

BLUE - A GENERIC BUILD-SYSTEM CRAFTED ENTIRELY IN GUILE

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WHAT IS BLUE?

A BUILD-SYSTEM

```
1 (blueprint
2   (configuration blue-configuration)
3   (buildables
4     (append
5       blue-docs
6       blue-modules
7       blue-templates))
8   (testables
9     blue-tests)
10  (commands
11    (list
12      check-install-command
13      coverage-command
14      install-command
15      guix-build-command)))
```

SUPPORTING PROJECT CONFIGURATION

```
1 (blueprint
2   (configuration blue-configuration)
3   (buildables
4     (append
5       blue-docs
6       blue-modules
7       blue-templates))
8   (testables
9     blue-tests)
10  (commands
11    (list
12      check-install-command
13      coverage-command
14      install-command
15      guix-build-command)))
```

GOAL-DRIVEN DECLARATIONS

```
1 (blueprint
2   (configuration blue-configuration)
3   (buildables
4     (append
5       blue-docs
6       blue-modules
7       blue-templates))
8   (testables
9     blue-tests)
10  (commands
11    (list
12      check-install-command
13      coverage-command
14      install-command
15      guix-build-command)))
```

AND COMMAND BASED ACTIONS

```
1 (blueprint
2   (configuration blue-configuration)
3   (buildables
4     (append
5       blue-docs
6       blue-modules
7       blue-templates))
8   (testables
9     blue-tests)
10  (commands
11    (list
12      check-install-command
13      coverage-command
14      install-command
15      guix-build-command)))
```

IT'S ALSO A COMMAND DISPATCHER

```
1 (define-command (hello-command files)
2   ((invoke "hello")
3    (category 'hello)
4    (synopsis "Say hello")
5    (help "FILE ...\nPrint hello to FILE."))
6   (for-each
7     (lambda (file)
8       (with-output-to-file file
9         (lambda () (display "Hello\n")))))
10  files))
11
12 (blueprint
13   (commands
14     (list hello-command)))
```


WITHOUT BOILER PLATE

```
1 (define-command (hello-command files)
2   ((invoke "hello")
3    (category 'hello)
4    (synopsis "Say hello")
5    (help "FILE ...\nPrint hello to FILE."))
6   (for-each
7     (lambda (file)
8       (with-output-to-file file
9         (lambda () (display "Hello\n")))))
10  files))
11
12 (blueprint
13   (commands
14     (list hello-command)))
```

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...

A FRAMEWORK TO MAKE YOUR OWN BUILD SYSTEM

```
1 (define-blue-class <tarball> (<buildable>)  
2   (executable  
3     #:getter tarball-executable  
4     #:init-value #%~#%?TAR  
5     #:init-keyword #:executable))  
6  
7 (define-method (ask-build-manifest  
8   (this <tarball>) (inputs <list>) (output <string>))  
9   (let ((relative-path (buildable-inputs-relative-to this)))  
10     (make-build-manifest  
11       (string-append "TAR\t" output)  
12       (cons*  
13         (tarball-executable this) "czf" output  
14         "-C" relative-path  
15         (map  
16           (lambda (path)  
17             (string-replace-substring path (string-append relative-path "/" ) ""))  
18           inputs))))))
```

DEFINE YOUR OWN BUILDABLE OBJECTS

```
1 (define-blue-class <tarball> (<buildable>)  
2   (executable  
3     #:getter tarball-executable  
4     #:init-value #%~#%?TAR  
5     #:init-keyword #:executable))  
6  
7 (define-method (ask-build-manifest  
8   (this <tarball>) (inputs <list>) (output <string>))  
9   (let ((relative-path (buildable-inputs-relative-to this)))  
10     (make-build-manifest  
11       (string-append "TAR\t" output)  
12       (cons*  
13         (tarball-executable this) "czf" output  
14         "-C" relative-path  
15         (map  
16           (lambda (path)  
17             (string-replace-substring path (string-append relative-path "/") ""))  
18           inputs))))))
```

AND LET BLUE KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THEM

```
1 (define-blue-class <tarball> (<buildable>)  
2   (executable  
3     #:getter tarball-executable  
4     #:init-value #%"~#"?TAR  
5     #:init-keyword #:executable))  
6  
7 (define-method (ask-build-manifest  
8   (this <tarball>) (inputs <list>) (output <string>))  
9   (let ((relative-path (buildable-inputs-relative-to this)))  
10     (make-build-manifest  
11       (string-append "TAR\t" output)  
12       (cons*  
13         (tarball-executable this) "czf" output  
14         "-C" relative-path  
15         (map  
16           (lambda (path)  
17             (string-replace-substring path (string-append relative-path "/" ) ""))  
18           inputs))))))
```

WHY ANOTHER BUILD-SYSTEM?

Because BLUE is

MINIMALIST AND SELF-CONTAINED

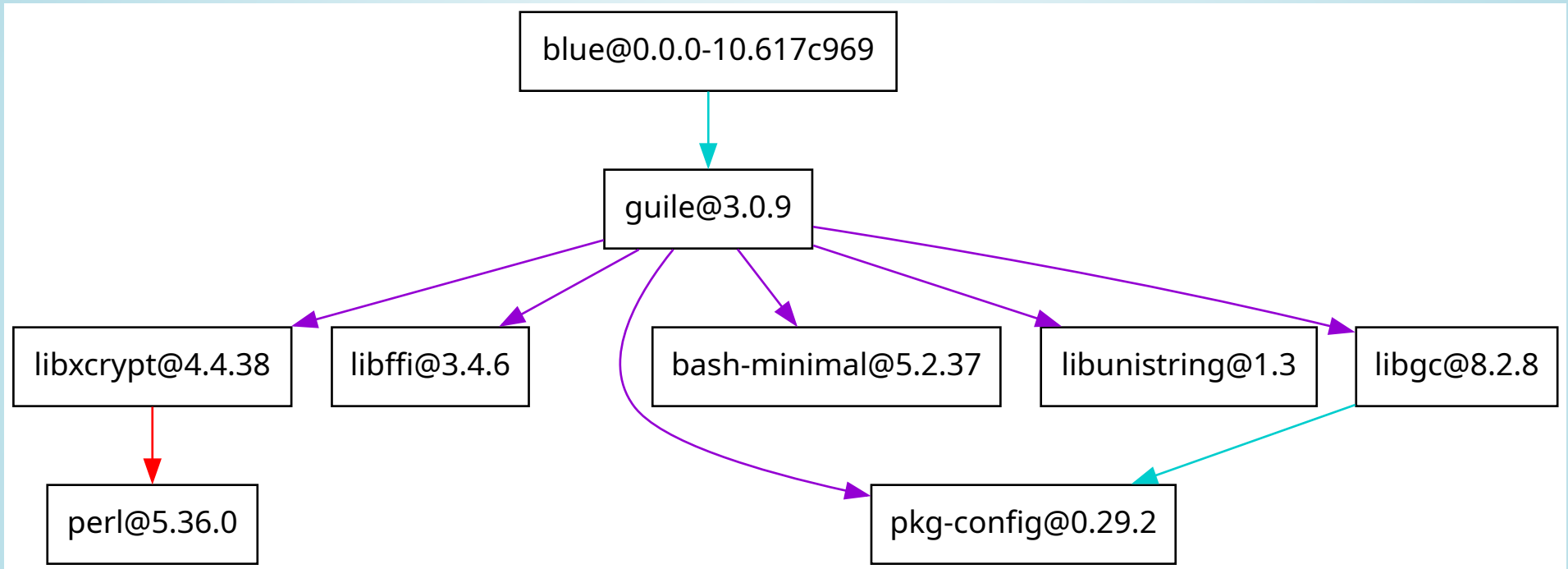


Figure 1: Dependencies of the BLUE package

GOAL-BASED

Ask what you want.

```
(c-binary  
  (inputs '("prog.c"))  
  (external-dependencies #%~(list #%?dep:sd12))  
  (outputs "prog"))
```


GOAL-BASED

Ask what you want.

```
(c-binary
 (inputs '("prog.c"))
 (external-dependencies #%~(list #%?dep:sdl2))
 (outputs "prog"))
```

BLUE will figure it out 

```
$ gcc -MMD -I<prefix>/include -I<prefix>/include/SDL2 -fPIE \
  -g -O2 -Wall -Wextra -c -o prog.o prog.c
$ gcc -g -O2 -Wall -Wextra -L<prefix>/lib -o prog prog.o -lSDL2
```

EXTENSIBLE

EXTENSIBLE

GOOPS

EXTENSIBLE

GOOPS

- Method overriding / redefining
- Inheritance

EXTENSIBLE

GOOPS

- Method overriding / redefining
- Inheritance

User defined commands

EXTENSIBLE

GOOPS

- Method overriding / redefining
- Inheritance

User defined commands

- Override built-in commands

EXTENSIBLE

GOOPS

- Method overriding / redefining
- Inheritance

User defined commands

- Override built-in commands

Plugin system (TODO)

EXTENSIBLE

GOOPS

- Method overriding / redefining
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User defined commands

- Override built-in commands

Plugin system (TODO)

- Custom build scheduler

EXTENSIBLE

GOOPS

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User defined commands

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Plugin system (TODO)

- Custom build scheduler

Stencil system

EXTENSIBLE

GOOPS

- Method overriding / redefining
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User defined commands

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Plugin system (TODO)

- Custom build scheduler

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EXTENSIBLE

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- Method overriding / redefining
- Inheritance

User defined commands

- Override built-in commands

Plugin system (TODO)

- Custom build scheduler

Stencil system

Project serialization

EXTENSIBLE

GOOPS

- Method overriding / redefining
- Inheritance

User defined commands

- Override built-in commands

Plugin system (TODO)

- Custom build scheduler

Stencil system

Project serialization

EXTENSIBLE

GOOPS

- Method overriding / redefining
- Inheritance

User defined commands

- Override built-in commands

Plugin system (TODO)

- Custom build scheduler

Stencil system

Project serialization

Autocomplete engine

EXTENSIBLE

GOOPS

- Method overriding / redefining
- Inheritance

User defined commands

- Override built-in commands

Plugin system (TODO)

- Custom build scheduler

Stencil system

Project serialization

Autocomplete engine

- Shell integration

HELLO BLUE

LAYOUT

blueprint.scm

A container for gathering a BLUE project description.

```
1  ;;; Modules
2
3  ;;; Buildables
4
5  ;;; Commands
6
7  ;;; Blueprint
8
```


IMPORT STENCILS

Stencil

A set of buildable types and utilities to simplify the description of a common pattern.

```
1  ;;; Modules
2  (use-modules (blue stencils c))
3
4  ;;; Buildables
5
6  ;;; Commands
7
8  ;;; Blueprint
9
```

DECLARE BUILDABLES

Buildable

An object that BLUE knows how to build.

```
1  ;;; Modules
2  (use-modules (blue stencils c))
3
4  ;;; Buildables
5  (define libhello
6    (c-binary
7      (inputs "hello.c")
8      (outputs "libhello.a")
9      (library? #t)
10     (shared? #f)))
11
12  (define hello
13    (c-binary
14      (inputs (list "main.c" libhello))
15      (outputs "hello")))
```

DEFINE COMMANDS

Command

An action that BLUE can execute.

```
1  ;;; Modules
2  (use-modules (blue stencils c)
3               (blue subprocess)
4               (blue types command))
5
6  ;;; Buildables
7  (define libhello
8    (c-binary
9      (inputs "hello.c")
10     (outputs "libhello.a")
11     (library? #t)
12     (shared? #f)))
13
14  (define hello
15    (c-binary
16      (inputs "hello.c")
17      (outputs "hello.o")
18      (library? #f)
19      (shared? #f)))
```

DEFINE BLUEPRINT

Blueprint

An object that describes a BLUE project.

```
1  ;;; Modules
2  (use-modules (blue stencils c)
3               (blue subprocess)
4               (blue types blueprint)
5               (blue types command))
6
7  ;;; Buildables
8  (define libhello
9    (c-binary
10     (inputs "hello.c")
11     (outputs "libhello.a")
12     (library? #t)
13     (shared? #f)))
14
15 (define hello
```

LET'S BUILT IT

UPS... I FORGOT TO CONFIGURE

The C stencil requires a configuration step.

```
λ blue build
Traceback (most recent call last):
0: (.)_at blue/command.scm:80:8
77 | (cond
78 |   (result result)
79 |   (required?
> 80 |     (raise-exception
      |     ^
81 |     (make-exception
82 |     (make-external-error)
83 |     (make-exception-with-origin

Error while running command `build':
&external-error
origin:
  blue/types/configuration.scm:543:2 → blue/types/configuration.scm:130:6
irritants:
  (#:configuration-hash
   "57134f29eccd79ff5dfa0f71a493ce1d021c6b41f2ec4c91230638eceae1cc65f6b8e024b2cf00f39")
message:
  Could not find the configuration in the store.
hint:
  This is usually because the command invoked requires a configuration,
  but no configuration exists in the store matching the configuration
  manifest of the blueprint.

  This can happen if no configuration has been done or that the
  configuration manifest has changed.

  Try to configure the build directory with the built-in command:

  blue configure [ARGS]...
```

Figure 2: Missing BLUE configuration

LET'S DO IT RIGHT

Commands optionally can be chained with '- -'.

```
λ blue configure — build
starting phase `parse-command-line-arguments'
  parsing 0 arguments:
starting phase `resolve-host'
  guessing host target
    OK x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu
starting phase `resolve-dependencies'
  resolving 0 dependencies
starting phase `expand-variables'
  guessing build target
    OK x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu
  guessing C toolchain
    looking for binary x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu-gcc
    OK x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu-gcc → /gnu/store/pdsp8rh...-gcc-15.2.0/bin/x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu-gcc
configuration summary
  0 warnings
  0 errors
CC /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/fosdem2026-presentation/hello-blue/build/hello.o
CC /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/fosdem2026-presentation/hello-blue/build/main.o
LINK /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/fosdem2026-presentation/hello-blue/build/libhello.a
LINK /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/fosdem2026-presentation/hello-blue/build/hello
```

Figure 3: Command chaining

COMMAND CAN TAKE ARGUMENTS

Here we pass the arguments directly to Guix.

```
1 (define-command (guix-build-command arguments)
2   ((invoke "guix-build")
3    (category 'guix)
4    (load-configuration-policy 'no))
5   (zero? (popen "guix"
6                 (append
7                  `("time-machine"
8                    "-C"
9                    ,(string-append #%"?srcdir "/channels.scm")
10                   "--"
11                   "build"
12                   "-f"
13                   ,(string-append #%"?srcdir "/guix.scm"))
14                  arguments)
15         #:working-directory #%"?srcdir))))
```


WHAT IF I MY PROJECT NEEDS
STATEFUL DATA?

INTRODUCING THE CONFIGURATION

Configuration

An object that describes stateful data.

```
1 (define hello-configuration  
2   (configuration))
```

HERE YOU CAN DEFINE VARIABLES FOR YOUR PROJECT

```
1 (define hello-configuration
2   (configuration
3     (variables
4       (list
5         (variable
6           (name "VERSION")
7           (value "0.0.1"))
8         (variable
9           (name "CFLAGS")
10          (value
11            (lambda* (#:key host #:allow-other-keys)
12              (match-glob host
13                (("aarch64*") "-moutline-atomics")
14                (else ""))))))))))
```

AND ALSO YOUR PROJECT DEPENDENCIES

```
1 (define hello-configuration
2   (configuration
3     (variables
4       (list
5         (variable
6           (name "VERSION")
7           (value "0.0.1"))
8         (variable
9           (name "CFLAGS")
10          (value
11            (lambda* (#:key host #:allow-other-keys)
12              (match-glob host
13                (("aarch64*") "-moutline-atomics")
14                (else "")))))))
15   (dependencies
```

BLUE WILL ENSURE THE DEPENDENCIES ARE MEET

```
λ blue configure
starting phase `parse-command-line-arguments'
  parsing 0 arguments:
starting phase `resolve-host'
  guessing host target
    OK x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu
starting phase `resolve-dependencies'
  resolving 1 dependency
    NO sdl2 (???)
starting phase `expand-variables'
  guessing C toolchain
    looking for binary x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu-gcc
      OK x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu-gcc → /gnu/store/pdsp8rh...-gcc-15.2.0/bin/x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu-gcc
  guessing build target
    OK x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu
configuration summary
  0 warnings
  1 error
    &error
    origin:
    #{<c-dependency>: blueprint.scm:33:5 → blue/dependency/c.scm:63:8}
    caused-by:
    &external-error
    origin:
    $ pkg-config --exists sdl2
    message:
    Package sdl2 was not found in the pkg-config search path.
    Perhaps you should add the directory containing `sdl2.pc'
    to the PKG_CONFIG_PATH environment variable
    No package 'sdl2' found
```

Figure 4: Unmet dependency exception

LET'S MAKE A CONFIGURATION
EXAMPLE

A WHITE CANVAS...

```
1 (use-modules (blue types blueprint))  
2  
3 (blueprint)
```

LET'S ADD A BUILDABLE

```
1 (use-modules (blue stencils c)
2               (blue types blueprint))
3
4 (blueprint
5   (buildables
6     (list
7       (c-binary
8         (inputs '("prog.c"))
9         (outputs "prog")))))
```


LET'S CONFIGURE A VARIABLE

CFLAGS

default to "-g -O2 -Wall -Wextra" (C stencil)

```
1 (use-modules (blue stencils c)
2              (blue types blueprint)
3              (blue types configuration)
4              (blue types variable))
5
6 (blueprint
7   (configuration
8     (configuration
9       (variables
10        (list
11         (variable
12          (name "CFLAGS")
13          (value "-O3"))))))))
14 (buildables
15   (list
```

AND A DEPENDENCY

```
1 (use-modules (blue dependency c)
2               (blue stencils c)
3               (blue types blueprint)
4               (blue types configuration)
5               (blue types variable))
6
7 (blueprint
8   (configuration
9     (configuration
10      (variables
11       (list
12        (variable
13         (name "CFLAGS")
14         (value "-03")))))
15   (dependencies
16     (list
```

AND A DEPENDENCY

```
10  (variables
11    (list
12      (variable
13        (name "CFLAGS")
14        (value "-03")))))
15  (dependencies
16    (list
17      (c-dependency
18        (name "sdl2")
19        (required? #t))))))
20  (buildables
21    (list
22      (c-binary
23        (inputs '("prog.c"))
24        (external-dependencies #%~(list #%?dep:sdl2))
25        (outputs "prog")))))
```

THAT WAS EASY... BUT HOW DO WE
USE THE CONFIGURATION?

LET'S DEFINE A NEW COMMAND TO THAT USES THE VARIABLES

```
1 (use-modules (blue dependency c)
2               (blue stencils c)
3               (blue types blueprint)
4               (blue types configuration)
5               (blue types variable)
6               (blue types command))
7
8 (define-command (print-info-command arguments)
9   ((invoke "info"))
10  (format #t "-----
11 Source directory: ~a
12 Build directory: ~a
13 Prefix: ~a
14 CFLAGS: ~a
15 sdl2: ~a
16
```

LET'S DEFINE A NEW COMMAND TO THAT USES THE VARIABLES

```
29     (variable
30       (name "CFLAGS")
31       (value "-O3"))))
32   (dependencies
33     (list
34       (c-dependency
35         (name "sdl2")
36         (required? #t))))))
37   (buildables
38     (list
39       (c-binary
40         (inputs '("prog.c"))
41         (external-dependencies #~(list #?dep:sdl2))
42         (outputs "prog"))))
43   (commands
44     (list print-info-command)))
```

LET'S BUILT IT

```
λ blue configure --prefix=/tmp/hello-install -- build -- info
starting phase `parse-command-line-arguments'
  parsing 1 argument: --prefix=/tmp/hello-install
starting phase `resolve-host'
  guessing host target
    OK x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu
starting phase `resolve-dependencies'
  resolving 1 dependency
    OK sdl2 (2.30.8)
starting phase `expand-variables'
  guessing C toolchain
    looking for binary x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu-gcc
      OK x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu-gcc → /gnu/store/pdsp8rh...-gcc-15.2.0/bin/x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu-gcc
  guessing build target
    OK x86_64-unknown-linux-gnu
configuration summary
  0 warnings
  0 errors
  CC /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/fosdem2026-presentation/hello-configuration/prog.o
  LINK /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/fosdem2026-presentation/hello-configuration/prog


---


Source directory: /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/fosdem2026-presentation/hello-configuration
Build directory: /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/fosdem2026-presentation/hello-configuration
Prefix: /tmp/hello-install
CFLAGS: -O3
sdl2: -lsdl2


---


```

Figure 5: Configure with command arguments

DELAYED COMPUTATIONS

#%? ... WHAT IS THAT?

```
1 (define-command (print-info-command arguments)
2   ((invoke "info"))
3   (format #t "-----
4 Source directory: ~a
5 Build directory: ~a
6 Prefix: ~a
7 CFLAGS: ~a
8 sdl2: ~a
9 -----
10 "
11     #?srcdir
12     #?builddir
13     #?prefix
14     #?CFLAGS
15     (c-dependency-libs-only-1 #?dep:sdl2)))
```

BLUE DELAYED COMPUTATIONS

Delayed computation

An expressions evaluated at run-time within a dynamic computation environment. Its application is memoized.

Expression	Meaning
#%~FORM	Create a delayed expression from FORM.
#%?SYMBOL	Ask for the value of SYMBOL within the current computation.
#%,FORM	Undelay the expression in FORM within a delayed expression.

LET'S DELAY AN EXPRESSION

```
1 #%~"guile"
```

LET'S DELAY AN EXPRESSION

```
1 #%~"guile"
```

Expands to 

```
1 (make-computation (lambda () "guile"))
```

LET'S RETRIEVE A CONFIGURATION VALUE

```
1  #%~(if (string=? #%?libdir "/usr/local/lib")
2          #%,special-location
3          (path->string
4            (path-join #%?libdir "guile"))))
```

LET'S RETRIEVE A CONFIGURATION VALUE

```
1 #%~(if (string=? #%?libdir "/usr/local/lib")
2       #%,special-location
3       (path->string
4       (path-join #%?libdir "guile"))))
```

Expands to 

```
1 (make-computation
2  (let* ((t-1dff1b83541ce327-295 special-location))
3    (lambda ()
4      (let ((t-1dff1b83541ce327-294
5              (delay (computation-ask 'libdir))))
6        (if (string=? (force t-1dff1b83541ce327-294)
7                      "/usr/local/lib")
8            t-1dff1b83541ce327-295
9            (path->string
10             (path-join
11              (force t-1dff1b83541ce327-294) "guile"))))))))
```

LET'S DRAW SOME SIMILARITIES

Makefile (lazy evaluation)

```
PREFIX = /usr/local  
BINDIR = ${PREFIX}/bin
```

G-Expressions

```
#~(string-append #$output "/bin")
```

BLUE

```
##~(string-append ##?prefix "/bin")
```


ONE LAST REMARK

Delayed computations bring

ONE LAST REMARK

Delayed computations bring

- Much more than variable expansion.

ONE LAST REMARK

Delayed computations bring

- Much more than variable expansion.
- The power and expressivity of Guile.

CAN BE SERIALIZED TO DISK!

```
1 #%~(string-append #%?prefix "/bin")
```

Expands to 

CAN BE SERIALIZED TO DISK!

```
1 #%~(string-append #%?prefix "/bin")
```

Expands to 

```
1 (let
2   ((the-computation
3     (@ (blue computation) make-computation)
4       (let ()
5         (let ()
6           (define proc
7             (lambda ()
8               (let
9                 ((t-5c05c27ebb17590-ab
10                  ((@ (guile) make-promise)
11                    (lambda ()
12                      ((@ (blue computation) computation-ask) (quote prefix))))))
13                 ((@ (guile) string-append)
14                  ((@ (blue computation) force) t-5c05c27ebb17590-ab) "/bin"))))
15                ((@ (blue utils hash) set-object-property!) proc (quote blue-hash)
16                  754606235298532093936125085570906851521)
17                proc))
18         (quote ((line . 91) (column . 20)))
19         (quote (string-append (~computation-ask (quote prefix)) "/bin"))
20         (delay
21           (quote
22             (let ()
```

BACKTRACES

MANY OF US MAKE MISTAKES...

WORRY NOT...
WE'VE GOT PRETTY BACKTRACES!

LET'S SAY YOU MAKE A TYPO

```
1 (use-modules (blue dependency c)
2              (blue stencils c)
3              (blue types blueprint)
4              (blue types configuration)
5              (blue types variable)
6              (blue types command))
7
8 (define-command (print-info-command arguments)
9   ((invoke "info"))
10  (format #t "-----
11 Source directory: ~a
12 Build directory: ~a
13 Prefix: ~a
14 CFLAGS: ~a
15 sdl2: ~a
16
```

THIS IS THE BLUE BACKTRACE YOU WILL SEE

```
147 | (lambda (exn stack)
2: (dynamic-wind* _ #<procedure 7fb87972fe40 at blue/command.scm:144:7 ()> #<p...>) at blue/fibers/scheduler.scm:288:2
285 | (define (dynamic-wind* in-guard thunk out-guard)
286 |   "Like regular @code{dynamic-wind}, but ignore @var{in-guard} and
287 |   @var{out-guard} during suspension and resumption of tasks."
> 288 |   (dynamic-wind
      |   ^
289 |     (lambda ()
290 |       (unless (rewinding-for-scheduling?)
291 |         (in-guard)))
1: ( _ ) at blue/command.scm:146:8
143 |   (run-with-states (append inject-states (load-configuration-states command))
144 |     (log:with-nest-logging
145 |       log:trace-level ("invoking command: ~a~{ ~a~}" (command-invoke command) args)
> 146 |       ((command-procedure command) args))))
      |   ^
147 |   (lambda (exn stack)
148 |     (let ((port (current-error-port)))
149 |       (newline port)
0: ( _ ) at blueprint.scm:17:25
14 | CFLAGS: ~a
15 | sdl2: ~a
16 | _____"
> 17 |         (string-append idontexist #"?srcdir")
      |         ^
18 |         #"?builddir
19 |         #"?prefix
20 |         #"?CFLAGS
Error while running command `info':
unbound-variable: Unbound variable: idontexist
```

Figure 6: Unbound variable BLUE backtrace

HELP MENUS

BLUE HAS DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE HELP MENUS

```
^ blue help
Usage: blue [OPTIONS | VAR=VALUE]... COMMAND ARGS... [-- COMMAND ARGS...]...
Run COMMAND with ARGS, if given.

OPTIONS:
  -always-build          always build everything
  -build-directory=DIRECTORY set the build directory to DIRECTORY
  -color[=POLICY]        set the color POLICY (auto, always, never; (default: always))
  -C, -compiled-load-path=DIRECTORY add DIRECTORY to the front of the module compiled load path
  -n, -dry-run            print what would happen without side effects
  -f, -file=FILE          use FILE as blueprint
  -fresh-store            assume files in store are not valid
  -h, -help               display this message and exit
  -j, -jobs[=N]           maximum number jobs to run in parallel
  -q, -quiet              don't load local preferences. Pass twice for not loading global preferences also.
  -L, -load-path=DIRECTORY add DIRECTORY to the front of the module load path
  -log-level=LEVEL        set the default log level to LEVEL
  -profile[=HOW]           profile execution HOW (gc, stat, trace; (default: stat))
  -source-directory=DIRECTORY set the source directory to DIRECTORY
  -store-directory=DIRECTORY use DIRECTORY for the store
  -trace                  same as '-profile=trace --log-level=trace'
  -v, -version             display version of blue and exit

COMMAND must be one of the sub-commands listed below:

builtin commands:
  build    Build the project
  check    Run the project test suites
  clean    Clean the project
  configure Configure the build directory.
  help     Ask help about a command
  repl     Start a Guile REPL in blue environment
  replay   Replay failed builds

other command:
  info

Report bugs to: <https://codeberg.org/lapislazuli/blue/issues>.
Join the community: #blue on Libera.Chat IRC network.
```

Figure 7: BLUE help menus

REPLAY

Since mistakes are bound to happen...

```
λ blue replay
origin: #{<c-object>/home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/fosdem2026-presentation/hello-configuration/prog.o: blue/stencils/c.scm:296:8}
replay: blue replay da0015b3ea84a59
log: blue replay --log da0015b3ea84a59
inputs:
+ /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/fosdem2026-presentation/hello-configuration/prog.c
outputs:
+ /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/fosdem2026-presentation/hello-configuration/prog.o
error:
origin:
#{<c-object>/home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/fosdem2026-presentation/hello-configuration/prog.o: blue/stencils/c.scm:296:8}
caused-by:
irritants:
  (#{exit-value
    1
    #:subprocess
    ("gcc"
     "-MMO"
     "-I/gnu/store/74szk5l...-sd12-2.30.8/include"
     "-I/gnu/store/74szk5l...-sd12-2.30.8/include/SDL2"
     "-fdiagnostics-color=always"
     "-fPIE"
     "-O3"
     "-D_REENTRANT"
     "-c"
     "-o"
     "/home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/fosdem2026-presentation/hello-configuration/prog.o"
     "/home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/fosdem2026-presentation/hello-configuration/prog.c"))
message:
SUBPROCESS invocation failed.
```

Figure 8: BLUE replay command

PREFERENCE SYSTEM

Preference

A setting that configures some aspect of BLUE

Projects, and extensions can also define their own preferences that users can customize.

DEFINE THEM GLOBALLY

```
1  ;;; In $XDG_CONFIG_HOME/blue/config.scm
2  (set-preference! blue.ui:jobs 4)
3  (set-preference! blue.ui:color-policy 'always)
```

PROJECT LOCALLY

```
1  ;;; In $%?srcdir/.blue-config.scm
2  (set-preference!
3    blue.command.builtin.configure:flags
4    '("--fast-install"))
```


OR IN A ENVIRONMENT VARIABLE

```
1 export BLUE_PREFERENCES=blue.stencils.c.configuration:cc=clang
```

EXTENSIBILITY

INHERITANCE

```
1 (define-blue-class <texinfo> (<buildable>))
```

ADDING ADDITIONAL SLOTS

```
1 (define-blue-class <texinfo> (<buildable>)  
2   (executable  
3     #:getter info-executable  
4     #:init-value "makeinfo"  
5     #:init-keyword #:executable  
6     #:type string?)  
7   (flags  
8     #:getter info-flags  
9     #:init-value '()  
10    #:init-keyword #:flags  
11    #:type (list-of? string?)))
```

TYPED SPECIFICATION FOR SLOTS

```
1 (define-blue-class <texinfo> (<buildable>)  
2   (executable  
3     #:getter info-executable  
4     #:init-value "makeinfo"  
5     #:init-keyword #:executable  
6     #:type string?)  
7   (flags  
8     #:getter info-flags  
9     #:init-value '()  
10    #:init-keyword #:flags  
11    #:type (list-of? string?)))
```

METHOD OVERLOADING

```
1 (define-method (ask-build-manifest
2               (this <texinfo>)
3               (input <string>)
4               (output <string>))
5   (make-build-manifest
6     (string-append "MKINFO\t" output)
7     (list (info-executable this)
8           (info-flags this)
9           (string-append "--output=" output)
10            input)))
```

BUILDABLE

```
1 (define-method (ask-build-manifest
2                 (this <texinfo>)
3                 (input <string>)
4                 (output <string>))
5   (make-build-manifest
6     (string-append "MKINFO\t" output)
7     (list (info-executable this)
8           (info-flags this)
9           (string-append "--output=" output)
10    input)))
```

INPUT

```
1 (define-method (ask-build-manifest
2                 (this <texinfo>)
3                 (input <string>)
4                 (output <string>))
5   (make-build-manifest
6     (string-append "MKINFO\t" output)
7     (list (info-executable this)
8           (info-flags this)
9           (string-append "--output=" output)
10          input)))
```


OUTPUT

```
1 (define-method (ask-build-manifest
2               (this <texinfo>)
3               (input <string>)
4               (output <string>))
5   (make-build-manifest
6     (string-append "MKINFO\t" output)
7     (list (info-executable this)
8           (info-flags this)
9           (string-append "--output=" output)
10            input)))
```

MANIFEST

```
1 (define-method (ask-build-manifest
2               (this <texinfo>)
3               (input <string>)
4               (output <string>))
5   (make-build-manifest
6     (string-append "MKINFO\t" output)
7     (list (info-executable this)
8           (info-flags this)
9           (string-append "--output=" output)
10            input)))
```

HEADER

Progress indicator that BLUE will print.

```
1 (define-method (ask-build-manifest
2                 (this <texinfo>)
3                 (input <string>)
4                 (output <string>))
5   (make-build-manifest
6     (string-append "MKINFO\t" output)
7     (list (info-executable this)
8           (info-flags this)
9           (string-append "--output=" output)
10            input)))
```

ACTION

The code that generates the artifact.

```
1 (define-method (ask-build-manifest
2                 (this <texinfo>)
3                 (input <string>)
4                 (output <string>))
5   (make-build-manifest
6     (string-append "MKINFO\t" output)
7     (list (info-executable this)
8           (info-flags this)
9           (string-append "--output=" output)
10            input)))
```

BLUE.EL

The Emacs interface for BLUE

blue-run-command

```

λ > projects > lapislazuli > blue
> share|bash-completion|completions|blue      25-08-31 15:56      1
> tests                                         26-01-26 13:40      5
> .woodpecker                                  26-01-23 08:33      2
λ blueprint.scm                                26-01-26 13:40     1.1k
  bootstrap                                    25-12-19 21:18     2.4k
  channels.scm                                 26-01-21 10:54     1.3k
  CONTRIBUTING                                25-05-20 22:05     3.3k
  COPYING                                     7.5k
  .dir-locals.el                              4.2k
  .envrc                                       299
  .gitattributes                              48
  .gitignore                                  262
↑ name|mtime
Build directory (M-<num> to select):
0 /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/blue/build-2
1 /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/blue/build-1

1/11 [double-dash-separated list] [CMR—] Command: —always-build configure — build —
— builtin —
» help      Ask help about a command
  repl      Start a Guile REPL in blue environment
  build      Build the project
  check      Run the project test suites
  clean      Clean the project
  replay     Replay failed builds
  configure  Configure the build directory.
— install —
install     Install the project
```

Figure 9: BLUE run command Emacs interface

blue-transient

```
o > projects > lapislazuli > blue
  ↳ blueprint.scm 26-01-26 13:40 1.1k
  ↳ bootstran 25-12-19 21:18 2.4k
↑ name|mtime 12 / 26
Commands: configure --prefix=/tmp/blue-install/ -- build -- check -- install -- installcheck

M-p Previous prompt M-n Next prompt

Options
-a Always-Build (--always-build) -e Help (--help) -s Source-Directory (--source-directory=) , Selected command args
-A Color (--color=) -J Jobs (--jobs=) -t Store-Directory (--store-directory=) ! Free-type
-o Compiled-Load-Path (--compiled-load-path=) -u Quiet (--quiet) -T Trace (--trace) ^ Comint flip (flip)
-d Dry-Run (--dry-run) -B Load-Path (--load-path=) -V Version (--version)
-i File (--file=) -D Log-Level (--log-level=)
-r Fresh-Store (--fresh-store) -p Profile (--profile=)

Build directory
-b Build directory (--build-directory=)
1 /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/blue/build-1

configure arguments
-r Prefix (--prefix=/tmp/blue-install/) -S Sbindir (--sbindir=) -O Oldincludedir (--oldincludedir=) -s Lispdir (--lispdir=)
-e Exec-Prefix (--exec-prefix=) -L Libexecdir (--libexecdir=) -n Infodir (--infodir=) -A Localedir (--localedir=)
-a Datarootdir (--datarootdir=) -d Datadir (--datadir=) -t Htmldir (--htmldir=) -u Build (--build=)
-c Localstatedir (--localstatedir=) -y Sysconfdir (--sysconfdir=) -v Dvidir (--dvidir=) -p Pdftdir (--pdftdir=) -T Target (--target=)
-o Docdir (--docdir=) -B Sharedstatedir (--sharedstatedir=) -P Psdir (--psdir=) -h Host (--host=)
-m Mandir (--mandir=) -R Runstatedir (--runstatedir=) -l Libdir (--libdir=)
-b Bindir (--bindir=) -i Includedir (--includedir=)

C-a C-b C-f C-e
<home> First <left> <right> <end> Last

Commands
Testing Install Guix Builtin DEL Del RET Run
ti Installcheck i Install g Guix-Build bb Build C-k Kill
tc Coverage bc Check C-l Clear
1/3 --profile=
» stat
gc
trace
```

Figure 10: BLUE transient Emacs interface

blue-replay

```
Build directory: /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/blue/build-1

>Record 1aca9990a0ec7d4c
✓Record eff998bcca09667
  origin:    #{<guile-test-suite>#f: blueprint/tests.scm:102:5}
  replay:    blue replay eff998bcca09667
  Inputs:
    + /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/blue/tests/unit/blue/utils/glob.scm
  Outputs:
    + (#:log . /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/blue/build-1/tests/unit/blue/utils/glob.scm.log)
    + (#:trs . /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/blue/build-1/tests/unit/blue/utils/glob.scm.trs)
    + (#:cov . /home/pastor/projects/lapislazuli/blue/build-1/tests/unit/blue/utils/glob.scm.cov)
  Error:
    origin:
      #{<guile-test-suite>#f: blueprint/tests.scm:102:5}
    caused-by:
      irritants:
        (#{:exit-value
          127
          #:thunk
          #<procedure 7ff301208030 at blue/stencils/guile.scm:141:3 ()>)
      message:
        THUNK invocation failed.
```

 *blue replay* 26:11 All LF UTF-8 Blue-replay

Click to replay buildable eff998bcca09667

Figure 11: BLUE replay Emacs interface

GUIX SUPPORT

Bluebox

A Guix channel for BLUE.

blue-build-system

```
1 (define-public blue
2   (let ((commit "4ef3c82de00da039ad255d458becc01d9cb65507")
3         (revision "12"))
4     (package
5       (name "blue")
6       (version (git-version "0.0.0" revision commit))
7       (source (origin
8                 (method git-fetch)
9                 (uri (git-reference
10                       (url "https://codeberg.org/lapislazuli/b
11                           (commit commit)))
12                 (file-name (git-file-name name version))
13                 (sha256
14                   (base32
15                     "1hv9x7002na1967ywh73dpcakygpb1arxyzjmx93jq
16
```

IT CAN BOOTSTRAP BLUE

```
1 (define-public blue
2   (let ((commit "4ef3c82de00da039ad255d458becc01d9cb65507")
3         (revision "12"))
4     (package
5       (name "blue")
6       (version (git-version "0.0.0" revision commit))
7       (source (origin
8                 (method git-fetch)
9                 (uri (git-reference
10                       (url "https://codeberg.org/lapislazuli/b
11                           (commit commit)))
12                 (file-name (git-file-name name version))
13                 (sha256
14                   (base32
15                     "1hv9x7002na1967ywh73dpcakygpb1arxyzjmx93jq
16
```

SUBPHASES

Subphase

Auto-generated Guix phase for BLUE.

```
1 (define-public blue
2   (let ((commit "4ef3c82de00da039ad255d458becc01d9cb65507")
3         (revision "12"))
4     (package
5       (name "blue")
6       (version (git-version "0.0.0" revision commit))
7       (source (origin
8                 (method git-fetch)
9                 (uri (git-reference
10                      (url "https://codeberg.org/lapislazuli/b
11                          (commit commit)))
12                      (file-name (git-file-name name version))
13                      (sha256
14                        (base32
15                          "1hv9x7002na1967ywh73dpcakygpb1arxyzjmx93jq
16
```

SUBPHASES LOOK LIKE THIS

```
1 guix build -L. blue --check --no-grafts
2 The following derivation will be built:
3   /gnu/store/jqbskg7sx076vc66vbngd9xvscx6a1g4-blue-0.0.0-13.0e
4 building /gnu/store/jqbskg7sx076vc66vbngd9xvscx6a1g4-blue-0.0.
5 starting phase `separate-from-pid1'
6 starting phase `set-SOURCE-DATE-EPOCH'
7 starting phase `set-paths'
8 starting phase `install-locale'
9 starting phase `unpack'
10 starting phase `bootstrap'
11 starting phase `patch-usr-bin-file'
12 starting phase `patch-source-shebangs'
13 starting phase `bootstrap-blue'
14 starting phase `configure'
15 starting phase `patch-generated-file-shebangs'
16 starting phase `install'
```

ROADMAP

- Pre-alpha (we are here)
- Alpha
- Beta
- Release

CURRENT FEATURES

- Pure Guile (no additional dependencies)
- Replay functionality
- Configurable preferences
- Autocomplete engine
- Blueprint export to JSON
- Extensible primitive types (through GOOPS)
- Hash-based tracking of buildables
- Time-based tracking of inputs/outputs
- Configuration based on system discoverability

NEXT FEATURES

- DAG traversal API
- DAG exporter/viewer (hoot?)
- Custom build scheduler
- WISP support
- Exporters
 - Ninja
 - Compilation database

LAPISLÁZULI

FOR YOUR FREEDOM AND OURS

Our projects are GPL compliant

MAIN REPOSITORIES

LGPL

- BLUE - Build Language User Extensible

GPL

- Bluebox - A Guix channel for BLUE
(Implements the `blue-build-system`)
- `blue.el` - The Emacs interface for BLUE

PORTS

Guile

- Shepherd

Suckless

- ST
- DWM

Demos

- Hello world
- Hello world with embedded BLUE

END

Thanks for you attention