

**NAME**

go – tool for managing Go source code

**DESCRIPTION**

The Go path is used to resolve import statements. It is implemented by and documented in the `go/build` package.

The `GOPATH` environment variable lists places to look for Go code. On Unix, the value is a colon-separated string. On Windows, the value is a semicolon-separated string. On Plan 9, the value is a list.

`GOPATH` must be set to build and install packages outside the standard Go tree.

Each directory listed in `GOPATH` must have a prescribed structure:

The `src/` directory holds source code. The path below 'src' determines the import path or executable name.

The `pkg/` directory holds installed package objects. As in the Go tree, each target operating system and architecture pair has its own subdirectory of `pkg/GOOS_GOARCH`.

If `DIR` is a directory listed in the `GOPATH`, a package with source in `DIR/src/foo/bar` can be imported as "foo/bar" and has its compiled form installed to "DIR/pkg/GOOS\_GOARCH/foo/bar.a".

The `bin/` directory holds compiled commands. Each command is named for its source directory, but only the final element, not the entire path. That is, the command with source in `DIR/src/foo/quux` is installed into `DIR/bin/quux`, not `DIR/bin/foo/quux`. The `foo/` is stripped so that you can add `DIR/bin` to your `PATH` to get at the installed commands. If the `GOBIN` environment variable is set, commands are installed to the directory it names instead of `DIR/bin`.

Here's an example directory layout:

```
GOPATH=/home/user/gocode

/home/user/gocode/
  src/
    foo/
      bar/                (go code in package bar)
        x.go
      quux/               (go code in package main)
        y.go
  bin/
    quux                  (installed command)
  pkg/
    linux_amd64/
      foo/
        bar.a             (installed package object)
```

Go searches each directory listed in `GOPATH` to find source code, but new packages are always downloaded into the first directory in the list.

**AUTHOR**

This manual page was written by Michael Stapelberg <stapelberg@debian.org>, for the Debian project (and may be used by others).