

The Hercules System/370, ESA/390, and z/Architecture Emulator

Hercules is an open source software implementation of the mainframe System/370 and ESA/390 architectures, in addition to the new 64-bit z/Architecture. Hercules runs under Linux, Windows 98, Windows NT, Windows 2000, Windows XP, and Mac OS X 10.2 and later.

Hercules was created by Roger Bowler and is maintained by Jay Maynard. Jan Jaeger designed and implemented many of the advanced features of Hercules, including dynamic reconfiguration, integrated console, interpretive execution and z/Architecture support.

Follow these links to find out more:

- [Hercules Frequently-Asked Questions](#)
- [Hercules Installation and Operation](#)
- [Hercules Configuration File](#)
- [Hercules System Messages](#)
- [What's new in this release](#)
- [Release notes](#)
- [The Q Public Licence](#)
- Hercules is [OSI Certified Open Source Software](#).



Download the current release version, 3.01:

- [hercules-3.01.tar.gz](#): Source tarball
- [hercules-3.01-1.i586.rpm](#): Intel RPM
- [hercules-3.01-1.src.rpm](#): Source RPM (if you want to build RPMs yourself)
- [hercules301-i586f.exe](#): Self-extracting archive for Windows, Pentium, Fish (optimized) threads version
- [hercules301-i686f.exe](#): Self-extracting archive for Windows, Pentium Pro/Pentium II and above, Fish (optimized) threads version
- [hercules301-i586p.exe](#): Self-extracting archive for Windows, Pentium, standard pthreads version
- [hercules301-i686p.exe](#): Self-extracting archive for Windows, Pentium Pro/Pentium II and above, standard pthreads version

- [hercules-3.01.dmg](#): Mac OS X version, compressed disk image
-

The CVS version

The complete source code for the current *development* version of Hercules is also available via anonymous access from our CVS source code repository.

The CVS root is

CVSROOT=:pserver:anonymous@cvs.conmicro.cx:/usr/cvs/hercules.

Doing a checkout on module "hercules" will get you the source for all of Hercules.

No password is required; just press enter when asked:

```
cvs login
(Logging in to anonymous@conmicro.cx...)
CVS password:
cvs -z9 co hercules
cvs server: Updating hercules
```

Please note that this will get you the current *development* version of Hercules, which is *not* release quality and thus might not even work (since it's still under development). If you want the current, stable, *release* version of Hercules (i.e. one that is known to work properly), then use the previously mentioned links instead.

Read the file `README.CVS` for additional and updated instructions for building the development version.

What people are saying about Hercules

“ Never in my wildest dreams did I expect to see MVS running on a machine that I personally own. Hercules is a marvelous tool. My thanks to you all for a job very well done. ”

— Reed H. Petty

“ I do miss my mainframe a lot, and playing with Herc sure brings back memories. Just seeing the IBM message prefixes, and responding to console messages again was a wonderful bit of nostalgia! ”

— Bob Brown

“ I have installed your absolutely fantastic /390 emulator. You won't believe what I felt when I saw the prompt. Congratulations, this is a terrific software. I

really have not had such a fascinating and interesting time on my PC lately. ”

— IBM Large Systems Specialist

“ An apparently excellent emulator that allows those open source developers with an “itch to scratch”, to come to the S/390 table and contribute. ”

— Mike Maclsaac, IBM

“ BTW grab a copy of Hercules and you can test it at home. It's a very good S/390 and zSeries (S/390 64bit) emulator.. ”

— Alan Cox

“ It works even better than I imagined. Hercules is a fine piece of software! ”

— Dave Sienkiewicz

“ Hercules is a systems programmer's dream come true. ”

— René Vincent Jansen

“ Aside from the electric trains my parents got me in 1953, this is the best toy I've ever been given, bar none.”

— Jeffrey Broido

“ Congratulations to you and your team on a fine piece of work! ”

— Rich Smrcina

“ Congratulations on a magnificent achievement! ”

— Mike Ross

Read Moshe Bar's BYTE.com article about Hercules at

<http://www.byte.com/documents/s=429/byt20000801s0002/>

For eighteen months, the IBM Redbook SG24-4987 *Linux for S/390* at

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg244987.html> contained a chapter

written by Richard Higson describing how to run Linux/390 under Hercules.

Then suddenly, all mention of Hercules was mysteriously removed from the

online edition of the book! Read the story of the disappearing Redbook

chapter at <http://www.trustsec.de/deb390/print.php?sid=26>

View the foils from Jay Maynard's presentation given at [SHARE Session](#)

[2880](#) in Minneapolis on Wednesday, 25 July 2001.

Other Hercules-related sites

- <http://www.bsp-gmbh.com/hercules>

Volker Bandke's Hercules site. This is *the* site for users of Hercules on

Windows, and here you can also obtain Volker's MVS 3.8J turnkey system.

- <http://www.geocities.com/hackules390>
A whole host of unofficial Hercules add-ons and patches by an anonymous Hercules enthusiast
- <http://ensose.com/mvs38j.html>
Jim Morrison's downloads (includes 3380 support for MVS 3.8!)
- <http://www.jaymoseley.com/hercules>
Jay Moseley's Hercules site - lots of Hercules and MVS information
- <http://www.tommysprinkle.com/mvs>
Tommy Sprinkle's MVS 3.8 documentation
- <http://hansen-family.com/mvs>
Bob Hansen's MVS 3.8 documentation
- <http://www.schaefernet.de/hercules>
Wolfgang Schäfer's Hercules site - MVT/MVS tutorials and add-ons
- <http://www.kiyoinc.com/herc390.html>
Cory Hamasaki's New Users Documentation Effort
- <http://www.kiyoinc.com/herc3088.html>
Axel Schwarzer's 3088 howto documentation
- <http://www.ibiblio.org/jmaynard/>
Jay Maynard's S/360 and S/370 public domain software archive



If you have any questions or comments, join the hercules-390 discussion group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hercules-390>.

Bug reports (together with your diagnosis of the fault, please) may be sent to me, [Jay Maynard](mailto:jmaynard@conmicro.cx), at jmaynard@conmicro.cx.

IBM, System/370, ESA/390, and z/Architecture are trademarks or registered trademarks of IBM Corporation. Other product names mentioned here are trademarks of other companies.

Last updated 30 November 2003