



OVERVIEW & SETUP

Consul Distributed Systems technology

```
# Install
npm install consul
# Or: pip install / gem install / go get
```

Check official documentation at docs.consul.com

Verify installation before proceeding

CORE CONCEPTS

Key abstraction: understand the primary model

Configuration: define behavior through config/code

Integration: connects with existing systems

```
# Initialize
const client = new Consul({ /* config */
})
```

QUICK START

```
# Minimal working example
const app = new Consul()
app.configure({ ... })
await app.start()
console.log('Consul is running')
```

See official quickstart guide for language-specific setup

CONFIGURATION

```
# config.yaml or config.json
consul:
  host: localhost
  port: 8080
  timeout: 30s
```

Use environment variables for secrets

```
export CONSUL_SECRET=my-secret
```

BASIC OPERATIONS

```
# Create / write
client.create({ name: 'example' })
# Read / query
const result = await client.find({
  filter: {} })
# Update
await client.update(id, { field:
newValue })
# Delete
await client.delete(id)
```

INTEGRATION

Integrates with common frameworks and tools

```
# Express.js integration example
app.use(ConsulMiddleware({ config })))
```

SDK available for: Node.js, Python, Java, Go, .NET

REST API available for language-agnostic integration

Check community-maintained integrations

SECURITY

Always use authentication and authorization

Encrypt data at rest and in transit (TLS/SSL)

```
# Enable TLS
tls: { cert: ./cert.pem, key: ./key.pem
}
```

Rotate credentials and API keys regularly

Follow security best practices in official docs

MONITORING

Expose health check endpoint

```
# Health check
GET /health { status: 'ok', uptime:
1234 }
```

Monitor key metrics: latency, throughput, error rate

Set up alerts for anomalies

Log requests with structured logging (JSON format)

PERFORMANCE TIPS

Use connection pooling for network resources

Enable caching for frequently accessed data

Batch operations to reduce round trips

```
# Async/parallel processing
await Promise.all([op1(), op2(), op3()])
```

Profile before optimizing measure, then improve

TESTING

```
# Unit test example
describe('Consul', () => {
  it('should work', async () => {
    const result = await
client.doSomething()
    expect(result).toBeDefined()
  })
})
```

Use mocks for external dependencies in unit tests

CLI REFERENCE

consul --help	# all commands
consul version	# version info
consul config	# configuration
consul status	# current status
consul logs	# view logs

COMMON GOTCHAS

Read the changelog before upgrading major versions

Check resource limits (memory, connections, rate limits)

Implement graceful shutdown to avoid data loss

Keep dependencies updated for security patches

Test in staging environment before deploying to production