

Use Watch for repetitive command line actions

Apr 2021

Overview

When you perform an action from the command line, it gets executed just once. So if you type **Date**, you will see the current time and date at the execution time of the command. But sometimes it is very useful if you are looking for a change to have your command line executed many times, and this can be achieved with a command called **Watch**.

Using Watch

Using **Watch** is very simple, but first lets look at a simple command line example.

Lets say I want to see some PODs coming up in Kubernetes, I have to use the following command:

```
kubectl -n mediakind get pods |grep stream-processor
```

And as an example, this will give me a single output like so.

mux-bckp-1-stream-processor-mux-65c46756b5-4kvcz	3/5	Running
mux-main-1-stream-processor-mux-7879d98786-nkphj	2/5	Running
stream-processor-config-656fd6d7f4-4www4	1/1	Running
stream-processor-simulcrypt-bckp-6d5c94954d-7kp52	1/3	Running
stream-processor-simulcrypt-main-6f8bd6845b-8lc6g	3/3	Running
stream-processor-statmux-bckp-75dc49984-sc9ft	1/3	Running
stream-processor-statmux-main-6d9659dbc6-8nhfv	3/3	Running
stream-processor-ui-connector-789b688bc5-fg6x7	1/1	Running

I can see some of my PODs are up, but not all of them, so I have to keep running this command over and over. Watch will do this for me, and to do this I can put my original command in quotes, and use Watch at the start.

```
watch "kubectl -n mediakind get pods |grep stream-processor"
```

Now I will see something similar to the following, and it will automatically refresh every 2 seconds.

Every 2.0s: kubectl -n mediakind get pods grep stream-processor	Wed Apr 21
17:40:43 2021	
mux-bckp-1-stream-processor-mux-65c46756b5-4kvcz	5/5 Running
mux-main-1-stream-processor-mux-7879d98786-nkphj	5/5 Running
stream-processor-config-656fd6d7f4-4www4	1/1 Running
stream-processor-simulcrypt-bckp-6d5c94954d-7kp52	3/3 Running
stream-processor-simulcrypt-main-6f8bd6845b-8lc6g	3/3 Running
stream-processor-statmux-bckp-75dc49984-sc9ft	3/3 Running
stream-processor-statmux-main-6d9659dbc6-8nhfv	3/3 Running
stream-processor-ui-connector-789b688bc5-fg6x7	1/1 Running

Use **CTRL-C** to exit **Watch**.

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