

# systemctl Cheatsheet

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## Quick reference for systemctl service and systemd unit management

systemctl is the systemd command-line tool for managing services and other units. This cheatsheet covers common service actions, unit inspection, and system-wide controls.

### Service Control

Start, stop, and restart services.

<code>systemctl start nginx</code>	Start a service
<code>systemctl stop nginx</code>	Stop a service
<a href="#">systemctl restart nginx</a>	Restart a service
<code>systemctl reload nginx</code>	Reload configuration without full restart
<code>systemctl try-restart nginx</code>	Restart only if running
<code>systemctl reload-or-restart nginx</code>	Reload or restart if reload unsupported

### Enable at Boot

Control whether a service starts automatically.

<code>systemctl enable nginx</code>	Enable at boot
<code>systemctl disable nginx</code>	Disable at boot
<code>systemctl enable --now nginx</code>	Enable and start immediately
<code>systemctl disable --now nginx</code>	Disable and stop immediately
<code>systemctl is-enabled nginx</code>	Check if enabled

## Status and State

Check service state and details.

<code>systemctl status nginx</code>	Show status and recent logs
<code>systemctl is-active nginx</code>	Check if active
<code>systemctl is-failed nginx</code>	Check if failed
<code>systemctl show nginx</code>	Show unit properties
<code>systemctl show -p ExecStart nginx</code>	Show a specific property

## List Units

Find units and see what is running.

<code>systemctl list-units</code>	List active units
<code>systemctl list-units --type=service</code>	List active services
<code>systemctl list-units --all</code>	List all units
<code>systemctl list-unit-files</code>	List unit files and enablement
<code>systemctl list-unit-files --type=service</code>	List service unit files

## Unit Files

Inspect and edit unit files.

<code>systemctl cat nginx</code>	Show unit file content
<code>systemctl edit nginx</code>	Create override drop-in
<code>systemctl edit --full nginx</code>	Edit full unit file
<code>systemctl daemon-reload</code>	Reload systemd units after changes

## Masking and Dependencies

Prevent services from starting or inspect dependencies.

<code>systemctl mask nginx</code>	Prevent a unit from starting
<code>systemctl unmask nginx</code>	Remove mask
<code>systemctl list-dependencies nginx</code>	Show dependencies
<code>systemctl list-dependencies --reverse nginx</code>	Show reverse dependencies

## System Actions

System-wide power and state controls.

<code>systemctl reboot</code>	Reboot the system
<code>systemctl poweroff</code>	Power off the system
<code>systemctl halt</code>	Halt the system
<code>systemctl suspend</code>	Suspend
<code>systemctl hibernate</code>	Hibernate