Terraform CLI Cheat Sheet

Apply Resources

Show proposed changes that an apply would perform terraform plan

Apply all terraform changes terraform apply

Apply a specific terraform resource terraform apply -target=<resource> i.e. terraform apply -target=aws_db_instance.cmdb

Use a variables file with your terraform apply/plan terraform apply -var-file=<path_to_vars_file>

Modules/Providers

Initialize Terraform backend & download specified plugins/modules terraform init

Clear out old modules/plugins & re-initialize terraform rm -rf ./.terraform/ && terraform init

Pull modules into your .terraform directory terraform get -update=true

Show terraform providers terraform providers

State

Pull the remote state terraform state pull > terraform.tfstate

Push local state to remote state (uses file: terraform.tfstate) terraform state push

Update local state file against real resources terraform refresh

Tell Terraform a resource has been moved into a module terraform state mv <resource> <module> i.e. terraform state mv aws_db_instance.cmdb module.mydb

Import an existing resource into terraform state # Note that this is different syntax for every resource terraform import <resource> i.e. terraform import aws_instance.web1 i-abcd1234

Destroy Resources

Destroy all terraform resources terraform destroy

Destroy select terraform resources terraform destroy -target=<resource> i.e. terraform destroy -target=aws_db_instance.cmdb

Dry run terraform destroy terraform plan -destroy

Mark a resource as tainted and force a destroy/recreate terraform taint <resource>

Mark a tainted resource as clean terraform untaint <resource>

Debug

Show current terraform resources terraform show

Validate your terraform code terraform validate

Show all terraform outputs terraform output

Test resource interpolation (uses your state file)
echo '<resource_expression>' | terraform console
i.e. echo 'aws_db_instance.cmdb.allocated_storage ==
"500" ? "lots" : "little"' | terraform console

Visualize Terraform Dependency Graph (requires graphviz) terraform graph | dot -Tsvg > graph.svg

Workspaces

Create a terraform workspace terraform workspace new <workspace>

Use a terraform workspace
terraform workspace select <workspace>

List terraform workspaces terraform workspace list

Show current terraform workspace terraform workspace show