

Redis Input/Output Tools (RIOT)

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Version 3.2.0

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Introduction

Redis Input/Output Tools (RIOT) is a command-line utility to get data in and out of any Rediscompatible database like Redis OSS, Redis Cluster, Redis Enterprise, Redis Cloud, or Amazon ElastiCache.

RIOT includes the following features:

- File import/export (CSV, JSON, XML)
- Relational database import/export
- Data generation using Faker or random data structures
- Data migration from a Redis database to another
- Live replication between two Redis databases

Quick Start

This section helps you get started with RIOT.

Install

RIOT can be installed on Linux, macOS, and Windows platforms and can be used as a standalone tool that connects remotely to a Redis database. It is not required to run locally on a Redis server.

Homebrew (macOS & Linux)

brew install redis-developer/tap/riot

Scoop (Windows)

scoop bucket add redis-developer https://github.com/redis-developer/scoop.git
scoop install riot

Manual installation (all platforms)

Download the pre-compiled binary from the releases page, uncompress and copy to the desired location.



riot-3.2.0.zip requires Java 11 or greater to be installed. riot-standalone-3.2.0-*.zip includes its own Java runtime and does not require a Java installation.

Docker

docker run fieldengineering/riot [OPTIONS] [COMMAND]

Usage

You can launch RIOT with the following command:

riot

This will show usage help, which you can also get by running:

riot --help

--help is available on any command and subcommand:



```
riot command --help
riot command subcommand --help
```

Shell Completion

Run the following command to give riot TAB completion in the current shell:

```
$ source <(riot generate-completion)</pre>
```

Files

RIOT can import from and export to files in various formats:

- Delimited (CSV, TSV, PSV)
- Fixed-length (also known as fixed-width)
- JSON and JSONL (JSON Lines)
- XML

File Import

The file-import command reads data from files and writes it to Redis.

The basic usage for file imports is:

```
riot -h <host> -p <port> file-import FILE... [REDIS COMMAND...]
```

To show the full usage, run:

```
riot file-import --help
```

You must specify at least one Redis command as a target.

Redis connection options apply to the root command (riot) and not to subcommands.



In this example the Redis options will not be taken into account:

```
riot file-import my.json hset -h myredis.com -p 6380
```

The keys that will be written are constructed from input records by concatenating the keyspace prefix and key fields.



Import into hashes with keyspace blah:<id>

```
riot file-import my.json hset --keyspace blah --keys id
```

```
riot file-import https://storage.googleapis.com/jrx/es_test-index.json json.set
--keyspace elastic --keys _id
```

Import into hashes and set TTL on the key

```
riot file-import my.json hset --keyspace blah --keys id expire --keyspace blah --keys
id
```

Import into hashes in keyspace blah: <id> and set TTL and add each id to a set named myset

```
riot file-import my.json hset --keyspace blah --keys id expire --keyspace blah --keys id sadd --keyspace myset --members id
```

Paths

Paths can include wildcard patterns.

RIOT will try to determine the file type from its extension (e.g. .csv or .json), but you can specify it with the --filetype option.

Gzipped files are supported and the extension before .gz is used (e.g. myfile.json.gz → JSON type).

Examples

- /path/file.csv
- /path/file-*.csv
- /path/file.json
- http://data.com/file.csv
- http://data.com/file.json.gz



Use - to read from standard input.

For AWS S3 buckets you can specify access and secret keys as well as the region for the bucket.

```
riot file-import s3://my-bucket/path/file.json --s3-region us-west-1 --s3-access xxxxxx --s3-secret xxxxxx
```

For Google Cloud Storage you can specify credentials and project id for the bucket:

```
riot file-import gs://my-bucket/path/file.json --gcs-key-file key.json --gcs-project -id my-gcp-project
```

Delimited

The default delimiter character is comma (,). It can be changed with the --delimiter option.

If the file has a header, use the --header option to automatically extract field names. Otherwise specify the field names using the --fields option.

Let's consider this CSV file:

Table 1. beers.csv

row	abv	ibu	id	name	style	brewery	ounces
1	0.079	45	321	Fireside Chat (2010)	Winter Warmer	368	12.0
2	0.068	65	173	Back in Black	American Black Ale	368	12.0
3	0.083	35	11	Monk's Blood	Belgian Dark Ale	368	12.0

The following command imports this CSV into Redis as hashes using beer as the key prefix and id as primary key.

```
riot file-import https://storage.googleapis.com/jrx/beers.csv --header hset --keyspace beer --keys id
```

This creates hashes with keys beer: 321, beer: 173, ...

This command imports a CSV file into a geo set named airportgeo with airport IDs as members:

```
riot file-import https://storage.googleapis.com/jrx/airports.csv --header --skip-limit 3 geoadd --keyspace airportgeo --members AirportID --lon Longitude --lat Latitude
```

Fixed-Length

Fixed-length files can be imported by specifying the width of each field using the --ranges option.

```
riot file-import https://storage.googleapis.com/jrx/accounts.fw --ranges 1 9 25 41 53 67 83 --header hset --keyspace account --keys Account
```

JSON

The expected format for JSON files is:

JSON import example

```
riot file-import https://storage.googleapis.com/jrx/beers.json hset --keyspace beer --keys id
```

JSON records are trees with potentially nested values that need to be flattened when the target is a Redis hash for example.

To that end, RIOT uses a field naming convention to flatten JSON objects and arrays:

Table 2. Nested object

XML

Here is a sample XML file that can be imported by RIOT:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<records>
   <trade>
       <isin>XYZ0001</isin>
       <quantity>5</quantity>
       <price>11.39</price>
       <customer>Customer1
   </trade>
   <trade>
       <isin>XYZ0002</isin>
       <quantity>2</quantity>
       <price>72.99</price>
       <customer>Customer2c</customer>
   </trade>
   <trade>
       <isin>XYZ0003</isin>
       <quantity>9</quantity>
       <price>99.99</price>
       <customer>Customer3</customer>
   </trade>
</records>
```

XML Import Example

```
riot file-import https://storage.googleapis.com/jrx/trades.xml hset --keyspace trade --keys id
```

Regular Expressions

In addition to general processing you can perform field extraction using regular expressions.

Regex example

```
riot file-import --regex name="(?<first>\w+)\/(?<last>\w+)" ...
```

File Export

The file-export command reads data from a Redis database and writes it to a JSON or XML file, potentially gzip-compressed.

The general usage is:

```
riot -h <host> -p <port> file-export FILE
```

To show the full usage, run:

```
riot file-export --help
```

Export to JSON

```
riot file-export /tmp/redis.json
```

Sample JSON-export file

```
{
   "key": "string:615",
   "ttl": -1,
   "value": "value:615",
   "type": "STRING"
 },
   "key": "hash:511",
   "ttl": -1,
    "value": {
     "field1": "value511",
     "field2": "value511"
   },
   "type": "HASH"
 },
   "key": "list:1",
    "ttl": -1,
    "value": [
     "member:991",
     "member:981"
   ],
   "type": "LIST"
 },
   "key": "set:2",
    "ttl": -1,
    "value": [
     "member:2",
     "member:3"
   "type": "SET"
 },
   "key": "zset:0",
    "ttl": -1,
    "value": [
       "value": "member:1",
        "score": 1.0
```

```
],
    "type": "ZSET"
 },
    "key": "stream:0",
    "ttl": -1,
    "value": [
        "stream": "stream:0",
        "id": "1602190921109-0",
        "body": {
          "field1": "value0",
          "field2": "value0"
        }
      }
    ],
    "type": "STREAM"
 }
]
```

Export to compressed JSON

```
riot file-export /tmp/beers.json.gz --scan-match beer:*
```

Export to XML

```
riot file-export /tmp/redis.xml
```

Dump Import

RIOT can import Redis data structure files in JSON or XML formats. See File Export section to generate such files.

Example

```
riot dump-import /tmp/redis.json
```

Generators

RIOT includes two data generators that can be used to quickly mock up a dataset in Redis.

Faker

The faker-import command generates data using Datafaker.

```
riot -h <host> -p <port> faker-import SPEL... [REDIS COMMAND...]
```

where SPEL is a Spring Expression Language field in the form field="expression".

To show the full usage, run:

```
riot faker-import --help
```

You must specify at least one Redis command as a target.

Redis connection options apply to the root command (riot) and not to subcommands.



In this example the Redis options will not be taken into account:

```
riot faker-import id="index" hset -h myredis.com -p 6380
```

Keys

Keys are constructed from input records by concatenating the keyspace prefix and key fields.



HSET example

```
riot faker-import id="index" firstName="name.firstName" lastName="name.lastName" address="address.fullAddress" hset --keyspace person --keys id
```

SADD example

```
riot faker-import name="gameOfThrones.character" --count 1000 sadd --keyspace got:characters --members name
```

Data Providers

Faker offers many data providers. Most providers don't take any arguments and can be called directly:

Simple Faker example

```
riot faker-import firstName="name.firstName"
```

Some providers take parameters:

Parameter Faker example

```
riot faker-import lease="number.digits(2)"
```

Refer to Datafaker Providers for complete documentation.

Built-in Fields

In addition to the Faker fields specified with field="expression" you can use these built-in fields:

index

current iteration number.

thread

current thread id. Useful for multithreaded data generation.

Multithreaded data generator

```
riot faker-import --count 8000 --threads 8 id="thread*10000+index" firstName="name.firstName" lastName="name.lastName" address="address.fullAddress" hset --keyspace person --keys id
```

RediSearch

You can infer Faker fields from a RediSearch index using the --infer option:

```
riot faker-import --infer beerIdx hset --keyspace beer --keys id
```

Data Structures

The generate command generates data-structures for Redis, RedisJSON and RedisTimeSeries.

```
riot -h <host> -p <port> generate [OPTIONS]
```

Databases

RIOT can import from and export to databases.

Database Import

The db-import command imports data from a relational database into Redis.



Ensure RIOT has the relevant JDBC driver for your database. See the Drivers section for more details.

```
riot -h <redis host> -p <redis port> db-import --url <jdbc url> SQL [REDIS COMMAND...]
```

To show the full usage, run:

```
riot db-import --help
```

You must specify at least one Redis command as a target.

Redis connection options apply to the root command (riot) and not to subcommands.



In this example the Redis options will not be taken into account:

```
riot db-import "SELECT * FROM customers" hset -h myredis.com -p 6380
```

The keys that will be written are constructed from input records by concatenating the keyspace prefix and key fields.



PostgreSQL Import Example

```
riot db-import "SELECT * FROM orders" --url "jdbc:postgresql://host:port/database"
--username appuser --password passwd hset --keyspace order --keys order_id
```

Import from PostgreSQL to JSON strings

```
riot db-import "SELECT * FROM orders" --url "jdbc:postgresql://host:port/database" --username appuser --password passwd set --keyspace order --keys order_id
```

This will produce Redis strings that look like this:

```
"order_id": 10248,
  "customer_id": "VINET",
  "employee_id": 5,
  "order_date": "1996-07-04",
  "required_date": "1996-08-01",
  "shipped_date": "1996-07-16",
  "ship_via": 3,
  "freight": 32.38,
  "ship_name": "Vins et alcools Chevalier",
  "ship_address": "59 rue de l'Abbaye",
  "ship_city": "Reims",
  "ship_postal_code": "51100",
  "ship_country": "France"
}
```

Database Export

Use the db-export command to read from a Redis database and writes to a SQL database.

The general usage is:

```
riot -h <redis host> -p <redis port> db-export --url <jdbc url> SQL
```

To show the full usage, run:

```
riot db-export --help
```

Example: export to PostgreSQL

```
riot db-export "INSERT INTO mytable (id, field1, field2) VALUES (CAST(:id AS SMALLINT), :field1, :field2)" --url "jdbc:postgresql://host:port/database" --username appuser --password passwd --scan-match "gen:*" --key-regex "gen:(?<id>.*)"
```

Database Drivers

RIOT relies on JDBC to interact with databases. It includes JDBC drivers for the most common database systems:

Oracle

```
jdbc:oracle:thin:@myhost:1521:orcl
```

• MS SQL Server

jdbc:sqlserver://[serverName[\instanceName][:portNumber]][;property=value[;property=value]]

• MySQL

jdbc:mysql://[host]:[port][/database][?properties]

• PostgreSQL

jdbc:postgresql://host:port/database

For non-included databases you must install the corresponding JDBC driver under the lib directory and modify the CLASSPATH:



- *nix: bin/riot → CLASSPATH=\$APP_HOME/lib/myjdbc.jar:\$APP_HOME/lib/...
- Windows: bin\riot.bat → set CLASSPATH=%APP_HOME%\lib\myjdbc.jar;%APP_HOME%\lib...

Replication

Most Redis migration tools available today are offline in nature. Migrating data from AWS ElastiCache to Redis Enterprise Cloud for example means backing up your Elasticache data to an AWS S3 bucket and importing it into Redis Enterprise Cloud using its UI.

Redis has a replication command called REPLICAOF but it is not always available (see ElastiCache restrictions). Instead, RIOT implements client-side replication using **dump & restore** or **type-based read & write**. Both snapshot and live replication modes are supported.



Please note that RIOT is NEITHER recommended NOR officially supported by Redis, Inc.

Usage

```
riot <source> replicate <target> --mode <snapshot|live|compare> [--type] [OPTIONS]
```

For the full usage, run:

```
riot replicate --help
```

Replication Mode

Snapshot

This mode iterates over the keys in the source Redis database using scan.

Live

This mode builds upon snapshot replication by listening for changes on the source Redis database. Whenever a key is modified its corresponding value is read and propagated to the target Redis database.

Live replication relies on keyspace notifications for capturing these changes.

Make sure the source database has keyspace notifications enabled using:

- redis.conf: notify-keyspace-events = KA
- CONFIG SET notify-keyspace-events KA

For more details see Redis Keyspace Notifications.

The live replication mechanism does not guarantee data consistency. Redis sends keyspace notifications over pub/sub which does not provide guaranteed delivery. It is possible that RIOT can miss some notifications in case of network failures for example.



Also, depending on the type, size, and rate of change of data structures on the source it is possible that RIOT cannot keep up with the change stream. For example if a big set is repeatedly updated, RIOT will need to read the whole set on each update and transfer it over to the target database. With a big-enough set, RIOT could fall behind and the internal queue could fill up leading up to updates being dropped.

For those potentially problematic migrations it is recommend to perform some preliminary sizing using Redis statistics and bigkeys/memkeys in tandem with --mem -limit. If you need assistance please contact your Redis account team.

Replication Type

Dump & Restore

The default replication mechanism is Dump & Restore:

- 1. Scan for keys in the source Redis database. If live replication is enabled the reader also subscribes to keyspace notifications to generate a continuous stream of keys.
- 2. Reader threads iterate over the keys to read corresponding values (DUMP) and TTLs.
- 3. Reader threads enqueue key/value/TTL tuples into the reader queue, from which the writer dequeues key/value/TTL tuples and writes them to the target Redis database by calling RESTORE and EXPIRE.

Type-Based Replication

There are situations where Dump & Restore cannot be used, for example:

- The target Redis database does not support the RESTORE command (Redis Enterprise CRDB)
- Incompatible DUMP formats between source and target (Redis 7.0)

In those cases you can use another replication strategy called **Type-Based Replication** where each key is introspected to determine the type of data structure and which read/write commands to use:

Туре	Read	Write
Hash	HGETALL	HSET
JSON	JSON.GET	JSON.SET
List	LRANGE	RPUSH
Set	SMEMBERS	SADD
Sorted Set	ZRANGE	ZADD

Туре	Read	Write
Stream	XRANGE	XADD
String	GET	SET
TimeSeries	TS.RANGE	TS.ADD



This replication strategy is more intensive in terms of CPU, memory, and network for the machines running RIOT as well as the source and target Redis databases. Adjust number of threads, batch and queue sizes accordingly.

Snapshot replication example

```
riot -h source -p 6379 replicate -h target -p 6380 --batch 10
```

Live replication example

```
riot -h source -p 6379 replicate -h target -p 6380 --mode live
```

Type-based replication example

```
riot -h source -p 6379 replicate -h target -p 6380 --type
```

Live type-based replication example

```
riot -h source -p 6379 replicate -h target -p 6380 --type --mode live
```

Progress Reporting

Each process (scan iterator and/or event listener in case of live replication) has a corresponding status bar that shows the process name and its progress:

Scanning

Percentage of keys that have been replicated \Rightarrow replicated / total. The total number of keys is calculated when the process starts and it can change by the time it is finished (for example if keys are deleted or added during the replication). The progress bar is only a rough indicator.

Listening

Progress is indefinite as total number of keys is unknown.

Compare

Once replication is complete, RIOT performs a verification step by iterating over keys in the source database and comparing values and TTLs between source and target databases.

The verification step happens automatically after the scan is complete (snapshot replication), or for

live replication when keyspace notifications have become idle (see Usage section).

Verification can also be run on-demand using the compare mode:

```
riot <source> replicate --mode compare <target>
```

The output looks like this:

```
missing: 123, type: 54, value: 7, TTL: 19
```

missing

Number of keys only present in source database

type

Number of keys with mismatched data structure type

value

Number of keys with mismatched value

TTL

Number of keys with mismatched TTL i.e. difference is greater than tolerance (can be specified with --ttl-tolerance)

There are 2 comparison modes available through --compare-mode:

- Quick (default): compares key types
- Full: compares key types, values, and TTLs

To show which keys are different use the --show-diffs option:

```
riot <source> replicate <target> --show-diffs
```

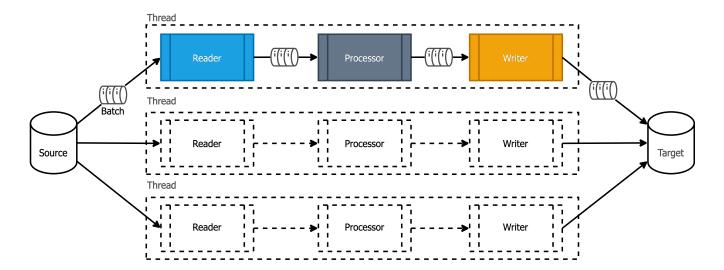
Performance Tuning

Performance tuning is an art but RIOT offers some options to identify potential bottlenecks. In addition to batch and threads options you have the --dry-run option which disables writing to the target Redis database so that you can tune the reader in isolation. Add that option to your existing replicate command-line to compare replication speeds with and without writing to the target Redis database:

```
riot <source> replicate <target> --dry-run
```

Architecture

RIOT is essentially an ETL tool where data is extracted from the source system, transformed (see Processing), and loaded into the target system.



Batching

Processing in RIOT is done in batches: a fixed number of records is read from the source, processed, and written to the target. The default batch size is 50, which means that an execution step reads 50 items at a time from the source, processes them, and finally writes then to the target. If the target is Redis, writing is done in a single command (Redis Pipelining) to minimize the number of roundtrips to the server.

You can change the batch size (and hence pipeline size) using the --batch option. The optimal batch size in terms of throughput depends on many factors like record size and command types (see Redis Pipeline Tuning for details).

Multi-threading

It is possible to parallelize processing by using multiple threads. In that configuration, each chunk of items is read, processed, and written in a separate thread of execution. This is different from partitioning where items would be read by multiple readers. Here, only one reader is being accessed from multiple threads.

To set the number of threads, use the --threads option.

Multi-threading example

```
riot db-import "SELECT * FROM orders" --url "jdbc:postgresql://host:port/database" --username appuser --password passwd --threads 3 hset --keyspace order --keys order_id
```

Processing

RIOT lets you transform incoming records using processors. These processors allow you to create/update/delete fields using the Spring Expression Language (SpEL). For example, import commands like file-import, database-import, and faker-import have a --proc option that allow for field-level processing:

- field1='foo' → generate a field named field1 containing the string foo
- temp=(temp-32)*5/9 → convert from Fahrenheit to Celsius
- name=remove(first).concat(remove(last)) → concatenate first and last fields and delete them
- field2=null → delete field2

Input fields are accessed by name (e.g. field3=field1+field2).

Processors have access to the following context variables and functions:

date

Date parsing and formatting object. Instance of Java SimpleDateFormat.

redis

Redis commands object. Instance of Lettuce RedisCommands.

geo

Convenience function that takes a longitude and a latitude to produce a RediSearch geo-location string in the form longitude, latitude (e.g. location=#geo(lon,lat))

Processor example

```
riot file-import --proc epoch="#date.parse(mydate).getTime()" location="#geo(lon,lat)"
name="#redis.hget('person1','lastName')" ...
```

You can register your own variables using --var.

Custom variable example

```
riot file-import https://storage.googleapis.com/jrx/lacity.csv --var rnd="new java.util.Random()" --proc randomInt="#rnd.nextInt(100)" --header hset --keyspace event --keys Id
```

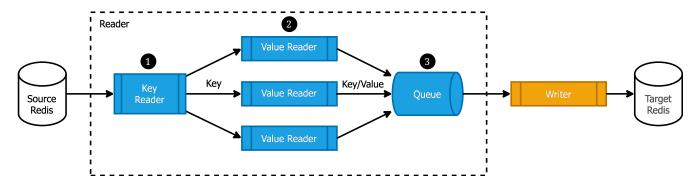
Filtering

Filters allow you to exclude records that don't match a SpEL boolean expression.

For example this filter will only keep records where the value field is a series of digits:

```
riot file-import --filter "value matches '\\d+'" ...
```

Replication



The basic replication mechanism is as follows:

- 1. Identify source keys to be replicated using scan and/or keyspace notifications depending on the replication mode.
- 2. Read data associated with each key using dump or type-specific commands.
- 3. Write each key to the target using restore or type-specific commands. = Cookbook

Here are various recipes using RIOT.

Ping

The ping command can be used to test connectivity to a Redis database.

```
riot -h <host> -p <port> ping <options>
```

When the command is complete you will see statistics like these:

```
[min=0, max=19, percentiles={50.0=1, 90.0=3, 95.0=6, 99.0=10, 99.9=17}]
```

Migrating from Elasticache

This recipe contains step-by-step instructions to migrate an Elasticache (EC) database to Redis Enterprise (RE).

The following scenarios are covered:

- One-time (snapshot) migration
- Online (live) migration



It is recommended to read the Replication section to familiarize yourself with its usage and architecture.

Setup

Prerequisites

For this recipe you will require the following resources:

- AWS ElastiCache: *Primary Endpoint* in case of Single Master and *Configuration Endpoint* in case of Clustered EC. Refer to this link to learn more
- Redis Enterprise: hosted on Cloud or On-Prem
- An Amazon EC2 instance



Keyspace Notifications

For a live migration you need to enable keyspace notifications on your Elasticache instance (see AWS Knowledge Center).

Migration Host

To run the migration tool we will need an EC2 instance.

You can either create a new EC2 instance or leverage an existing one if available. In the example below we first create an instance on AWS Cloud Platform. The most common scenario is to access an ElastiCache cluster from an Amazon EC2 instance in the same Amazon Virtual Private Cloud (Amazon VPC). We have used Ubuntu 16.04 LTS for this setup but you can choose any Ubuntu or Debian distribution of your choice.

SSH to this EC2 instance from your laptop:

```
ssh -i <code>Dpublic keyD <AWS EC2 Instance></code>
```

Install redis-cli on this new instance by running this command:

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install -y redis-tools
```

Use redis-cli to check connectivity with the Elasticache database:

```
redis-cli -h <ec primary endpoint> -p 6379
```

Ensure that the above command allows you to connect to the remote Elasticache database successfully.

Installing RIOT

Let's install RIOT on the EC2 instance we set up previously. For this we'll follow the steps in Manual Installation.

Performing Migration

We are now all set to begin the migration process. The options you will use depend on your source and target databases, as well as the replication mode (snapshot or live).

EC Single Master → **RE**

riot -h <source EC host> -p <source EC port> replicate -h <target RE host> -p <target
RE port> --pass <RE password>

Live EC Single Master → **RE**

riot -h <source EC host> -p <source EC port> replicate --mode live -h <target RE host>
-p <target RE port> --pass <RE password>

In case ElastiCache is configured with AUTH TOKEN enabled, you need to pass --tls as well as --pass option:



riot -h <source EC host> -p <source EC port> --tls --pass <token>
replicate -h <target RE host> -p <target RE port> --pass <RE password>

EC Cluster → **RE**

riot -h <source EC host> -p <source EC port> --cluster replicate -h <target RE host>
-p <target RE port> --pass <RE password>



--cluster is an important parameter used ONLY for ElastiCache whenever cluster-mode is enabled. Do note that the source database is specified first and the target database is specified after the replicate command and it is applicable for all the scenarios.

EC Single Master → RE (with specific db index)

riot -h <source EC host> -p <source EC port> --db <index> replicate -h <target RE
host> -p <target RE port> --pass <RE password>

EC Single Master → RE with OSS Cluster

riot -h <source EC host> -p <source EC port> replicate -h <target RE host> -p <target RE port> --pass <RE password> --cluster

Live EC Cluster → **RE with OSS Cluster**

```
riot -h <source EC host> -p <source EC port> --cluster replicate --mode live -h
<target RE host> -p <target RE port> --pass <RE password> --cluster
```

Important Considerations

- As stated earlier, this tool is not officially supported by Redis Inc.
- It is recommended to test migration in UAT before production use.
- Once migration is completed, ensure that application traffic gets redirected to Redis Enterprise Endpoint successfully.
- It is recommended to perform the migration process during low traffic so as to avoid chances of data loss.

Frequently Asked Questions

Logs are cut off or missing

This could be due to concurrency issues in the terminal when refreshing the progress bar and displaying logs. Try running with job options --progress log.

Unknown options: '--keyspace', '--keys'

You must specify one or more Redis commands with import commands (file-import, faker-import, db-import).

ERR DUMP payload version or checksum are wrong

Redis 7 DUMP format is not backwards compatible with previous versions. To replicate between different Redis versions, use Type-Based Replication.

Process gets stuck during replication and eventually times out

This could be due to big keys clogging the replication pipes. In these cases it might be hard to catch the offending key(s). Try running the same command with --info and --progress log so that all errors are reported. Check the database with redis-cli Big keys and/or use reader options to filter these keys out.

NOAUTH Authentication required

This issue occurs when you fail to supply the --pass <password> parameter.