

Code Composer Studio'sTM Command Window

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ABSTRACT

With the introduction of Code Composer and Code Composer Studio, Texas Instruments (TITM) has provided a Command Window plug-in to ease the transition for customers who are familiar with the TI debugger's command line entries, legacy setup, and test scripts. Due to some inherent differences in the products some of the old TI Debugger commands were not duplicated in the Command Window.

This document describes:

- Code Composer Studio's Command features
- GEL Code Composer Studio's scripting language
- Using GEL
- TI Debugger to GEL Command mapping
- Code Composer Studio's Command Window features
- Using the Command Window
- Differences between the Command Window and the TI Debugger scripts
- How to transition TI Debugger script files

This document assumes the user has knowledge of the TI Debugger script commands and a general knowledge of Code Composer Studio.

Contents

1	Introd	duction	3
2	Code	Composer's GEL Command Features	3
		GEL language	
	2.2	GEL Functions	3
	2.3	Entering GEL commands	4
	2.4	Auto-Executing GEL Functions at Startup	5
	2.5	Built-in GEL Commands	5
	2.6	TI to GEL Command Mapping	7
3	Comr	mand Window	9

4	Com	mand Window Features	
	4.1	Starting the Command Window	
5	On-l	ine Help	
	5.1	Supported Commands	
	5.2	New Commands	
	5.3	Command Differences	
	5.4	Unsupported Commands	
6	Mov	ing TI Debugger Scripts to Code Composer Studio	
	6.1	Translating to Code Composer Studio Command Window	
	6.2	Logical Expression Issue	
	6.3	Other Porting Issues	
7	Con	clusion	

List of Figures

Figure 1.	GEL Toolbar	4
Figure 2.	GEL Command Line Dialog Box	4
Figure 3.	Command Window Plug-in Window	9

List of Tables

Table 1.	GEL Commands	5
Table 2.	Target Manipulation Commands	7
Table 3.	Watch Commands	7
Table 4.	Memory Commands	7
	Take File Commands	
Table 6.	Miscellaneous Commands	8
Table 7.	Descriptions of the Partial Mappings	9
Table 8.	Supported Commands	0
Table 9.	New Commands	2
Table 10	. Command Differences	3
	. Unsupported Commands 14	
Table 12	2. Converting TAKE Files	4

1 Introduction

Moving to Code Composer Studio from the TI Debugger requires changes to both command entry and script execution. While the Command Window eases this transition, it does not eliminate it.

Before transitioning your scripting files to Code Composer Studio you will need to decide on what scripting method you will use. Code Composer Studio has an integrated scripting language called GEL – General Extension Language. GEL is 'C' like and offers many new features that were not available in the TI Debugger. For example, you can create menu items, input dialogs, and have them execute on breakpoints, etc. While GEL offers many new features, you will need to write your existing script files into the GEL scripting language. The number, size, and complexity of your files will determine the effort required.

The other scripting method is to use the Command Window plug-in and its implementation of the TI Debugger commands. The Command Window is very similar to the TI Debugger Command Window in terms of appearance and performance. The script files require minimal changes and your familiarity of the commands should make the transition easy.

There is also the option of mixing these two scripting mechanisms. GEL commands can be called from within the Command Window, but the Command Window commands are not recognized outside of the Command Window.

The following sections discuss GEL scripting followed by a discussion of the Command Window scripting. The GEL section maps TI Debugger commands to its corresponding GEL command. The Command Window section discusses the steps required to convert scripts from the TI Debugger to the Command Window and all the issues and discrepancies.

2 Code Composer's GEL Command Features

2.1 GEL language

GEL is an interpretive language similar to C that lets you create functions to extend Code Composer Studio's usefulness. You create your GEL functions using the GEL grammar and then load them into Code Composer Studio. With GEL, you can access target memory locations and add options to Code Composer Studio's GEL menu. GEL is particularly useful for automated testing and user workspace customization. You can call GEL functions from anywhere that you can enter an expression. You can also add GEL functions to the Watch window so they execute at every breakpoint.

2.2 GEL Functions

There are several built-in GEL functions that allow you to control the state of the target, access target memory locations, and display results in the output window.

All GEL built-in functions are preceded with the prefix GEL_ to ensure that they are not confused with user-defined GEL functions. If you wish to avoid preceding all calls to GEL built-in functions with GEL_ you can define functions with your own names and call the GEL built-in functions within your functions. For example, the following GEL function allows you to call the GEL_Load() built-in functions just by typing-in Load.



```
Load(a)
{
   GEL_Load(a);
}
```

2.3 Entering GEL commands

All built-in GEL functions and user-defined GEL functions consisting of GEL statements can be invoked directly from the GEL toolbar. This toolbar consists of an expression field and an Execute button (icon). To invoke any GEL statement or user-defined function, enter the appropriate function call in this field box and press Execute to evaluate the expression. The expression dialog box maintains a history of the most recently invoked GEL statements/user-defined functions, any of which can be selected by using the scroll buttons.



Figure 1. GEL Toolbar

To access this toolbar, select $View \rightarrow GEL$ Toolbar from the menu. The scrollable list in the GEL toolbar contains a history of the most recently executed GEL functions. To execute a previously used command, select the command and press the Execute button.

The GEL Command Line dialog also provides a convenient way of entering expressions or executing GEL functions. You can execute any of the built-in GEL functions or you can execute your own GEL functions that have been loaded.

Command Line			×
Command:			•
	ОК	Cancel	Help

Figure 2. GEL Command Line Dialog Box

To access this dialog, select $Edit \rightarrow Edit$ Command Line from the menu. When the dialog box is displayed enter an expression or GEL function in the Command field and click OK to execute the command.

The following examples display commands that can be entered in the GEL toolbar or the GEL command line dialog:

Modify variables by entering expressions:

 $PC = c_{int00}$

Load programs with built-in GEL functions:

GEL_Load("c:\\myprog.out")

Run your own GEL functions:

SPRA601

MyFunc()

2.4 Auto-Executing GEL Functions at Startup

GEL functions allow you to configure the development environment according to your needs. You may want to set up your environment each time you start Code Composer Studio. Instead of loading your GEL file using *File* \rightarrow *Load Gel* each time and then executing the GEL function, you can pass a GEL file name to Code Composer Studio on startup. This informs Code Composer Studio to scan and load the specified GEL file. It may not be enough to just load the GEL file; you may also want to execute the function as well. You can do this by naming one of your GEL functions in the specified file StartUp(). When a GEL file is loaded into Code Composer Studio, it searches for a function defined as StartUp(). If it finds this function in the file, it automatically executes it.

To automatically load and execute a GEL function you place the filename in the command line of the Properties dialog box of the Code Composer Studio icon. Detailed instructions on doing this are available in the Code Composer Studio help file.

The following example shows a typical GEL file that you may load at startup. In this example, each time you start Code Composer Studio the memory mapping feature is turned on and the function LoadMyFile() is added to the menu bar.

```
StartUp()
{
   /*Everything in this function will be executed on startup*/
   /*turn on our memory map*/
   GEL_MapOn();
   GEL_MapAdd(0, 0, 0xF000, 1, 1);
   GEL_MapAdd(0, 1, 0xF000, 1, 1);
   dialog LoadMyFile()
   {
      /* load my coff file, and start at main */
      GEL_Load("myfile.out");
      GEL_Go(main);
   }
}
```

2.5 Built-in GEL Commands

The following table lists the available built-in GEL functions.

GEL Command	Description		
GEL_Animate	Start animating		
GEL_BreakPtAdd	Add a new breakpoint		
GEL_BreakPtDel	Delete an existing breakpoint		
GEL_BreakPtReset	Delete all breakpoints		
GEL_CloseWindow	Close an existing output window		
GEL_Exit	Close the active control window		

Table 1. GEL Commands



GEL Command	GEL Command Description				
GEL_Go	Run target to specified point				
GEL_Halt	Halt the target				
GEL_Load	Load a COFF file				
GEL_MapAdd	Add a memory map				
GEL_MapDelete	Delete a memory map				
GEL_MapOn	Enable memory mapping				
GEL_MapOff	Disable memory mapping				
GEL_MapReset	Clear the memory map				
GEL_MemoryFill	Fill a block of memory				
GEL_MemoryLoad	Load a block of memory from a file				
GEL_MemorySave	Save a block of memory to a file				
GEL_OpenWindow	Open an output window				
GEL_PatchAssembly	Patch memory with specified assembly instructions				
GEL_ProjectBuild	Build the current project				
GEL_ProjectLoad	Loads the specified project				
GEL_ProjectRebuildAll	Completely rebuild the current project				
GEL_Reset	Reset the target				
GEL_Restart	Reset PC to program entry point				
GEL_Run	Start executing the target				
GEL_RunF	Start executing and disconnect from the target				
GEL_SymbolLoad	Load symbols only				
GEL_System	Execute the 'system' command				
GEL_TargetTextOut	Output formatted target string				
GEL_TextOut	Print text to output window				
GEL_WatchAdd	Add expressions to the watch window				
GEL_WatchDel	Delete expressions from the watch window				
GEL_WatchReset	Delete all expressions from the watch window				
GEL_XMDef	Define extended memory ranges (C5000 targets only)				
GeL_XMOn	Enable extended memory mapping (C5000 targets only)				

2.6 TI to GEL Command Mapping

The following tables show a mapping of TI Debugger commands to the corresponding Code Composer Studio GEL command. The table only shows the commands that can be mapped. Some TI Debugger commands do not have corresponding GEL commands and vice-versa.

The 'Mapping' column in the tables indicates if the GEL command fully supports the TI Debugger command or partially supports it. A full explanation is shown in a table following the commands.

TI Command	Description	GEL Command	Mapping
BA	Add software breakpoint	GEL_BreakPtAdd	Full
BD	Delete software breakpoint	GEL_BreakPtDel	Full
BR	Reset software breakpoints	GEL_BreakPtReset	Full
GO	Run to specified address	GEL_Go	Full
HALT	Halt target system	GEL_Halt	Full
LOAD	Load a target object file	GEL_Load	Full
RESET	Reset target system	GEL_Reset	Full
RESTART	Reset PC to program entry point	GEL_Restart	Full
RUN	Run target program	GEL_Run	Partial
RUNF	Free run the target	GEL_RunF	Full
SLOAD	Load symbol table	GEL_SymbolLoad	Full

Table 2. Target Manipulation Commands

Table 3. Watch Commands

TI Command	Description	GEL Command	Mapping
WA	Add expression to watch window	GEL_WatchAdd	Partial
WD	Delete expression from watch window	GEL_WatchDel	Partial
WR	Clear/close watch window	GEL_WatchReset	Partial

Note: Partials since the GEL commands do not support multiple windows.

Table 4. Memory Commands

TI Command	Description	GEL Command	Mapping
FILL	Fill memory with a value	GEL_MemoryFill	Full
MA	Add memory block to map	GEL_MapAdd	Partial
MAP	Enable/disable memory mapping	GEL_MapOn, GEL_MapOff	Full
MD	Delete memory block from map	GEL_MapDelete	Full



MR	Reset memory map	GEL_MapReset	Full
MS	Save memory block to a file	GEL_MemorySave	Full
PATCH	Modify program code	GEL_PatchAssembly	Full

Table 5. Take File Commands

TI Command	Description	GEL Command	Mapping
ECHO	Echo a string to display area	GEL_TextOut	Full
IF / ELSE ENDIF	Conditionally execute debugger commands	If / else	Full
LOOP ENDLOOP	Loop through debugger commands	While	Full

Table 6. Miscellaneous Commands

TI Command	Description	GEL Command	Mapping
QUIT	Exit debugger	GEL_Exit	Full
SYSTEM	Run a DOS command	GEL_System	Partial

The following table shows the differences between the TI Debugger commands and the Code Composer Studio commands listed above as being "Partial".

TI Command	GEL Command	Difference
MA	GEL_MapAdd	If the GEL_MapAdd command defines a "range" that overlaps an existing range the attributes of the new range take precedence in the memory map. The TI Debugger would ignore the new range.
RUN	GEL_Run	The GEL_Run command doesn't support executing "count" instructions. Run allows an optional "expression" parameter, whereas GEL_RUN only allows an optional "condition" parameter.
SYSTEM	GEL_System	Both allow you to send a command to the Operating System, however the optional parameters of each are quite different. The GEL_System command allows you to pass additional parameters with the OS command (actually a formatted string) via format specifiers. If you use the TI "system" command with no parameters, the debugger opens an interactive system shell and displays an OS prompt. Also, if you supply an OS command to the TI "system" command, you can also supply an optional "flag" parameter to tell the debugger whether or not it should hesitate after displaying the result of the OS command.
WA WD WR	GEL_WatchAdd GEL_WatchDel GEL_WatchReset	The GEL watch commands do not allow you to open named watch windows. The TI Debugger watch commands allow an optional "window name" parameter.
WR	GEL_WatchReset	the WR command deletes all items from a watch window and closes the window, whereas the GEL_WatchReset command only clears all expressions from the watch window.

Table 7.	Descript	tions of	the F	Partial	Mappings

3 Command Window

The following sections provide information about the use, features and valid commands that are available in the Code Composer Studio Command Window plug-in.

Command Window			×
Current directory: C:N	ti\MyProjects		
dir *.out mem.out 1 File(s) -89057	828 Tue Aug 6384 bytes free	31 09:39:03 19	999
load mem step 10			
?PC 36 ba 0x24			
ba 0x30 run			
Command: run		▼	<u>E</u> xecute



4 Command Window Features

4.1 Starting the Command Window

The Command Window plug-in is started by selecting *Tools–>Command Window* from the Code Composer Studio menu.

To Enter a Command:

You must first give the Command Window focus by clicking anywhere on the Command Window except the *Execute* button. This will place the cursor in the command field for entering the command. Previous commands can be recalled by using the up/down arrow keys.

When entering a command, right-click in the Command field to open the context menu. The editing functions Undo, Cut, Copy, Paste, Delete, and Select All are available.

Any output generated by the debugger appears in the output section of the Command Window directly above the Command field.

To Execute/Halt a Debugging Command:

Click the *Execute* button to execute a debugging command such as "run". Notice that the label on the button changes to *Halt* when your program is running.

Click the *Halt* button to stop the execution of your program.

5 On-line Help

The on-line help file can be accessed in one of several ways:

- Press F1 while the Command Window has focus.
- Enter *HELP* in the command field to display general help information.
- Enter *HELP <cmd>* in the command field to display help about a single command.
- Select *Help->Tools->Command Window* from the menu.

5.1 Supported Commands

The commands listed in the following table are TI Debugger commands supported in the Code Composer Studio Command Window plug-in. Some of these commands have slight differences from the TI Debugger implementation, see Table 10 'Command Differences' for details.

Command	Command Description
?, EVAL, E	Evaluate an expression
ALIAS, UNALIAS	Define custom command string
BA, BD, BL, BR	Breakpoint control (add, delete, list, reset)
CD, CHDIR	Change directory

Table 8. Supported Commands

Command	Command Description
CLS	Clear output section of Command Window
DIR	List directory contents
DISP	Display a C structure
DLOG	Create a log file
EL, ECR, ECS, EE, ED, EB, ER	C6x analysis event commands
ECHO	Display a string to Command Window output section
FILE	Display a text file
FILL	Fill memory
GO	Run to specified address
HALT	Halt the target system
HELP	Display command information
IF, ELSE, ENDIF	TAKE file condition commands
LINE	Display specified line in file
LOAD	Load an executable program
LOOP, ENDLOOP	TAKE file looping commands
MA, MD, MR, ML, MAP	Memory map commands (add, delete, reset, list, enable)
MC, MI	Connect simulated I/O port to a file
MS	Save memory block to a file
NEXT, CNEXT	Single step the program
PATCH	Change an assembly instruction
PAUSE	Stop TAKE file execution
PINC, PIND, PINL	Connect an input file to an interrupt pin
PROMPT	Change Command Window prompt
QUIT	Exit debugger
REALTIME	Update debugger in realtime
RELOAD	Reload program
RESET	Reset target system
RESTART, REST	Reset PC to program entry point
RETURN, RET	Return to function's caller
RUN	Run the program

 Table 8.
 Supported Commands



Command	Command Description	
RUNB	Run the program counting cycles	
RUNF	Disconnect from target system	
SCONFIG	Load workspace	
SLOAD	Load symbol table	
SOUND	Enable error beeping	
SSAVE	Save workspace	
STEP, CSTEP	Single step to program	
STEPCYCLE	Step one cycle at a time	
STOPMODE	Update the debugger after halting	
SYSTEM	Execute OS command	
TAKE	Execute a batch file	
UPDATE	Rate to refresh in realtime mode	
USE	Add directories to search	
VERSION	Display current debugger information	
WA, WD, WR	Watch commands (add, delete, reset)	

Table 8. Supported Commands

5.2 New Commands

The commands listed in the following table have been added. Their use and description can be found in the on-line help file for the Command Window plug-in.

Command	Command Description
ABORT	Terminates the processing of the current TAKE file.
ABORTALL	Terminates the processing of all TAKE files.
FILES	Displays a list of all the currently opened source files.
OUTPUTLINES	Set the maximum number of lines to display in the command output window.
STEPON	Enables single-stepping of the script file.
STEPOFF	Disables single-stepping of the script file.
TIME	Displays the current time and date.
IFPROC	Compares the target processors' device number to the parameter.
FC / FCX	Compare two files line by line and report any differences.

Table 9. New Commands

5.3 Command Differences

The commands listed in the following table behave in a different manner than their original TI Debugger counterpart. The differences have been minimized, but they should be considered during the porting of existing script files to the Code Composer Studio environment.

For commands that list a difference of 'Logical Expression', refer to the section called 'Logical Expression Issue' for details.

Command	Difference from TI Debugger Command
CNEXT	Steps through assembly code depending upon Code Composer Studio's mode.
CSTEP	Logical Expression. Will step through assembly code depending upon Code Composer Studio's mode.
DISP	Acts like the WA command does not accept filenames.
LOOP	Logical Expression.
MS	The default extension is .out instead of .obj, dumps COFF format only for .obj files; hex for all other extensions.
NEXT	Logical Expression.
RELOAD	Will also reload the symbols.
RUN	Logical Expression.
SCONFIG	Loads a Code Composer Studio workspace defaulting to 'init.wks.' Disabled within TAKE files.
SSAVE	Saves a Code Composer Studio workspace defaulting to 'init.wks.'
STEP	Logical Expression.
SYSTEM	'flag' is not used, output of command goes to a Code Composer Studio window.
WA	Ignores the window parameter.
WD	Ignores the window parameter, the index parameter must be changed to be the expression specified in the 'wa' command.
WR	Ignores the window parameter.

Table	10.	Command	Differences
IUNIC		O OIIIIIIIIIIII	

5.4 Unsupported Commands

The commands listed in the following table are not supported in the Code Composer Studio Command Window plug-in. Some of these commands may be implemented in the future but many are no longer useful within the Code Composer Studio GUI environment.

Command Types	TI Debugger Commands
Window Control	BORDER, COLOR, MOVE, SCOLOR, SIZE, WIN, ZOOM
Profile	PF, PQ, PR, PROFILE, SA, SD, SL, SR, VAA, VAC, VR
Window Display	ADDR, CALLS, DASM, FUNC, MEM
Mode Changing	ASM, C, MIX
Miscellaneous	SETF, WHATIS

Table 11. Unsupported Commands

6 Moving TI Debugger Scripts to Code Composer Studio

6.1 Translating to Code Composer Studio Command Window

Translating old TI Debugger command scripts to Code Composer Studio's Command Window scripts requires some modifications. While the changes have been kept to a minimum, some are required in most cases. The following steps should be followed:

- 1. Make a copy of all the script files.
- 2. Convert all register names to uppercase. This may be the largest change required. Note that in Code Composer Studio all register names are **uppercase**. This is true for GEL commands, watch expressions, etc.
- 3. Remove all unsupported commands as listed in the table "Unsupported Commands." This step is optional, when the Command Window detects one of these commands it will display a warning, but will not halt processing.
- 4. Look at all the commands listed in the table "Command Differences" for possible changes that may be required. In some cases you may need to change the method of doing something whereas in other cases no change will be required.
- 5. Test the modified script files. For regression tests it is very important that you validate that the changed script still performs as expected.

The following table illustrates the conversion process. The script on the left is from the old TI Debugger and its converted equivalent is on the right. All the elements that needed to be changed have been highlighted.

Old TI Debugger Script	New Command Window Script
RESET	RESET
MR	MR
MA 0,1000,RAM	MA 0,1000,RAM
LOAD sample.out	LOAD sample.out
BA trans	BA trans
BA exit	BA exit
BL	
WA al,x,,WINDOW1	WA Al,x
LOOP (pc != exit)	LOOP (PC != exit)
RUN	RUN
?pc	?PC
ENDLOOP	ENDLOOP

Table 12. Converting	TAKE Files
----------------------	------------

6.2 Logical Expression Issue

Several of the TI Debugger commands allow you to enter a parameter that will be used as a 'count' or a 'condition' when executing the command. For example, the STEP command allows an optional parameter of this type. Below are the possible interpretations of the parameter.

STEP		Step	the	target	once	2			
STEP	100	Step	the	target	100	time	5		
STEP	PC!=MAIN	Step	the	target	unti	l we	get	to	'main'

To determine a logical TRUE expression, the expression result must evaluate to '1' AND a logical operator must be used in the expression. The logical operators are "!", "==", "!=", "<", ">", ">=", "<=", "&&", and "||".

STEP 1		Count value of one.
STEP 1=	==1	Logical expression that is always TRUE.
STEP 1+	+1	Count value of two.
STEP 1+	+(1==0)	Intention is a count value of one, but will be interpreted
		as a logical expression since the two rules are true.

This typically is not a problem, yet you should be aware of the potential.

6.3 Other Porting Issues

- If the Command Window is saved as part of a Code Composer Studio workspace it will be reloaded when the workspace is loaded. The Command Window will then try to execute the init.cmd or siminit.cmd script file. The init.cmd file will execute prior to any GEL StartUp() functions that may also have been loaded.
- DLOG created files contain the same information as the old TI Debuggers, but the formatting
 may be slightly different. For example, spacing may be different or the directory-listing
 format may be different. This becomes an issue if you use a file compare utility to verify
 correctness of regression tests. Either have the file compare ignore spaces or re-verify the
 log file and use that as your new 'golden' file.
- GEL commands may be executed from the command window by using the '?' command and enclosing the entire GEL command within double quotes: ?"GEL_Run("PC!=main")"
- The following command for a C6x target returns FALSE '?B0==0x80000000' even if B0 is 0x80000000. The problem is correctly processed as '?(unsigned)B0==0x80000000'. This is due to a difference in expression analysis used between Code Composer Studio and the TI Debugger.
- The concept of Modes (C, ASM, MIX) doesn't exist in Code Composer Studio. The TI
 Debugger commands that switched modes have been removed. In addition, the TI
 Debugger commands that acted differently depending upon the current mode of the TI
 Debugger will now act according to Code Composer Studio's standard. For example, the
 STEP command would either step assembly code or C code based upon the mode of C or
 ASM, now its based upon Code Composer Studio's mode set in the View/Mixed Source
 menu.

- The D_OPTIONS environment variable is not supported.
- The D_DIR environment variable is used. Therefore, during startup of the Command Window all the directories in the D_DIR environment variable will be searched if necessary to locate the 'init.cmd' file. Be aware that other TI Debuggers may have already defined it.

7 Conclusion

Moving to Code Composer Studio from the TI Debugger requires some changes to both command entry and script execution. While the Command Window eases some of these required changes, it does not eliminate them.

For command line entry the user has three options; use the Command Window, use the GEL command line, use GUI input. Your choice will depend upon what you are most efficient in using.

For script files the user has three basic options; convert the script files to GEL scripts, convert the script files to Command Window scripts, or a combination of the two. Users with many legacy script files may prefer to use the Command Window approach to ease conversion and relearning.

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