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

playerctl loop None|Track|Playlist
Set the loop mode

playerctl shuffle On|Off|Toggle
Set or toggle shuffle

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

playerctl -a status
Status of every player

FORMAT AND FOLLOW

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

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

{{ playerName }} {{ status }}
Player name and status variables

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