ROS 2 Cheats Sheet

Command Line Interface

All ROS 2 CLI tools start with the prefix 'ros2' followed by a command, a verb and (possibly) positional/optional arguments.

For any tool, the documentation is accessible with,

    $ ros2 **command** --help

and similarly for verb documentation,

    $ ros2 **command** verb -h

Similarly, auto-completion is available for all commands/verbs and most positional/optional arguments. E.g.,

    $ ros2 **command** [tab][tab]

Some of the examples below rely on:

ROS 2 demos package.

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action   Allows to manually send a goal and displays debugging information about actions.

Verbs:

info	Output information about an action.
list	Output a list of action names.
send_goal	Send an action goal.
show	Output the action definition.

Examples:

    $ ros2 action info /fibonacci
    $ ros2 action list
    $ ros2 action send_goal /fibonacci \
     action_tutorials/action/Fibonacci "order: 5"
    $ ros2 action show action_tutorials/action/Fibonacci

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bag   Allows to record/play topics to/from a rosbag.

Verbs:

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

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component   Various component related verbs.

Verbs:

list	Output a list of running containers and components.
load	Load a component into a container node.
standalone	Run a component into its own standalone container node.
types	Output a list of components registered in the ament index.
unload	Unload a component from a container node.

Examples:

    $ ros2 component list
    $ ros2 component load /ComponentManager \
     composition composition::Talker
    $ ros2 component types
    $ ros2 component unload /ComponentManager 1

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daemon   Various daemon related verbs.

Verbs:

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

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doctor   Alias: wtf (where's the fire).

A tool to check ROS setup and other potential issues such as network, package versions, rmw middleware etc.

Arguments:

–report/-r	Output report of all checks.
–report-fail/-rf	Output report of failed checks only.
–include-warning/-iw	Include warnings as failed checks.

Examples:

    $ ros2 doctor or $ ros2 wtf
    $ ros2 doctor -r
    $ ros2 doctor -rf
    $ ros2 doctor -iw
    $ ros2 doctor -iw -rf

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extension_points   List extension points.

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extensions   List extensions.

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interface   Various ROS interfaces (actions/topics/services)-related verbs. Interface type can be filtered with either of the following option, '--only-actions', '--only-msgs', '--only-srvs'.

Verbs:

list	List all interface types available.
package	Output a list of available interface types within one package.
packages	Output a list of packages that provide interfaces.
proto	Print the prototype (body) of an interfaces.
show	Output the interface definition.

Examples:

    $ ros2 interface list
    $ ros2 interface package std_msgs
    $ ros2 interface packages --only-msgs
    $ ros2 interface proto example_interfaces/srv/AddTwoInts
    $ ros2 interface show geometry_msgs/msg/Pose

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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

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lifecycle   Various lifecycle related verbs.

Verbs:

get	Get lifecycle state for one or more nodes.
list	Output a list of available transitions.
nodes	Output a list of nodes with lifecycle.
set	Trigger lifecycle state transition.

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msg   Displays debugging information about messages.

Verbs:

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 messages.
show	Output the message definition.

Examples:

    $ ros2 msg list
    $ ros2 msg package std_msgs
    $ ros2 msg packages
    $ ros2 msg show geometry_msgs/msg/Pose

multicast Various multicast related verbs.
Verbs:

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

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node Displays debugging information about nodes.
Verbs:

info   Output information about a node.
list   Output a list of available nodes.
Examples:

```
$ ros2 node info /talker
$ ros2 node list
```

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param Allows to manipulate parameters.
Verbs:

delete   Delete parameter.
dump   Dump the parameters of a given node in yaml format, either in terminal or in a file.
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
```

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

create   Create a new ROS2 package.
executables   Output a list of package specific executables.
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
```

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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
```

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security Various security related verbs.
Verbs:

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.
Examples (see sros2 package):

```
$ ros2 security create_key demo_keys /talker
$ ros2 security create_permission demo_keys /talker \
  policies/sample_policy.xml
$ ros2 security generate_artifacts
$ ros2 security create_keystore demo_keys
```

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

call   Call a service.
find   Output a list of services of a given type.
list   Output a list of service names.
type   Output service's type.
Examples:

```
$ ros2 service call /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
```

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srv Various srv related verbs.
Verbs:

list   Output a list of available service types.
package   Output a list of available service types within one package.
packages   Output a list of packages which contain services.
show   Output the service definition.

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test Run a ROS2 launch test.

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

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.
Examples:

```
$ ros2 topic bw /chatter
$ ros2 topic echo /chatter
$ ros2 topic find rcl_interfaces/msg/Log
$ ros2 topic hz /chatter
$ ros2 topic info /chatter
$ ros2 topic list
$ ros2 topic pub /chatter std_msgs/msg/String \
  'data: Hello ROS 2 world'
$ ros2 topic type /rosout
```