bat cat with syntax highlighting

CONCEPTS

bat is cat with syntax highlighting, line numbers, git change marks and automatic paging. Output to a pipe or file is plain, so it is a safe drop-in for cat.

Input files or stdin
↓ `detect syntax`
Highlight theme + language
↓ `decorate`
Decorations numbers, grid, changes
↓ `if terminal`
Pager less, only if long

On Debian and Ubuntu the binary may be called batcat. Link it: ln -s /usr/bin/batcat ~/.local/bin/bat

VIEWING

`bat <file>`
View a file with highlighting

`bat <a> <b>`
Show several files in one stream

`<cmd> | bat -l <lang>`
Highlight piped input as a language

`bat -r <start>:<end> <file>`
Show only these lines

`bat -r :<n> <file>`
Show the first n lines

`bat -r <n>: <file>`
Show from line n to the end

`bat -A <file>`
Show tabs, spaces and line endings

`bat -l <lang> <file>`
Override the detected language

`bat --list-languages`
List supported languages

OUTPUT STYLE

`bat -p <file>`
Plain: no numbers, grid or header

OUTPUT STYLE (cont.)

`bat -pp <file>`
Plain and no paging

`bat -n <file>`
Line numbers only

`bat --style numbers,changes <file>`
Pick decoration components

`bat --color always`
Keep colors when piping

PAGING

`bat --paging never <file>`
Print directly, no pager

`bat -P <file>`
Short form of paging never

THEMES

`bat --list-themes`
List themes with a preview

`bat --theme <name> <file>`
Use a theme for one run

`export BAT_THEME="<name>"`
Set the default theme

CONFIG AND CACHE

`bat --generate-config-file`
Create a starter config file

WITH OTHER TOOLS

`git diff --name-only --relative --diff-filter=d -z | xargs -0 bat --diff`
Show changed files with their diff

`git show <rev>:<path> | bat -l <lang>`
View a file from another revision

`export MANPAGER="bat -plman"`
Colorize man pages

`fzf --preview "bat --color=always --style=numbers --line-range=:500 {}"`
Preview files in fzf