xh Friendly HTTP client

START HERE

`xh <url>`
GET a URL

`xh :3000/<path>`
Hit localhost

`xh <url> <k>=<v>`
POST JSON body

`xh -v <url>`
Show request and response

`xh <url> <k>==<v>`
Add query parameter

`xh <url> <h>:<v>`
Set a header

`xh -f <url> <k>=<v>`
Send as form

`xh -d <url>`
Download to file

URL scheme optional | **Items** k:v k==v k=v → parsed | **Request** JSON by default → sent | **Response** colored on tty → printed

CONCEPTS

The separator in each argument picks its meaning: ':' header, '==' query, '=' string field, ':=' raw JSON value, '@' file upload. Data fields make it a POST, otherwise GET.

REQUESTS

`xh <url>`
GET a URL and pretty-print

`xh post <url> <k>=<v>`
Explicit method

`xh put <url> <k>=<v>`
Replace a resource

`xh delete <url>`
Delete a resource

`xh <url> <k>=<v> <k2>=<v2>`
Build a JSON object

`xh <url> <k>:=<json>`
Send number, bool, array, object

`xh <url> <a>[<b>][0]=<v>`
Nested JSON path

`xh <url> <k>==<v>`
Add query parameter

`xh <url> <h>:<v>`
Set a header

`xh <url> <h>:`
Remove a default header

`xh <url> <h>:@<file>`
Read header value from file

REQUESTS (cont.)

`xh :3000/<path>`
Shorthand for localhost:3000

`xh --raw '<body>' <url>`
Send a raw body

`xh <url> < <file>`
Body from stdin

`xh <url> -I < <file>`
Ignore stdin (in scripts, cron)

FORMS AND FILES

`xh -f <url> <k>=<v>`
URL-encoded form body

`xh --multipart <url> <k>=<v>`
Multipart form body

`xh -f <url> <k>@<file>`
Upload a file field

`xh -f <url> <k>@<file>;type=<mime>`
Upload with MIME type

`xh -f <url> <k>@<file>;filename=<n>`
Upload with another filename

`xh -j <url> <k>=<v>`
Force JSON body (default)

OUTPUT

`xh -v <url>`
Print request and response

`xh -h <url>`
Print response headers only

OUTPUT (cont.)

`xh -b <url>`
Print response body only

`xh -m <url>`
Print metadata only

`xh -p <what> <url>`
Choose parts: H B h b m

`xh -q <url>`
Suppress output

`xh --pretty <mode> <url>`
all, colors, format or none

`xh -s <theme> <url>`
Color theme: auto, solarized, monokai, fruity

`xh -S <url>`
Stream the response as it arrives

`xh --curl <url>`
Print the equivalent curl command

`xh --debug <url>`
Show debug information

`xh --offline <url> <k>=<v>`
Build and show request without sending

AUTH

`xh -a <user>:<pass> <url>`
Basic auth

`xh -a <user> <url>`
Basic auth, prompt for password

`xh -A bearer -a <token> <url>`
Bearer token

AUTH (cont.)

`xh -A digest -a <user>:<pass> <url>`
Digest auth

`xh --ignore-netrc <url>`
Skip credentials from .netrc

DOWNLOADS AND REDIRECTS

`xh -d <url>`
Download body to a file

`xh -d -o <file> <url>`
Download to a chosen name

`xh -d -c -o <file> <url>`
Resume an interrupted download

`xh -F <url>`
Follow redirects

`xh -F --max-redirects <n> <url>`
Limit redirect hops

`xh -F --all <url>`
Show every redirect step

`xh --check-status <url>`
Non-zero exit on 4xx/5xx (default)

`xh --no-check-status <url>`
Exit 0 despite HTTP errors

SESSIONS

`xh --session <name> <url>`
Create or reuse a session

`xh --session <file> <url>`
Session stored in a path

SESSIONS (cont.)

`xh --session-read-only <name> <url>`
Use session, do not update it

A session stores headers, cookies and auth for one host. Log in once with --session, then later calls reuse the cookies without repeating -a.

NETWORK AND TLS

`xh --timeout <sec> <url>`
Give up after N seconds

`xh --proxy <proto>:<url> <url>`
Route through a proxy

`xh --resolve <host>:<addr> <url>`
Pin a hostname to an address

`xh --verify no <url>`
Skip certificate verification

`xh --verify <ca.pem> <url>`
Trust a custom CA bundle

`xh --cert <file> --cert-key <key> <url>`
Client certificate

`xh --https <host>`
Default to HTTPS

`xh --http-version <v> <url>`
Pick HTTP version

`xh --unix-socket <path> <url>`
Talk over a Unix socket

CONCEPTS AND SETUP

`xhs <url>`
HTTPS by default alias

`xh --no-<option>`
Reset any option

`xh --generate <kind>`
Emit shell completions or man page

`xh --help`
List all options

`xh --version`
Print version

RECIPES

Authenticated JSON API call

```
# create, then fetch with a bearer token
xh post api.example.com/items name=widget qty:=3 -A bearer -a $TOKEN
xh api.example.com/items -A bearer -a $TOKEN
```

Cookie login with a session

```
# log in once, reuse the cookie
xh --session=me -f post :8000/login user=ann pass=secret
xh --session=me :8000/profile
```

Pipe to jq, preview as curl

```
xh -b api.example.com/items | jq '.[].name'
xh --offline post :3000/x a=1 --curl
```

Download, then upload a file

```
xh -F -d -o app.tgz example.com/app.tgz
xh -f post example.com/up file@./app.tgz
```