

The WP-CLI Cheat Sheet · WebsiteSetup.org

Manage WordPress core, plugins, themes, users, and the database from the terminal. Verified for WP-CLI v2.x.

WP-CLI needs shell or SSH access. Back up with `wp db export` and dry-run before any search-replace. Quote URLs, and remember db reset and post delete `--force` cannot be undone.

Install and verify

Download the phar, make it executable, move it into your path.

```
curl -O https://raw.githubusercontent.com/wp-cli/builds/gh-pages/phar/wp-cli.phar
chmod +x wp-cli.phar
sudo mv wp-cli.phar /usr/local/bin/wp
```

Confirm the install and print environment details.

```
wp --info
```

Show the WP-CLI version number.

```
wp cli version
```

Update WP-CLI itself to the latest release.

```
wp cli update
```

Core: install and setup

Download the latest WordPress core files.

```
wp core download
```

Create `wp-config.php`. Use `config create`; the old wp core config is removed.

```
wp config create --dbname=NAME --dbuser=USER --dbpass=PASS
```

Run the install and create the first admin account.

```
wp core install --url=example.com --title="Site" --admin_user=admin --admin_password=STRONGPASS --
admin_email=you@example.com
```

Check the running version, update core, apply DB migrations.

```
wp core version
wp core update
wp core update-db
```

Compare core files against official checksums to detect tampering.

```
wp core verify-checksums
```

Plugins

List installed plugins, or search the directory.

```
wp plugin list
wp plugin search woocommerce
```

Install a plugin, or install and activate in one step.

```
wp plugin install akismet
wp plugin install akismet --activate
```

Turn a plugin on or off without deleting it.

```
wp plugin activate akismet
wp plugin deactivate akismet
```

Update every plugin, or delete one you do not need.

```
wp plugin update --all
wp plugin delete hello
```

Themes

List installed themes, or search the directory.

```
wp theme list
wp theme search astra
```

Install and switch to a theme, or activate an installed one.

```
wp theme install twentytwentyfour --activate
wp theme activate twentytwentyfour
```

Update all themes, or delete one (not the active theme).

```
wp theme update --all
wp theme delete twentytwentythree
```

Users

List all users with roles and emails.

```
wp user list
```

Create a user with a login, email, and role.

```
wp user create bob bob@example.com --role=editor
```

Reset a user password from the command line.

```
wp user update bob --user_pass=NEWPASS
```

Delete a user and reassign their posts to another ID.

```
wp user delete bob --reassign=1
```

Posts and content

List content by type, here pages instead of posts.

```
wp post list --post_type=page
```

Create a published post, or set a post back to draft.

```
wp post create --post_status=publish --post_title="Hello"
wp post update 42 --post_status=draft
```

Delete a post permanently, skipping the trash.

```
wp post delete 42 --force
```

Generate dummy posts for testing a theme or layout.

```
wp post generate --count=20
```

Database

Export a full backup, and import one to restore.

```
wp db export backup.sql
wp db import backup.sql
```

Optimize tables to reclaim space, or repair corruption.

```
wp db optimize
wp db repair
```

Wipe the database: drops and recreates every table. Irreversible.

```
wp db reset --yes
```

Run a query, check total size, or open a MySQL shell.

```
wp db query "SELECT COUNT(*) FROM wp_posts;"
wp db size --human-readable
wp db cli
```

Search and replace

Preview a domain change first with a dry run.

```
wp search-replace 'https://old.com' 'https://new.com' --dry-run
```

Run for real: skip guid, handle serialized data, match precisely.

```
wp search-replace 'https://old.com' 'https://new.com' --skip-columns=guid --recurse-objects --precise
```

Maintenance and performance

Flush the object cache and clear all transients.

```
wp cache flush
wp transient delete --all
```

Rebuild rewrite rules to fix permalinks and 404s.

```
wp rewrite flush
```

List cron events, or run everything that is due now.

```
wp cron event list
wp cron event run --due-now
```

Toggle maintenance mode around a risky change.

```
wp maintenance-mode activate
wp maintenance-mode deactivate
```

Regenerate only the missing image thumbnails.

```
wp media regenerate --yes --only-missing
```

Options

Read one option, update another, or list by pattern.

```
wp option get siteurl
wp option update blogname "New Site Name"
wp option list --search="theme_*
```

Remote and handy

Target a remote environment via a wp-cli.yml alias.

```
wp @production plugin list
```

Or pass the SSH connection and path inline, no alias.

```
wp plugin list --ssh=user@host:/var/www/html
```

Health scan (install wp-cli/doctor-command first).

```
wp doctor check --all
```