# 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