

ROS Indigo Cheatsheet

Filesystem Management Tools

rospack	A tool for inspecting packages .
rospack profile	Fixes path and pluginlib problems.
roscd	Change directory to a package.
rospd/rostd	Pushd equivalent for ROS .
rosls	Lists package or stack information.
rostd	Open requested ROS file in a text editor.
roscp	Copy a file from one place to another.
roscdep	Installs package system dependencies.
roswtf	Displays a errors and warnings about a running ROS system or launch file.
catkin_create_pkg	Creates a new ROS stack.
wstool	Manage many repos in workspace.
catkin_make	Builds a ROS catkin workspace.
rqt_dep	Displays package structure and dependencies.

Usage:

```
$ rospack find [package]
$ roscd [package[/subdir]]
$ rospd [package[/subdir] | +N | -N]
$ rostd
$ rosls [package[/subdir]]
$ rostd [package] [file]
$ roscp [package] [file] [destination]
$ roscdep install [package]
$ roswtf or roswtf [file]
$ catkin_create_pkg [package_name] [depend1]..[dependN]
$ wstool [init | set | update]
$ catkin_make
$ rqt_dep [options]
```

Start-up and Process Launch Tools

roscore

The basis [nodes](#) and programs for ROS-based systems. A roscore must be running for ROS nodes to communicate.

Usage:

```
$ roscore
```

roslaunch

Runs a ROS package's executable with minimal typing.

Usage:

```
$ roslaunch package_name executable_name
```

Example (runs [turtlesim](#)):

```
$ roslaunch turtlesim turtlesim_node
```

roslaunch

Starts a roscore (if needed), [local nodes](#), [remote nodes](#) via SSH, and sets parameter server [parameters](#).

Examples:

```
Launch a file in a package:
$ roslaunch package_name file_name.launch
Launch on a different port:
$ roslaunch -p 1234 package_name file_name.launch
Launch on the local nodes:
$ roslaunch --local package_name file_name.launch
```

Introspection and Command Tools

roscd

Displays debugging information about ROS nodes, including publications, subscriptions and connections.

Commands:

roscd ping	Test connectivity to node.
roscd list	List active nodes.
roscd info	Print information about a node.
roscd machine	List nodes running on a machine.
roscd kill	Kill a running node.

Examples:

```
Kill all nodes:
$ roscd kill -a
List nodes on a machine:
$ roscd machine aqy.local
Ping all nodes:
$ roscd ping --all
```

rostopic

A tool for displaying information about ROS [topics](#), including publishers, subscribers, publishing rate, and messages.

Commands:

rostopic bw	Display bandwidth used by topic.
rostopic echo	Print messages to screen.
rostopic find	Find topics by type.
rostopic hz	Display publishing rate of topic.
rostopic info	Print information about an active topic.
rostopic list	List all published topics.
rostopic pub	Publish data to topic.
rostopic type	Print topic type.

Examples:

```
Publish hello at 10 Hz:
$ rostopic pub -r 10 /topic_name std_msgs/String hello
Clear the screen after each message is published:
$ rostopic echo -c /topic_name
Display messages that match a given Python expression:
$ rostopic echo --filter "m.data=='foo'" /topic_name
Pipe the output of rostopic to rosmmsg to view the msg type:
$ rostopic type /topic_name | rosmmsg show
```

rosservice

A tool for listing and querying ROS services.

Commands:

rosservice list	Print information about active services.
rosservice node	Print name of node providing a service.
rosservice call	Call the service with the given args.
rosservice args	List the arguments of a service.
rosservice type	Print the service type.
rosservice uri	Print the service ROSRPC uri.
rosservice find	Find services by service type.

Examples:

```
Call a service from the command-line:
$ rosservice call /add_two_ints 1 2
Pipe the output of rosservice to rosrsv to view the srv type:
$ rosservice type add_two_ints | rosrsv show
Display all services of a particular type:
$ rosservice find rospy_tutorials/AddTwoInts
```

roscd

A tool for getting and setting ROS [parameters](#) on the parameter server using YAML-encoded files.

Commands:

roscd set	Set a parameter.
roscd get	Get a parameter.
roscd load	Load parameters from a file.
roscd dump	Dump parameters to a file.
roscd delete	Delete a parameter.
roscd list	List parameter names.

Examples:

```
List all the parameters in a namespace:
$ roscd list /namespace
Setting a list with one as a string, integer, and float:
$ roscd set /foo "[1', 1, 1.0]"
Dump only the parameters in a specific namespace to file:
$ roscd dump dump.yaml /namespace
```

rosmmsg/rossrv

Displays Message/Service (msg/srv) data structure definitions.

Commands:

rosmmsg show	Display the fields in the msg/srv.
rosmmsg list	Display names of all msg/srv.
rosmmsg md5	Display the msg/srv md5 sum.
rosmmsg package	List all the msg/srv in a package.
rosmmsg packages	List all packages containing the msg/srv.

Examples:

```
Display the Pose msg:
$ rosmmsg show Pose
List the messages in the nav_msgs package:
$ rosmmsg package nav_msgs
List the packages using sensor_msgs/CameraInfo:
$ rosmmsg packages sensor_msgs/CameraInfo
```

Logging Tools

roscd

A set of tools for recording and playing back of ROS topics.

Commands:

roscd record	Record a bag file with specified topics.
roscd play	Play content of one or more bag files.
roscd compress	Compress one or more bag files.
roscd decompress	Decompress one or more bag files.
roscd filter	Filter the contents of the bag.

Examples:

```
Record select topics:
$ roscd record topic1 topic2
Replay all messages without waiting:
$ roscd play -a demo.log.bag
Replay several bag files at once:
$ roscd play demo1.bag demo2.bag
```

tf_echo

A tool that prints the information about a particular transformation between a source_frame and a target_frame.

Usage:

```
$ roslaunch tf tf_echo <source_frame> <target_frame>
```

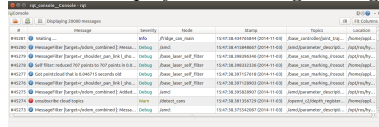
Examples:

```
To echo the transform between /map and /odom:
$ roslaunch tf tf_echo /map /odom
```

Logging Tools

rqt_console

A tool to display and filtering messages published on rosout.

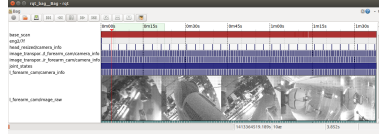


Usage:

```
$ rqt_console
```

rqt_bag

A tool for visualizing, inspecting, and replaying bag files.



Usage, viewing:

```
$ rqt_bag bag_file.bag
```

Usage, bagging:

```
$ rqt_bag *press the big red record button.*
```

rqt_logger_level

Change the logger level of ROS nodes. This will increase or decrease the information they log to the screen and rqt_console.

Usage:

```
viewing $ rqt_logger_level
```

Introspection & Command Tools

rqt_topic

A tool for viewing published topics in real time.

Usage:

```
$ rqt
Plugin Menu->Topic->Topic Monitor
```

rqt_msg, rqt_srv, and rqt_action

A tool for viewing available msgs, srvs, and actions.

Usage:

```
$ rqt
Plugin Menu->Topic->Message Type Browser
Plugin Menu->Service->Service Type Browser
Plugin Menu->Action->Action Type Browser
```

rqt_top

A tool for ROS specific process monitoring.

Usage:

```
$ rqt
Plugin Menu->Introspection->Process Monitor
```

rqt_publisher, and rqt_service_caller

Tools for publishing messages and calling services.

Usage:

```
$ rqt
Plugin Menu->Topic->Message Publisher
Plugin Menu->Service->Service Caller
```

rqt_reconfigure

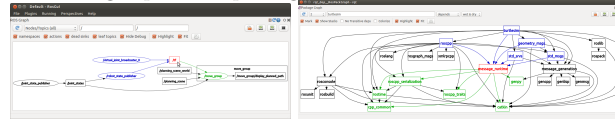
A tool for dynamically reconfiguring ROS parameters.

Usage:

```
$ rqt
Plugin Menu->Configuration->Dynamic Reconfigure
```

rqt_graph, and rqt_dep

Tools for displaying graphs of running ROS nodes with connecting topics and package dependencies respectively.



Usage:

```
$ rqt_graph
$rqt_dep
```

Development Environments

rqt_shell, and rqt_py_console

Two tools for accessing an xterm shell and python console respectively.

Usage:

```
$ rqt
Plugin Menu->Miscellaneous Tools->Shell
Plugin Menu->Miscellaneous Tools->Python Console
```

Data Visualization Tools

view_frames

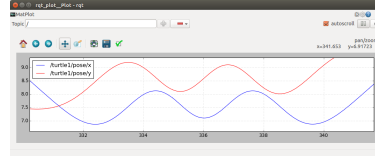
A tool for visualizing the full tree of coordinate transforms.

Usage:

```
$ roslaunch tf2_tools view_frames.py
$ evince frames.pdf
```

rqt_plot

A tool for plotting data from ROS topic fields.

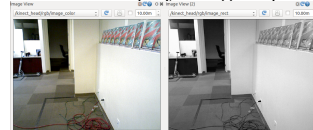


Examples:

```
To graph the data in different plots:
$rqt_plot /topic1/field1 /topic2/field2
To graph the data all on the same plot:
$rqt_plot /topic1/field1,/topic2/field2
To graph multiple fields of a message:
$rqt_plot /topic1/field1:field2:field3
```

rqt_image_view

A tool to display image topics.



Usage:

```
$ rqt_image_view
```

ROS Indigo Catkin Workspaces

Create a catkin workspace

Setup and use a new catkin workspace from scratch.

Example:

```
$ source /opt/ros/indigo/setup.bash
$ mkdir -p ~/catkin_ws/src
$ cd ~/catkin_ws/src
$ catkin_init_workspace
```

Checkout an existing ROS package

Get a local copy of the code for an existing package and keep it up to date using [wstool](#).

Examples:

```
$ cd ~/catkin_ws/src
$ wstool init
$ wstool set tut --git git://github.com/ros/ros_tutorials.git
$ wstool update
```

Create a new catkin ROS package

Create a new ROS catkin package in an existing workspace with [catkin create package](#).

Usage:

```
$ catkin_create_pkg <package_name> [depend1] [depend2]
```

Example:

```
$ cd ~/catkin_ws/src
$ catkin_create_pkg tutorials std_msgs roscpp
```

Build all packages in a workspace

Use [catkin make](#) to build all the packages in the workspace and then source the setup.bash to add the workspace to the [ROS_PACKAGE_PATH](#).

Examples:

```
$ cd ~/catkin_ws
$ ~/catkin_make
$ source devel/setup.bash
```

CMakeLists.txt

Your CMakeLists.txt file MUST follow this format otherwise your packages will not build correctly.

```
cmake_minimum_required() Specify the name of the package
project() Project name which can refer as ${PROJECT_NAME}
find_package() Find other packages needed for build
catkin_package() Specify package build info export
```

Build Executables and Libraries:

Use CMake function to build executable and library targets. These macro should call after [catkin_package\(\)](#) to use

```
catkin_* variables.
include_directories(include ${catkin_INCLUDE_DIRS})
add_executable(hoge src/hoge.cpp)
add_library(fuga src/fuga.cpp)
target_link_libraries(hoge fuga ${catkin_LIBRARIES})
```

Message generation:

There are `add_{message,service,action}_files()` macros to handle messages, services and actions respectively. They must call before [catkin_package\(\)](#)

```
find_package(catkin COMPONENTS message_generation std_msgs)
add_message_files(FILES Message1.msg)
generate_messages(DEPENDENCIES std_msgs)
catkin_package(CATKIN_DEPENDS message_runtime)
```

If your package builds messages as well as executables that use them, you need to create an explicit dependency.

```
add_dependencies(hoge ${PROJECT_NAME}_generate_messages_cpp)
```
