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