

NAME

ovn-sbctl – utility for querying and configuring **OVN_Southbound** database

SYNOPSIS

ovn-sbctl [*options*] -- [*options*] *command* [*args*] [-- [*options*] *command* [*args*]]...

DESCRIPTION

The **ovn-sbctl** program configures the **OVN_Southbound** database by providing a high-level interface to its configuration database. See **ovn-sb(5)** for comprehensive documentation of the database schema.

ovn-sbctl connects to an **ovsdb-server** process that maintains an OVN_Southbound configuration database. Using this connection, it queries and possibly applies changes to the database, depending on the supplied commands.

ovn-sbctl can perform any number of commands in a single run, implemented as a single atomic transaction against the database.

The **ovn-sbctl** command line begins with global options (see **OPTIONS** below for details). The global options are followed by one or more commands. Each command should begin with **--** by itself as a command-line argument, to separate it from the following commands. (The **--** before the first command is optional.) The command itself starts with command-specific options, if any, followed by the command name and any arguments.

OPTIONS

The following options affect the behavior of **ovn-sbctl** as a whole. Some individual commands also accept their own options, which are given just before the command name. If the first command on the command line has options, then those options must be separated from the global options by **--**.

--db=server

The OVSDB database remote to contact. If the **OVN_SB_DB** environment variable is set, its value is used as the default. Otherwise, the default is **unix:/var/run/openvswitch/ovnsb_db.sock**, but this default is unlikely to be useful outside of single-machine OVN test environments.

server must take one of the following forms:

ssl:ip:port

The specified SSL *port* on the host at the given *ip*, which must be expressed as an IP address (not a DNS name) in IPv4 or IPv6 address format. If *ip* is an IPv6 address, then wrap *ip* with square brackets, e.g.: **ssl:[::1]:6640**. The **--private-key**, **--certificate**, and **--ca-cert** options are mandatory when this form is used.

tcp:ip:port

Connect to the given TCP *port* on *ip*, where *ip* can be IPv4 or IPv6 address. If *ip* is an IPv6 address, then wrap *ip* with square brackets, e.g.: **tcp:[::1]:6640**.

unix:file

On POSIX, connect to the Unix domain server socket named *file*.

On Windows, connect to a local named pipe that is represented by a file created in the path *file* to mimic the behavior of a Unix domain socket.

pssl:port[:ip]

Listen on the given SSL *port* for a connection. By default, connections are not bound to a particular local IP address and it listens only on IPv4 (but not IPv6) addresses, but specifying *ip* limits connections to those from the given *ip*, either IPv4 or IPv6 address. If *ip* is an IPv6 address, then wrap *ip* with square brackets, e.g.: **pssl:6640:[::1]**. The **--private-key**, **--certificate**, and **--ca-cert** options are mandatory when this form is used.

ptcp:port[:ip]

Listen on the given TCP *port* for a connection. By default, connections are not bound to a particular local IP address and it listens only on IPv4 (but not IPv6) addresses, but *ip* may be specified to listen only for connections to the given *ip*, either IPv4 or IPv6 address. If *ip* is an IPv6 address, then wrap *ip* with square brackets, e.g.:

ptcp:6640>:::1].

punix:*file*

On POSIX, listen on the Unix domain server socket named *file* for a connection.

On Windows, listen on a local named pipe. A file is created in the path *file* to mimic the behavior of a Unix domain socket.

--no-syslog

By default, **ovn-sbctl** logs its arguments and the details of any changes that it makes to the system log. This option disables this logging.

This option is equivalent to **--verbose=sbctl:syslog:warn**.

--oneline

Modifies the output format so that the output for each command is printed on a single line. New-line characters that would otherwise separate lines are printed as `\n`, and any instances of `\` that would otherwise appear in the output are doubled. Prints a blank line for each command that has no output. This option does not affect the formatting of output from the **list** or **find** commands; see **Table Formatting Options** below.

--dry-run

Prevents **ovn-sbctl** from actually modifying the database.

-t *secs*

--timeout=*secs*

By default, or with a *secs* of **0**, **ovn-sbctl** waits forever for a response from the database. This option limits runtime to approximately *secs* seconds. If the timeout expires, **ovn-sbctl** will exit with a **SIGALRM** signal. (A timeout would normally happen only if the database cannot be contacted, or if the system is overloaded.)

-v[*spec*]

--verbose=[*spec*]

Sets logging levels. Without any *spec*, sets the log level for every module and destination to **dbg**. Otherwise, *spec* is a list of words separated by spaces or commas or colons, up to one from each category below:

- A valid module name, as displayed by the **vlog/list** command on **ovs-appctl(8)**, limits the log level change to the specified module.
- **syslog**, **console**, or **file**, to limit the log level change to only to the system log, to the console, or to a file, respectively. (If **--detach** is specified, **ovn-sbctl** closes its standard file descriptors, so logging to the console will have no effect.)

On Windows platform, **syslog** is accepted as a word and is only useful along with the **--syslog-target** option (the word has no effect otherwise).

- **off**, **emer**, **err**, **warn**, **info**, or **dbg**, to control the log level. Messages of the given severity or higher will be logged, and messages of lower severity will be filtered out. **off** filters out all messages. See **ovs-appctl(8)** for a definition of each log level.

Case is not significant within *spec*.

Regardless of the log levels set for **file**, logging to a file will not take place unless **--log-file** is also specified (see below).

For compatibility with older versions of OVS, **any** is accepted as a word but has no effect.

-v

--verbose

Sets the maximum logging verbosity level, equivalent to **--verbose=dbg**.

-vPATTERN:*destination:pattern*

- verbose=PATTERN:destination:pattern**
Sets the log pattern for *destination* to *pattern*. Refer to **ovs-appctl(8)** for a description of the valid syntax for *pattern*.
- vFACILITY:facility**
--verbose=FACILITY:facility
Sets the RFC5424 facility of the log message. *facility* can be one of **kern, user, mail, daemon, auth, syslog, lpr, news, uucp, clock, ftp, ntp, audit, alert, clock2, local0, local1, local2, local3, local4, local5, local6** or **local7**. If this option is not specified, **daemon** is used as the default for the local system syslog and **local0** is used while sending a message to the target provided via the **--syslog-target** option.
- log-file[=file]**
Enables logging to a file. If *file* is specified, then it is used as the exact name for the log file. The default log file name used if *file* is omitted is **/var/log/openvswitch/ovn-sbctl.log**.
- syslog-target=host:port**
Send syslog messages to UDP *port* on *host*, in addition to the system syslog. The *host* must be a numerical IP address, not a hostname.
- syslog-method=method**
Specify *method* how syslog messages should be sent to syslog daemon. Following forms are supported:
- **libc**, use libc **syslog()** function. This is the default behavior. Downside of using this options is that libc adds fixed prefix to every message before it is actually sent to the syslog daemon over **/dev/log** UNIX domain socket.
 - **unix:file**, use UNIX domain socket directly. It is possible to specify arbitrary message format with this option. However, **rsyslogd 8.9** and older versions use hard coded parser function anyway that limits UNIX domain socket use. If you want to use arbitrary message format with older **rsyslogd** versions, then use UDP socket to localhost IP address instead.
 - **udp:ip:port**, use UDP socket. With this method it is possible to use arbitrary message format also with older **rsyslogd**. When sending syslog messages over UDP socket extra precaution needs to be taken into account, for example, syslog daemon needs to be configured to listen on the specified UDP port, accidental iptables rules could be interfering with local syslog traffic and there are some security considerations that apply to UDP sockets, but do not apply to UNIX domain sockets.
- h**
--help Prints a brief help message to the console.
- V**
--version
Prints version information to the console.

Table Formatting Options

These options control the format of output from the **list** and **find** commands.

- f format**
--format=format
Sets the type of table formatting. The following types of *format* are available:
- table** 2-D text tables with aligned columns.
- list** (default)
A list with one column per line and rows separated by a blank line.
- html** HTML tables.

- csv** Comma-separated values as defined in RFC 4180.
- json** JSON format as defined in RFC 4627. The output is a sequence of JSON objects, each of which corresponds to one table. Each JSON object has the following members with the noted values:
 - caption** The table’s caption. This member is omitted if the table has no caption.
 - headings** An array with one element per table column. Each array element is a string giving the corresponding column’s heading.
 - data** An array with one element per table row. Each element is also an array with one element per table column. The elements of this second-level array are the cells that constitute the table. Cells that represent OVSDB data or data types are expressed in the format described in the OVSDB specification; other cells are simply expressed as text strings.

-d *format*

--data=*format*

Sets the formatting for cells within output tables. The following types of *format* are available:

string (default)

The simple format described in the **Database Values** section of **ovs-vsctl(8)**.

bare

The simple format with punctuation stripped off: [] and {} are omitted around sets, maps, and empty columns, items within sets and maps are space-separated, and strings are never quoted. This format may be easier for scripts to parse.

json

JSON.

The **json** output format always outputs cells in JSON format, ignoring this option.

--no-heading

This option suppresses the heading row that otherwise appears in the first row of table output.

--pretty

By default, JSON in output is printed as compactly as possible. This option causes JSON in output to be printed in a more readable fashion. Members of objects and elements of arrays are printed one per line, with indentation.

This option does not affect JSON in tables, which is always printed compactly.

--bare Equivalent to **--format=list --data=bare --no-headings**.

Public Key Infrastructure Options

-p *privkey.pem*

--private-key=*privkey.pem*

Specifies a PEM file containing the private key used as **ovn-sbctl**’s identity for outgoing SSL connections.

-c *cert.pem*

--certificate=*cert.pem*

Specifies a PEM file containing a certificate that certifies the private key specified on **-p** or **--private-key** to be trustworthy. The certificate must be signed by the certificate authority (CA) that the peer in SSL connections will use to verify it.

-C *cacert.pem*

--ca-cert=*cacert.pem*

Specifies a PEM file containing the CA certificate that **ovn-sbctl** should use to verify certificates presented to it by SSL peers. (This may be the same certificate that SSL peers use to verify the certificate specified on **-c** or **--certificate**, or it may be a different one, depending on the PKI design in use.)

-C none**--ca-cert=none**

Disables verification of certificates presented by SSL peers. This introduces a security risk, because it means that certificates cannot be verified to be those of known trusted hosts.

--bootstrap-ca-cert=cacert.pem

When *cacert.pem* exists, this option has the same effect as **-C** or **--ca-cert**. If it does not exist, then **ovn-sbctl** will attempt to obtain the CA certificate from the SSL peer on its first SSL connection and save it to the named PEM file. If it is successful, it will immediately drop the connection and reconnect, and from then on all SSL connections must be authenticated by a certificate signed by the CA certificate thus obtained.

This option exposes the SSL connection to a man-in-the-middle attack obtaining the initial CA certificate, but it may be useful for bootstrapping.

This option is only useful if the SSL peer sends its CA certificate as part of the SSL certificate chain. The SSL protocol does not require the server to send the CA certificate.

This option is mutually exclusive with **-C** and **--ca-cert**.

--peer-ca-cert=peer-cacert.pem

Specifies a PEM file that contains one or more additional certificates to send to SSL peers. *peer-cacert.pem* should be the CA certificate used to sign **ovn-sbctl**'s own certificate, that is, the certificate specified on **-c** or **--certificate**. If **ovn-sbctl**'s certificate is self-signed, then **--certificate** and **--peer-ca-cert** should specify the same file.

This option is not useful in normal operation, because the SSL peer must already have the CA certificate for the peer to have any confidence in **ovn-sbctl**'s identity. However, this offers a way for a new installation to bootstrap the CA certificate on its first SSL connection.

COMMANDS

The commands implemented by **ovn-sbctl** are described in the sections below.

OVN_Southbound Commands

These commands work with an **OVN_Southbound** database as a whole.

init Initializes the database, if it is empty. If the database has already been initialized, this command has no effect.

show Prints a brief overview of the database contents.

Chassis Commands

These commands manipulate **OVN_Southbound** chassis.

[--may-exist] chassis-add chassis encap-type encap-ip

Creates a new chassis named *chassis*. *encap-type* is a comma-separated list of tunnel types. The chassis will have one encap entry for each specified tunnel type with *encap-ip* as the destination IP for each.

Without **--may-exist**, attempting to create a chassis that exists is an error. With **--may-exist**, this command does nothing if *chassis* already exists.

[--if-exists] chassis-del chassis

Deletes *chassis* and its *encaps* and *gateway_ports*.

Without **--if-exists**, attempting to delete a chassis that does not exist is an error. With **--if-exists**, attempting to delete a chassis that does not exist has no effect.

Port binding Commands

These commands manipulate **OVN_Southbound** port bindings.

[--may-exist] lsp-bind logical-port chassis

Binds the logical port named *logical-port* to *chassis*.

Without **---may-exist**, attempting to bind a logical port that has already been bound is an error. With **---may-exist**, this command does nothing if *logical-port* has already been bound to a chassis.

[---if-exists] lsp-unbind *logical-port*

Resets the binding of *logical-port* to *NULL*.

Without **---if-exists**, attempting to unbind a logical port that is not bound is an error. With **---if-exists**, attempting to unbind logical port that is not bound has no effect.

Logical Flow Commands

[---uuid] lflow-list [*logical-datapath*] [*lflow...*]

List logical flows. If *logical-datapath* is specified, only list flows for that logical datapath. The *logical-datapath* may be given as a UUID or as a datapath name (reporting an error if multiple datapaths have the same name).

If at least one *lflow* is given, only matching logical flows, if any, are listed. Each *lflow* may be specified as a UUID or the first few characters of a UUID, optionally prefixed by **0x**. (Because **ovn-controller** sets OpenFlow flow cookies to the first 32 bits of the corresponding logical flow's UUID, this makes it easy to look up the logical flow that generated a particular OpenFlow flow.)

If **---uuid** is specified, the output includes the first 32 bits of each logical flow's UUID. This makes it easier to find the OpenFlow flows that correspond to a given logical flow.

[---uuid] dump-flows [*logical-datapath*]

Alias for **lflow-list**.

Remote Connectivity Commands

These commands manipulate the **connections** column in the **SB_Global** table and rows in the **Connection** table. When **ovsdb-server** is configured to use the **connections** column for OVSDB connections, this allows the administrator to use **ovn-sbctl** to configure database connections.

get-connection

Prints the configured connection(s).

del-connection

Deletes the configured connection(s).

set-connection [*access-specifier*] *target...*

Sets the configured manager target or targets. Each *target* may be preceded by an optional access-specifier (**read-only** or **read-write**) and may use any of the following forms:

ssl:ip:port

The specified SSL *port* on the host at the given *ip*, which must be expressed as an IP address (not a DNS name) in IPv4 or IPv6 address format. If *ip* is an IPv6 address, then wrap *ip* with square brackets, e.g.: **ssl:[::1]:6640**. The **---private-key**, **---certificate**, and **---ca-cert** options are mandatory when this form is used.

tcp:ip:port

Connect to the given TCP *port* on *ip*, where *ip* can be IPv4 or IPv6 address. If *ip* is an IPv6 address, then wrap *ip* with square brackets, e.g.: **tcp:[::1]:6640**.

unix:file

On POSIX, connect to the Unix domain server socket named *file*.

On Windows, connect to a local named pipe that is represented by a file created in the path *file* to mimic the behavior of a Unix domain socket.

pssl:port[:ip]

Listen on the given SSL *port* for a connection. By default, connections are not bound to a particular local IP address and it listens only on IPv4 (but not IPv6) addresses, but specifying *ip* limits connections to those from the given *ip*, either IPv4 or IPv6 address. If *ip* is an IPv6 address, then wrap *ip* with square brackets, e.g.: **pssl:6640:[::1]**. The

--private-key, **--certificate**, and **--ca-cert** options are mandatory when this form is used.

ptcp:port[:ip]

Listen on the given TCP *port* for a connection. By default, connections are not bound to a particular local IP address and it listens only on IPv4 (but not IPv6) addresses, but *ip* may be specified to listen only for connections to the given *ip*, either IPv4 or IPv6 address. If *ip* is an IPv6 address, then wrap *ip* with square brackets, e.g.: **ptcp:6640:[::1]**.

punix:file

On POSIX, listen on the Unix domain server socket named *file* for a connection.

On Windows, listen on a local named pipe. A file is created in the path *file* to mimic the behavior of a Unix domain socket.

If provided, the effect of the access specifier persists for subsequent targets until changed by another access specifier.

SSL Configuration

When **ovsdb-server** is configured to connect using SSL, the following parameters are required:

private-key

Specifies a PEM file containing the private key used for SSL connections.

certificate

Specifies a PEM file containing a certificate, signed by the certificate authority (CA) used by the connection peers, that certifies the private key, identifying a trustworthy peer.

ca-cert

Specifies a PEM file containing the CA certificate used to verify that the connection peers are trustworthy.

These SSL settings apply to all SSL connections made by the southbound database server.

get-ssl Prints the SSL configuration.

del-ssl Deletes the current SSL configuration.

[--bootstrap] set-ssl private-key certificate ca-cert

Sets the SSL configuration. The **--bootstrap** option is described below.

CA Certificate Bootstrap

Ordinarily, all of the files named in the SSL configuration must exist before SSL connectivity can be used. However, if the *ca-cert* file does not exist and the **--bootstrap** option is given, then **ovsdb-server** will attempt to obtain the CA certificate from the target on its first SSL connection and save it to the named PEM file. If it is successful, it will immediately drop the connection and reconnect, and from then on all SSL connections must be authenticated by a certificate signed by the CA certificate thus obtained.

This option exposes the SSL connection to a man-in-the-middle attack obtaining the initial CA certificate, but it may be useful for bootstrapping.

This option is only useful if the SSL peer sends its CA certificate as part of the SSL certificate chain. The SSL protocol does not require the controller to send the CA certificate.

Database Values

Each column in the database accepts a fixed type of data. The currently defined basic types, and their representations, are:

integer A decimal integer in the range -2^{63} to $2^{63}-1$, inclusive.

real A floating-point number.

Boolean

True or false, written **true** or **false**, respectively.

string An arbitrary Unicode string, except that null bytes are not allowed. Quotes are optional for most strings that begin with an English letter or underscore and consist only of letters, underscores, hyphens, and periods. However, **true** and **false** and strings that match the syntax of UUIDs (see below) must be enclosed in double quotes to distinguish them from other basic types. When double quotes are used, the syntax is that of strings in JSON, e.g. backslashes may be used to escape special characters. The empty string must be represented as a pair of double quotes ("").

UUID Either a universally unique identifier in the style of RFC 4122, e.g. **f81d4fae-7dec-11d0-a765-00a0c91e6bf6**, or an *@name* defined by a **get** or **create** command within the same **ovn-sbctl** invocation.

Multiple values in a single column may be separated by spaces or a single comma. When multiple values are present, duplicates are not allowed, and order is not important. Conversely, some database columns can have an empty set of values, represented as [], and square brackets may optionally enclose other non-empty sets or single values as well. For a column accepting a set of integers, database commands accept a range. A range is represented by two integers separated by -. A range is inclusive. A range has a maximum size of 4096 elements. If more elements are needed, they can be specified in separate ranges.

A few database columns are “maps” of key-value pairs, where the key and the value are each some fixed database type. These are specified in the form *key=value*, where *key* and *value* follow the syntax for the column’s key type and value type, respectively. When multiple pairs are present (separated by spaces or a comma), duplicate keys are not allowed, and again the order is not important. Duplicate values are allowed. An empty map is represented as {}. Curly braces may optionally enclose non-empty maps as well (but use quotes to prevent the shell from expanding **other-config={0=x,1=y}** into **other-config=0=x other-config=1=y**, which may not have the desired effect).

Database Command Syntax

[**--if-exists**] [**--columns=column[,column]...**] **list table [record]...**

Lists the data in each specified *record*. If no records are specified, lists all the records in *table*.

If **--columns** is specified, only the requested columns are listed, in the specified order. Otherwise, all columns are listed, in alphabetical order by column name.

Without **--if-exists**, it is an error if any specified *record* does not exist. With **--if-exists**, the command ignores any *record* that does not exist, without producing any output.

[**--columns=column[,column]...**] **find table [column[:key]=value]...**

Lists the data in each record in *table* whose *column* equals *value* or, if *key* is specified, whose *column* contains a *key* with the specified *value*. The following operators may be used where = is written in the syntax summary:

= != < > <= >=

Selects records in which *column[:key]* equals, does not equal, is less than, is greater than, is less than or equal to, or is greater than or equal to *value*, respectively.

Consider *column[:key]* and *value* as sets of elements. Identical sets are considered equal. Otherwise, if the sets have different numbers of elements, then the set with more elements is considered to be larger. Otherwise, consider a element from each set pairwise, in increasing order within each set. The first pair that differs determines the result. (For a column that contains key-value pairs, first all the keys are compared, and values are considered only if the two sets contain identical keys.)

{=} {!=}

Test for set equality or inequality, respectively.

{<=} Selects records in which *column[:key]* is a subset of *value*. For example, **flood-vlans{<=}1,2** selects records in which the **flood-vlans** column is the empty set or contains 1 or 2 or both.

{<} Selects records in which *column[:key]* is a proper subset of *value*. For example, **flood-vlans**{<}1,2 selects records in which the **flood-vlans** column is the empty set or contains 1 or 2 but not both.

{>=} {>}

Same as {<=} and {<}, respectively, except that the relationship is reversed. For example, **flood-vlans**{>=}1,2 selects records in which the **flood-vlans** column contains both 1 and 2.

For arithmetic operators (= != < > <= >=), when *key* is specified but a particular record's *column* does not contain *key*, the record is always omitted from the results. Thus, the condition **other-config:mtu**!=1500 matches records that have a **mtu** key whose value is not 1500, but not those that lack an **mtu** key.

For the set operators, when *key* is specified but a particular record's *column* does not contain *key*, the comparison is done against an empty set. Thus, the condition **other-config:mtu**{!}=1500 matches records that have a **mtu** key whose value is not 1500 and those that lack an **mtu** key.

Don't forget to escape < or > from interpretation by the shell.

If **--columns** is specified, only the requested columns are listed, in the specified order. Otherwise all columns are listed, in alphabetical order by column name.

The UUIDs shown for rows created in the same **ovn-sbctl** invocation will be wrong.

[--if-exists] [--id=@name] get table record [column[:key]]...

Prints the value of each specified *column* in the given *record* in *table*. For map columns, a *key* may optionally be specified, in which case the value associated with *key* in the column is printed, instead of the entire map.

Without **--if-exists**, it is an error if *record* does not exist or *key* is specified, if *key* does not exist in *record*. With **--if-exists**, a missing *record* yields no output and a missing *key* prints a blank line.

If @*name* is specified, then the UUID for *record* may be referred to by that name later in the same **ovn-sbctl** invocation in contexts where a UUID is expected.

Both **--id** and the *column* arguments are optional, but usually at least one or the other should be specified. If both are omitted, then **get** has no effect except to verify that *record* exists in *table*.

--id and **--if-exists** cannot be used together.

[--if-exists] set table record column[:key]=value...

Sets the value of each specified *column* in the given *record* in *table* to *value*. For map columns, a *key* may optionally be specified, in which case the value associated with *key* in that column is changed (or added, if none exists), instead of the entire map.

Without **--if-exists**, it is an error if *record* does not exist. With **--if-exists**, this command does nothing if *record* does not exist.

[--if-exists] add table record column [key=]value...

Adds the specified value or key-value pair to *column* in *record* in *table*. If *column* is a map, then *key* is required, otherwise it is prohibited. If *key* already exists in a map column, then the current *value* is not replaced (use the **set** command to replace an existing value).

Without **--if-exists**, it is an error if *record* does not exist. With **--if-exists**, this command does nothing if *record* does not exist.

[--if-exists] remove table record column value...

[--if-exists] remove table record column key...

[--if-exists] remove table record column key=value...

Removes the specified values or key-value pairs from *column* in *record* in *table*. The first form applies to columns that are not maps: each specified *value* is removed from the column. The second and third forms apply to map columns: if only a *key* is specified, then any key-value pair with

the given *key* is removed, regardless of its value; if a *value* is given then a pair is removed only if both key and value match.

It is not an error if the column does not contain the specified key or value or pair.

Without **---if-exists**, it is an error if *record* does not exist. With **---if-exists**, this command does nothing if *record* does not exist.

[---if-exists] clear *table record column...*

Sets each *column* in *record* in *table* to the empty set or empty map, as appropriate. This command applies only to columns that are allowed to be empty.

Without **---if-exists**, it is an error if *record* does not exist. With **---if-exists**, this command does nothing if *record* does not exist.

[---id=@name] create *table column[:key]=value...*

Creates a new record in *table* and sets the initial values of each *column*. Columns not explicitly set will receive their default values. Outputs the UUID of the new row.

If *@name* is specified, then the UUID for the new row may be referred to by that name elsewhere in the same **ovn-sbctl** invocation in contexts where a UUID is expected. Such references may precede or follow the **create** command.

Caution (ovs-vsctl as example)

Records in the Open vSwitch database are significant only when they can be reached directly or indirectly from the **Open_vSwitch** table. Except for records in the **QoS** or **Queue** tables, records that are not reachable from the **Open_vSwitch** table are automatically deleted from the database. This deletion happens immediately, without waiting for additional **ovs-vsctl** commands or other database activity. Thus, a **create** command must generally be accompanied by additional commands *within the same ovs-vsctl invocation* to add a chain of references to the newly created record from the top-level **Open_vSwitch** record. The **EXAMPLES** section gives some examples that show how to do this.

[---if-exists] destroy *table record...*

Deletes each specified *record* from *table*. Unless **---if-exists** is specified, each *records* must exist.

---all destroy *table*

Deletes all records from the *table*.

Caution (ovs-vsctl as example)

The **destroy** command is only useful for records in the **QoS** or **Queue** tables. Records in other tables are automatically deleted from the database when they become unreachable from the **Open_vSwitch** table. This means that deleting the last reference to a record is sufficient for deleting the record itself. For records in these tables, **destroy** is silently ignored. See the **EXAMPLES** section below for more information.

wait-until *table record [column[:key]=value]...*

Waits until *table* contains a record named *record* whose *column* equals *value* or, if *key* is specified, whose *column* contains a *key* with the specified *value*. Any of the operators **!=**, **<**, **>**, **<=**, or **>=** may be substituted for **=** to test for inequality, less than, greater than, less than or equal to, or greater than or equal to, respectively. (Don't forget to escape **<** or **>** from interpretation by the shell.)

If no *column[:key]=value* arguments are given, this command waits only until *record* exists. If more than one such argument is given, the command waits until all of them are satisfied.

Caution (ovs-vsctl as example)

Usually **wait-until** should be placed at the beginning of a set of **ovs-vsctl** commands. For example, **wait-until bridge br0 --- get bridge br0 datapath_id** waits until a bridge named **br0** is created, then prints its **datapath_id** column, whereas **get bridge br0 datapath_id --- wait-until bridge br0** will abort if no bridge named **br0** exists when

ovs-vsctl initially connects to the database.

Consider specifying **--timeout=0** along with **--wait-until**, to prevent **ovn-sbctl** from terminating after waiting only at most 5 seconds.

comment [*arg*]...

This command has no effect on behavior, but any database log record created by the command will include the command and its arguments.

EXIT STATUS

- 0 Successful program execution.
- 1 Usage, syntax, or configuration file error.

SEE ALSO

ovn-sb(5).