

NAME

git-index-pack - Build pack index file for an existing packed archive

SYNOPSIS

```
git index-pack [-v] [-o <index-file>] [--[no-]rev-index] <pack-file>
git index-pack --stdin [--fix-thin] [--keep] [-v] [-o <index-file>]
                [--[no-]rev-index] [<pack-file>]
```

DESCRIPTION

Reads a packed archive (.pack) from the specified file, and builds a pack index file (.idx) for it. Optionally writes a reverse-index (.rev) for the specified pack. The packed archive together with the pack index can then be placed in the objects/pack/ directory of a Git repository.

OPTIONS

-v

Be verbose about what is going on, including progress status.

-o <index-file>

Write the generated pack index into the specified file. Without this option the name of pack index file is constructed from the name of packed archive file by replacing .pack with .idx (and the program fails if the name of packed archive does not end with .pack).

--[no-]rev-index

When this flag is provided, generate a reverse index (a **.rev** file) corresponding to the given pack. If **--verify** is given, ensure that the existing reverse index is correct. Takes precedence over **pack.writeReverseIndex**.

--stdin

When this flag is provided, the pack is read from stdin instead and a copy is then written to <pack-file>. If <pack-file> is not specified, the pack is written to objects/pack/ directory of the current Git repository with a default name determined from the pack content. If <pack-file> is not specified consider using --keep to prevent a race condition between this process and *git repack*.

--fix-thin

Fix a "thin" pack produced by **git pack-objects --thin** (see **git-pack-objects(1)** for details) by adding the excluded objects the deltified objects are based on to the pack. This option only makes sense in conjunction with --stdin.

--keep

Before moving the index into its final destination create an empty `.keep` file for the associated pack file. This option is usually necessary with `--stdin` to prevent a simultaneous *git repack* process from deleting the newly constructed pack and index before refs can be updated to use objects contained in the pack.

`--keep=<msg>`

Like `--keep` create a `.keep` file before moving the index into its final destination, but rather than creating an empty file place `<msg>` followed by an LF into the `.keep` file. The `<msg>` message can later be searched for within all `.keep` files to locate any which have outlived their usefulness.

`--index-version=<version>[,<offset>]`

This is intended to be used by the test suite only. It allows to force the version for the generated pack index, and to force 64-bit index entries on objects located above the given offset.

`--strict`

Die, if the pack contains broken objects or links.

`--progress-title`

For internal use only.

Set the title of the progress bar. The title is "Receiving objects" by default and "Indexing objects" when `--stdin` is specified.

`--check-self-contained-and-connected`

Die if the pack contains broken links. For internal use only.

`--fsck-objects`

For internal use only.

Die if the pack contains broken objects. If the pack contains a tree pointing to a `.gitmodules` blob that does not exist, prints the hash of that blob (for the caller to check) after the hash that goes into the name of the `pack/idx` file (see "Notes").

`--threads=<n>`

Specifies the number of threads to spawn when resolving deltas. This requires that `index-pack` be compiled with `pthread`s otherwise this option is ignored with a warning. This is meant to reduce packing time on multiprocessor machines. The required amount of memory for the delta search window is however multiplied by the number of threads. Specifying 0 will cause Git to auto-detect the number of CPU's and use maximum 3 threads.

`--max-input-size=<size>`

Die, if the pack is larger than `<size>`.

`--object-format=<hash-algorithm>`

Specify the given object format (hash algorithm) for the pack. The valid values are *sha1* and (if enabled) *sha256*. The default is the algorithm for the current repository (set by **extensions.objectFormat**), or *sha1* if no value is set or outside a repository.

This option cannot be used with `--stdin`.

Note: At present, there is no interoperability between SHA-256 repositories and SHA-1 repositories.

Historically, we warned that SHA-256 repositories may later need backward incompatible changes when we introduce such interoperability features. Today, we only expect compatible changes. Furthermore, if such changes prove to be necessary, it can be expected that SHA-256 repositories created with today's Git will be usable by future versions of Git without data loss.

`--promisor[=<message>]`

Before committing the pack-index, create a `.promisor` file for this pack. Particularly helpful when writing a promisor pack with `--fix-thin` since the name of the pack is not final until the pack has been fully written. If a `<message>` is provided, then that content will be written to the `.promisor` file for future reference. See **partial clone**[1] for more information.

NOTES

Once the index has been created, the hash that goes into the name of the pack/idx file is printed to stdout. If `--stdin` was also used then this is prefixed by either "pack\t", or "keep\t" if a new `.keep` file was successfully created. This is useful to remove a `.keep` file used as a lock to prevent the race with *git repack* mentioned above.

GIT

Part of the **git**(1) suite

NOTES

1. partial clone
[git-htmldocs/technical/partial-clone.html](https://git-scm.com/docs/git-technical/partial-clone.html)