Proxmox VE Virtualization platform CLI

CONCEPTS

qm manages QEMU/KVM VMs, pct manages LXC containers. Both share one ID space: every guest has a unique numeric VMID (100 and up) across the cluster.

Disks, ISOs, templates and backups are addressed by volume ID, storage:name, e.g. local-lvm:vm-100-disk-0 or local:iso/<file>.iso.

VM LIFECYCLE

qm list
List VMs with status, memory, PID

qm start *<vmid>*
Start a VM

qm shutdown *<vmid>*
Ask the guest to shut down

qm stop *<vmid>*
Hard stop, like pulling the plug

qm unlock *<vmid>*
Clear a stale lock

VM CONSOLE & GUEST AGENT

qm terminal *<vmid>*
Attach to the serial console

VM CONFIGURATION

qm config *<vmid>*
Show the VM's settings

qm set *<vmid>* **--memory** *<MiB>*
Set RAM

qm set *<vmid>* **--cores** *<n>*
Set CPU cores

TEMPLATES, CLONES & SNAPSHOTS

qm snapshot *<vmid>* *<name>*
Take a snapshot

TEMPLATES, CLONES & SNAPSHOTS (cont.)

qm rollback *<vmid>* *<name>*
Revert to a snapshot

qm clone *<vmid>* *<newid>* **--name** *<name>*
Clone a VM or template

CONTAINERS (PCT)

pct list
List containers

pct create *<vmid>* *<template>* **--rootfs** *<storage>*:*<GiB>*
Create a container

pct start *<vmid>*
Start a container

pct enter *<vmid>*
Root shell inside

pct shutdown *<vmid>*
Clean shutdown

CONTAINER TEMPLATES (PVEAM)

pveam available --section system
List downloadable OS templates

pveam download *<storage>* *<template>*
Download a template

STORAGE (PVESM)

pvesm status
Storages with type and usage

BACKUP & RESTORE

vzdump *<vmid>* **--storage** *<storage>*
Back up a VM or container

qmrestore *<archive>* *<vmid>* **--storage** *<storage>*
Restore a VM backup

pct restore *<vmid>* *<archive>* **--storage** *<storage>*
Restore a container backup