playerctl Media player remote

CONCEPTS

playerctl talks to any MPRIS media player over D-Bus (Spotify, VLC, mpv with a plugin, browsers), so one command controls them all.

playerctl command
↓ D-Bus
MPRIS session bus
↓ selects
Player Spotify, VLC...
↓ plays
Audio output

Without -p, the command acts on the first player that supports it; playerctld (below) makes that the most recently active one.

Volume is a fraction from 0.0 to 1.0, not a percentage, and position is in seconds.

PLAYBACK

`playerctl play`
Start playing

`playerctl pause`
Pause playback

`playerctl play-pause`
Toggle play and pause

`playerctl stop`
Stop playback

`playerctl next`
Next track

`playerctl previous`
Previous track

`playerctl position 30+`
Seek 30 seconds forward

`playerctl position 90`
Jump to 90 seconds

`playerctl open <uri>`
Open a file or URL in the player

VOLUME

`playerctl volume`
Print the volume (0.0 to 1.0)

`playerctl volume 0.5`
Set volume to 50%

`playerctl volume 0.05+`
Raise volume by 5%

`playerctl volume 0.05-`
Lower volume by 5%

CHOOSING PLAYERS

`playerctl -l`
List running players

`playerctl -p <name> <cmd>`
Control a specific player

`playerctl -p vlc,spotify <cmd>`
Try players in order

`playerctl -a <cmd>`
Apply to all players

`playerctl -i <name> <cmd>`
Ignore a player

METADATA

`playerctl status`
Playing, Paused or Stopped

`playerctl metadata`
Print all track metadata

`playerctl metadata <key>`
Print one value

`playerctl metadata artist`
Current artist

FORMAT AND FOLLOW

`playerctl metadata -f "{{artist}} - {{title}}"`
Custom output line

`playerctl -F metadata -f "{{artist}} - {{title}}"`
Print on every change

`{{ duration(mpris:length) }}`
Format microseconds as mm:ss