

Getting Started MPC

Multi-Processor Communications Library

Version 2.4.1

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Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Installation	2
2.1	Prerequisites	2
2.2	Standard Installation	2
2.3	Custom Installation	4
2.4	Known issues	4
2.4.1	Error related to mpfr/gmp	4
3	MPC Supported APIs	4
3.1	Message Passing	4
3.1.1	API	4
3.1.2	Warning to Users	5
3.1.3	Removing Global Variables	5
3.2	OpenMP	5
3.2.1	API	5
3.2.2	Compiling and Running OpenMP Programs	5
3.2.3	Threadprivate Variables	5
3.3	Threads	5
3.3.1	API	5
3.3.2	Thread types	5
3.3.3	Warning to Users	6
4	Running MPC	6
4.1	Launcher options	7
4.2	Mono-process job	7
4.3	Multi-process job on a single node	7
4.4	Multi-process job on multiple nodes	7
4.4.1	Launch with Hydra	8
5	FAQ	8
6	Contacts	9

1 Introduction

This *Getting Started* guide details the various ways to install and configure the MPC library (Multi-Processor Communications) version 2.4.1 including MPI 1.3, OpenMP 2.5 (with patched GCC) and PThread support. Section 2 describes the steps to install and setup the library. Section 3 enumerates the parallel-programming models supported in MPC. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section is also provided at this end of this guide (see section 5).

For further information on MPC internals, the reader may refer to the articles [3, 2, 1] containing more details about the MPC framework and its execution model.

2 Installation

This section takes you through a sequence of steps to get MPC up and running.

2.1 Prerequisites

The following prerequisites are required to compile MPC:

- The main archive file `MPC_2.4.1.tar.gz`
- A C compiler (e.g., `gcc`)
- A GNU C compiler
- An optional Fortran compiler if Fortran applications are to be used (e.g., `g77` or `gfortran`)
- Optional SLURM, HWLOC and OPENPA libraries installed.
- For Infiniband support `libibverbs` is required

Some additional extra libraries are required to compile the patched GCC and GDB. See their corresponding website and installation guide to get a list of prerequisites.

2.2 Standard Installation

These steps describe the default installation of MPC with its additional components (GCC, GDB, Hydra, HWLOC and OPENPA).

1. Unpack the main archive (`tar` format) and go to the top-level directory:

```
tar xzf MPC2.4.1.tar.gz
cd MPC2.4.1
```

If your `tar` program does not accept the `'z'` option, use the following commands

```
gunzip MPC2.4.1.tar.gz
tar xf MPC2.4.1.tar
cd MPC2.4.1
```

2. Choose an installation directory. Using the default `/usr/local/` will overwrite legacy headers: *choose a custom install path.*

```
mkdir $(HOME)/mpc-install
```

The most convenient choice is a directory shared among all the machines you want to use the library on. If such a directory is not accessible, you will have to deploy MPC on every machine after the installation.

3. Configure MPC, specifying the installation directory:

```
./configure --prefix=$(HOME)/mpc-install
```

4. Build MPC:

```
make
```

5. Install the MPC commands and library:

```
make install
```

6. Source the `mpcvars` script (located inside the `bin/` directory of the MPC installation) to update environment variables (e.g., `PATH` and `LD_LIBRARY_PATH`).

For `cs`h and `tc`sh:

```
source $(HOME)/mpc-install/bin/mpcvars.csh
```

For `ba`sh and `sh`:

```
.$(HOME)/mpc-install/bin/mpcvars.sh
```

Check that everything went well at this point by running

```
which mpcrun
which mpc-cc
```

7. To compile your first MPC program, you may execute the `mpc-cc` compiler:

```
mpc-cc mpc/MPC.Tests/parallel/MPC.Message.Passing/hello_world.c \
-o hello_world
```

This command uses the main default patched GCC to compile the code. If you want to use your favorite compiler instead (loosing some features like OpenMP support and global-variable removal), you may use the `mpc-cflags` and `mpc-ldflags` commands:

```
$CC MPC.Tests/parallel/MPC.Message.Passing/hello_world.c \
-o hello_world 'mpc-cflags' 'mpc-ldflags'
```

8. To execute your MPC program, use the `mpcrun` command:

```
mpcrun -m=ethread -n=4 hello_world
mpcrun -m=ethread_mxn -n=4 hello_world
mpcrun -m=pthread -n=4 hello_world
```

See the section *Thread types* for details on the `'-m'` option.

2.3 Custom Installation

The previous section described the default installation and configuration of MPC. But other alternatives are available. You can find out more details on the configuration by running:

```
./configure --help
```

Specify the PMI based launcher to be used by MPC as follows:

- `--with-hydra`
Compile MPC with the Hydra launcher (embedded in the MPC distribution). This option is enabled by default.
- `--with-slurm[=prefix]`
Compile MPC with the SLURM launcher.

Note that MPC can be compiled with only one launcher.

The following options are related to additional libraries required to compile the MPC distribution:

- `--with-cpath=DIR1:DIR2:...`
Add directories to the CPATH environment variable for the whole MPC distribution.
- `--with-library-path=DIR1:DIR2:...`
Add directories to the LD_LIBRARY_PATH environment variable for the whole MPC distribution

For more information about options to MPC, run the `configure` script located in the `mpc` directory.

2.4 Known issues

2.4.1 Error related to `mpfr/gmp`

When building `mpc-gcc`, you may get errors related to `libmpfr` or `libgmp`. If those libraries are installed into a non standard prefix, it may be required to use the following arguments while running the `configure` script :

```
./configure --gcc-with-mpfr=YOUR_PREFIX --gcc-with-gmp=YOUR_PREFIX \  
            --with-library-path=YOUR_PREFIX
```

In case of conflicts with `libgmp`, it may be preferable to avoid the version 4.3.2 which broke its ABI due to a mistake in documentation and move to 5.0.1 or higher.

3 MPC Supported APIs

3.1 Message Passing

3.1.1 API

MPC is fully MPI-1.3 compliant and supports the `MPI_THREAD_MULTIPLE` level from standard 2. See the document *MPI: A Message-Passing Interface Standard* version 1.3 (May 2008) for more details.

3.1.2 Warning to Users

Remove global variables! In MPC, every MPI task is a thread and thus all tasks share global variables with each other.

3.1.3 Removing Global Variables

We propose several solutions to ease the removal of global variables:

1. Use the option `-Wmpc` with the patched GCC compiler to generate warnings. In this mode, the compiler will warn you about every global variable declared in the program.
2. Use the option `-fmpc-privatize` to automatically privatize the global variables. In this mode, every global variable is duplicated for every MPI task such as the code can run correctly with MPC. Note than in version older than 2.4.0, the application has to be compiled as a dynamic library for this solution to work.

3.2 OpenMP

3.2.1 API

MPC is fully OpenMP-2.5 compliant. See the document *OpenMP Application Program Interface* version 2.5 (May 2005) for more details.

3.2.2 Compiling and Running OpenMP Programs

To compile applications with OpenMP directives (C, C++ or Fortran), you have to use the default compiler coming with the MPC Distribution (see Section 2 for explanation to install MPC). This compiler is a patched version of GCC generating code for the MPC library when transforming OpenMP directives. Thus, to activate the OpenMP transformation, use the `-fopenmp` option with the compiler drivers `mpc_cc` (C), `mpc_cxx` (C++) or `mpc_f77` (Fortran).

3.2.3 Threadprivate Variables

The OpenMP standard proposes a directive to create *thread-private* variables. The MPC implementation follows the standard and supports this feature.

For version older than 2.4.0 you need to build you program as a dynamic library.

3.3 Threads

3.3.1 API

MPC provides a POSIX Thread 2003 compatible API.

3.3.2 Thread types

The main command `mpcrun` accepts the `'-m'` option to choose between several kind of threads. Here is a list of the current available thread types:

1. Ethread: Mx1 user level thread model.
2. Ethread_mxn: MxN user level thread model.

3. Pthread: underlying POSIX Thread library.

The article [3] contains more details on the multiple thread types and their characteristics.

3.3.3 Warning to Users

**It is dangerous to mix MPC POSIX Threads and system POSIX Threads!
This mix may lead to an undefined behavior.**

4 Running MPC

The `mpcrun` script drives the launch of MPC programs with different types of parallelism. Its usage is defined as follows:

```
Usage mpcrun [option] [--] binary [user args]
```

Informations :

- `--help, -h` Display this help
- `--show`, Display command line
- `--version-details`, Print version of each module used
- `--report`, Print report
- `--tmp_dir=dir`, Directory to store mpc files
- `--verbose, -v` Verbose mode

Topology:

- `--task-nb=n, -n=n` Total number of tasks
- `--process-nb=n, -p=n` Total number of processes
- `--cpu-nb=n, -c=n` Number of cpus per process
- `--node-nb=n, -N=n` Total number of nodes
- `--enable-smt` Enable SMT capabilities (disabled by default)
- `--disable-share-node` Do not restrict on CPU number to share node

Multithreading :

- `--multithreading=n, -m=n` Define multithreading mode
- modes: pthread ethread_mxn ethread

Network :

- `--network=n, -net=n` Define Network mode
- modes: none tcp ...
modes (experimental): ...

Checkpoint/Restart and Migration :

- `--checkpoint` Enable checkpoint
- `--migration` Enable migration
- `--restart` Enable restart

Launcher :

- `--launcher=n, -l=n` Define launcher
- `--opt=<options>` launcher specific options
- `--launch_list` print available launch methods

Debugger :

- `--dbg=<debugger_name>` to use a debugger

4.1 Launcher options

Options passed to the launcher options should be compatible with the launch mode chosen during `configure`. For more informations you might read the documentations of `mpiexec` and `srun` respectively for Hydra and Slurm.

MPC configured with Hydra

If MPC is configured with Hydra, `mprun` should be used with `-l=mpiexec` argument. Note that this argument is used by default if not specified.

MPC configured with SLURM

If MPC is configured with SLURM, `mprun` should be used with `-l=srun` argument.

4.2 Mono-process job

In order to run an MPC job in a single process with Hydra, you should use one of the following methods (depending on the thread type you want to use).

```
mprun -m=ethread      -n=4 hello_world
mprun -m=ethread_mxn  -n=4 hello_world
mprun -m=pthread      -n=4 hello_world
```

To use one of the above methods with SLURM, just add `-l=srun` to the command line.

4.3 Multi-process job on a single node

In order to run an MPC job with Hydra in a 2-process single-node manner with the SHared Memory module enabled (*SHM*), you should use one of the following methods (depending on the thread type you want to use). Note that on a single node, even if the *TCP* module is explicitly used, MPC automatically uses the *SHM* module for all process communications.

```
mprun -m=ethread      -n=4 -p=2 -net=tcp hello_world
mprun -m=ethread_mxn  -n=4 -p=2 -net=tcp hello_world
mprun -m=pthread      -n=4 -p=2 -net=tcp hello_world
```

To use one of the above methods with SLURM, just add `-l=srun` to the command line.

Of course, this mode supports both MPI and OpenMP standards, enabling the use of hybrid programming.

There are different implementations of inter-process communications. A call to `mprun --help` details all the available implementations.

4.4 Multi-process job on multiple nodes

In order to run an MPC job on 2 node with 8 processes communicating with *TCP*, you should use one of the following methods (depending on the thread type you want to use). Note that on multiple nodes, MPC automatically switches to the MPC SHared Memory module (*SHM*) when a communication between processes on the same node occurs. This behavior is available with all inter-process communication modules (*TCP* included).

```
mpcrun -m=ethread      -n=8 -p=8 -net=tcp -N=2 hello_world
mpcrun -m=ethread_mxn -n=8 -p=8 -net=tcp -N=2 hello_world
mpcrun -m=pthread     -n=8 -p=8 -net=tcp -N=2 hello_world
```

Of course, this mode supports both MPI and OpenMP standards, enabling the use of hybrid programming. There are different implementations of inter-process communications and launch methods. A call to `mpcrun --help` detail all the available implementations and launch methods.

4.4.1 Launch with Hydra

In order to execute an MPC job on multile nodes using *Hydra*, you need to provide the list of nodes in a *hosts* file and set the `HYDRA_HOST_FILE` variable with the path to the file. You can also pass the host file as a parameter of the launcher as follow:

```
mpcrun -m=ethread -n=8 -p=8 -net=tcp -N=2 --opt="-f hosts" hello_world
```

see Using the Hydra Process Manager for more information about hydra hosts file.

5 FAQ

Q - How can I execute Fortan program on MPC ?

- First, be sure that you don't have disabled the fortran support (`--disable-fortran` of the MPC configure).
- Second, rename your main fortran function by subroutine `mpc_user_main`. For example, change `<<program main_program>>` by `<<subroutine mpc_user_main>>`. Now, you can execute your fortran program using the `mpcrun` command.

Q - How can I disable the MPC SHared Memory module (SHM) ?

The *SHM* module is enabled by default. To disable it, pass the argument `--disable-shm` to the MPC configure. Don't forget to recompile MPC.

Q - MPC configure gives me a "FATAL ERROR" message. What can I do ?

```
##### FATAL ERROR #####
MPC *WILL* overwrite the following include file(s):
include/mpi.h
include/pthread.h
include/semaphore.h
include/omp.h

Please set your --prefix correctly and run configure again.
If you know what you are doing, you can use the configure
flag --disable-prefix-check. Keep in mind that your headers
will be *DEFINITELY* overwritten.
Configure exiting with no Makefile generated ...
#####
```


You must be careful with this error message. MPC detected that the prefix path you have given already includes header files. I.e: `mpi.h`, `pthread.h`, `semaphore.h` and `omp.h`. If you continue the MPC installation using this prefix path, these files will be **DEFINITIVELY** overwritten. As a conclusion, either you change the prefix path (recommended choice), or you pass the argument `--disable-prefix-check` to MPC configure being aware that your headers **WILL** be overwritten.

Q - Can I tune the MPC SHared Memory module (SHM) according to my needs ?

You need to edit the file located there :

`mpc/MPC_Message_Passing/sctk_low_level_comm/sctk_shm_consts.h`.

In this file, you can modify the number of cells in each queue (PTP queues, collective queues, etc...) as well as the size allocated by each cell. Don't forget to recompile MPC after each modification.

Q - When compiling, I have the error undefined reference to `mpc_user_main__`

The file containing your `main` should include `mpi.h` or `mpc.h`

6 Contacts

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References

- [1] Patrick Carribault, Marc Pérache, and Hervé Jourden. Enabling loz-overhead hybrid MPI/OpenMP parallelism with MPC. In *To appear in International Workshop on OpenMP (IWOMP'10)*, Tsukuba, Japan, June 2010.
- [2] Marc Pérache, Patrick Carribault, and Hervé Jourden. MPC-MPI: An MPI Implementation Reducing the Overall Memory Consumption. In *16th European PVM/MPI Users' Group Meeting (EuroPVM/MPI 2009)*, Finland, September 2009.
- [3] Marc Pérache, Hervé Jourden, and Raymond Namyst. MPC: A unified parallel runtime for clusters of NUMA machines. In *Proceedings of the 14th International Euro-Par Conference (Euro-Par 2008)*, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, August 2008.