In Gromacs 4.x.x setting the environment variable GMX_NO_CREDITS made gromacs suppress the credits section written to the terminal. This no longer works in gmx5-b1.

Related to that, I find the structure of the credit section in gmx5-b1 less organized. I realize this rather subjective and possibly only because I’m used to it. But in my opinion it was due to the centered text of the credit section more clear where a new gromacs command was executed, when scrolling back in a terminal.

Compare old:

```
14:01:09@GMX5 grompp -h
 :) G R O M A C S (-:  
Groningen Machine for Chemical Simulation
 :) VERSION 4.6.3 (-:  
Contributions from Mark Abraham, Emile Apol, Rossen Apostolov, Herman J.C. Berendsen, Aldert van Buuren, Pär Bjelkmar, Rudi van Drunen, Anton Feenstra, Gerrit Groenhof, Christoph Junghans, Peter Kasson, Carsten Kutzner, Per Larsson, Pieter Meulenhoff, Teemu Murtola, Szilard Pall, Sander Pronk, Roland Schulz, Michael Shirts, Alfons Sijbers, Peter Tieleman, Berk Hess, David van der Spoel, and Erik Lindahl.

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check out http://www.gromacs.org for more information. 

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:) grompp (-:  
```

versus new:

```
13:51:36@GMX5 gmx grompp -h  
GROMACS: gmx grompp, VERSION 5.0-beta1  
GROMACS is written by:  
Emile Apol, Rossen Apostolov, Herman J.C. Berendsen,  
Aldert van Buuren, Pär Bjelkmar, Rudi van Drunen, Anton Feenstra,  
Gerrit Groenhof, Peter Kasson, Per Larsson, Magnus Lundborg, Pieter Meulenhoff, Teemu Murtola, Szilard Pall, Sander Pronk, Roland Schulz,  
Michael Shirts, Alfons Sijbers, Peter Tieleman,  
```
Christian Wennberg, Mark Abraham

Berk Hess, David van der Spoel, and Erik Lindahl.

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GROMACS:    gmx grompp, VERSION 5.0-beta1
Executable: /home/djong_01/software/gromacs-5.0-beta1/bin/gmx
Command line:
gmx grompp -h

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| #2 - 01/23/2014 04:48 PM - Teemu Murtola |
| - Related to Bug #1267: Add a GMX_NO_CREDITS variable to not show credits on every run added |

| #3 - 01/23/2014 04:56 PM - Teemu Murtola |
| - Category set to core library |
| - Assignee set to Djurre de Jong |

Please see linked issues for discussion, and my reply on gmx-users. The GMX_NO_CREDITS was added in 4.6.2 or 4.6.3 as a workaround for the fact that there was no way (except shell redirection) to suppress the output. So in 4.6.1 or earlier, there was no such option at all. In 5.0, -quiet suppresses all this output (and some more):-nocopyright suppresses just the copyright section. Why aren't these sufficient for your uses?

The structure of the credit section has also already changed since 5.0-beta1. Please check whether the new format is more to your liking.

Adding banners or other things that make the start of the commands clear would of course be possible, but somewhat contradictory to what people wanted in #1209. Many prefer compact output, so that it is not necessary to scroll so much; this also makes it easier to see where the commands are.

You can also just make your prompt stand out more. ;)

| #4 - 01/24/2014 09:25 AM - Djurre de Jong |
| I did not learn about the '-nocopyright' yet and didn't know '-quiet' now also suppresses the copyrights section (they do not show up with '-h' and/or '-hidden'?). That does the trick for me. Maybe some people would always like to switch the copyright section off, in that case an enviroment variable would be useful. |

I've had a look at the changes in the copyright section since gmx5-b1 and I think it is already an improvement. As I said before it is probably very subjective and if I'm the only one who thinks it should change, it is probably time to close this issue.
Djurre de Jong wrote:

I did not learn about the `-nocopyright` yet and didn't know `-quiet` now also suppresses the copyrights section (they do not show up with `-h` and/or `-hidden`?). That does the trick for me. Maybe some people would always like to switch the copyright section off, in that case an enviroment variable would be useful.

It does sound like a useful feature to have an environment variable. *nix tools would typically have an rc/settings file for such things, but we don't have one so the next best thing that can be set once and forgotten is an environment variable. Repeating a command line option every single time is a bit annoying - I know cause I've been using the -quiet -v combo for years.

I've had a look at the changes in the copyright section since gmx5-b1 and I think it is already an improvement. As I said before it is probably very subjective and if I'm the only one who thinks it should change, it is probably time to close this issue.

Actually, I agree with your initial comments. I will miss both the cool ":-) S C A M O R G (-:" and similar headers which gave GROMACS a fun and unique touch. Additionally, now that you mention, the centered header has actually been of tremendous help when scrolling through the often rather long terminal history.

Mark Abraham wrote:

I gave my opinion in the OP of #1208 - I think all of the credit-copyright-license information is line noise that contributes to people not reading the things that are useful. I would prefer the default to be much quieter, because much of the header information we have printed in past versions is not actually useful or necessary.

I do recall Teemu commenting in a relevant Gerrit patch that someone thought that some such output was useful, and at that time I could recall nobody else's comment to support that. I regret that I didn't follow that up at the time. I'm happy to construct a patch so that we default to "really quiet," which side-steps Djurre's issue. I suspect that's just a matter of defaulting -copyright to no rather than yes (or maybe -quiet the other way around).

Djurre de Jong wrote:

So it seems that the general feeling is that gromacs should be quiet(er) by default (inverting the default behavior of copyright) but that something that stands out makes scrolling back easier. Possibly adding Szilárd's beloved ":-) S C A M O R G (-:" to the first section would do that?

I've tried creating/contributing a patch, but unfamiliarity with the code and gerrit have made that unsuccessful so far. If this would be easy for you, Mark, like you seem to imply, I would greatly appreciate that :-)

11/25/2015
What I originally implemented was that the copyright was never printed, but then Peter Kasson requested that it should be put back by default, since this is scientific software, and the authors should get credit for it. I don't care what is the outcome of this discussion (after all, I don't use the code much any longer), but I really have no interest in acting as a broker between conflicting views here. My only personal view from my past experiences is that there should be an option to turn off all non-critical output, and that is what -quiet currently does (or at least, does better than what it used to do in the past; tool-specific output is still there). I can review any implementation for technical correctness and potential issues, but you will need to agree with all the interested parties what is actually the desired behavior here.

As an alternative to an environment variable, it should now also be relative simple to use something like alias gmx='gmx -nocopyright' (I know that this doesn't cover all the potential uses, but it's not perfect to litter the user's environment with dozens of Gromacs-specific environment variables, either…).

As an alternative to an environment variable, it should now also be relative simple to use something like alias gmx='gmx -nocopyright' (I know that this doesn't cover all the potential uses, but it's not perfect to litter the user's environment with dozens of Gromacs-specific environment variables, either…).

That's a nice trick. ima .bashrc that one on day 0 ;)

I'm not sorry for not following up on this one. This is in part because there doesn't seem to be a real solution in this one. Given the different flexible solutions Teemu has suggested and the apparent lack of broad support of making gromacs silent by default, I propose to close this issue. (Can I do that?…)

Based on the suggestion of the author (and 2 month of no further comments prior to the suggestion), I close the issue.