# 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