# V2 --skip design

### Problem

The commands ./pants lint, ./pants fmt, and ./pants test run every single tool possible, e.g. ./pants fmt2 may run both Black and isort.

Generally, we need a way to **permanently** enable/disable a tool and also a way to **temporarily** modify what tools run.

Specifically, we must fix these problems for V1 - V2 compatibility:

- 1. Remove --fmt-skip and --lint-skip, which prevent us from renaming the goals fmt2 and lint2 to fmt and lint.
- 2. Provide a mechanism in V2 to **temporarily** disable a tool.

### Permanent toggling

Pants provides implementations for many linters/formatters; we must have a mechanism for users to specify which of these tools they actually want to use.

#### Current V1 behavior

We activate linters/formatters/test runners automatically when registering the backend\_package, e.g. pants.backend.python will automatically enable isort. The core backend\_packages are enabled by default, whereas some need to be installed via contrib wheels.

To turn off tools, users set skip: True in pants.ini.

That is, tools are opt-out in V1.

#### Current V2 behavior

Unlike V1, V2 makes you explicitly opt in to every linter you want via backend\_packages2, e.g.

```
backend_packages2: [
 "pants.backend.python.lint.isort",
 "pants.backend.python.lint.flake8",
```

That is, tools are *opt-in in V2*.

## Temporarily toggling

Users should be able to temporarily toggle tools on/off via the CLI. When iterating, for example, a user may only want to run Flake8 and ignore what isort and Pylint say.

V1 implements this via ./pants --fmt-isort-skip, but V2 has no implementation.

#### Proposed use cases

- 1. Turn off a certain tool, e.g. ./pants --pylint-skip lint2 ::
  - Motivating use case: you want to use all your linters—Pylint, Black, isort, Bandit, and Flake8—except for MyPy, because you don't want to worry about types yet.
- 2. Specify you want to run only certain tools, e.g. ./pants --lint-only='pylint' lint ::
  - Motivating use case: you're having issues with MyPy but got all the other linters working and don't want to spend time running them all.
  - Avoids the verbosity of ./pants --pylint-disabled --black-disabled --isort-disabled --bandit-disabled --flake8-disabled lint2
    ::

### **Proposal**

- 1. Keep the same permanent toggling setup for V2.
- 2. Deprecate task-level --skip in favor of subsystem-level options --skip
  - a. The default is disabled=False skip=False, so that if the backend plugin is registered, the tool is used.
- 3. Add --lint-only and --fmt-only options as an enhancement.

*Ignore test runners for now.* We're not ready to mess with that yet and only have one V2 test runner at the moment.