

WSL Cheat Sheet

Checking WSL Installation

1. List Installed Distributions:

```
wsl --list --all
```

2. List Running Distributions:

```
wsl --list --running
```

3. Check Available Online Distributions:

```
wsl --list --online
```

4. Check WSL Version:

```
wsl --list --verbose
```

5. Check if WSL Feature is Enabled:

```
dism.exe /Online /Get-Feature /All | find "Microsoft-Windows-Subsystem-Linux"
```

Installing a New Distribution

1. Install a Distribution:

(Replace `<distro-name>` with the name of the distribution, e.g., `Ubuntu`.)

```
wsl --install -d <distro-name>
```

Uninstalling a Distribution

1. Unregister (Uninstall) a Distribution:

```
wsl --unregister <distro-name>
```

2. Check for Remaining Files:

- Path: `C:\\Users\\<your-username>\\AppData\\Local\\Packages\\<distro-folder>\\LocalState\\`
- Ensure no `.vhdx` files remain.

Uninstalling WSL Completely

1. Remove Installed Distributions:

- Go to **Settings** → **Apps** → **Apps & Features** and uninstall each distribution.

2. Disable WSL Feature:

- Open **Windows Features** (`optionalfeatures.exe`).
- Uncheck **Windows Subsystem for Linux** and **Virtual Machine Platform** (if applicable).

3. Remove WSL Kernel Update:

- Go to **Settings** → **Apps** → **Apps & Features** and uninstall **Windows Subsystem for Linux Update**.

Starting WSL

1. Open a Distribution:

```
wsl -d <distro-name>
```

2. Open from Start Menu:

- Search for the distribution (e.g., Debian, Ubuntu) in the Start Menu.

Logging Out of WSL

1. Logout Command:

or

```
exit
```

```
logout
```

Terminating WSL

1. Terminate a Running Distribution:

```
wsl --terminate <distro-name>
```

Additional Tips

- To update your WSL kernel manually, you can check [Microsoft's WSL documentation](#) for the latest version.
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