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.

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 allow .env
Trust a .env file

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

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

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 uv
Sync and activate the uv project env

layout node
Add node_modules/.bin to 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