usql Universal SQL CLI

CONCEPTS

usql is psql's command set for many databases. The scheme of the DSN picks the driver (pg, my, ms, or, sq ...). Which drivers exist depends on the build: check with \drivers.

DSN driver://user:pass@host/db
Driver chosen by scheme or alias
↓ parses
Prompt SQL plus \commands
↓ connects
Output table, CSV, JSON, HTML
↓ prints

Common schemes

Database	Scheme	Alias
PostgreSQL	postgres	pg
MySQL	mysql	my
SQL Server	sqlserver	ms
Oracle	oracle	or
SQLite3	sqlite3	sq
DuckDB	duckdb	dk
ClickHouse	clickhouse	ch

CONNECT

usql pg://user:pass@host/db
Connect to PostgreSQL

usql my://user:pass@host:3306/db
Connect to MySQL

usql sq://*<path>***.db**
SQLite, create if missing

usql *<path>*
Open an existing file or socket

\c *<dsn or name>*
Switch connection in the prompt

\drivers
List drivers built in

RUN AND SCRIPT

usql *<dsn>* **-c "***<sql>***"**
Run one command and exit

usql *<dsn>* **-f** *<file>*
Run a file and exit

\i *<file>*
Run a file from the prompt

RUN AND SCRIPT (cont.)

\g
Run the query buffer (same as ;)

\p
Print the query buffer

\r
Clear the query buffer

\e
Edit the buffer in $EDITOR

INSPECT THE SCHEMA

\dt[S+] [*<pattern>***]**
List tables

\d[S+] [*<name>***]**
List relations or describe one

\l[+]
List databases

OUTPUT FORMATS

-C
CSV output

-J
JSON output

-x
Expanded output (one field per line)

-t
Rows only, no headers

\x [on|off|auto]
Toggle expanded output

\G
Run and print vertically

VARIABLES AND SCRIPTING

\set *<name>* *<value>*
Set a script variable

:*<name>* **/ :'***<name>***' / :"***<name>***"**
Interpolate raw / as string / as identifier

COPY AND CONFIG

\copy *<src>* *<dst>* *<query>* *<table>*
Copy query results between databases

~/.config/usql/config.yaml
Config file (Linux)

connections: { *<name>***:** *<dsn>* **}**
Named DSNs in config.yaml