolution=---

https://bugs.llvm.org/buglist.cgi?bug_status=UNCONFIRMED&bug_status=NEW&bug_status=CONFIRMED&bug_status=REOPENED&component=llvm-ar&product=tools&query_format=advanced&resolution=---

https://bugs.llvm.org/buglist.cgi?bug_status=UNCONFIRMED&bug_status=NEW&bug_status=CONFIRMED&bug_status=REOPENED&component=llvm-dwarfdump&product=tools&query_format=advanced&resolution=---

https://bugs.llvm.org/buglist.cgi?bug_status=UNCONFIRMED&bug_status=NEW&bug_status=CONFIRMED&bug_status=REOPENED&component=llvm-nm&product=tools&query_format=advanced&resolution=---

https://bugs.llvm.org/buglist.cgi?bug_status=UNCONFIRMED&bug_status=NEW&bug_status=CONFIRMED&bug_status=REOPENED&component=llvm-objcopy%2Fstrip&product=tools&query_format=advanced&resolution=---

https://bugs.llvm.org/buglist.cgi?bug_status=UNCONFIRMED&bug_status=NEW&bug_status=CONFIRMED&bug_status=REOPENED&component=llvm-objdump&product=tools&query_format=advanced&resolution=---

https://bugs.llvm.org/buglist.cgi?bug_status=UNCONFIRMED&bug_status=NEW&bug_status=CONFIRMED&bug_status=REOPENED&component=llvm-readobj&product=tools&query_format=advanced&resolution=---

https://bugs.llvm.org/buglist.cgi?bug_status=UNCONFIRMED&bug_status=NEW&bug_status=CONFIRMED&bug_status=REOPENED&component=llvm-size&product=tools&query_format=advanced&resolution=---

https://bugs.llvm.org/buglist.cgi?bug_status=NEW&bug_status=CONFIRMED&bug_status=REOPENED&component=llvm-symbolizer&product=tools&query_format=advanced&resolution=---



FREE SUPPORT FOR LLVM FOR RENESAS RL78 10.0.0.202309

For free technical support, please register at
<https://llvm-gcc-renesas.com>

For your feedback and suggestions, please visit
<https://llvm-gcc-renesas.com/help/contact-us/>

