Terraform Cheat Sheet

Basic Commands

- **terraform init: Initializes a new or existing Terraform configuration.**

- Prepares the working directory for other Terraform commands.

- Downloads the necessary provider plugins.

- **terraform plan: Creates an execution plan.**

- Shows what actions Terraform will take to achieve the desired state.

- Use -out=<plan> to save the plan to a file for later use.

- **terraform apply: Applies the changes required to reach the desired state of the configuration.**

- Use -auto-approve to skip interactive approval.

- **terraform destroy: Destroys the Terraform-managed infrastructure.**

- Use -auto-approve to skip interactive approval.

- **terraform validate: Validates the Terraform files for syntax and logical errors.**

- **terraform fmt: Formats the Terraform files to a canonical style.**

- **terraform show: Displays the state or plan file in a human-readable format.**

- terraform show <statefile>: Display a state file.

- terraform show <planfile>: Display a plan file.

- **terraform output: Reads and outputs the variables from the state file.**

- terraform output <variable_name>: Displays the value of a specific output variable.

Configuration Files

- **main.tf: Main configuration file where resources are defined.**

- **variables.tf: File to define input variables.**

- **outputs.tf: File to define output values.**

- **terraform.tfvars: File to define the values of the variables.**

Common Blocks

- **Provider Block: Defines the provider (e.g., AWS, Azure, GCP).**

```
provider "aws" {
  region = "us-west-2"
}
```

- **Resource Block: Defines a resource to be managed.**

```
resource "aws_instance" "example" {
  ami           = "ami-0c55b159cbfafe1f0"
  instance_type = "t2.micro"
}
```

- **Variable Block: Defines input variables.**

```
variable "instance_type" {
  description = "Type of EC2 instance"
  type        = string
  default     = "t2.micro"
}
```

- **Output Block**: Defines output values.

```
output "instance_id" {
  value = aws_instance.example.id
}
```

State Management

- **terraform state list**: Lists all resources in the state file.

- **terraform state show <resource>**: Shows detailed information about a resource in the state file.

- **terraform state mv <source> <destination>**: Moves a resource from one state to another.

- **terraform state rm <resource>**: Removes a resource from the state file.

- **terraform state pull**: Retrieves the state from its remote location and outputs it to stdout.

- **terraform state push**: Updates remote state from the local state file.

Workspaces

- **terraform workspace list**: Lists all existing workspaces.

- **terraform workspace show**: Shows the current workspace.

- **terraform workspace new <name>**: Creates a new workspace.

- **terraform workspace select <name>**: Switches to another workspace.

- **terraform workspace delete <name>**: Deletes a workspace.

Modules

- **Module Block: Calls a reusable module.**

```
module "vpc" {
  source = "terraform-aws-modules/vpc/aws"
  version = "2.21.0"

  name = "my-vpc"
  cidr = "10.0.0.0/16"

  azs             = ["us-west-2a", "us-west-2b", "us-west-2c"]
  private_subnets = ["10.0.1.0/24", "10.0.2.0/24", "10.0.3.0/24"]
  public_subnets  = ["10.0.101.0/24", "10.0.102.0/24", "10.0.103.0/24"]

  tags = {
    Terraform = "true"
    Environment = "dev"
  }
}
```

Version Control

- **.terraform.lock.hcl: File to lock the provider versions.**

- **terraform version: Shows the Terraform version.**

- **terraform providers: Lists all the providers used in the configuration.**

Environment Variables

- **TF_VAR_name: Sets a variable (e.g., export TF_VAR_region=us-west-2).**

- **TF_LOG: Sets the log level (e.g., export TF_LOG=DEBUG).**

- **TF_CLI_ARGS: Appends extra CLI arguments to Terraform commands.**

Terraform Cloud and Backend

- **Backend Configuration: Defines where the state file is stored.**

```
terraform {
  backend "s3" {
    bucket = "my-terraform-state"
    key    = "path/to/my/key"
    region = "us-west-2"
  }
}
```

- **Terraform Cloud: Using Terraform Cloud as the backend.**

```
terraform {
  backend "remote" {
    organization = "my-org"

    workspaces {
      name = "my-workspace"
    }
  }
}
```