k9s Kubernetes terminal UI

CONCEPTS

k9s is a live table of one resource type at a time. Type : plus a name to change type, / to filter, a key to act on the highlighted row.

Command :ns, :deploy
↓ pick
Table live resource list
↓ filter / act
Action logs, shell, edit

Start with --readonly on production clusters: it disables every modifying command (edit, delete, restart).

Shortcuts are context sensitive: u, r, t and w mean different things in the Node, Deployment, CronJob and Log views. Press ? to see the current ones.

LAUNCH

k9s
Start in the current kube context

k9s -n *<namespace>*
Start in a namespace

k9s -A
Start in all namespaces

k9s -c *<resource>*
Start in a given view, e.g. pod

k9s --context *<name>*
Use a non-default kube context

k9s --readonly
Disable all modifying commands

k9s info
Show config, log and dump paths

k9s help
List all CLI options

GENERAL

? Show key hints for this view

Ctrl + A
List all resource aliases

Esc
Go back / leave command or filter

:q / Ctrl + C Quit k9s

GENERAL (cont.)

- Back to the last command

Ctrl + W Toggle wide columns

Ctrl + Z Toggle faults only

SWITCH VIEWS

:*<resource>*
Open a resource view (:pod, :svc, :deploy)

:*<resource>* *<namespace>*
Open a view in a namespace

:pod /*<text>*
Pods filtered by text

:pod *<key>*=*<val>*,...
Pods matching labels

:ns
List and switch namespaces

:ctx
List and switch contexts

:ctx *<name>*
Switch straight to a context

:pulses / :pu
Cluster pulses overview

FILTER

/*<regex>*
Filter rows by regex, e.g. web|api

/! *<regex>*
Inverse filter, hide matches

/-l *<selector>*
Filter by label selector

/-f *<text>*
Fuzzy find

INSPECT AND ACT

d Describe the resource

y View YAML

l View logs

p Previous logs

s Shell into a container (pods)

e Edit the resource

Ctrl + D
Delete, with confirmation

INSPECT AND ACT (cont.)

Ctrl + K
Kill now, no confirmation

c Copy resource name

Shift + J Jump to the owner

SELECT AND SORT

Space Mark a row

Ctrl + Space Mark a range

Ctrl + \ Clear all marks

Shift + N Sort by name

Shift + A Sort by age

LOGS AND WORKLOADS

w Toggle line wrap (log view)

t Toggle timestamps (log view)

f
Toggle fullscreen (log, YAML, details)

Shift + F
Port-forward (pod, service, container)

f List port-forwards

r
Restart (Deployment, DaemonSet, StatefulSet)

CONFIG

Files in the config directory

File	Purpose
config.yaml	Main settings
hotkeys.yaml	Custom shortcuts
plugins.yaml	External commands
aliases.yaml	Extra command aliases
views.yaml	Custom columns
jumps.yaml	Custom jump targets
skins/	Colour themes

Config lives in ~/.config/k9s on Linux, ~/Library/Application Support/k9s on macOS. Logs and screen dumps go to the XDG state dir. Run k9s info for the real paths, or set K9S_CONFIG_DIR.