# k9s Kubernetes terminal UI

**START HERE**

**k9s**
Start in current context

**:pod**
Switch to a resource view

**/** *<text>*
Filter the table

**l**
Logs of selection

**s**
Shell into container

**d**
Describe

**?**
Show all key hints

**Esc**
Back / leave mode

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

## 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.

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

**-** Back to the last command
*Works like cd - between views.*

**[** / **]**
Command history back / forward

**Ctrl** + **R** Refresh the view

**Ctrl** + **W**
Toggle wide columns

## GENERAL (cont.)

**Ctrl** + **Z** Toggle faults only

**Ctrl** + **E** Toggle header

**Ctrl** + **G**
Toggle breadcrumbs

## SWITCH VIEWS

**:***<resource>*
Open a resource view (:pod, :svc, :deploy)
*Singular, plural, short name or alias all work.*

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

**:pod /***<text>*
Pods filtered by text
*Needs k9s 0.30.0 or newer.*

**:pod** *<key>*=*<val>*,...
Pods matching labels
*Needs k9s 0.30.0 or newer.*

**:pod @***<context>*
Pods in another context
*Switches the current context too. 0.30.0+.*

**:ns**
List and switch namespaces

**:ctx**
List and switch contexts

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

**:pulses / :pu**
Cluster pulses overview

**:xray** *<res>* **[ns]**
Dependency tree (po, svc, dp, rs, sts, ds)

**:popeye / :pop**
Run the Popeye cluster sanitizer

**:screendump / :sd**
Browse saved screen dumps

## 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

## INSPECT AND ACT (cont.)

**l** View logs

**p** Previous logs

**s**
Shell into a container (pods)

**a**
Attach to a container (pods)

**e** Edit the resource
*Not available with --readonly.*

**Ctrl** + **D**
Delete, with confirmation
*Press Tab to reach OK, then Enter.*

**Ctrl** + **K**
Kill now, no confirmation
*Same as kubectl delete --now.*

**c** Copy resource name

**n** Copy namespace

**Shift** + **J** Jump to the owner

**z**
Show ReplicaSets (Deployment view)

## SELECT AND SORT

**Space** Mark a row

**Ctrl** + **Space** Mark a range

**Ctrl** + **** Clear all marks

**Ctrl** + **S**
Save the table to a file

**Shift** + **N** Sort by name

**Shift** + **A** Sort by age

**Shift** + **S** Sort by status

**Shift** + **P**
Sort by namespace (all-namespaces view)

**Shift** + **O**
Sort by selected column

**Shift** + **Left** / **Shift** + **Right**
Move the selected column

## LOGS AND WORKLOADS

**w**
Toggle line wrap (log view)

**t**
Toggle timestamps (log view)

**f**
Toggle fullscreen (log, YAML, details)

## LOGS AND WORKLOADS (cont.)

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

**f** List port-forwards

**b**
Benchmark a service or port-forward

**r**
Restart (Deployment, DaemonSet, StatefulSet)

**Ctrl** + **L**
Roll back a ReplicaSet

**t** Trigger a CronJob

**u** Cordon / uncordon a node

**r** Drain a node

## 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.

Skins go in the skins/ folder of the config directory (older versions: the data directory); pick one in config.yaml or set K9S_SKIN.

## RECIPES

**Safe look at production**

```
k9s --readonly --context <prod>
-n <app>
```

**Find a crashing pod and read its logs**

```
# :pod  then  Ctrl+Z (faults
only)
# move to the pod, press l
# crashed already? press p for
previous logs
```

**Restart a deployment**

```
:deploy
# select the row, press r
```

**Pods of one app across contexts**

```
:pod app=<name> @<ctx>
# or filter with  /-l
app=<name>
```