# krew kubectl plugin manager

**START HERE**

**`kubectl krew update`**
Refresh plugin index

**`kubectl krew install <plugin>`**
Install a plugin

**`kubectl krew search`**
Browse plugins

**`kubectl <plugin>`**
Run it

**`kubectl krew search <keyword>`**
Filter by keyword

**`kubectl krew list`**
What is installed

**`kubectl krew info <plugin>`**
Plugin details

**`kubectl krew upgrade`**
Update everything

**Index** git repo of manifests → `update` → **search / info** find a plugin → `install` → **~/.krew/bin** on your PATH → `kubectl <plugin>` → **Run** as a kubectl command

## CONCEPTS

krew is a kubectl plugin itself: every plugin it installs runs as kubectl <plugin>.

Needs kubectl 1.12 or later and git. Plugins live under $KREW_ROOT (default ~/.krew).

Krew uninstalls itself by deleting its directory; plugins go with it.

## SETUP

**`export PATH="${KREW_ROOT:-$HOME/.krew}/bin:$PATH"`**
Put krew plugins on PATH (bash/zsh)
*Add to .bashrc or .zshrc, then restart the shell.*

**`kubectl krew`**
Check the install works

**`set -gx PATH $PATH $HOME/.krew/bin`**
Put plugins on PATH (fish)

**`export KREW_ROOT=<dir>`**
Use another install directory
*Keep it set afterwards and add $KREW_ROOT/bin to PATH.*

**`rm -rf -- ~/.krew`**
Uninstall krew and all plugins

**`export KREW_NO_UPGRADE_CHECK=1`**
Silence upgrade reminders

## DISCOVER

**`kubectl krew update`**
Refresh the plugin index

**`kubectl krew search`**
List all available plugins

**`kubectl krew search <keyword>`**
Search plugins by keyword

**`kubectl krew info <plugin>`**
Show plugin version and description

## INSTALL AND RUN

**`kubectl krew install <plugin>`**
Install a plugin

**`kubectl krew install <plugin> <plugin>`**
Install several at once

**`kubectl <plugin>`**
Run an installed plugin

**`kubectl krew install <index>/<plugin>`**
Install from a named index
*Plugins from the default index need no prefix.*

**`kubectl plugin list`**
All kubectl plugins, krew or not

## MANAGE

**`kubectl krew list`**
List plugins installed via krew

**`kubectl krew upgrade`**
Upgrade all plugins (and krew)

## MANAGE (cont.)

**`kubectl krew upgrade <plugin>...`**
Upgrade only the named plugins

**`kubectl krew uninstall <plugin>...`**
Remove plugins

**`kubectl krew list | tee backup.txt`**
Back up the installed list

**`kubectl krew install < backup.txt`**
Restore plugins from the list

## INDEXES

**`kubectl krew index list`**
Show configured indexes

**`kubectl krew index add <name> <git-uri>`**
Add a custom index
*Any git remote works, including SSH addresses.*

**`kubectl krew index remove <name>`**
Remove an index

**`export KREW_DEFAULT_INDEX_URI=<git-uri>`**
Replace the default index
*Set before installing krew or after removing the default index.*

**`kubectl krew install --enable-netrc <index>/<plugin>`**
Install from a private registry

## INDEXES (cont.)

**`kubectl krew install --netrc-file <path> <index>/<plugin>`**
Use a custom .netrc file

**`export HTTPS_PROXY="<host:port>"`**
Install behind a proxy
*HTTP_PROXY and NO_PROXY are honoured too.*

## RECIPES

**First plugin**

```
kubectl krew update
kubectl krew search tree
kubectl krew info tree
kubectl krew install tree
kubectl tree deployment <name>
```

**Move plugins to a new machine**

```
# old machine
kubectl krew list | tee backup.txt
# new machine, after installing krew
kubectl krew install < backup.txt
```

**Keep everything current**

```
kubectl krew update
kubectl krew upgrade
kubectl krew list
```

**Private plugin index**

```
kubectl krew index add corp git@github.com:corp/krew-index.git
kubectl krew search
kubectl krew install corp/<plugin>
```