Erlang/OTP BEAM runtime and shell

CONCEPTS

Every Erlang shell expression ends with a dot. Variables start upper case and bind once; use f(X). or f(). to forget them.

Node one running VM (erl)

Application started as a unit

Supervisor restarts its children

Process lightweight, own mailbox

Nodes only talk if they share a cookie and the same name style: -sname and -name nodes cannot connect to each other.

START THE VM

erl
Start an interactive shell

erl -noshell
Run without a shell

erl -noinput
Never read stdin (implies -noshell)

erl -eval "*<expr>***"**
Evaluate an expression at start

erl -s *<mod>* *<fun>* *<args>*
Call a function, args as atoms

erl -run *<mod>* *<fun>* *<args>*
Call a function, args as strings

erl -pa *<dir>*
Prepend a directory to the code path

erl -pz *<dir>*
Append a directory to the code path

erl -config *<file>*
Load application config (sys.config)

erl -detached
Run in the background, no console

COMPILE

erlc *<file>***.erl**
Compile to a .beam file

erlc -o *<dir>* *<file>***.erl**
Put output in a directory

erlc -I *<dir>* *<file>***.erl**
Add an include directory

IN THE SHELL

c(*<mod>***).**
Compile and load a module

l(*<mod>***).**
Load or reload a module

q().
Quit the node

b().
Show variable bindings

f().
Forget all bindings

v(-1).
Reuse the last result

Ctrl+G
Job control menu

Ctrl+C
Break menu (a to abort)

DISTRIBUTION

erl -sname *<name>*
Node with a short host name

erl -name *<name>***@***<host>*
Node with a full host name

erl -setcookie *<cookie>*
Set the shared cookie

erl -remsh *<node>*
Shell connected to a remote node

net_adm:ping(*<node>***).**
Connect; pong means reachable

rpc:call(*<node>***,** *<mod>***,** *<fun>***,** **[***<args>***]).**
Call a function on another node

ESCRIPT

escript *<file>*
Run a script

main(Args) →
Entry point, Args is a list of strings

REBAR3

rebar3 compile
Fetch deps and compile

rebar3 shell
Shell with project on the path