dbt

Commands Cheat Sheet

Main commands

Command	Description
dbt init*	Initializes a new dbt project
dbt build	Builds and tests all selected resources (models, seeds, snapshots, tests)
dbt clean*	Deletes artifacts present in the dbt project
dbt compile	Compiles (but does not run) the models in a project
dbt debug*	Debugs dbt connections and projects
dbt deps	Downloads dependencies for a project
dbt docs	Generates documentation for a Project
dbt list*	Lists resources defined in a dbt project
dbt parse*	Parses a project and writes detailed timing info
dbt run	Runs the models in a project
dbt seed	Loads CSV files into the database
dbt snapshot	Executes "snapshot" jobs defined in a project
dbt source	Provides tools for working with source data (including validating that sources are "fresh")
dbt test	Executes tests defined in a project
dbt rpc*	Runs an RPC server that clients can submit queries to
dbt run-operation	Runs arbitrary maintenance SQL against the database

*CLI Only

Global CLI Flags

Flag	Description
--version*	Returns information about the currently installed version of dbt.
--record-timing-info*	Saves performance profiling information to a file

*CLI Only

Other flags

Flag	Description
--help	Shows available commands and arguments
--vars	Supplies variables to the project
--full-refresh	Drops existing tables and recreates them
--show	Shows a sample of the loaded data in the terminal
--threads	Specifies the number of threads to use while executing models

dbt docs

generate	Generates your projects's documentation website. Use the --no-compile argument to skip re-compilation
serve	Starts a webserver on port 8000 to serve your documentation locally

Node selection

Syntax overview

command	arguments
run	--select (-s), --exclude, --selector, --defer
test	--select (-s), --exclude, --selector, --defer
seed	--select (-s), --exclude, --selector
snapshot	--select (-s), --exclude, --selector
list	--select (-s), --exclude, --selector, --resource-type
compile	--select (-s), --exclude, --selector
freshness	--select (-s), --exclude, --selector
build	--select (-s), --exclude, --selector, --resource-type, --defer

In earlier versions, the flag --models (-m) was used instead of --select. Those commands still support the --models flag for backwards compatibility.

Specifying resources

The --select flag accepts one or more arguments. Each argument can be one of compatibility.
- A packages name
- A model name
- A fully-qualified path to a directory of models
- A selection method (path:, tag:, config:, test_type:, test_name:)

Examples:
- $ dbt run --select my_dbt_project_name   - all models in your project
- $ dbt run --select my_dbt_model   - a specific model
- $ dbt run --select path.to.my.models   - all models in a specific directory
- $ dbt run --select my_package.some_model   - a specific model in a specific package
- $ dbt run --select tag:nightly   - models with the "nightly" tag
- $ dbt run --select path/to/models   - models contained in path/to/models
- $ dbt run --select path/to/my_model.sql   - a specific model by its path

Excluding models

dbt provides an --exclude flag with the same semantics as --select. Models specified with the --exclude flag will be removed from the set of models selected with --select.

Example:
- $ dbt run --select my_package.*+ --exclude my_package.a_big_model+

Graph operators

Plus operator(+)
- $ dbt run --select my_model+   - select my_model and all children
- $ dbt run --select +my_model   - select my_model and all parents
- $ dbt run --select +my_model+   - select my_model, and all of its parents and children

N-plus operator
- $ dbt run --select my_model+1   - select my_model and its first-degree children
- $ dbt run --select 2+my_model   - select my_model, its first-degree parents, and its second-degree parents ("grandparents")
- $ dbt run --select 3+my_model+4   - select my_model, its parents up to the 3rd degree, and its children down to the 4th degree

At operator(@)
- $ dbt run --models @my_model   - select my_model, its children, and the parents of its children

Star operator(*)
- $ dbt run --select finance.base.*   - run all of the models in models/finance/base

Methods

tag	source	path
package	config	test_type
test_name	state	exposure
metric	result	source_status

Set operators

Unions (space-delineated)
- $ dbt run --select +snowplow_sessions +fct_orders   - run snowplow_sessions, all ancestors of snowplow_sessions, fct_orders, and all ancestors of fct_orders)

Intersections (comma-separated)
- $ dbt run --select +snowplow_sessions,+fct_orders   - run all the common ancestors of snowplow_sessions and fct_orders
- $ dbt run --select marts.finance,tag:nightly   - run models that are in the marts/finance subdirectory and tagged nightly