watchexec Run on file change

CONCEPTS

Put -- before your command so its own flags are not read by watchexec.

File event save, create, delete
↓ debounce
Filters paths, ignores, -e, -f
↓ pass
Command start or restart
↓ exit
Wait for next change

By default it watches the current directory recursively and honours .gitignore and .ignore, so build output folders are usually skipped already.

RUNNING

`watchexec <cmd> [args]`
Run a command whenever files change

`watchexec -- <cmd> --flag`
Stop option parsing before the command

`watchexec -p <cmd>`
Postpone: skip the initial run

`watchexec -r <cmd>`
Restart the command on change

`watchexec -c <cmd>`
Clear the screen before each run

`watchexec -n <cmd>`
No shell: run the program directly

`watchexec --shell <shell> <cmd>`
Choose the shell, e.g. bash or zsh

`watchexec -E <KEY=VALUE> <cmd>`
Set an env var for the command only

`watchexec --workdir <dir> <cmd>`
Run the command in another directory

`watchexec -I <cmd>`
Interactive: r restart, s stop, p pause, q quit

WHAT TO WATCH

`-w <path>`
Watch a file or directory (repeatable)

`-W <dir>`
Watch a directory without recursion

WHAT TO WATCH (cont.)

`-e <ext,ext>`
Only react to these extensions

`-f <glob>`
Only react to paths matching a pattern

`-i <glob>`
Ignore paths matching a pattern

`--no-vcs-ignore`
Watch files that .gitignore excludes

`--no-meta`
Skip metadata-only events

BUSY AND SIGNALS

`-o <mode>`
If busy: do-nothing, queue, restart or signal

`-r`
Same as -o restart

`-s <signal>`
Send a signal to the running command on change

DEBOUNCE AND POLLING

`-d <time>`
Wait for quiet before acting (default 50ms)

`--poll [interval]`
Poll instead of OS events (network drives)

CHANGED PATHS

`--emit-events-to <mode>`
none, environment, stdio, file, json-stdio, json-file

`--print-events`
Print the events that triggered a run

SETUP AND DEBUG

`watchexec --completions <shell>`
Print shell completions

`watchexec --manual`
Show the full manual

`watchexec -V`
Show the version