ROS 2 Cheats Sheet

All ROS 2 CLI tools start with the prefix 'ros2' followed by a verb and (possibly) a sub-verb. For any tool, the documentation is accessible with,

\$ ros2 verb - -help

and similarly for sub-verb documentation,

\$ ros2 verb sub_verb -h

action Also allows to manually send a goal and displays debugging information about action.

Sub-commands:

info Output information about an action.

list Output a list of action names.

send_goal Send an action goal.

show Output the action definition.

bag Allows to record/play topics to/from a rosbag. Sub-commands:

info Output information of a bag.

play Play a bag. record Record a bag.

Examples:

\$ ros2 info bag_name

\$ ros2 play bag_name

\$ ros2 record -a

component Various component related sub-commands. Sub-commands:

list Output a list of running containers and

components.

load Load a component into a container

node.

standalone Run a component into its own stan-

dalone container node.

types Output a list of components registered

in the ament index.

unload Unload a component from a container

node.

daemon Various daemon related sub-commands.

Sub-commands:

start Start the daemon if it isn't running.
status Output the status of the daemon.
stop Stop the daemon if it is running

extension_points List extension points.

extensions List extensions.

launch Allows to run a launch file in an arbitrary package without to cd there first.

Usage:

\$ ros2 launch <package> <launch-file> Example:

\$ ros2 launch demo_nodes_cpp add_two_ints.launch.py

lifecycle Various lifecycle related sub-commands. get list nodes set Sub-commands:

get Get lifecycle state for one or more nodes.

list Output a list of available transitions.

Output a list of nodes with lifecycle.

set Trigger lifecycle state transition.

msg Displays debugging information about messages. Sub-commands:

list Output a list of message types.

package Output a list of message types within a

given package.

packages Output a list of packages which contain

 ${\it messages.}$

show Output the message definition.

Examples:

\$ ros2 msg list

\$ ros2 msg packages

multicast Various multicast related sub-commands. Sub-commands:

receive Receive a single UDP multicast packet. send Send a single UDP multicast packet.

node Displays debugging information about nodes. Sub-commands:

info Output information about a node.

list Output a list of available nodes.

Examples:

\$ ros2 node info /talker

\$ ros2 node list

param Allows to manipulate parameters.

Sub-commands:

delete Delete parameter.
get Get parameter.

list Output a list of available parameters.

set Set parameter

Examples:

\$ ros2 param delete \talker \use_sim_time

\$ ros2 param get \talker \use_sim_time

\$ ros2 param list

\$ ros2 param set \talker \use_sim_time false

pkg Create a ros2 package or output package(s)-related information.

Sub-commands:

create a new ROS2 package.

executables Output a list of package specific exe-

cutables.

list Output a list of available packages.

prefix Output the prefix path of a package.

xml Output the information contained in

the package xml manifest.

Examples:

\$ ros2 pkg executables demo_nodes_cpp

\$ ros2 pkg list

\$ ros2 pkg prefix std_msgs
\$ ros2 pkg xml -t version

run Allows to run an executable in an arbitrary package without having to cd there first.

Usage:

\$ ros2 run <package> <executable>

Example:

\$ ros2 run demo_node_cpp talker

security Various security related sub-commands. Sub-commands:

create_key	Create key.
create_permission	Create keystore.
generate_artifacts	Create permission.
list_keys	Distribute key.
create_keystore	Generate keys and permission
	files from a list of identities and
	policy files.
distribute_key	Generate XML policy file from
	ROS graph data.
generate_policy	List keys.

service Allows to manually call a service and displays debugging information about services.

Sub-commands:

Call a service. call

Output a list of services of a given type. find

Output a list of service names. list

Output service's type. type

Examples:

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$ ros2 service call \
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/add_two_ints example_interfaces/AddTwoInts "a: 1, b: 2"

\$ ros2 service find rcl_interfaces/srv/ListParameters

\$ ros2 service list

\$ ros2 service type /talker/describe_parameters

Sub-commands:

list

package

packages show

test

topic A tool for displaying debug information about ROS topics, including publishers, subscribers, publishing rate, and messages.

Sub-commands:

bw	Display bandwidth used by topic.
delay	Display delay of topic from timestamp in header.
echo	Output messages of a given topic to screen.
find	Find topics of a given type type.
hz	Display publishing rate of topic.
info	Output information about a given topic.
list	Output list of active topics.
pub	Publish data to a topic.
type	Output topic's type.
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\$ ros2 topic bw \$ ros2 topic echo \$ ros2 topic hz