

Extending kubectl with plugins

Standalone and Krew plugins

What Are kubectl Plugins?

kubectl plugins are CLI extensions that allow you to add custom commands to kubectl, the Kubernetes command-line tool.

They provide a way to extend kubectl's functionality without modifying its source code.

Types of Plugins

There are two main types:

Standalone Plugins - Custom executables that follow the naming convention.

Krew Plugins - Managed using the krew plugin manager, a centralized repository of useful, community-contributed plugins.

What is Krew?

Krew is the plugin manager for kubectl command-line tool.

Krew helps you:

- discover kubectl plugins,
- install them on your machine,
- and keep the installed plugins up-to-date.

As of April 2025 there are 293 kubectl plugins currently distributed on Krew.

Plugins

Krew works across all major platforms, like macOS, Linux and Windows.

Krew also helps kubectl plugin developers: You can package and distribute your plugins on multiple platforms easily and makes them discoverable through a centralized plugin repository with Krew.

Plugins

Partial list of the 290+ Krew plugins

Name	Description
access-matrix	Show an RBAC access matrix for server resources
accurate	Manage Accurate, a multi-tenancy controller
advise-policy	Suggests PodSecurityPolicies and OPA Policies for cluster.
advise-psp	Suggests PodSecurityPolicies for cluster.
aks	Interact with and debug AKS clusters
alfred	AI-powered Kubernetes assistant
allctx	Run commands on contexts in your kubeconfig
apidocs	Research API resources in a tree view format.
apparmor-manager	Manage AppArmor profiles for cluster.
applier	Apply 'go text/template' files on k8s.
argo-apps-viz	Visualizes ArgoCD for documentation and teaching.
armadactl	Command line utility to submit many jobs to armada
assert	Assert Kubernetes resources
auth-proxy	Authentication proxy to a pod or service
autons	Automatic namespace detection
aws-auth	Manage aws-auth ConfigMap
azad-proxy	Generate and handle authentication for azad-kube-proxy
bd-xray	Run Black Duck Image Scans

Refer to <https://krew.sigs.k8s.io/> for additional information.