



# Make Awesome CLIs in Go using Cobra

Create & Distribute Cross-platform CLI App in Go

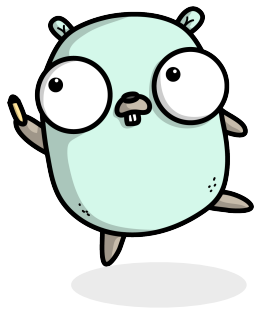


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# ZenikaLille





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01

# Context

```
$ find $MYPROJ -type f -name "*.go" | grep -Ev '(vendor|test)' | xargs -IA wc -l A | sort -nr | head -3
```

```
142 /Users/lktslionel/Workspaces/personal/golang/src/github.com/lktslionel/envctl/env/repository.go
110 /Users/lktslionel/Workspaces/personal/golang/src/github.com/lktslionel/awssel/env/ssm_store.go
83 /Users/lktslionel/Workspaces/personal/golang/src/github.com/lktslionel/awssel/cmd/load.go
```



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Command

Line

Interface



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Command

Language

Interpreter



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“

**CLI** is a means of interacting with a program where the user issues commands to the program in the form of successive lines of text ...

”

— Wikipedia



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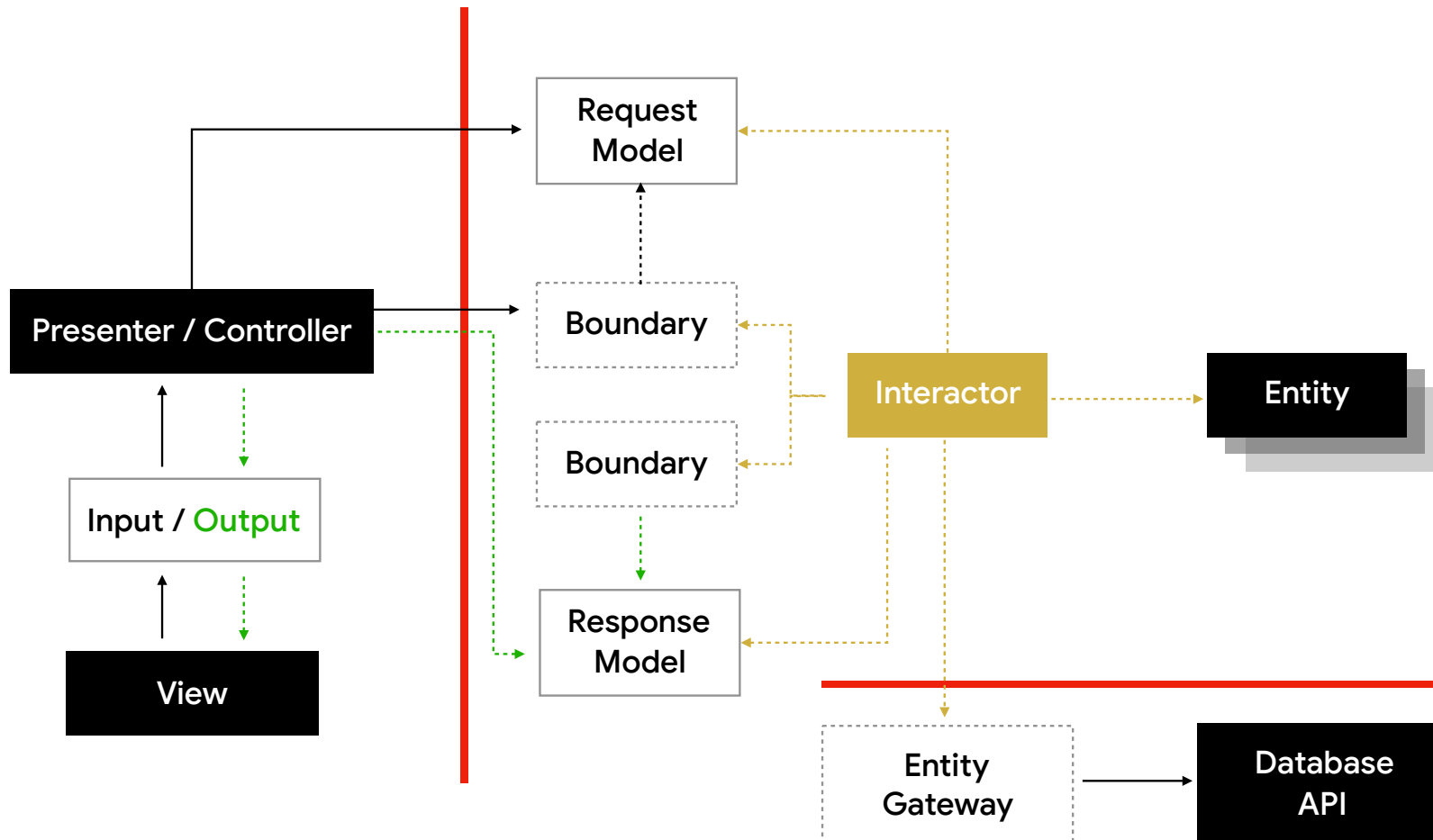
“

CLI is a means of **interacting** with a **program** where the user issues **commands** to the program in the form of successive **lines** of text ...

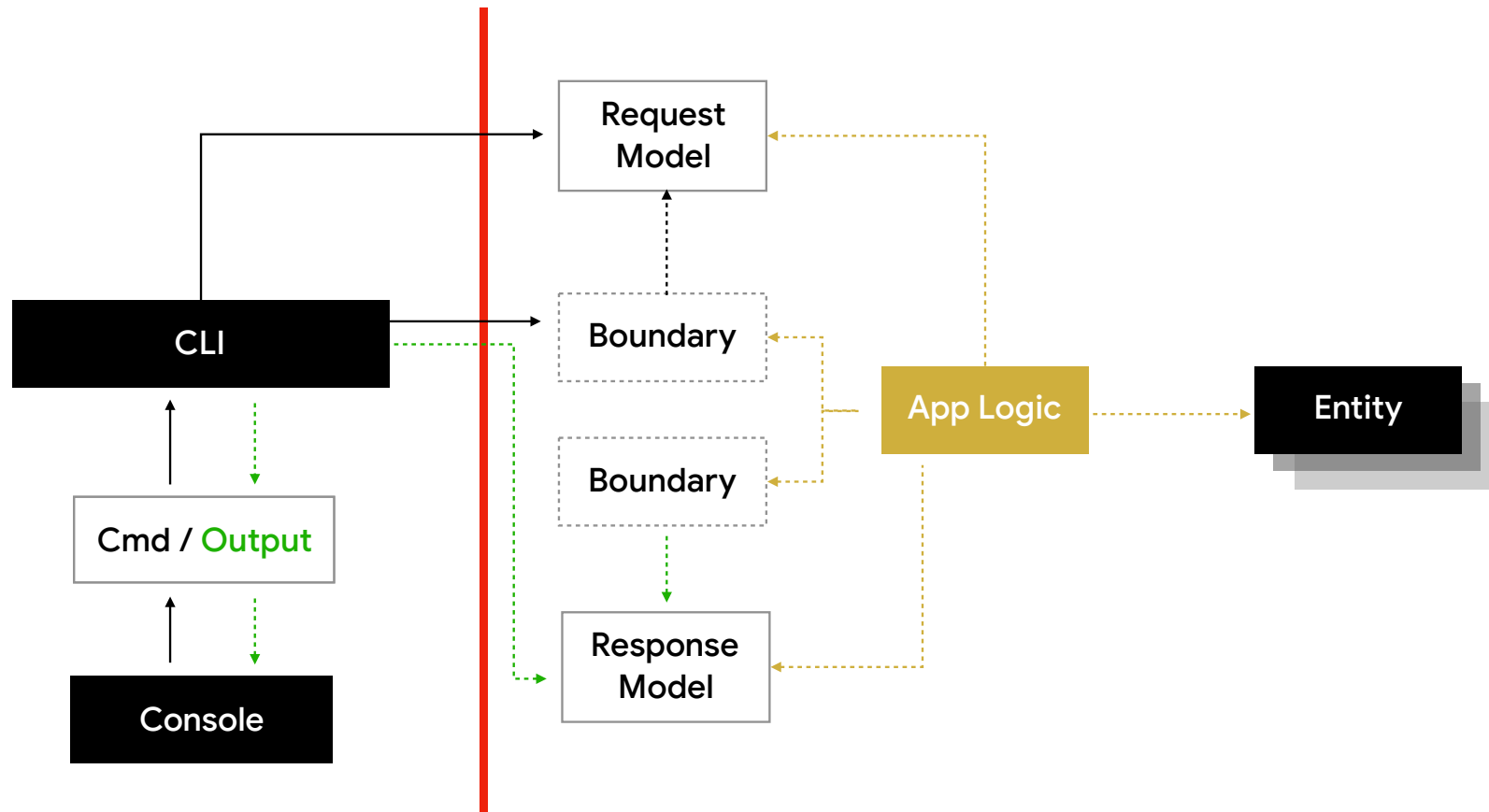
”

— Wikipedia











CONTEXT

# CLI Types

Simple tool

```
$ cli-app [FLAGS] <ARGUMENT> ...
```

*Example: rm, ls, find*



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CONTEXT

# CLI Types

Command suite

```
$ cli-app [sub-command]
```

*Example: kubectl, docker*



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02

# Manifesto



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## CLI MANIFESTO

- 1. First Class Application**
- 2. Helpful**
- 3. Play well with Others**



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## CLI MANIFESTO

# Rule #1 • First Class Application



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CLI MANIFESTO • First Class Application

## Software development workflow



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CLI MANIFESTO • First Class Application

## Arguments & Options (Flags)

```
$ cli-app [FLAGS] <ARGUMENT> ...
```



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CLI MANIFESTO • First Class Application

## Arguments & Options (Flags)

Use Short Options

```
-h      For help  
-o      For Output  
-c      For Config file
```



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## Arguments & Options (Flags)

Use Long Options

```
--help          For help
--verbose       For Log verbosity
--long-option   For Any other opt name
```





CLI MANIFESTO • First Class Application

## Configurable

- Env vars
- Arguments & Options
- Config file



Source : [github.com/spf13/pflag](https://github.com/spf13/pflag)

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## CLI MANIFESTO

# Rule #2 • Helpful



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## Usage text

```
$ go --help || go -h
```

**Go** is a tool for managing Go source code.

Usage:

**go** command [arguments]

The commands are:

<b>build</b>	compile packages and dependencies
<b>clean</b>	remove object files and cached files
<b>doc</b>	show documentation for package or symbol
<b>env</b>	print Go environment information

. . .





## Suggestions

```
$ git tg
```

```
git: 'tg' is not a git command. See 'git --help'.
```

```
The most similar command is  
tag
```



## CLI MANIFESTO

### **Rule #3** • **Play well with Others**



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CLI MANIFESTO • Play well with Others

## Redirections

- Stdin
- Stdout
- Stderr



Source : [github.com/spf13/pflag](https://github.com/spf13/pflag)

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CLI MANIFESTO • Play well with Others

## Exit codes

- Success ( **0** )
- Error ( **!0** )



Source : [github.com/spf13/pflag](https://github.com/spf13/pflag)

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CLI MANIFESTO • Play well with Others

## Grep-able

Log one line record

```
$ cli-app [FLAGS] <ARGUMENT> ... | grep [opts] <args>
```



Source : [github.com/spf13/pflag](https://github.com/spf13/pflag)

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CLI MANIFESTO • Play well with Others

## Cut-able

Fields delimiter

```
$ cli-app [FLAGS] <ARGUMENT> ... | cut -d<DELIMITER> -f<NUM_COL>
```



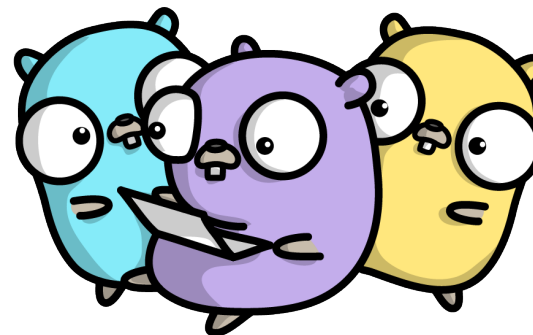
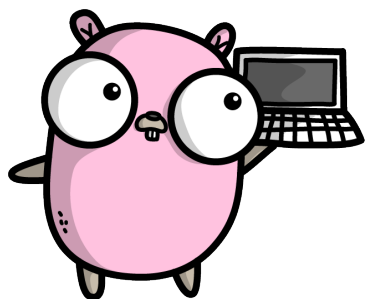
Source : [github.com/spf13/pflag](https://github.com/spf13/pflag)

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# 03

## Why Go ?



Source : [github.com/ashleymcnamara/gophers](https://github.com/ashleymcnamara/gophers)

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Because ...

- **Easy & Fun**
- **Cross Compilation**
- **Standard Library**



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WHY GO ?

## Cross compilation

Windows

```
$ GOARCH=amd64 GOOS=windows go build -v
```

MacOS

```
$ GOARCH=amd64 GOOS=darwin go build -v
```

Linux

```
$ GOARCH=amd64 GOOS=linux go build -v
```



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04

# Cobra



Source : [github.com/ashleymcnamara/gophers](https://github.com/ashleymcnamara/gophers)

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Library for creating powerful modern CLI applications



Source : [github.com/spf13/cobra](https://github.com/spf13/cobra)

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COBRA

Delve

OpenShift

Hugo

Kubernetes

Docker

rkt

etcd



Source : [github.com/spf13/cobra](https://github.com/spf13/cobra)

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COBRA

# Install

```
$ go get -u github.com/spf13/cobra/cobra
```



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COBRA

## Create a project

```
$ cobra init cli-app
```

Your Cobra application is ready at  
</Users/lktslionel/Workspaces/personal/golang/src/cli-app>.

Give it a try by going there and running `go run main.go`.  
Add commands to it by running `cobra add [cmdname]`.



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COBRA

## Root command

```
var rootCmd = &cobra.Command{  
    Use: "cli-app",  
    Short: "A brief description of your application",  
    Long: `A longer description ...`,  
  
    Run: func(cmd *cobra.Command, args []string) { },  
}
```



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COBRA

## Flags

```
var globalVar <TYPE>

func init() {
    . . .
    rootCmd.PersistentFlags().<TYPE>Var(&globalVar, "<long>", "<default>", "<desc>")
    rootCmd.Flags().<TYPE>("<long>", <default>, "<desc>")
    rootCmd.Flags().<TYPE>P("<long>", "<short>", <default>, "<desc>")
}
```



Source: [github.com/spf13/pflag](https://github.com/spf13/pflag)

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COBRA

## Usage text

```
$ cli-app -h|-help
```

*Provided Automatically*



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COBRA

## Suggestions

```
$ cli-app remove
```

```
Error: unknown command "remove" for "cli-app"
```

```
Did you mean this?
```

```
    delete
```

```
Run 'cli-app help' for usage.
```



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COBRA

# Suggestions

```
command.DisableSuggestions = true | false  
command.SuggestFor = []String{}
```

*Provided Automatically*



Source : [github.com/spf13/pflag](https://github.com/spf13/pflag)

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COBRA

# Run

```
package main

import "cli-app/cmd"

func main() {
    cmd.Execute()
}
```

```
.
├── LICENSE
├── cmd
│   └── root.go
└── main.go
```



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COBRA

# Run

```
$ go run main.go
```

```
# Or
```

```
$ go install .
```

```
$ cli-app
```

```
.  
├─ LICENSE  
├─ cmd  
│   └─ root.go  
└─ main.go
```



Source: [github.com/spf13/pflag](https://github.com/spf13/pflag)

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COBRA

## Add a sub-command

```
$ cobra add <sub-command-name>
```

```
.  
├─ LICENSE  
├─ cmd  
│   └─ root.go  
│       └─ subCommandName.go  
└─ main.go
```



Source : [github.com/spf13/pflag](https://github.com/spf13/pflag)

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COBRA

## Add a sub-command

```
package cmd

. . .
var subCommandNameCmd = &cobra.Command{
    Use: "subCommandName",
    . . .
    Run: func(cmd *cobra.Command, args []string) {
        fmt.Println("subCommandName called")
    },
}

func init() {
    rootCmd.AddCommand(subCommandNameCmd)
    . . .
```

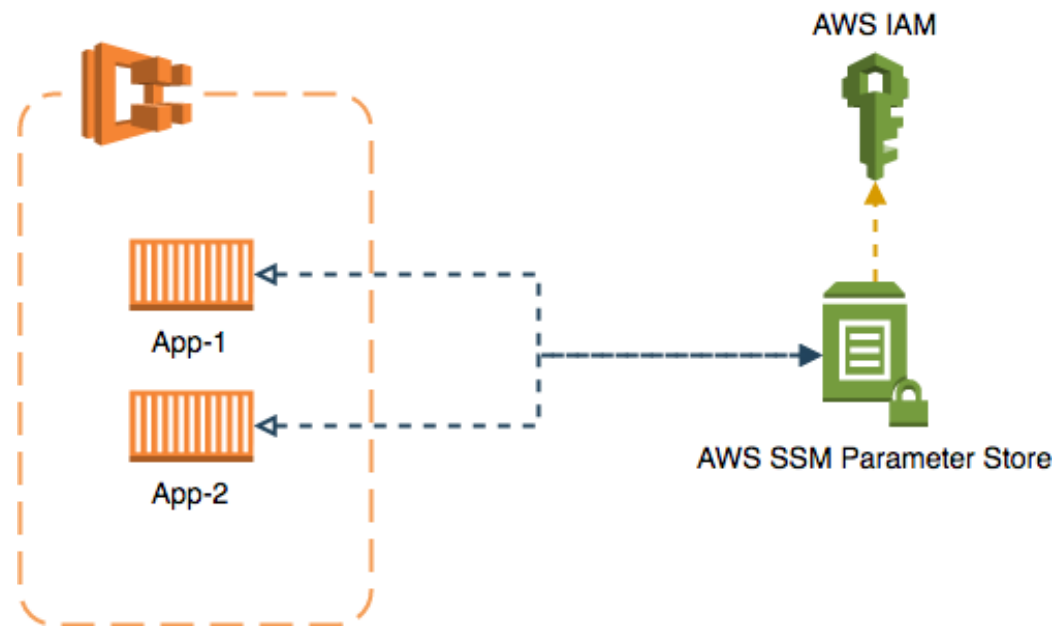


Source: [github.com/spf13/pflag](https://github.com/spf13/pflag)

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# Case Study



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## Demo



Thanks !

