

1. To use GDB tools with Bochs, first we need to rebuild Bochs with gdb-stub enabled. That's because GDB stub is not active in standard Bochs binary package.

- Get Bochs package here:

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/bochs/files/bochs/2.6.8/>

Unzip it and we got the new source code.

- Before reinstall it, remove the existed Bochs in the Ubuntu by:

```
sudo apt-get remove bochs
```

- Then configure Bochs with gdb stub enabled. Under the directory of the Bochs source code:

```
sudo ./configure --enable-gdb-stub
```

or, we can use some shortcut script by running:

```
sudo sh .conf.linux --enable-gdb-stub
```

Note: Enable debugging via gdb by adding `--enable-gdb-stub` instead of `--enable-debugger` and `--enable-disasm` (they are **mutually exclusive**). And remember to use 'sudo' all the time.

- After the configuration, run

```
sudo make
```

to compile bochs, and then run

```
sudo make install
```

to move it to `/usr/local/bin`

- When compile, if error related to plugins occurs, remove `--enable-plugins` from `.conf.linux` by uncommenting `'which_config=normal'` and commenting out `'which_config=plugins'` in `.conf.linux`

- Also, you may have error related to x11 (X window), just install libraries:

```
sudo apt-get install xorg-dev
```

2. Enable debugging with gdb in the kernel project.

- Add the following line to `bochsrc` file:

```
gdbstub: enabled=1, port=1234, text_base=0, data_base=0, bss_base=0
```

This opens a remote gdb debug port.

- Edit the kernel project makefile and add `'-g'` in the compiler options to enable debugging symbols. Then recompile your project.

3. Now we can run and debug our project.

- Open the bochs tool and it will wait for gdb connection on port 1234

```
Bochs -f bochsrc.txt
```

```
waiting for gdb connection on port 1234
```

- Open another terminal window, run gdb and connect it to Bochs by:

```
gdb -q kernel.o  
target remote :1234
```

Then the bochs will be connected to the gdb tool.

```
Waiting for gdb connection on port 1234  
Connected to 127.0.0.1
```

- Now we can “try” to debug our project through gdb.

Upon a successful connection, bochs will break at the first instruction in the BIOS (not the bootloader nor the kernel). Notice that you won't be able to inspect kernel data at this point because your kernel has not yet been loaded by the bootloader.

```
(gdb) b main  
Breakpoint 1 at 0x0: file kernel.C, line 30.  
(gdb) c  
Continuing.  
  
Breakpoint 1, main () at kernel.C:30  
30      {
```

```
(gdb) l  
25      /* MAIN -- THIS IS WHERE THE OS KERNEL WILL BE STARTED  
UP */  
26      /* =====  
===== */  
27  
28  
29      int main()  
30      {  
31  
32          int i = 10;  
33          /* -- INITIALIZE CONSOLE */  
34          Console::init();  
(gdb) █
```

```
(gdb) info frame  
Stack level 0, frame at 0xffe0:  
eip = 0x0 in main (kernel.C:30); saved eip 0x9ff012e4  
called by frame at 0x10002  
source language c++.  
Arglist at 0xffffa, args:  
Locals at 0xffffa, Previous frame's sp is 0xffe0  
Saved registers:  
eip at 0xffdc
```

Here is the situation:

Our kernel.bin file seems lose symbols which are needed for breakpoint insertion. According to the tutorial <http://wiki.yak.net/746> , maybe we have to use ELF(Executable and Linking Format) as the kernel image format.

Still trying to figure it out.

References:

https://www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/fall09/cos318/precepts/bochs_gdb.html

https://www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/fall09/cos318/precepts/bochs_setup.html

<http://bochs.sourceforge.net/doc/docbook/user/debugging-with-gdb.html>

http://heim.ifi.uio.no/~inf3150/doc/tips_n_tricks/bochsd.html