nvm Node version manager

CONCEPTS

nvm is a shell function, not a program: it only exists in shells that source nvm.sh, and it changes PATH of that shell only.

.nvmrc version in project
↓ nvm use
nvm shell function
↓ sets PATH
~/.nvm/versions installed Node
↓ first on PATH
node, npm this shell only

Global npm packages belong to one Node version; a new version starts without them.

INSTALL NVM

curl -o- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/nvm-sh/nvm/v0.40.8/install.sh | bash
Install nvm with curl

nvm --version
Show the nvm version

command -v nvm
Check that nvm is loaded

INSTALL AND USE

nvm install *<version>*
Install a Node version

nvm install --lts
Install the newest LTS

nvm install node
Install the latest release

nvm install
Install the version from .nvmrc

nvm use *<version>*
Use a version in this shell

nvm use --lts
Use the newest LTS

nvm use
Use the version from .nvmrc

nvm install *<version>* **--reinstall-packages-from=***<old>*
Install and copy global packages

INSPECT VERSIONS

nvm ls
List installed versions

nvm ls-remote
List all installable versions

nvm ls-remote --lts
List LTS versions only

nvm current
Show the active version

nvm which *<version>*
Print the path of that node binary

nvm uninstall *<version>*
Remove an installed version

ALIASES AND DEFAULTS

nvm alias default *<version>*
Set the version new shells start with

nvm alias default node
Default to whatever is latest

nvm alias default lts/*
Default to the newest LTS

RUN WITHOUT SWITCHING

nvm run *<version> <script.js>*
Run node under that version

nvm exec *<version> <command>*
Run any command under that version

.NVMRC AND PACKAGES

echo "lts/*" > .nvmrc
Pin the project to the newest LTS

node -v > .nvmrc
Pin the project to the running version

nvm install && nvm use
Install then use the pinned version

nvm reinstall-packages *<version>*
Copy that version's global packages here

SHELL INTEGRATION

[-s "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh"] && . "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh" --no-use
Load nvm without activating the default

Slow shell startup is usually nvm.sh being sourced eagerly. Add --no-use, or load it lazily on first use of nvm, node or npm.