

# Midnight Commander Guide

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# What Is Midnight Commander?

- At its core, it is simply a file management tool that lets you easily copy/move/delete files and perform other operations on them.
- However, it is loaded with features.
- While it is text based, it is a **graphical** tool.
- It runs on Linux and comes with most distributions.
- Once you become good at it, you'll be able to do file manipulations faster than anyone using a non-text graphical tool.

# How Do I Run It?

- Type `mc` on the command prompt

# Why Did I Write This Guide?

- I routinely see people struggling to perform certain tasks on the command line that would be easy in Midnight Commander.
- I see shell wizards trying to construct a sophisticated chain of commands to do a task that could be easily done with Midnight Commander.
- I think people will greatly benefit from using it.

# Beginner Friendly

- People who are not comfortable with the command line can use this as a crutch to do fairly simple operations in Linux.

# Expert Friendly

- Midnight Commander does have a lot of powerful capabilities.
- It is not an alternative to the shell, but a supplement.
- You don't lose the command prompt when using Midnight Commander!
  - Far too many “experts” scoff at using such tools because “nothing is more powerful than the shell”.
  - You'll have access to virtually all your shell functions, etc in Midnight Commander!
- Use the right tool for the right job—if you can do it easily in Midnight Commander, don't waste keystrokes writing a complicated command in the shell!

# Layout

```

<- ...i/midnightcommanderpres ~.[^]> <- ...commanderpres/literature ~.[^]>
'n Name Size Modify time 'n Name Size Modify time
/.. UP--DIR Sep 7 23:11 /.. UP--DIR Sep 7 23:16
/.svn 4096 Mar 11 2007 /qcomputer 4096 Apr 3 2008
/literature 4096 Apr 3 2008 ammenn.pdf 197760 Apr 26 2007
/notes 4096 Sep 17 2007 Chico P-ch .pdf 519750 Sep 30 2007
/papers 4096 Mar 5 2007 dispersion.pdf 253007 Jun 4 2007
/phd 4096 Feb 24 2008 haomaris.pdf 81910 Apr 26 2007
/presentations 4096 Aug 18 2009 lattice-ics.pdf 1245684 Feb 24 2007
/revtex4 4096 Nov 6 2005 luchu.pdf 125045 Apr 26 2007
/tmp 4096 Nov 28 2007 nishiguchi.pdf 140388 Apr 26 2007
/tmp2 4096 Nov 28 2007 SiWAc0-tic.pdf 180057 Nov 11 2007
/windows 4096 Aug 16 2009 stroscl0.pdf 1993272 Apr 26 2007
me2.eps 67051 Mar 25 2007 thesis2.pdf 3975150 Sep 30 2007
proof.pdf 146046 Apr 17 2007 Thesis.pdf 3434240 Sep 30 2007
scat.eps 60755 Mar 25 2007 vasilleska.pdf 210040 Apr 26 2007

/literature 10G/523G (2%) UP--DIR 10G/523G (2%)
Hint: The homepage of GNU Midnight Commander: http://www.midnight-commander.o
beetle_b ~/potpourri/midnightcommanderpres $ :)11:17PM [1027]
1Help 2Menu 3View 4Edit 5Copy 6Re-ov 7Kdir 8Delete 9Fullbri0Quit
  
```

- Two panels: Left and right
- By default, a directory is shown in each panel.
- **Ctrl-u** will swap the panels.
- **Alt-i** will make the other panel show the same directory as the active panel.

## Columns

```
<- ...commanderpres/literature -.[^]>
```

'n	Name	Size	Modify	time
/..		UP--DIR	Sep 7	23:16
/qcomputer		4096	Apr 3	2008
	ammann.pdf	197766	Apr 26	2007
	Chico P~ch .pdf	519750	Sep 30	2007
	dispersion.pdf	253007	Jun 4	2007
	homerio.pdf	61010	Apr 26	2007

- Leftmost column is the name of the file or directory.
- The two dots denote the parent directory.
- *qcomputer* is a directory.
- If the filename does not fit in the column, there will be a ~ in the middle of the displayed name.
- Click on a column header to sort by that column. Click again to sort in reverse order.



## Colors of Files

/tmp2	4096	Nov 28	2007
/windows	4096	Aug 16	2009
me2.eps	67051	Mar 25	2007
proof.pdf	146946	Apr 17	2007
scat.eps	60755	Mar 25	2007

- Different colors denote different types of files.
  - White → directory
  - Red → document
  - Cyan → image

# Commands

- On the bottom of the screen, you'll see:

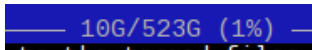


A screenshot of the Midnight Commander status bar. It consists of a black horizontal bar with ten cyan-colored rectangular buttons. Each button contains a white number followed by a function key name: 1Help, 2Menu, 3View, 4Edit, 5Copy, 6RenMov, 7Mkdir, 8Delete, 9PullDn, and 10Quit.

- Each number denotes a function key.
  - So **F1** is help, **F3** is View, etc.
- You can also click on them.
- They'll be carved into your brain after a little use.
- You can opt not to have this shown all the time.

# Space

- On the bottom right of each panel, you'll see



10G/523G (1%)

- Free space left on your partition

# Shortcuts

- Many more commands are accessible using other keybindings.
- Relevant ones will be mentioned in each section.
- Midnight Commander docs convention:
  - **C-x** means Ctrl-x
  - **M-x** means Alt-x
- I'll continue to write them as Ctrl and Alt.

# Navigation

```

<-- .../midnightcommanderpres --.[^]>  <-- ...commanderpres/literature --.[^]>
'n  Name      Size  Modify time
/..          UP--DIR Sep  7 23:11
/.svn        4096 Mar 11 2007
/literature  4096 Apr  3 2008
/notes       4096 Sep 17 2007
/papers      4096 Mar  5 2007
/pbd         4096 Feb 24 2008
/presentations 4096 Aug 18 2009
/revtex4     4096 Nov  6 2005
/tmp         4096 Nov 28 2007
/windows     4096 Nov 28 2007
/tmp2        4096 Nov 28 2007
/me2.eps     67051 Mar 25 2007
proof.pdf    146046 Apr 17 2007
stat.eps     60755 Mar 25 2007

/..          UP--DIR Sep  7 23:16
/qcomputer   4096 Apr  3 2008
/amsarn.pdf  197768 Apr 26 2007
/chico P-ch.pdf 510758 Sep 30 2007
dispersion.pdf 253007 Jun  4 2007
hoomaris.pdf  61010 Apr 26 2007
lattice-ics.pdf 1245084 Feb 24 2007
luchu.pdf    125045 Apr 26 2007
nishiguchi.pdf 140388 Apr 26 2007
SIMWaco-tic.pdf 100057 Nov 11 2007
stroschio.pdf 1993272 Apr 26 2007
thesis2.pdf  397515 Sep 30 2007
Thesis.pdf   3434248 Sep 30 2007
vasileska.pdf 210040 Apr 26 2007


/..          UP--DIR
10G/523G (2%) 10G/523G (2%)
hint: The homepage of GNU Midnight Commander: http://www.midnight-commander.o
beetle_b ~/potpourri/midnightcommanderpres $ :-):11:17PM [1027]
1help 2Menu 3View 4Edit 5Copy 6Re-ov 7Mkdir 8Delete 9PullDn10Quit

```

- At any given time, the cursor is either in the left or the right panel.
- Use the cursor keys to navigate.
- **TAB** jumps from one panel to the other.
- To enter a directory, navigate to its name and press **Enter**.

## Jump to File/Directory

- You can jump to a file/directory by pressing **Alt-s** and typing the file name.
- It does a find-as-you-type search, so it will put the cursor on the desired item very quickly.



literatu~.tar.gz	98335K	Sep 14 23:28
me2.eps	67051	Mar 25 2007
proof.pdf	146946	Apr 17 2007
scat.eps	60755	Mar 25 2007

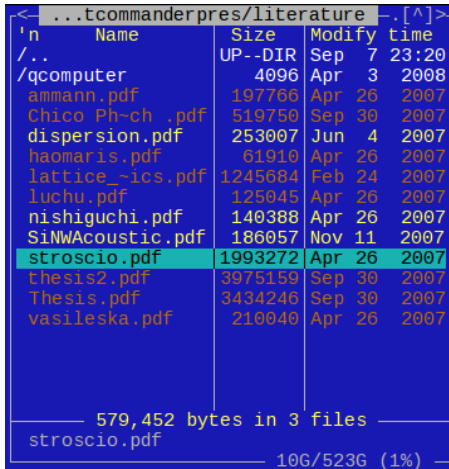
/me 14G/523G (2%)

- Press **Alt-s** to go to the next match.

## Selecting Files Individually

- **Insert** to select/deselect file under the cursor
  - It toggles the selection state.
  - Same as **0** on the numeric keypad—easier to use.
- **\*** inverts the selection of all files in the panel.
- Right clicking a file will select it.

## Selected Files



Name	Size	Modify	time
UP--DIR		Sep 7	23:20
/qcomputer	4096	Apr 3	2008
ammann.pdf	197766	Apr 26	2007
Chico Ph~ch .pdf	519750	Sep 30	2007
dispersion.pdf	253007	Jun 4	2007
haomaris.pdf	61910	Apr 26	2007
lattice_~ics.pdf	1245684	Feb 24	2007
luchu.pdf	125045	Apr 26	2007
nishiguchi.pdf	140388	Apr 26	2007
SiNWAcoustic.pdf	186057	Nov 11	2007
strosccio.pdf	1993272	Apr 26	2007
thesis2.pdf	3975159	Sep 30	2007
Thesis.pdf	3434246	Sep 30	2007
vasileska.pdf	210040	Apr 26	2007

579,452 bytes in 3 files

strosccio.pdf

10G/523G (1%)

- 3 files have been selected.
- A summary is displayed at the bottom.



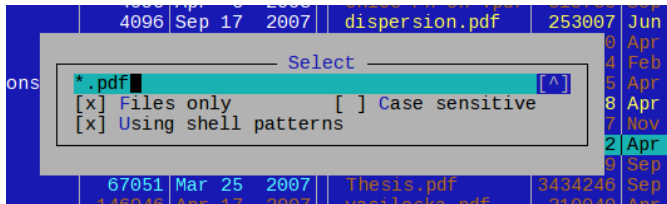
## Basic Actions on Selected Files

1Help 2Menu 3View 4Edit 5Copy 6RenMov 7Mkdir 8Delete 9PullDn10Quit

- Press **F5/F6** to copy/move the selected files.
- **F8** to delete them.

## Selecting Files by Pattern

- + lets you specify a pattern of files to select:



- If *shell patterns* is unchecked, regular expression matching will be used.
- - is the same as +, but is for deselecting.
- By default pattern based selection does not select directories.

# Copying

- **F5** on selected files to copy
  - **F5** on a single file/directory without selecting it works as well.
- By default, the directory in the opposing panel is already filled in as the destination.
  - **Idiom**: Navigate to the target directory in the opposite panel before pressing **F5**.

# Moving/Renaming

- **F6** to move/rename
- Options are identical to that for copying.

# It's Still There!

```
beetle_b ~ $  
1Help 2Men
```

- The command prompt is always present at the bottom of the screen!
- Virtually all your shell wizardry will continue to work.
- Need to press **Alt-TAB** for TAB autocompletion.
- **Ctrl-o** will hide the panels.
  - Handy if the command you typed outputs something to the screen and is “behind” the panels.
  - When the panels are hidden, **TAB** provides autocompletion.

## Prompt Related Keybindings

- **Alt-Enter** on any file makes it appear on the prompt.
- **Ctrl-Shift-Enter** does the same thing, but with the full path included.
- **Ctrl-x t** will type out all your selected files to the prompt.
  - **Ctrl-x Ctrl-t** does the same for the opposing panel.
- **Ctrl-x p** or **Ctrl-a** will type out the current path to the prompt.
  - **Ctrl-x Ctrl-p** will type out the opposing panel's path to the prompt.

## Super Enter

- **Enter** on a filename can be made to do magic.
- On an image it can/will launch an image viewing program.
- On a video it can/will start playing the video.
- On an audio file it can/will play the file.
- On a document (PDF, DOC, etc) it can/will launch the appropriate viewer.
- On an executable it will run the executable.
- To customize the action it performs on a file, go to *Edit Extension File* in the *Command* menu.

# Archives

- **Enter** on an archive file (e.g. zip, tar, etc.) will navigate into the archive and display it as if it were a regular directory.
- You can view files inside the archive.
- You can select files in the archive and copy them to a real directory.
- You can even copy files into an archive.
  - Well, except for tar—that's a limitation of the tar format.
- I handle most archive files via Midnight Commander.

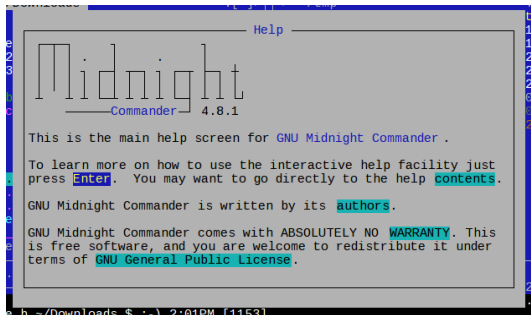
## Quip

Sane people don't remember all the command line options for tar, zip, etc.



# Accessing help

- **F1** will always help you:



The screenshot shows the GNU Midnight Commander help screen. At the top, the word "Midnight" is displayed in a large, stylized font, with "Commander 4.8.1" below it. The word "Help" is in the top right corner. The main text reads: "This is the main help screen for GNU Midnight Commander." followed by "To learn more on how to use the interactive help facility just press **Enter**. You may want to go directly to the help **contents**." Then "GNU Midnight Commander is written by its **authors**." and "GNU Midnight Commander comes with ABSOLUTELY NO **WARRANTY**. This is free software, and you are welcome to redistribute it under terms of **GNU General Public License**." The bottom of the window shows a terminal prompt: "h ~/Downloads \$ :-) 2:01PM (1153)".

```
Help
Midnight
Commander 4.8.1

This is the main help screen for GNU Midnight Commander .

To learn more on how to use the interactive help facility just
press Enter. You may want to go directly to the help contents.

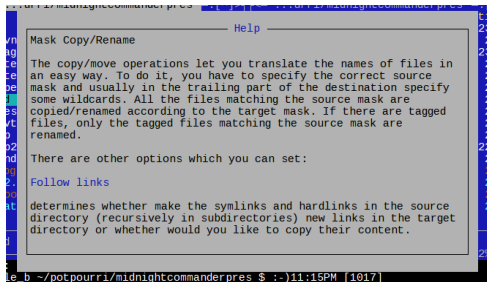
GNU Midnight Commander is written by its authors.

GNU Midnight Commander comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY. This
is free software, and you are welcome to redistribute it under
terms of GNU General Public License.

h ~/Downloads $ :-) 2:01PM (1153)
```

## Context Sensitive help

- **F1** will give you context sensitive help.
- Pressing it in a dialog window will explain all the options in the dialog:



# Basic Viewing

- **F3** on a file to view it.

```
comprapp.m 842/2864 29%
%This code will plot the absolute values of the components of u (displacement
%of the phonon modes) vs qz for fixed R. To calculate which qz's to take,
%I used Ez and assumed phonon absorption. Used energy conservation rules to
%get qz then.

clear
clc

test=0; %Debugging
jorig = [2.4048256 3.8317060 5.1356223 5.520781 6.3801619 7.01559 7.58834 8.41724
8.65373 8.77148 9.76102 9.93611 10.17347 11.06471 11.08637 11.61984 11.7915344 12.
22509 12.33860 13.01520 13.32369 13.3543 13.58929 14.37254 14.9309177086 16.47063
18.0710639679 19.61586 21.2116366299 22.76008 24.3524715308 25.90367 27.49348 ; 0
1 2 0 3 1 4 2 0 5 3 6 1 4 7 2 0 8 5 3 1 9 6 4 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 ];
jtemp = jorig;
jtemp(2,:) = -jtemp(2,:);
j = [jorig jtemp];

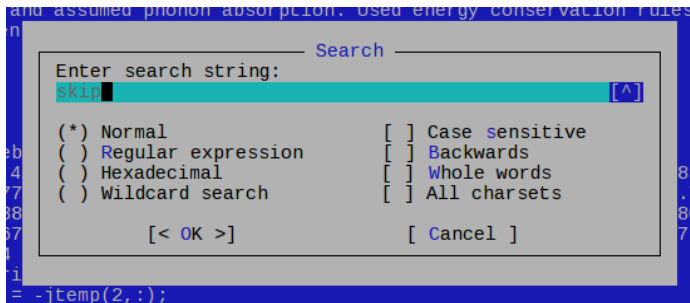
load -ascii indeck
disp('Enter the mode you wish to see (1-24):');
mode= indeck(1);
%mode=input(' Mode = ');

1Help 2UnWrap 3Quit 4Hex 5Goto 6 7Search 8Raw 9Format10Quit
```

- Geared towards text formats

## Searching in View Mode

- When viewing a file, **F7** lets you search it:



- Click on the caret to see your search history.
- After the first match, **Ctrl-s** finds the next match.

## Some Keybindings

- **F2** unwraps the text.
- **F5** lets you jump to a position in the file (line number, percentage, etc).
- **Ctrl-f**: View the next file
- **Ctrl-b**: View the previous file

## More on Viewing

- When viewing a HTML, PDF, DOC or similar document, Midnight Commander will try to show you only the text of the document.
  - So an HTML file will be shown formatted without all the tags.
- If you want to view the “unprocessed” version of the file, press **F8** or click on **Raw**.
- You can view the contents of a gzipped text file.
- You can specify an external viewer, but why would you?
  - From the main menu, *Options*, and then *Configuration* lets you disable the internal viewer.

## Non-Text Files

- Recall: You can do magic by pressing Enter on files.
- There is also some magic related to viewing files.
- Pressing **F3** on a zip file gives the screen on the right.
- To customize the magic, from the main menu select *Command and Edit Extension File*

ex1.zip	/home/mueen/Downloads/ex1.zip						1431/1431	100%
Length	Method	Size	Cmpr	Date	Time	CRC-32	Name	
632	Defl:N	311	51%	08-20-2012	22:58	430af1d7	ex1/computeCost.m	
871	Defl:N	329	51%	08-20-2012	22:58	c7d69362	ex1/computeCostMulti.m	
3438	Defl:N	1412	50%	08-20-2012	22:58	746b38a3	ex1/ex1.m	
4468	Defl:N	1513	66%	08-20-2012	22:58	926cef99	ex1/ex1_multi.m	
1249	Defl:N	535	57%	08-20-2012	22:58	993574c7	ex1/featureNormalize.m	
904	Defl:N	421	53%	08-20-2012	22:58	432ca692	ex1/gradientDescent.m	
933	Defl:N	435	53%	08-20-2012	22:58	0c941484	ex1/gradientDescentMul	
645	Defl:N	253	61%	08-20-2012	22:58	8cd45b4e	ex1/normalEqn.m	
879	Defl:N	485	54%	08-20-2012	22:58	e4e58c78	ex1/plotData.m	
17322	Defl:N	5888	67%	08-20-2012	22:58	234fa284	ex1/submit.m	
627	Defl:N	436	47%	08-20-2012	22:58	35f44fe2	ex1/submitWeb.m	
580	Defl:N	255	50%	08-20-2012	22:58	a3e81c1a	ex1/warmUpExercise.m	
1359	Defl:N	660	51%	08-20-2012	22:58	fbd97877	ex1/exiddata1.txt	
657	Defl:N	265	60%	08-20-2012	22:58	32d88b29	ex1/exiddata2.txt	
493361	Defl:N	465571	6%	08-20-2012	22:58	a8edd8c1	ex1.pdf	
527846		478618	9%				15 files	

# Editing Files

- **F4** to edit a file

```
geogcontest05.txt  [----]  0 L:[ 23+ 0 23/669] *(565 /22839b) 0065 0x041
Answer: Alexandria

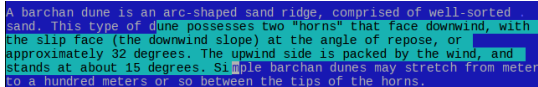
3) Barchan refers to what landscape feature?
a) Cliffs b) Sand Dune
(More detailed choices, I did not get them down)
Answer: Sand Dune
Digression: From http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barchan:
A barchan dune is an arc-shaped sand ridge, comprised of well-sorted .
sand. This type of dune possesses two "horns" that face downwind, with .
the slip face (the downwind slope) at the angle of repose, or .
approximately 32 degrees. The upwind side is packed by the wind, and .
stands at about 15 degrees. Simple barchan dunes may stretch from meters .
to a hundred meters or so between the tips of the horns.

Simple barchan dunes may appear as larger, compound barchan or .
megabarchan dunes, which may migrate with the wind. Barchans and .
megabarchans may coalesce into ridges that extend for hundreds of .
kilometers.
1Help 2Save 3Mark 4Replac 5Copy 6Move 7Search 8Delete 9PullDn10Quit
```



## Selecting Text

- **F3** to select some text, **F3** again to stop selecting.
  - **F5** to copy selected text elsewhere
  - **F8** to delete selected text

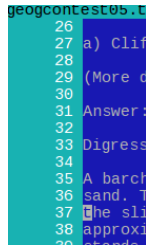


A barchan dune is an arc-shaped sand ridge, comprised of well-sorted sand. This type of dune possesses two "horns" that face downwind, with the slip face (the downwind slope) at the angle of repose, or approximately 32 degrees. The upwind side is packed by the wind, and stands at about 15 degrees. Simple barchan dunes may stretch from meter to a hundred meters or so between the tips of the horns.

- **Ctrl-u** to undo
- **Alt-r** to redo
- Clipboard:
  - **Ctrl-Ins** to copy
  - **Shift-Del** to cut
  - **Shift-Ins** to paste

# Navigation

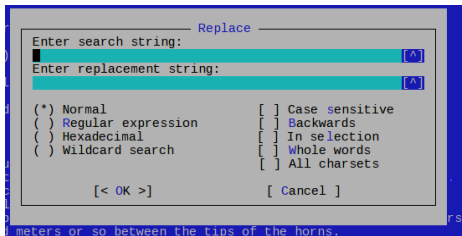
- **Alt-b** to jump to matching bracket, brace or parenthesis
- **Alt-k** to bookmark line
- **Alt-j** and **Alt-i** to navigate to next/previous bookmark
- **Alt-o** to clear bookmarks
- **Alt-l** to jump to line
- **Alt-n** to display line numbers (see image on right)



```
geogcontest05.t
26
27 a) Clif
28
29 (More d
30
31 Answer:
32
33 Digress
34
35 A barch
36 sand. T
37 The sli
38 approx
39 stands
```

## Replacing Text

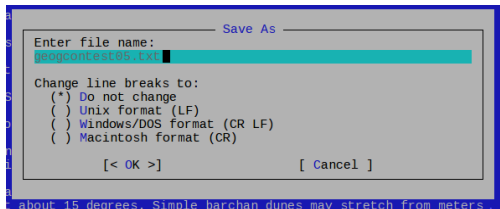
- **F4** to replace text



- **F7** to search—same dialog as with viewing

# Saving

- **F2** to save the current file
- **F12** to save as a new file:



# Syntax Highlighting

- Supports syntax highlighting:

```
/home/mue-oustic.py [----] 0 L: ( 1+ 0 1/ 77) *(0 /2236b) 0035 0x023
This file contains code to calculate relevant aspects of the longitudinal acoust
from numpy import *
from scipy.special import jvp, trapz, j0
from scipy.special import jn as besselj
from scipy.integrate.quadrature import simps, quadrature
from useful import *

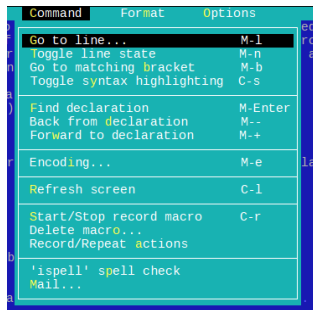
import psycho
psycho.full()

h=1.0546e-34
rho=2330.0
```

- **Ctrl-s** to enable if not already enabled

## More Options

- **F9** to get a drop down menu
- Lots of goodies in the menus

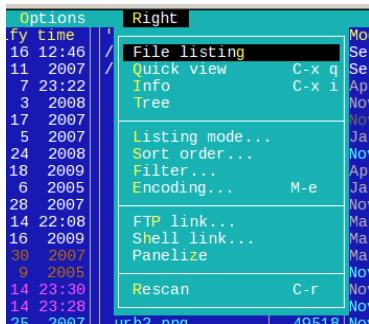


## Some Comments about Editing

- I'm impressed with how many people I've met who regularly *use* the editor, but have never heard of Midnight Commander.
  - It can be launched by typing *mcedit* on the command line.
- I use it mostly for quick and dirty edits.
- You can make an external editor your default:
  - From the main menu, *Options*, and then *Configuration* lets you disable the internal editor.

## Bringing up the menu

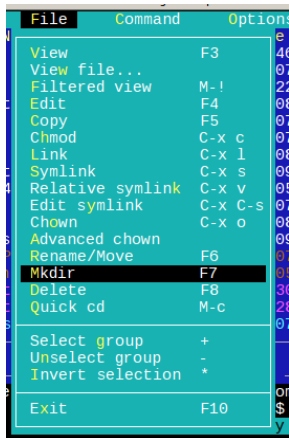
Under many contexts, **F9** will bring up a menu:



- The **Right** menu impacts the right panel. **Left** acts on the left panel.
- Take some time to go through the main menus. There are many features/customizations in there.
- I've shown some examples on the next few slides.



# Menus (File)



- You can do more than just move and copy files.
- Quick cd will let you quickly move to another directory without messing up whatever you had typed in the command line.

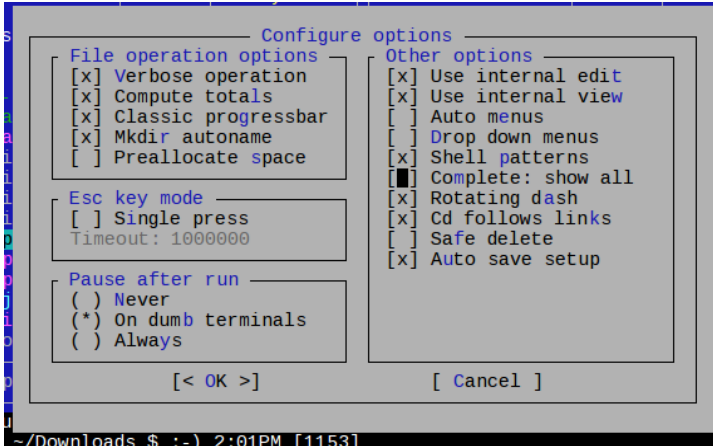
## Quip

Did I mention that you still have the command line in Midnight Commander?

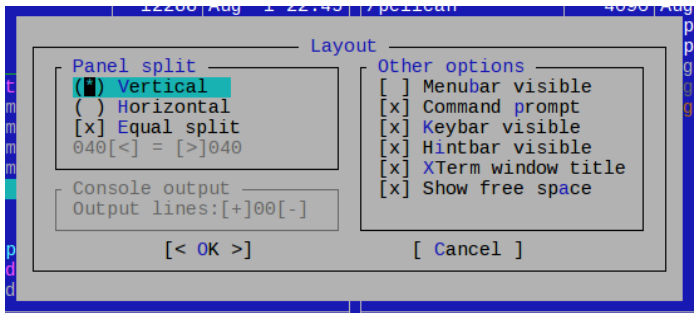
## Menus (Command)

Command	Options	Right
User menu		F2
Directory tree		
Find file		M-?
Swap panels		C-u
Switch panels on/off		C-o
Compare directories		C-x d
Compare files		C-X C-d
External panelize		C-x !
Show directory sizes		C-Space
Command history		M-h
Directory hotlist		C-\
Active VFS list		C-x a
Background jobs		C-x j
Screen list		M-^
Undelete files (ext2fs only)		
Edit extension file		
Edit menu file		
Edit highlighting group file		

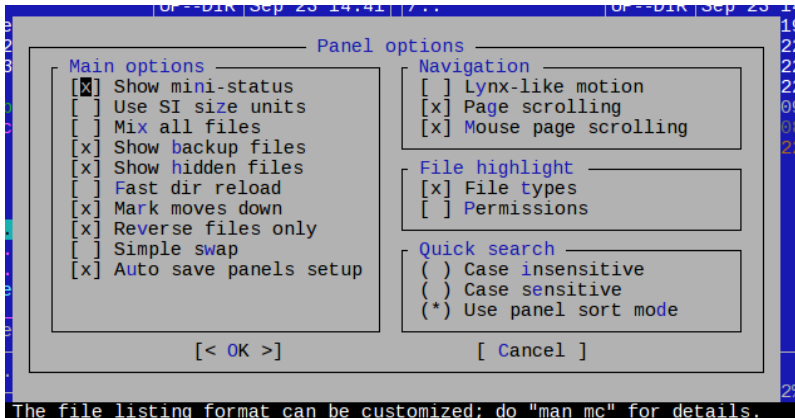
- **External panelize** will let you panelize the results of an external (e.g. shell) command.
- **Directory hotlist** is essentially a way to bookmark commonly accessed directories.
- **Edit extension file** lets you customize the command that is executed when you view a filetype or press Enter on it.
  - For example, you can have it display EXIF headers for an image file when you “view” it, and launch an image viewer when you press Enter on an image file.



# Layout

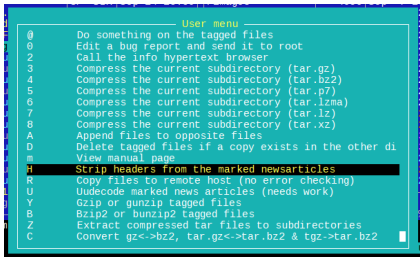


# Panel



## User Menu

- Press **F2** to access the user menu:

A screenshot of the Midnight Commander User Menu. The menu is displayed in a teal-colored window with a black border. It lists various actions that can be performed on tagged files. The action 'Strip headers from the marked newsarticles' is highlighted with a black background. The menu is organized with a vertical list of actions, each preceded by a letter or symbol. The actions include: 'Do something on the tagged files', 'Edit a bug report and send it to root', 'Call the info hypertext browser', 'Compress the current subdirectory' (with options for tar.gz, tar.bz2, tar.p7, tar.lzma, tar.lz, and tar.xz), 'Append files to opposite files', 'Delete tagged files if a copy exists in the other di', 'View manual page', 'Strip headers from the marked newsarticles' (highlighted), 'Copy files to remote host (no error checking)', 'Uudecode marked news articles (needs work)', 'Gzip or gunzip tagged files', 'Bzip2 or bunzip2 tagged files', 'Extract compressed tar files to subdirectories', and 'Convert gz<->bz2, tar.gz<->tar.bz2 & tgz->tar.bz2'.

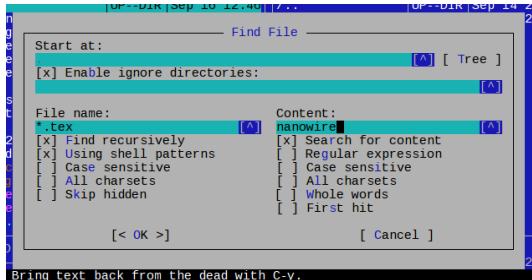
```

User menu
@ Do something on the tagged files
0 Edit a bug report and send it to root
2 Call the info hypertext browser
3 Compress the current subdirectory (tar.gz)
4 Compress the current subdirectory (tar.bz2)
5 Compress the current subdirectory (tar.p7)
6 Compress the current subdirectory (tar.lzma)
7 Compress the current subdirectory (tar.lz)
8 Compress the current subdirectory (tar.xz)
A Append files to opposite files
D Delete tagged files if a copy exists in the other di
m View manual page
H Strip headers from the marked newsarticles
R Copy files to remote host (no error checking)
U Uudecode marked news articles (needs work)
Y Gzip or gunzip tagged files
B Bzip2 or bunzip2 tagged files
Z Extract compressed tar files to subdirectories
C Convert gz<->bz2, tar.gz<->tar.bz2 & tgz->tar.bz2
```

- You can apply a command to all selected files.
- You can create a compressed archive of the current directory—I use this all the time.
- You can edit a configuration file to customize what options are displayed here—press **F1** for details.

## Finding Files

- Press **Alt-?** to search for files:



Quip

Poor man's *grep* and  
*find*

- The content field is optional.
- Numerous options are supported.

## Results of File Search

- All the search results are listed.
- Can easily view/edit any file in the results.
- The **Panelize** command at the bottom is useful.



## Example Use Case

- Let's say I want to find all JPG files under a directory and delete them (or move them to a dedicated *images* directory).
- Problem:** The JPG files are scattered across many subdirectories.
- Solution:** Use the search results (as shown in the previous slide), and select **Panelize**:
- All the results are shown as if they were in one directory. You can now manipulate them any way you wish (e.g. select all and delete).

Panelize

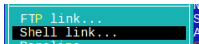
Name	Size	Modify	time
UP--DIR		Dec 31	1969
papers/a-mat.tex	22473	Mar 22	2007
papers/a-ite.tex	21301	Mar 21	2007
papers/a-mit.tex	22473	Mar 22	2007
papers/d-ite.tex	21186	Mar 4	2007
papers/d-ite.tex	21186	Mar 4	2007
papers/d-onf.tex	2841	Mar 20	2007
papers/d-st2.tex	1651	Mar 7	2007
papers/d-est.tex	1772	Mar 7	2007
papers/d-res.tex	1710	Mar 8	2007
papers/d-onf.tex	7082	Mar 8	2007
papers/d-onf.tex	2841	Mar 20	2007
papers/d-st2.tex	1651	Mar 7	2007
papers/d-est.tex	1772	Mar 7	2007
papers/d-res.tex	1710	Mar 8	2007
presenta-tel.tex	15675	Aug 19	2009
presenta-ain.tex	11067	Jan 29	2008

UP--DIR 13G/523G (2%)

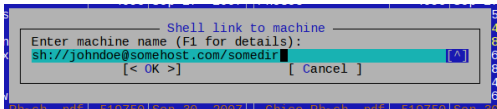
Hint: Use C-x p to copy the current path

## Remote File Systems (FTP)

- Did you notice this in the menu?

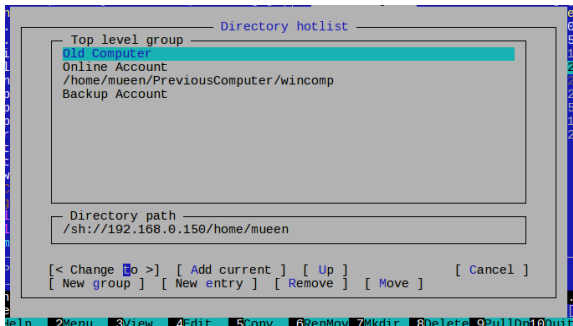


- You can (S)FTP to a remote machine and navigate its directories with Midnight Commander:



- It will show up like any other directory. You can view files, copy back and forth, etc.
- Midnight Commander is my main FTP tool.

## Directory Hotlist



- You can bookmark a directory.
- You can even bookmark a remote location—very handy.

# The Default Key Bindings Suck!

## Problem

The default key bindings suck! I want to change them!

## Solution

Despite what the Internet tells you, with a recent enough Midnight Commander, one *can* change the key bindings.

## Quip

But you'll need a PhD to figure out how.

# I Can't Select Text With My Mouse

## Problem

I can't select text with my mouse!

## Solution

- Hold down the **Shift** button while selecting your text.
- Do likewise when pasting with the mouse.

# When I Quit I'm In The Wrong Directory!

## Problem

When I quit Midnight Commander, I'm in the directory I was in when I launched it. I want to quit to the directory Midnight Commander was last in!

- This is a **major** pain.
- Most Linux distributions will come with shell scripts to fix this.
- I have the following line in my `.zshrc`:

`.zshrc`

```
source /usr/libexec/mc/mc.sh
```

## Quitting Into the Wrong Directory

`/usr/libexec/mc/mc.sh`

```
# Don't define aliases in plain Bourne shell
[ -n "${BASH_VERSION}${KSH_VERSION}${ZSH_VERSION}" ] || return 0
alias mc='. /usr/libexec/mc/mc-wrapper.sh'
```

`/usr/libexec/mc/mc-wrapper.sh`

```
MC_USER='id | sed 's/[^(]*((//;s/).*/'
MC_PWD_FILE="${TMPDIR-/tmp}/mc-${MC_USER}/mc.pwd.$$"
/usr/bin/mc -P "$MC_PWD_FILE" "$@"

if test -r "$MC_PWD_FILE"; then
    MC_PWD="cat "$MC_PWD_FILE""
    if test -n "$MC_PWD" && test -d "$MC_PWD"; then
        cd "$MC_PWD"
    fi
    unset MC_PWD
fi

rm -f "$MC_PWD_FILE"
unset MC_PWD_FILE
```

# Temporary Do Something Else

## Problem

I'm viewing/editing a file and I suddenly realize I need to copy a file somewhere. It's a pain to quit the viewer to do this task.

## Solution

While viewing/editing, press **Alt-'**.



# My Screen is Garbled Up

```

pmsettmp/midnightcommander pres 3 17:22 /papers 4096 Mar 5 2007
pms-gene-0.0.tgz 12352K Sep 3 17:08 /phd 4096 Feb 24 2008
/literature 4096 Apr 3 2008 /presentations 4096 Aug 18 2009
/notes 4096 Sep 17 2007 /revtex4 4096 Nov 6 2005
/papers 4096 Mar 5 2007 /tmp 4096 Nov 28 2007
/phd 4096 Feb 24 2008 /tmp2 4096 Sep 14 22:08
/presentations 4096 Aug 18 2009 /windows 4096 Aug 16 2009
/revtex4 4096 Nov 6 2005 besint.m 190 Sep 22 19:31
/tmp 4096 Nov 28 2007 besslder.m 188 Sep 22 19:31
/tmp2 4096 Sep 14 22:08 Chico Ph-ch .pdf 519750 Sep 30 2007
/windows 4096 Aug 16 2009 ECE355Finala.ppt 113664 Sep 22 19:31
besint.m 190 Sep 22 19:31 geogcont-t05.txt 22830 Nov 9 2005
besslder.m 188 Sep 22 19:31
Chico Ph-ch .pdf 519750 Sep 30 2007 Chico PhysRevB_73_~nuum approach .pdf
ECE355Finala.ppt 113664 Sep 22 19:31 besslder.m 188 Sep 22 19:31
geogcont-t05.txt 22830 Nov 9 2005 literatu-tar.bz2 91584K Sep 14 23:38
literatu-.tar.gz 98335K Sep 14 23:26 me2.eps 67051 Mar 25 2007
KCoreConfigSkeleton::writeConfig:
besslder.m
KCoreConfigSkeleton::writeConfig:
okular(30508)/kdecore (KConfigS
configSkeleton::writeConfig:

```

## Problem

My display got messed up!

## Solution

Press **Ctrl-I** to redraw the display.

# Update the Panel!

## Problem

Some of the files in my directory changed. Midnight Commander doesn't pick up these changes. It's a pain to exit the directory and re-enter it.

## Solution

Press **Ctrl-r** to refresh the panel.

# Blue?! Yechh! I Want to Change the Colors!

## Problem:

Blue?! Yechh! I want to change the colors!

## Solution

- To run in B/W mode, launch it with the `-b` option.
- Otherwise see <https://www.midnight-commander.org/wiki/doc/common/skins> for details on how to change the appearance.

# I want Midnight Commander in Windows!

## Problem

I want Midnight Commander in Windows!

## Solution

Try Far Manager (<http://www.farmanager.com/>)

# History

- In 1986 Peter Norton developed *Norton Commander* for DOS.
- It was very powerful, and alleviated the pain of writing commands in DOS.
- The product more or less died once everyone switched to Windows.
- Many clones have been developed, but Midnight Commander is the most featureful for the Linux environment.