

# Memory based access to definition/sample files

From version 0.16.0 the definition and sample files used by ecCodes engine to decode all kind of messages can be built in to the library (embedded) providing a performance improvement by significantly reducing access to the filesystem.

This feature is called MEMFS (**MEM**ory **F**ile**S**ystem) and can be enabled at configuration time (when you invoke cmake) by:

```
cmake /path/to/src -DENABLE_MEMFS=ON
```

This will take longer to compile and the resulting library will be larger but whenever a definition file (\*.def or \*.table) or a sample file (\*.tmpl) is accessed, its contents will be fetched from memory and no access to the file system will be made.

If you invoke the codes\_info tool with this configuration, the paths reported will contain the prefix "/MEMFS/".

Please note that once ecCodes is built in this mode, any subsequent changes to the installed definition/sample files will NOT be picked up