Caddy Web server, auto HTTPS

CONCEPTS

With a Caddyfile in the current directory, caddy run loads it with no flags.

Caddyfile human-friendly config
↓ adapt
JSON config native format
↓ load / reload
Admin API localhost:2019
↓ applies
Running server auto HTTPS

A site address with a real domain gets a public certificate automatically; localhost gets a locally trusted one.

The one-liner file-server and reverse-proxy commands disable the admin API, so caddy reload cannot touch them.

RUN AND CONTROL

caddy run
Run in the foreground

caddy start
Run in the background

caddy stop
Stop the running instance gracefully

caddy reload
Apply the config to the running instance

caddy run --config *<file>*
Run with a specific config file

caddy run --watch
Reload automatically when the config changes

caddy version
Print the version

CONFIG TOOLS

caddy validate --config *<file>*
Load and provision without running

caddy fmt --overwrite *<file>*
Format the file in place

caddy adapt --config *<file>*
Convert a Caddyfile to JSON

CONFIG TOOLS (cont.)

caddy run --config *<file>* **--adapter caddyfile**
Pick the config adapter by name

QUICK SERVERS

caddy file-server
Serve the current directory

caddy file-server --browse
Serve with a directory listing

caddy file-server --root *<dir>* **--listen :**<port>
Serve a folder on a port

caddy file-server --access-log
Log every request

caddy reverse-proxy --from *<addr>* **--to** *<backend>*
Proxy requests to a backend

caddy reverse-proxy --change-host-header --to *<url>*
Send the backend's own Host header

caddy respond --status *<code>* "*<body>*"
Run a fixed-response test server

CADDYFILE BASICS

example.com { ... }
Site block with automatic HTTPS

:8080 { ... }
Site block on plain HTTP, port 8080

http://example.com { ... }
Explicit HTTP, no auto-HTTPS

{ email *<addr>* **}**
Global options block, must come first

reverse_proxy *<backend>*
Send requests to a backend

file_server
Serve static files from the site root

root * *<dir>*
Set the document root for all paths

encode zstd gzip
Compress responses

respond "*<text>***"** *<status>*
Send a fixed response

CADDYFILE BASICS (cont.)

redir *<to>* **permanent**
Redirect to another URL

try_files {path} /index.html
Single-page app fallback

handle /api/* { ... }
Exclusive block for a path prefix

handle_path /api/* { ... }
Same, but strips the prefix first

header *<Name>* *<value>*
Set a response header

basic_auth { *<user>* *<hash>* **}**
Require a username and password

log
Enable access logs for the site

@*<name>* **{ ... }**
Define a named request matcher

(*<name>***) { ... } / import** *<name>*
Reusable snippet and its use

CERTIFICATES AND PASSWORDS

caddy trust
Install the local CA in system trust stores

caddy hash-password
Prompt for a password and print its hash

RECIPES

Static site with SPA fallback

```
# Caddyfile
example.com {
  root * /var/www/site
  encode zstd gzip
  try_files {path} /index.html
  file_server
}
```

Proxy an API, serve the rest

```
# Caddyfile
example.com {
  handle /api/* {
    reverse_proxy localhost:3000
  }
  handle {
    root * /var/www/site
    file_server
  }
}
```

Edit, check, apply

```
caddy fmt --overwrite Caddyfile
caddy validate --config Caddyfile
caddy reload --config Caddyfile
```