watch Rerun a command

CONCEPTS

watch runs the command through sh -c, then redraws the screen; pipes and variables in unquoted form are handled by your shell first.

Run command sh -c or exec
↓ capture output
Draw screen header + first page
↓ sleep -n secs
Repeat until Ctrl+C or exit flag

Options must come before the command: everything after the command is passed to it, not to watch.

BASICS

`watch <cmd>`
Run a command every 2 seconds

`watch -n <secs> <cmd>`
Set the update interval

`watch -n 0.5 <cmd>`
Sub-second interval (minimum 0.1)

`watch -d <cmd>`
Highlight what changed since last run

`watch -d=permanent <cmd>`
Keep highlighting all changes since start

`watch -t <cmd>`
Turn off the header line

`watch -c <cmd>`
Interpret ANSI colours

`watch -w <cmd>`
Truncate long lines instead of wrapping

`watch -b <cmd>`
Beep when the command fails

`Ctrl+C`
Quit watch

EXIT CONDITIONS

`watch -g <cmd>`
Exit when the visible output changes

EXIT CONDITIONS (cont.)

`watch -q <cycles> <cmd>`
Exit when output is unchanged for N cycles

`watch -e <cmd>`
Freeze and exit on command error

`watch -g <cmd>; <next>`
Chain an action after the change

QUOTING AND SHELL

`watch '<cmd1> | <cmd2>'`
Quote pipelines so watch runs them

`watch -x <cmd> <args>`
Exec directly, no sh -c

`watch 'echo $$'`
Single quotes: expanded on each run

`watch echo $$`
Unquoted: expanded once by your shell

TIMING

`watch -p -n <secs> <cmd>`
Run at precise intervals

EVERYDAY TARGETS

`watch df -h`
Disk space

`watch -d free -m`
Memory use

`watch 'ss -tulpn'`
Listening ports

`watch -d ls -l <dir>`
Directory changes

`watch 'ps aux --sort=-%cpu | head'`
Top CPU processes

`watch -n 1 'cat /proc/loadavg'`
Load average

`watch kubectl get pods`
Pod status

`watch -n 1 'docker ps'`
Running containers