

# Overview

If you've installed CTL as described in the [download and install](#) section, running commands via the CTL command-line is simple. CTL provides two command-line tools to execute commands: `ctl-exec` lets you execute ad-hoc commands, while `ctl` lets you execute defined commands.

The table below describes the difference between the two.

Command-line	Type	When to use
<code>ctl-exec</code>	Ad-hoc	<p>Use <code>ctl-exec</code> whenever you want to perform a distributed execution of an arbitrary shell script or set of system commands. Ad-hoc commands are traditionally either executed by logging into individual machines and typing commands into the shell or using <code>ssh</code> to execute them (perhaps in a looping script).</p> <p>The <code>ctl-exec</code> command-line tool lets you execute ad-hoc commands, taking care of the dispatching logic for you and thus alleviating the need to either login to individual machines or write inflexible looping remote execution scripts.</p> <p>See the <a href="#">running ctl-exec</a> for an introduction.</p>
<code>ctl</code>	Defined	<p>Use <code>ctl</code> whenever you want to run a command that is defined in a CTL control module. A <i>defined command</i> is a script or procedure saved into a library called a module. Once these modules are installed into the CTL framework, they are available to the CTL control dispatcher.</p>

		<p>CTL comes bundled with two libraries of modules, each containing various utility commands. Incorporate that functionality into your own scripts by calling the <code>ctl</code> command-line specifying the module name and command. Of course, you can <a href="#">write your own modules</a> too, if you want to package your own key procedures and add them to the framework.</p> <p>See the <a href="#">running ctl</a> for an introduction.</p>
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