stern Multi-pod Kubernetes logs

CONCEPTS

stern tails many pods and containers at once, one colour per pod, and picks up new or restarted pods automatically. The query is a regular expression on the pod name, not a glob.

Pod query regex or kind/name
↓ `-n -l --node`
Pods namespaces, labels
↓ `-c -E --container-state`
Containers init, ephemeral
↓ `-i -e --since`
Log lines merged stream
↓ `-o --template`
Output colour, JSON, custom

Default is all pods you can see in the current namespace and context; --since defaults to 48h and --tail to all lines, so busy pods print a lot at start.

SELECTING PODS

`stern <query>`
Tail pods whose name matches regex

`stern .`
Tail every pod in the namespace

`stern <kind>/<name>`
Exact resource, e.g. deployment/nginx

`-n <ns>` / `--namespace <ns>`
Namespace, repeat or comma-separate

`-A` / `--all-namespaces`
Every namespace

`-l <selector>` / `--selector`
Filter by label selector

`--field-selector <expr>`
Filter by field, e.g. spec.nodeName=<node>

`--exclude-pod <regex>`
Skip pods matching regex

CONTAINERS

`-c <regex>` / `--container`
Only containers matching regex

`-E <regex>` / `--exclude-container`
Skip containers, e.g. istio-proxy

`--container-state <state>`
running, waiting, terminated or all

`--init-containers=false`
Leave out init containers

TIME AND VOLUME

`--tail <n>`
Last n lines per container

`-s <dur>` / `--since <dur>`
Logs newer than e.g. 15m or 2h

`--no-follow`
Print and exit, do not stream

`-t` / `--timestamps`
Prefix timestamps

FILTERING LINES

`-i <regex>` / `--include`
Show only matching lines

`-e <regex>` / `--exclude`
Hide matching lines

`-H <regex>` / `--highlight`
Highlight matches, keep all lines

OUTPUT AND COLOUR

`-o raw`
Message text only, no prefix

`-o json`
One JSON object per line

`--template '<go-template>'`
Custom line format

`--color auto|always|never`
Force or disable colour

CLUSTER AND CONFIG

`--context <name>`
Use another kubeconfig context