# Skaffold Kubernetes dev loop

**START HERE**

`skaffold init`
Generate skaffold.yaml

`skaffold render`
Print final manifests

`skaffold dev`
Build, deploy, watch

`skaffold delete`
Remove what was deployed

`skaffold run`
One-shot build and deploy

`skaffold dev -p <profile>`
Use a profile

`skaffold debug`
Dev loop with debugger

`skaffold diagnose`
Show effective config

## CONCEPTS

skaffold dev is the inner loop: it builds, deploys and tails logs, rebuilds on file change, and deletes what it deployed when you press Ctrl+C. skaffold run deploys once and leaves it.

**build** images from artifacts
**test** optional
**render** manifests with new tags
**deploy** kubectl / helm / kustomize
**verify** optional checks

Skaffold only drives your existing tools: Docker or buildpacks to build, kubectl, Helm or Kustomize to deploy. Its own config is skaffold.yaml.

Image names in manifests are rewritten to the freshly built tag at deploy time; you never edit tags by hand.

## DEV LOOP

`skaffold dev`
Build, deploy, watch, tail logs
*Ctrl+C stops it and cleans up the deployment unless --cleanup=false.*

`skaffold dev --port-forward=services`
Forward service ports locally
*The dev default is user: only ports listed under portForward in skaffold.yaml.*

`skaffold dev --no-prune --cleanup=false`
Keep resources after exit

`skaffold dev --auto-build=false`
Rebuild only on request

`skaffold dev --trigger=polling`
Poll for changes
*Values: notify (default), polling, manual. Use polling on network or container file systems.*

`skaffold dev -w <image>`
Watch only matching images

`skaffold dev --skip-tests`
Skip tests after build

`skaffold dev --keep-running-on-failure`
Suspend instead of exit on error

`skaffold dev --status-check=false`
Do not wait for rollout

`skaffold dev --tail=false`
Do not stream logs

## RUN, BUILD & DEPLOY

`skaffold run`
Build and deploy once

`skaffold run --tail`
Deploy and stream logs

`skaffold build`
Build images only

`skaffold build -q`
Print only built image names

`skaffold build --push`
Push built images

`skaffold build --file-output <file>`
Save built tags as JSON

`skaffold build --dry-run`
Compute tags without building

`skaffold deploy -a <file>`
Deploy pre-built images
*Pair with build --file-output for a build once, deploy many pipeline.*

`skaffold deploy -i <name>=<tag>`
Deploy given image tag

`skaffold run -b <substr>`
Build only matching artifacts

`skaffold run --force`
Recreate resources if needed
*May cause downtime.*

`skaffold test`
Run tests on built images

`skaffold apply <dir>`
Apply hydrated manifests

## DEBUG & VERIFY

`skaffold debug`
Dev loop with debug ports
*Auto-build, auto-sync and auto-deploy are off by default here.*

`skaffold debug --port-forward=user,debug`
Forward debug ports

`skaffold verify`
Run verify tests

`skaffold verify -a <file>`
Verify pre-built images

## CONFIG & PROFILES

`skaffold init`
Generate skaffold.yaml
*Detects Dockerfiles and manifests and asks which to use.*

`skaffold init --generate-manifests`
Also create basic manifests

`skaffold init -k <glob>`
Pick Kubernetes manifests

`skaffold init -a <Dockerfile>=<image>`
Map Dockerfile to image

## CONFIG & PROFILES (cont.)

`skaffold init --compose-file <file>`
Start from docker-compose

`skaffold fix`
Print config in newest schema

`skaffold fix --overwrite`
Upgrade skaffold.yaml in place

`skaffold diagnose`
Inspect effective config

`skaffold diagnose --yaml-only`
Print merged skaffold.yaml

`skaffold dev -f <file>`
Use another config file

`skaffold dev -p <profile>`
Activate a profile

`skaffold dev -p <a>,-<b>`
Enable a, disable b

`skaffold dev -m <module>`
Select config module

`skaffold config set <key> <value>`
Set a global option

## RENDER & DELETE

`skaffold render`
Print rendered manifests

`skaffold render -o <file>`
Write manifests to a file

`skaffold render --offline`
Render without a cluster

`skaffold render --digest-source=none`
Keep tags, skip digests

`skaffold render --set <key>=<val>`
Override templated field

`skaffold render -i <name>=<tag>`
Render with given tag

`skaffold delete`
Remove deployed resources

`skaffold delete --dry-run`
List what would be deleted

## TARGETING & IMAGES

`skaffold dev -n <ns>`
Deploy to a namespace

`skaffold dev --kube-context <ctx>`
Use a kube context

`skaffold dev --kubeconfig <file>`
Use another kubeconfig

`skaffold dev -d <repo>`
Default image repository
*Prefixes image names, e.g. gcr.io/<project>; use for remote clusters.*

## TARGETING & IMAGES (cont.)

`skaffold dev -t <tag>`
Custom image tag

`skaffold dev --platform <os/arch>`
Target platform

`skaffold dev -l <key>=<val>`
Label deployed objects

`skaffold dev --cache-artifacts=false`
Disable build cache

## HOUSEKEEPING

`skaffold version`
Print version

`skaffold completion <shell>`
Shell completion script
*bash, fish or zsh.*

`skaffold dev -v <level>`
Set log level
*Levels: panic, fatal, error, warning, info, debug, trace.*

`skaffold dev --interactive=false`
Never prompt

## SKAFFOLD.YAML

**Minimal skaffold.yaml**

```
apiVersion: skaffold/v4beta14
kind: Config
build:
  artifacts:
  - image: web
    docker: {dockerfile:
Dockerfile}
manifests:
  rawYaml: [k8s/*.yaml]
deploy:
  kubectl: {}
portForward:
- {resourceType: service,
resourceName: web, port: 80,
localPort: 8080}
```

## RECIPES

**Inner loop on local cluster**

```
kubectl config use-context
kind-dev
skaffold dev --port-
forward=services -n dev
```

**Build once, deploy per environment**

```
skaffold build -d
registry.example/app --push --
file-output build.json
skaffold deploy -a build.json -
p staging -n staging
skaffold deploy -a build.json -
p prod -n prod
```

**Review manifests in CI**

```
skaffold render -a build.json -
p prod --offline -o
rendered.yaml
kubectl diff -f rendered.yaml
```