

# Recursive Make dependency Problem

How does recursive make lead to broken dependencies and how can we fix it?

# Recursive Make Considered Harmful

- Miller, P.A. (1998), *Recursive Make Considered Harmful*, AUUGN Journal of AUUG Inc., 19(1), pp 14-25.
- Why is recursive make a problem?
- Why are the traditional solutions bad?
- The merits of using a whole-project Makefile.

# Critique

- Only used purely artificial, single tests to see if his ideas were correct.
- He doesn't try out his conclusions on any of the projects which gave him the original ideas.
- Claims that “we have been misusing make for 20 years” and that the problem is rarely mentioned, but also claims there are conventions for filenames in his solution.

# Conclusion

- The solution presented is unproven conjecture.
- The ideas seem to be sound.
- He makes the assumption that bad Makefiles are the problem, not Make.