Terraform Infrastructure as code

START HERE

`terraform init`
Download providers and modules

`terraform apply <file>`
Apply the saved plan

`terraform fmt`
Format the files

`terraform output`
Show output values

`terraform validate`
Check the configuration

`terraform state list`
List tracked resources

`terraform plan -out=<file>`
Preview and save changes

`terraform destroy`
Remove everything managed

Config .tf files → `init` → **Working dir** providers, modules → `plan` → **Plan** diff vs. state → `apply` → **Infrastructure** state updated

CONCEPTS

Terraform compares your configuration with its state file, not with the real world alone. Lose the state and it forgets what it manages.

Always read the plan before applying. Saving it with -out guarantees apply does exactly what you reviewed.

Never edit the state file by hand and keep it out of git; use a remote backend for teams.

WORKFLOW

`terraform init`
Prepare the working directory
Run again after adding a provider, module or backend.

`terraform init -upgrade`
Update providers and modules

`terraform init -reconfigure`
Ignore saved backend setup

`terraform init -migrate-state`
Move state to a new backend

`terraform validate`
Check syntax and consistency

`terraform plan`
Preview changes

`terraform plan -out=<file>`
Save the plan to a file

`terraform apply`
Plan, confirm, then apply

`terraform apply <planfile>`
Apply a saved plan

`terraform apply -auto-approve`
Skip the confirmation prompt
Meant for CI; never use it without a reviewed plan.

`terraform destroy`
Destroy all managed resources

`terraform plan -destroy`
Preview a destroy

`terraform apply -refresh-only`
Sync state with reality

`terraform fmt`
Rewrite files in canonical style

WORKFLOW (cont.)

`terraform fmt -recursive -check`
Check formatting incl. subdirs

TARGETING & PLANS

`terraform plan -target=<addr>`
Limit to one resource
For exceptions only; it can leave the rest out of sync.

`terraform apply -replace=<addr>`
Force recreating a resource

`terraform plan -refresh=false`
Skip reading real state

`terraform plan -parallelism=<n>`
Limit concurrent operations

`terraform plan -detailed-exitcode`
Exit 2 when changes exist

`terraform show <planfile>`
Display a saved plan

`terraform show -json <planfile>`
Plan as JSON

`terraform graph`
Dependency graph (DOT)

VARIABLES & OUTPUTS

`terraform plan -var '<name>=<value>'`
Set one variable

`terraform plan -var-file=<file>`
Load variables from a file

`TF_VAR_<name>=<value>`
Set a variable via environment

`terraform.tfvars`
Loaded automatically
**.auto.tfvars files are also loaded automatically.*

`terraform output`
Show all outputs

`terraform output <name>`
Show a single output

`terraform output -raw <name>`
Plain value, no quotes

VARIABLES & OUTPUTS (cont.)

`terraform output -json`
Outputs as JSON

`terraform console`
Try expressions interactively

STATE

`terraform state list`
List tracked resources

`terraform state show <addr>`
Show one resource's attributes

`terraform state mv <src> <dst>`
Rename or move in state

`terraform state rm <addr>`
Forget a resource, keep it real

`terraform state pull`
Print the state as JSON

`terraform state push <file>`
Upload a state file

`terraform import <addr> <id>`
Adopt an existing resource
The resource block must exist in the config first; an import block is the declarative alternative.

`terraform taint <addr>`
Mark for replacement
Superseded by apply -replace.

`terraform untaint <addr>`
Clear the taint mark

`terraform force-unlock <id>`
Release a stuck state lock

`terraform refresh`
Update state from reality
Deprecated; use apply -refresh-only.

WORKSPACES

`terraform workspace list`
List workspaces

`terraform workspace show`
Show the current one

`terraform workspace new <name>`
Create and switch

`terraform workspace select <name>`
Switch workspace

WORKSPACES (cont.)

`terraform workspace delete <name>`
Delete a workspace

Each workspace has its own state under the same configuration. Use ${terraform.workspace} to vary names.

PROVIDERS & MODULES

`terraform providers`
List required providers

`terraform providers lock`
Write the dependency lock file

`terraform get`
Download modules

`terraform modules`
List declared modules

`terraform version`
Show Terraform version

`terraform login`
Save a remote host token

`terraform -chdir=<dir> <cmd>`
Run in another directory

RECIPES

Reviewed deploy

```
terraform init
terraform fmt -check
terraform validate
terraform plan -out=tfplan
terraform apply tfplan
```

Per-environment variables

```
terraform workspace select prod
terraform plan -var-file=prod.tfvars -out=tfplan
terraform apply tfplan
```

Rename without recreating

```
terraform state mv aws_instance.old aws_instance.new
# update the resource name in the .tf file
terraform plan   # expect no changes
```

Replace one broken resource

```
terraform plan -replace=aws_instance.web
terraform apply -replace=aws_instance.web
```