entr Run on file change

CONCEPTS

entr reads the file list from stdin, so it only watches what you pipe in. It never searches directories on its own.

File list ls, find, git ls-files
↓ stdin
entr watches those files
↓ change
Utility run or restart
↓ exit
Wait for the next change

Events that arrive while the command runs are merged into one by default, so saving twice mid-build gives one rerun. Add -a to react to all of them.

RUNNING

<list> | entr <cmd> [args]
Run a command whenever a listed file changes

entr -r <cmd>
Keep it running; restart on change

entr -c <cmd>
Clear the screen before each run

entr -p <cmd>
Postpone: skip the first run

entr -s '<shell string>'
Run a string through $SHELL (pipes, &&)

entr -cc <cmd>
Clear screen and scrollback

entr -z <cmd>
Exit after the command finishes

entr -rz <cmd>
Restart on change, exit when it dies

entr -n <cmd>
Non-interactive: leave the TTY alone

FEEDING THE LIST

ls | entr <cmd>
Watch the files in this directory

FEEDING THE LIST (cont.)

ls *.py | entr <cmd>
Watch files matching a glob

find . -name '*.go' | entr <cmd>
Watch a tree by pattern

git ls-files | entr <cmd>
Watch tracked files only

fd -e rs | entr <cmd>
Use fd for the list

echo <file> | entr <cmd>
Watch exactly one file

find src tests | entr <cmd>
Watch several directories

git ls-files -co --exclude-standard | entr <cmd>
Tracked and new unignored files

find . -type f -not -path './.git/*' | entr <cmd>
Skip a directory

CHANGED FILE AND DIRECTORIES

/_
Placeholder: path of the file that changed

entr <cmd> /_
Pass the changed file as an argument

entr -s 'echo $0'
In -s mode the changed file is $0

entr -d <cmd>
Watch parent dirs; exit 2 on new entry

while sleep 1; do <list> | entr -d <cmd>; done
Rescan the list after a new file

KEYS AND ENVIRONMENT

Space
Run the command now

q / Ctrl+C
Quit entr