direnv Per-directory environments

CONCEPTS

direnv loads .envrc when you cd in and unloads it when you leave. It must be allowed first, and again after every edit.

cd into dir shell prompt
↓ hook
Find .envrc checks allow list
↓ allowed?
Run in bash stdlib available
↓ export diff
Shell env restored on leaving

The .envrc runs in bash, whatever your interactive shell is. Aliases and functions cannot be exported this way.

Never allow an .envrc you have not read: it is arbitrary code that runs on cd.

SETUP

eval "$(direnv hook bash)"
Hook for bash (end of ~/.bashrc)

eval "$(direnv hook zsh)"
Hook for zsh (end of ~/.zshrc)

direnv hook fish | source
Hook for fish (config.fish)

direnv version
Print the installed version

~/.config/direnv/direnv.toml
Global config file

TRUST

direnv allow [*<path>*]
Trust and load an .envrc

direnv deny [*<path>*]
Revoke trust for an .envrc

direnv edit [*<path>*]
Open in $EDITOR, allow on save

direnv prune
Drop stale entries from the allow list

direnv allow .env
Trust a .env file

[whitelist] prefix = ["*<dir>*"]
Auto-trust a directory tree

INSPECT AND RUN

direnv status
Show loaded file and allow state

direnv reload
Trigger a reload

direnv exec *<dir>* *<cmd>*
Run a command under that dir's env

direnv export json
Print the env diff as JSON

direnv export bash
Print the exports for a shell

direnv stdlib
Print the stdlib source

direnv fetchurl *<url>* [*<hash>*]
Download into the content store

ENVIRONMENT (.ENVRC)

export *<NAME>*=*<value>*
Set a variable

PATH_add *<dir>*
Prepend a directory to PATH

path_add *<VAR>* *<dir>*
Prepend to any path variable

env_vars_required *<VAR>* **...**
Complain when variables are unset

has *<command>*
True if a command exists

strict_env
Exit on errors and unset variables

LOADING FILES

dotenv [*<file>*]
Load a .env file

dotenv_if_exists [*<file>*]
Load .env only if present

source_up
Inherit the nearest parent .envrc

source_env *<path>*
Load another .envrc

source_env_if_exists *<file>*
Load another file if present

watch_file *<file>* **...**
Reload when these files change

LAYOUTS AND TOOLS

layout python3
Project virtualenv in .direnv/

layout python *<exe>*
Virtualenv from a given Python

layout pyenv *<version>*
Virtualenv from pyenv

layout uv
Sync and activate the uv project env

layout node
Add node_modules/.bin to PATH

layout go
Project GOPATH and bin on PATH

use node [*<version>*]
Pick Node from .nvmrc or a version

use flake [*<installable>*]
Load a Nix flake devShell

use nix [-p *<pkg>*]
Load nix-shell environment

CONFIG (DIRENV.TOML)

load_dotenv = true
Also load .env files

hide_env_diff = true
Hide the export diff on load

RECIPES

Python project

```
# .envrc
layout python3
dotenv_if_exists
.env.local
# then:
direnv allow
```

Layered config in a monorepo

```
# sub/.envrc
source_up
export SERVICE=api
PATH_add scripts
```

Nix flake dev shell

```
# .envrc
watch_file flake.nix flake.lock
use flake
```

Quiet, secret-safe setup

```
# .envrc
env_vars_required API_TOKEN
dotenv
# git: ignore .env and .direnv/
```