

lftp 2.0 and later support loading modules (shared objects) at runtime. Use command 'module' to load a module.

It also supports loading certain modules (some of protocols and commands) automatically on demand. To compile modular lftp use:

```
configure --with-modules
```

You will need GCC and ELF platform (linux, freebsd-3.x, solaris, irix etc).

Below are the technical details.

Module is a shared object, after loading it with `dlopen(3)` lftp does `dlsym("module_init")` and calls this function with parameters `argc`, `argv`:

```
extern "C"  
void module_init(int argc, const char * const *argv);
```

The `argv` vector contains the arguments passed to 'module' command after module name. In case of loading module on demand it is empty.

Note: function `_init` of a module is called automatically by `dlopen`. It can execute constructors if the module is properly compiled with 'gcc -shared'.

To load modules on demand lftp uses protocol or command name to find module file. For protocols it looks for `proto-<PROTOCOL>.so` and for commands `-- cmd-<COMMAND>.so`. The modules register the protocols and commands they provide with functions `FileAccess::Register` and `CmdExec::RegisterCommand`.

lftp searches module for any protocol specified in URL in open command, and only for certain compile time defined set of commands -- the commands that have `NULL` instead of function pointer in command table in `commands.cc`.

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