Open Policy Agent Policy as code

CONCEPTS

OPA evaluates a query against data (policies plus JSON) and an input document; the answer is JSON.

Policy .rego files
↓ opa check / fmt
Tested test_ rules
↓ opa test
Bundle .tar.gz
↓ opa build
Server opa run -s
↓ query
Decision JSON result

Rules are queried as data.<package>.<rule>; an undefined result prints an empty object, not false.

Rego itself is not covered here; this sheet is about the opa command.

EVAL

opa eval -d *<path>* **'***<query>***'**
Evaluate a query against policy and data

opa eval -d *<path>* **-i** *<input.json>* **'***<query>***'**
Supply an input document

opa eval -d *<path>* **-I '***<query>***'**
Read input from stdin

opa eval -b *<bundle>* **'***<query>***'**
Load a bundle instead of paths

opa eval -f pretty '*<query>***'**
Human-readable output

opa eval -f raw '*<query>***'**
Script-friendly value output

opa eval -f values '*<query>***'**
One result array per line

opa eval --fail '*<query>***'**
Exit non-zero if undefined or empty

opa eval --fail-defined '*<query>***'**
Exit non-zero if the result is defined

opa eval --explain=full '*<query>***'**
Trace how the query evaluated

REPL AND SERVER

opa run
Start the interactive REPL

opa run *<path>*
REPL with policies and data loaded

opa run -s *<path>*
Start the HTTP server

opa run -s -a *<addr>*
Listen on another address

opa run -s -b *<bundle>*
Serve a bundle

opa run -w *<path>*
Reload on file changes

opa run -s -c *<config.yaml>*
Use a config file

The server answers POST /v1/data/<path> with a JSON body of the form {"input": {...}}.

TESTING

opa test *<path>*
Run all test_ rules

opa test -v *<path>*
Verbose, one line per test

opa test -r '*<regex>***'** *<path>*
Run matching tests only

opa test -c *<path>*
Report coverage

opa test --threshold *<pct>* **-c** *<path>*
Fail below a coverage percentage

opa test -w *<path>*
Rerun tests on file changes

opa test -f json *<path>*
Machine-readable results

FORMAT AND CHECK

opa fmt *<path>*
Print formatted source

opa fmt -w *<path>*
Rewrite files in place

opa fmt -d *<path>*
Show a diff of changes

opa fmt -l *<path>*
List files that would change

opa fmt --fail *<path>*
Exit non-zero if files need formatting

FORMAT AND CHECK (cont.)

opa check *<path>*
Parse and compile check

opa check -S *<path>*
Strict mode checks

opa check -s *<schema>*
Type check against a schema

BUNDLES

opa build *<path>*
Build a bundle (bundle.tar.gz)

opa build -b *<dir>* **-o** *<file>*
Name the output file

opa build -r *<rev>* *<path>*
Set the bundle revision

opa build -e *<entrypoint>* *<path>*
Declare an entrypoint

opa build -O=1 -e *<entrypoint>* *<path>*
Optimize (needs an entrypoint)

opa build -t wasm -e *<entrypoint>* *<path>*
Compile to WebAssembly

opa inspect *<bundle>*
Summarize a bundle

OTHER COMMANDS

opa exec -b *<bundle>* *<input.json>*
Run the default decision on input files

opa version
Show version and build

Most commands take -d for data/policy paths and -b for bundles; both read directories recursively.

RECIPES

Gate a Kubernetes manifest in CI

```
# deny rule must come back empty
opa eval --fail-defined -d
policy/ -i deploy.json
'data.k8s.deny'
```

Check, format and test before commit

```
opa fmt --fail policy/
opa check -S policy/
opa test -c --threshold 80
policy/
```