

Quick Start



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Congratulations! You've [installed WP-CLI](#) for the first time, and are ready to level-up your use of WordPress. This page contains a brief introduction to WP-CLI with some example usage.

Introduction

WP-CLI is a command line interface for WordPress. The project's goal is to offer a complete alternative to the WordPress admin; for any action you might want to perform in the WordPress admin, there should be an equivalent WP-CLI command.

For instance, because you can install a plugin from the WordPress admin, you can also [install a plugin](#) with WP-CLI:

```
$ wp plugin install akismet
Installing Akismet (3.1.8)
Downloading install package from https://downloads.wordpress.org/plugin/akismet.3.1.8.zip...
Unpacking the package...
Installing the plugin...
Plugin installed successfully.
```

And, because you can also activate plugins from the WordPress admin, you can [activate a plugin](#) with WP-CLI:

```
$ wp plugin activate akismet
Success: Plugin 'akismet' activated.
```

One key difference between using the WordPress admin and WP-CLI: performing any action takes many fewer clicks. As you become more familiar with the command line, you'll notice performing a

given task with WP-CLI is generally much faster than performing the same task through the WordPress admin. Investing time upfront into learning how to better use WP-CLI pays dividends in the long term.

Common Terms

Throughout your usage of WP-CLI, you'll hear certain terms used over and over again.

For instance, a *command* is an atomic unit of WP-CLI functionality. `wp plugin install` is one such command, as is `wp plugin activate`. Commands represent a name (e.g. 'plugin install') and a callback, and are registered with `WP_CLI::add_command()` ([doc](#)).

The *synopsis* defines which *positional* and *associative* arguments a command accepts. Let's take a look at the synopsis for `wp plugin install`:

```
$ wp plugin install
usage: wp plugin install <plugin|zip|url>... [--version=<version>] [--force] [--activate] [--activate-network]
```

In this example, `<plugin|zip|url>...` is the accepted *positional* argument. In fact, `wp plugin install` accepts the same positional argument (the slug, ZIP, or URL of a plugin to install) multiple times. `[--version=<version>]` is one of the accepted *associative* arguments. It's used to denote the version of the plugin to install. Notice, too, the square brackets around the argument definition; square brackets mean the argument is optional.

WP-CLI also has a [series of global arguments](#) which work with all commands. For instance, including `--debug` means your command execution will display all PHP errors, and add extra verbosity to the WP-CLI bootstrap process.

Practical Examples

Ready to dive in? Here are some common examples of how WP-CLI is used:

Download and install WordPress in seconds

1. Download the latest version of WordPress with `wp core download` ([doc](#)).

```
$ wp core download --path=wpclidemo.dev
Creating directory '/srv/www/wpclidemo.dev/'.
Downloading WordPress 4.6.1 (en_US)...
```

```
Using cached file '/home/vagrant/.wp-cli/cache/core/wordpress-4.6.1-en_US.tar.gz'...
Success: WordPress downloaded.
```

2. Create a new wp-config.php file with `wp config create` ([doc](#)).

```
$ cd wpclidemo.dev
$ wp config create --dbname=wpclidemo --dbuser=root --prompt=dbpass
1/10 [--dbpass=<dbpass>]:
Success: Generated 'wp-config.php' file.
```

3. Create the database based on wp-config.php with `wp db create` ([doc](#)).

```
$ wp db create
Success: Database created.
```

4. Install WordPress with `wp core install` ([doc](#)).

```
$ wp core install --url=wpclidemo.dev --title="WP-CLI" --admin_user=wpcli --
admin_password=wpcli --admin_email=info@wp-cli.org
Success: WordPress installed successfully.
```

That's it!

Update plugins to their latest version

Use `wp plugin update --all` ([doc](#)) to update all plugins to their latest version.

```
$ wp plugin update --all
Enabling Maintenance mode...
Downloading update from https://downloads.wordpress.org/plugin/akismet.3.1.11.zip...
Unpacking the update...
Installing the latest version...
Removing the old version of the plugin...
Plugin updated successfully.
Downloading update from https://downloads.wordpress.org/plugin/nginx-champuru.3.2.0.zip...
Unpacking the update...
Installing the latest version...
Removing the old version of the plugin...
Plugin updated successfully.
Disabling Maintenance mode...
```

```
Success: Updated 2/2 plugins.
```

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| name           | old_version | new_version | status |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| akismet        | 3.1.3       | 3.1.11     | Updated |
| nginx-cache-controller | 3.1.1       | 3.2.0      | Updated |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

Add a user as a super-admin

On multisite, use `wp super-admin add` ([doc](#)) to grant super admin capabilities to an existing user.

```
$ wp super-admin add wpcli
Success: Granted super-admin capabilities.
```

Regenerate thumbnails

If you've added or changed an image size registered with `add_image_size()`, you may want to use `wp media regenerate` ([doc](#)) so your theme displays the correct image size.

```
wp media regenerate --yes
Found 1 image to regenerate.
1/1 Regenerated thumbnails for "charlie-gpa" (ID 4).
Success: Finished regenerating the image.
```

Search and replace URLs

If you're moving a database from one domain to another, `wp search-replace` ([doc](#)) makes it easy to update all URL references in your database.

To see which links will be replaced in your database, use the `--dry-run` flag:

```
wp search-replace 'http://oldsite.com' 'http://newsite.com' --dry-run
```

When ready to replace the links, run:

```
wp search-replace 'http://oldsite.com' 'http://newsite.com'
```

Wondering what's next? Browse through [all of WP-CLI's commands](#) to explore your new world. For more detailed information about creating custom commands, visit the [WP-CLI Commands Cookbook](#). Or, catch up with [shell friends](#) to learn about helpful command line utilities.

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