Flatpak Sandboxed Linux apps

CONCEPTS

Apps run in a sandbox on a shared runtime. Installing one app may pull in a runtime that other apps reuse.

Remote e.g. flathub
↓ install
Installation --user or --system
↓ run
Sandbox app + runtime
↓ override
Permissions per app or global

A ref is name/arch/branch, e.g. org.mozilla.firefox/x86_64/stable. The short app ID is usually enough.

Install without --user or --system defaults to system-wide and may ask for admin rights. Use --user for a per-user install.

REMOTES

flatpak remotes
List configured remotes

flatpak remote-add --if-not-exists *<name> <url-or-.flatpakrepo>*
Add a remote

flatpak remote-ls *<remote>*
List what a remote offers

flatpak remote-delete *<remote>*
Remove a remote

INSTALL AND UPDATE

flatpak search *<text>*
Search remotes for apps

flatpak install *<remote> <app-id>*
Install from a remote

flatpak install --user *<app-id>*
Install for the current user only

flatpak install -y *<app-id>*
Install without prompts

flatpak update
Update apps and runtimes

flatpak update *<app-id>*
Update one app

INSTALL AND UPDATE (cont.)

flatpak uninstall *<app-id>*
Remove an app

flatpak uninstall --unused
Remove unused runtimes

flatpak uninstall --delete-data *<app-id>*
Remove app and its data

RUNNING

flatpak run *<app-id>*
Start an app

flatpak run --command=*<cmd> <app-id>*
Run another command in the sandbox

flatpak run --filesystem=*<path> <app-id>*
Grant a path for this run

flatpak ps
List running instances

flatpak kill *<app-id>*
Stop a running app

INSPECT

flatpak list
List installed apps and runtimes

flatpak list --app
List only apps

flatpak info *<app-id>*
Show an installed app

PERMISSIONS

flatpak override --user --filesystem=*<path> <app-id>*
Give an app a path

flatpak override --user --show *<app-id>*
Show your overrides

flatpak override --user --reset *<app-id>*
Clear your overrides

MAINTENANCE

flatpak repair --user
Check and fix the user install