Bitwarden CLI

Vault from the shell

CONCEPTS

Logging in is not unlocking: the vault stays encrypted until you have a session key in BW_SESSION or --session.

Logged out no account
↓ `bw login`
Locked data encrypted
↓ `bw unlock`
Unlocked BW_SESSION set
↓ `bw lock`
Locked key destroyed

Session keys and master passwords on the command line end up in shell history and process lists; prefer prompts, --passwordenv or --passwordfile.

SIGN IN

`bw login`
Sign in with email and password

`bw login --apikey`
Sign in with an API key

`bw unlock`
Unlock the vault

`bw unlock --raw`
Print only the session key

`bw lock`
Lock the vault, destroy the key

`bw logout`
Sign out of the account

`bw status`
Show login, lock and sync state

FIND AND READ

`bw list items`
List all vault items as JSON

`bw list items --search <text>`
Search items

`bw list folders`
List folders

`bw get item <name|id>`
Show one full item

`bw get password <name|id>`
Print the password

FIND AND READ (cont.)

`bw get username <name|id>`
Print the username

`bw get totp <name|id>`
Print the current 2FA code

CREATE AND CHANGE

`bw get template item`
Print an item JSON template

`bw encode`
Base64-encode JSON from stdin

`bw create item <encodedJson>`
Create an item

`bw create folder <encodedJson>`
Create a folder

`bw edit item <id> <encodedJson>`
Replace an item

`bw delete item <id>`
Move an item to the trash

GENERATE AND SYNC

`bw generate`
Make a password (14 chars default)

`bw generate -uln --length 24`
Letters and digits, 24 long

`bw generate --passphrase --words 5`
Make a passphrase

`bw sync`
Pull the latest vault data

SEND

`bw send -n "<name>" -d <days> --hidden "<text>"`
Send text, hidden by default

`bw send -n "<name>" -d <days> -f <path>`
Send a file

BACKUP AND OPTIONS

`bw export`
Export the vault as CSV

`bw --help`
Show all commands

`bw <command> --help`
Help for one command