bluetoothctl Bluetooth from the shell

CONCEPTS

> <dev> is the device MAC address (AA:BB:CC:DD:EE:FF). Press Tab to complete it from the scan results.

Scan find it
↓ `pair`
Pair exchange keys
↓ `trust`
Trust allow reconnect
↓ `connect`
Connect use profiles

> Pairing needs an agent. Inside the prompt it is registered for you; in one-shot mode it is not, so pair interactively.

> This tool talks to the bluetoothd daemon; if the prompt shows no controller, the service is not running.

SESSION

`bluetoothctl`
Open the interactive prompt

`bluetoothctl` *<command>*
Run one command and exit

`bluetoothctl --timeout` *<seconds>* **`scan on`**
Scan for a fixed time, then exit

`bluetoothctl --agent` *<capability>*
Start with an agent of that capability

`help`
List the commands of this menu

`quit`
Leave the prompt

`menu` *<name>*
Enter a submenu

`back`
Return to the main menu

CONTROLLER

`power on`
Switch the adapter on

`power off`
Switch the adapter off

CONTROLLER (cont.)

`show`
Show controller state

`list`
List controllers

`select` *<ctrl>*
Pick the default controller

`system-alias` *<name>*
Set the name others see

`discoverable on`
Let other devices find this one

`discoverable-timeout` *<seconds>*
Show or set discoverable time

`pairable on`
Accept incoming pairing requests

`agent on`
Register the pairing agent

`default-agent`
Make this agent the default

`agent` *<capability>*
Choose the agent's input/output type

DISCOVER

`scan on`
Start scanning for devices

`scan off`
Stop scanning

`scan le`
Scan for Low Energy devices only

`scan bredr`
Scan for Classic devices only

`devices`
List known devices

`devices Paired`
List only paired devices

`devices Connected`
List only connected devices

`devices Trusted`
List only trusted devices

`info` *<dev>*
Show a device's state and profiles

PAIR AND CONNECT

`pair` *<dev>*
Pair with a device

PAIR AND CONNECT (cont.)

`trust` *<dev>*
Let it reconnect automatically

`connect` *<dev>*
Connect all profiles

`disconnect` *<dev>*
Drop the connection

`remove` *<dev>*
Forget the device and its pairing

`connect` *<dev>* *<uuid>*
Connect one profile only

`block` *<dev>*
Refuse connections from it

SUBMENUS

`menu gatt`
Browse and read GATT attributes (LE)

`menu scan`
Set scan filters (transport, RSSI, UUID)

RECIPES

Pair a new headset

```
bluetoothctl
power on
agent on
default-agent
scan on
# wait for the device, then:
pair AA:BB:CC:DD:EE:FF
trust AA:BB:CC:DD:EE:FF
connect AA:BB:CC:DD:EE:FF
scan off
```

Reconnect a known device

```
bluetoothctl devices Paired
bluetoothctl connect
AA:BB:CC:DD:EE:FF
bluetoothctl info
AA:BB:CC:DD:EE:FF
```

Start over with a stubborn device

```
bluetoothctl remove
AA:BB:CC:DD:EE:FF
bluetoothctl --timeout 15 scan on
# then pair, trust, connect
interactively
```

Script several commands

```
bluetoothctl <<EOF
power on
devices Connected
show
EOF
```