HashiCorp Vault

Secrets management

CONCEPTS

The CLI is a thin wrapper over the HTTP API: everything lives at a path, and read/write/list/delete work on any of them.

Auth method userpass, token, oidc...
↓ issues
Token carries policies
↓ checked by
Policy path capabilities
↓ allows
Secrets engine kv, transit, database...

The server starts sealed. Unseal it with enough key shares before any request works; dev mode skips this.

CONNECT

export VAULT_ADDR=<*url*>
Set the server address

export VAULT_TOKEN=<*token*>
Authenticate via environment

vault status
Show seal and HA state

-format=json
Machine-readable output (also yaml)

DEV SERVER

vault server -dev
Run in-memory, unsealed

vault server -dev -dev-root-token-id=<*id*>
Dev server with a known root token

vault server -config=<*file*>
Run with a config file

LOGIN AND TOKENS

vault login
Log in with a token (prompts)

vault login -method=<*type*> <*key*>=<*value*>
Log in with another auth method

vault token lookup
Show the current token

vault token create -policy=<*name*>
Create a token with a policy

KV SECRETS

vault kv put -mount=secret <*path*> <*key*>=<*value*>
Write a secret

vault kv get -mount=secret <*path*>
Read a secret

vault kv get -mount=secret -field=<*key*> <*path*>
Print one field only

vault kv list -mount=secret
List paths under a mount

vault kv patch -mount=secret <*path*> <*key*>=<*value*>
Change keys, keep the rest

vault kv put -mount=secret <*path*> <*key*>=-
Read a value from stdin

vault kv delete -mount=secret <*path*>
Soft-delete the latest version

RAW API PATHS

vault read <*path*>
GET any path

vault write <*path*> <*key*>=<*value*>
POST/PUT data to a path

ENGINES AND AUTH METHODS

vault secrets list
Show enabled secrets engines

vault secrets enable -path=<*path*> <*type*>
Enable an engine

vault auth enable <*type*>
Enable an auth method

POLICIES

vault policy write <*name*> <*file*>**.hcl**
Upload a policy from a file

OPERATE AND SEAL

vault operator init
Initialize a new server

vault operator unseal
Enter one unseal key (prompts)