# kubectx & kubens Switch context and namespace

## CONCEPTS

> Both tools only edit your kubeconfig: context picks the cluster and user, namespace is the default for kubectl in that context.

**kubeconfig** ~/.kube/config or $KUBECONFIG
**Context (kubectx)** cluster + user
**Namespace (kubens)** default for kubectl

What each tool changes

> With fzf installed, running either tool with no argument opens a fuzzy menu instead of printing a list.

## CONTEXTS (KUBECTX)

**`kubectx`**
List contexts, or pick with fzf

**`kubectx <name>`**
Switch to a context

**`kubectx -`**
Switch to the previous context

**`kubectx -c`**
Show the current context

**`kubectx <new>=<name>`**
Rename a context

**`kubectx <new>=.`**
Rename the current context

**`kubectx -d <name> [<name>...]`**
Delete one or more contexts

## NAMESPACES (KUBENS)

**`kubens`**
List namespaces, or pick with fzf

## NAMESPACES (KUBENS)

(cont.)

**`kubens <name>`**
Switch the active namespace

**`kubens -`**
Switch to the previous namespace

**`kubens -c`**
Show the current namespace

**`kubens <name> -f`**
Switch even if it does not exist yet

## ISOLATED SHELLS

**`kubectx -s <name>`**
Shell scoped to one context

**`kubectx -r <name>`**
Read-only shell for a context

## INTERACTIVE MODE

**`kubectx | cat`**
Plain list even with fzf installed

**`export KUBECTX_IGNORE_FZF=1`**
Turn off the fzf menu

## INSTALL AND SETUP

**`brew install kubectx`**
Install with Homebrew

**`sudo apt install kubectx`**
Install on Debian or Ubuntu

**`kubectl krew install ctx ns`**
Install as kubectl plugins

## MULTIPLE KUBECONFIGS

**`export KUBECONFIG=~/.kube/a.yaml:~/.kube/b.yaml`**
Merge several files into one view