Multipass Ubuntu VMs on demand

CONCEPTS

Multipass runs Ubuntu VMs on your host. Launch, use and throw them away in seconds.

Image Ubuntu release
↓ launch
Running instance
↓ stop
Stopped snapshots here
↓ delete
Deleted recoverable
↓ purge
Gone disk freed

Deleted instances are only hidden until you purge them; recover brings them back.

The instance named primary is the default for shell, exec and stop when no name is given.

CREATE AND INSPECT

multipass launch [*<image>*] --name *<name>*
Create and start an instance

multipass launch --cpus *<n>* --memory *<size>* --disk *<size>*
Set the VM resources

multipass images
List available images

multipass list
List instances and their IPs

multipass info *<name>*
Show details of an instance

multipass list --format json
Machine-readable list

multipass info --all
Details of every instance

multipass launch --cloud-init *<file>*
Configure at first boot

multipass launch --mount *<host-dir>*:*<vm-dir>*
Mount a folder at launch

multipass clone *<name>* --name *<new>*
Copy a stopped instance

ACCESS

multipass shell [*<name>*]
Open a shell in the instance

multipass exec *<name>* -- *<cmd>*
Run a command in the instance

multipass exec *<name>* --working-directory *<dir>* -- *<cmd>*
Run in a given directory

multipass alias *<name>*:*<cmd>* [*<alias>*]
Run a VM command from the host

LIFECYCLE

multipass stop *<name>*
Stop an instance

multipass start *<name>*
Start a stopped instance

multipass restart *<name>*
Restart an instance

multipass suspend *<name>*
Suspend, keeping memory state

multipass stop --all
Stop every instance

multipass delete *<name>*
Delete (recoverable)

multipass recover *<name>*
Bring back a deleted instance

multipass purge
Permanently remove deleted instances

multipass delete --purge *<name>*
Delete and purge at once

FILES

multipass transfer *<file>* *<name>*:*<path>*
Copy host file to instance

multipass transfer *<name>*:*<path>* *<dest>*
Copy instance file to host

multipass transfer --recursive *<src>* *<name>*:*<path>*
Copy a directory tree

multipass mount *<host-dir>* *<name>*:*<vm-dir>*
Share a host folder

FILES (cont.)

multipass unmount *<name>*[:*<path>*]
Remove a mount

SNAPSHOTS

multipass snapshot *<name>* --name *<snap>*
Snapshot a stopped instance

multipass snapshots
List snapshots

multipass restore *<name>*.*<snap>*
Roll back to a snapshot

SETTINGS

multipass get --keys
List all setting keys

multipass get *<key>*
Read a setting

multipass set local.driver=*<driver>*
Choose the hypervisor

multipass set local.*<name>*.cpus=*<n>*
Resize a stopped instance's CPUs

multipass set local.*<name>*.memory=*<size>*
Resize its memory

multipass set local.*<name>*.disk=*<size>*
Grow its disk

multipass version
Show client and daemon versions

multipass help *<command>*
Help for one command

RECIPES

Throwaway test box

```
multipass launch 24.04 --name
scratch
multipass exec scratch -- sudo
apt-get install -y <pkg>
multipass delete --purge scratch
```

Share project, work inside

```
multipass launch --name dev --cpus
2 --memory 4G
multipass mount ~/<project> dev:/
home/ubuntu/<project>
multipass shell dev
```