

Introduction to the Solana CLI

Before running any Solana CLI commands, let's go over some conventions that you will see across all commands. First, the Solana CLI is actually a collection of different commands for each action you might want to take. You can view the list of all possible commands by running:

`solana --help` To zoom in on how to use a particular command, run:

`solana < COMMAND`

`--help` where you replace the text with the name of the command you want to learn more about.

The command's usage message will typically contain words such as `%s`, `%d`, or `%f`. Each word is a placeholder for the type of text you can execute the command with. For example, you can replace `%s` with a number such as `42` or `100.42`. You can replace `%f` with the base58 encoding of your public key, such as `9grmKMwTiZwUHSExjtbFzHLPTdWoXgcg1bZkhvwTrTww`.

Keypair conventions

Many commands using the CLI tools require a value for `-k`. The value you should use for the keypair depends on what type of [command line wallet you created](#).

For example, the CLI help shows that the way to display any wallet's address (also known as the keypair's pubkey), is:

`solana-keygen pubkey < KEYPAIR`

Below, we show how to resolve what you should put depending on your wallet type.

Paper Wallet

In a paper wallet, the keypair is securely derived from the seed words and optional passphrase you entered when the wallet was created. To use a paper wallet keypair anywhere the text is shown in examples or help documents, enter the uri `prompt://` and the program will prompt you to enter your seed words when you run the command.

To display the wallet address of a Paper Wallet:

`solana-keygen pubkey prompt://`

File System Wallet

With a file system wallet, the keypair is stored in a file on your computer. Replace `%s` with the complete file path to the keypair file.

For example, if the file system keypair file location is `/home/solana/my_wallet.json`, to display the address, do:

`solana-keygen pubkey /home/solana/my_wallet.json`

Hardware Wallet

If you chose a hardware wallet, use your [keypair URL](#), such as `usb://ledger?key=0`.

`solana-keygen pubkey usb://ledger?key`

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