## **NAME**

clifm – The Command Line File Manager

# **SYNOPSIS**

**clifm** [OPTION]... [PATH]

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## 1. GETTING HELP

There are several ways to access help in **clifm**. Once you are in the program, enter ? or *help* for some basic usage examples, or press **F1** to access this manpage, **F2** to go to the **COMMANDS** section of this manpage, or **F3** to jump to the **KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS** section.

To get help about some specific topic, type help < TAB > to get a list of available help topics. Choose the topic you want and then press Enter.

For a list of available commands along with brief descriptions, type *cmd*<*TAB*>.

You can also access help for internal commands using the -h or --help flags. For example, to get help on the selection function, s - h or s - -help.

A convenient way to obtain comprehensive information about **clifm** commands is through the ih action, which is bound by default to the interactive help plugin (ihelp.sh). Enter ih to run the plugin (note that it requires fzf(1)) and select the command you wish to learn more about.

For a quick introduction, please refer to the **EXAMPLES** section at the end of this document.

### 2. DESCRIPTION

**Clifm** is a Command Line Interface File Manager. Its main feature and strength lie in the fact that all input and interacion are conducted through commands typed directly into a prompt. In other words, **clifm** operates as a Read-Eval-Print Loop (REPL), following this basic structure: **Read** (user input via the command line), **E**valuate/**E**xecute the command, **P**rint the results, **L**oop (repeat the process).

Unlike most terminal file managers out there, indeed, **clifm** replaces the traditional Text User Interface (TUI), often referred to as curses or text—menu based interface, with a straightforward command—line interface (REPL). This design allows it to function not only as a file manager but also as **ashell extension**. You can search for files, copy, rename, remove them, while also performing system tasks such as updating or upgrading your system, adding cron jobs, stopping services, and launching text editors like nano, vi, or emacs.

In summary, **clifm** keeps the command line visible and accessible, enhancing it with functionalities specifically tailored for file management.

# 3. PARAMETERS

# POSITIONAL PARAMETERS

If the first non-option parameter is a directory, **clifm** will start in that directory (for example, the command *clifm /etc* instructs **clifm** to start in the */etc* directory).

If no directory is specified, **clifm** will use the first workspace by default. To start in a different workspace use the -w option. For instance, *clifm* -w4 /etc will start **clifm** in the /etc directory within workspace 4.

If no positional parameter is provided and the -w option is not used, **clifm** will start by default in the last visited directory (and in the last active workspace). To disable this behavior, use the --no-re-store-last-path option (see below).

### **OPTIONS**

**Note**: If compiled in POSIX mode, the following list of options does not apply. In this case, run clifm - h to get the actual list of options. (To make sure run clifm - v: if compiled in POSIX mode the version number is followed by "-POSIX").

## -a, --show-hidden[=VAL]

Show hidden files (filenames starting with '.'). Supported values: *first*, *last*, *true*, and *false*. If no value is specified, it defaults to *true*.

## -A, --no-hidden

Do not show hidden files.

### -b, --bookmarks-file=FILE

Set an alternative bookmarks file.

# -c, --config-file=*FILE*

Set an alternative configuration file.

### -D, --config-dir=DIR

Set an alternative configuration directory (if configuration files do not already exist, they will be created in *DIR*).

# -e, --no-eln

Do not display Entry List Numbers (ELNs) to the left of filenames. Note that while ELNs are not printed, they remain accessible and can still be used as usual.

### -E, --eln-use-workspace-color

Color ELNs using the current workspace color.

## -f, --dirs-first

List directories first.

### -F. --no-dirs-first

Do not list directories first.

# -g, --pager

Enable *Mas*, the builtin pager for file listing.

### -G, --no-pager

Disable the file pager.

## -h, --help

Print this help and exit.

## -H, --horizontal-list

List files horizontally (instead of vertically).

### -i, --no-case-sensitive

Ignore case distinctions when listing files.

# -I, --case-sensitive

Do not ignore case distinctions when listing files.

## -k, --keybindings-file=FILE

Set an alternative keybindings file.

### -l, --long-view

Print file extended metadata next to filenames. The displayed fields can be customized using —prop-fields (PropFields in the configuration file). Set a custom time/date format with —time-style (TimeStyle in the configuration file).

## -L, --follow-symlinks-long

When in long view, display information for the files referenced by symbolic links instead of the symbolic links themselves.

# -m, --dirhist-map

Enable the directory history map to keep in view previous, current, and next entries in the directory history list.

## -o, --autols

The cd command changes directory and automatically lists files.

# -O, --no-autols

The internal *cd* command works like the shell *cd* command: change directory but **do not** automatically list files.

## **-P**, **−−profile**=*PROFILE*

Use PROFILE as profile. If PROFILE does not exist, it will be created. The default profile is default.

## -r, --no-refresh-on-empty-line

Do not refresh the current list of files when pressing *Enter* on an empty line.

#### -s, --splash

Enable the splash screen.

## -S, --stealth-mode

In stealth mode (also known as incognito or private mode), no trace is left on the host system. No files are read or created, and all settings revert to their default values. However, most settings can still be controlled via command line options and dedicated environment variables (see the **ENVI-RONMENT** section below). Additionally, refer to the *history* command and the *--no-history* command line switch for more options.

# -t, --disk-usage-analyzer

Run in disk usage analyzer mode. This is equivalent to using --sort=size --long-view --full-dir-size --no-dirs-first. The recursive size of the current directory will be diplayed after the list of files. You can toggle this mode in place by pressing Ctrl+Alt+i (or Alt+Tab).

### -T, --trash-dir=DIR

Set an alternative trash directory.

# -v, --version

Print version details and exit.

# -w, --workspace=NUM

Start in workspace *NUM*. By default, **clifm** will recover the last visited directory for each workspace. However, you can override this behaviour using positional parameters to start in workspace *NUM* and at path *PATH*. E.g.: *clifm* -w4/etc.

### -x, --no-ext-cmds

Disallow the use of external (shell) commands.

## -y, --light-mode

Enable the light mode to speed up **clifm**. See the **NOTE ON SPEED** section below.

# -z, --sort=METHOD

Sort files by *METHOD*, where *METHOD* is one of: 0 = none, 1 = name, 2 = size, 3 = atime, 4 = btime, 5 = ctime, 6 = mtime, 7 = version, 8 = extension, 9 = inode, 10 = owner, 11 = group, 12 = blocks, 13 = links, or 14 = type. Both numbers and names are accepted. For example, you can use --sort = 9 or --sort = inode.

## --bell=TYPE

Set the terminal bell type, where TYPE is: 0 = none, 1 = audible, 2 = visible (requires readline >= 8.1), and 3 = flash. Defaults to **1** (**visible**), and, if not available, **0** (**none**). Only numbers are allowed.

# --case-sens-dirjump

Do not ignore case when consulting the jump database (via the j command).

# --case-sens-path-comp

Enable case sensitive path completion.

# --cd-on-quit

Write the last visited directory to \$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME/clifm/.last for later access by the corresponding shell function at program exit. Consult the **SHELL FUNCTIONS** section below for more information.

### --color-scheme=NAME

Use the color scheme specified by *NAME*.

### --color-links-as-target

Colorize symbolic links using the color of the target file.

#### --cwd-in-title

Print the current working directory in the terminal window title (otherwise, only the program name is printed).

## --data-dir=DIR

Load data files, such as plugins, color schemes, and default configuration files, from DIR.

## --desktop-notifications[=STYLE]

Enable desktop notifications. The nofification style can be optionally specified: *kitty* (requires the Kitty terminal or a terminal supporting the Kitty Notifications Protocol), *system*, or *false*. If STYLE is omitted, it defaults to *system*. Enter *help desktop-notifications* in **clifm** for more information.

## --disk-usage

Show disk usage for the filesystem where the current directory resides, in the form FREE/TOTAL (FREE %) TYPE DEVICE.

### --full-dir-size

Display recursive directory sizes (long view only).

### --fuzzy-algo=VER

Fuzzy matching algorithm, where *VER* is either *1* (faster, but not Unicode aware), or 2 (slower, Unicode aware). Bear in mind however that the second algorithm will fallback to the first one (because it's faster) whenever the query string contains only ASCII characters, to minimize thus the performance penalty.

## --fuzzy-matching

Enable fuzzy matching for filename/path completions and suggestions.

# --fzfpreview-hidden

Enable file previews for tab completion (fzf mode only) with the preview window hidden (toggle it via Alt+p)

# --fzftab

Use *fzf* to display completion matches.

# --fnftab

Use fnf to display completion matches.

### --icons

Enable icons.

## --icons-use-file-color

Instead of a specific color, icons use the color of the corresponding filename (specified either via file type or file extension). Useful when building custom color schemes. This option implies —icons. Only if compiled with support for either icons—in–terminal or Nerdfonts. The default build is compiled with emoji—icons support, in which case this option is ignored, as Unicode icons have their own builtin colors.

# --int-vars

Allow the use of internal variables (e.g.: *VAR=/bin*; *cd* \$*VAR*).

# --list-and-quit

List files and quit. Useful in conjunction with positional parameters. E.g.: 'clifm --list-and-quit /etc'.

## **--ls** Short for --list-and-quit.

### --lscolors

Read file colors from the **LS\_COLORS** environment variable (BSD **LSCOLORS** is also supported). Note that clifm-specific colors (like empty directories or inaccessible files) will be disabled. Note also that colors for specific filenames, as defined in **LS\_COLORS**, are not supported. For more information about **LS\_COLORS**, consult **directors**(1), or refer to the **ls**(1) FreeBSD manpage for **LSCOLORS**.

### --max-dirhist

Maximum number of visited directories to remember.

# --max-files=NUM

List only up to NUM files. Use -1 or 'unset' to remove this limit (default). See the mf command for a more detailed description.

#### --mimelist-file=FILE

Set FILE as Lira's configuration file. See the **FILE OPENER** section below for more information.

#### --mnt-udisks2

Use *udisks2* instead of *udevil* (default) for the *media* command.

# --no-bold

Disable bold colors (applies to all color schemes).

### --no-cd-auto

By default, **clifm** changes directories by just specifying the corresponding ELN (e.g. '12' instead of 'cd 12'). This option forces the use of the *cd* command.

### --no-classify

By default, **clifm** appends a file type indicator character to filenames when running without colors (see the **—no–color** option below) and a directory indicator (along with a file counter) when running with colors. Classification characters are as follows:

/n: directory (n = files counter)

@: symbolic link

!: broken symbolic link

|: fifo/pipe

=: socket

\*: executable file

+: block device

-: character device

?: unknown file type Use this option to disable file type classification. Note that this option also disables the file counter.

## --no-clear-screen

Do not clear the screen before listing files.

### --no-color

Disable colors.

# --no-columns

Disable columned file listing (use a single column).

# --no-dir-jumper

Disable the directory jumper function.

### --no-file-cap

Do not check file capabilities when listing files (only meaningful for performance reasons).

### --no-file-ext

Do not check file extensions (mostly used to colorize specific filenames) when listing files.

### --no-files-counter

Disable the file counter for directories (speeding up the listing process: counting files in directories is particularly expensive).

# --no-follow-symlinks

Do not follow symbolic links when listing files. Overrides both -L and --color-links-as-target.

### --no-fzfpreview

Disable file previews for tab completion (fzf mode only).

## --no-highlight

Disable syntax highlighting. To customize highlighting colors see the **COLOR CODES** section below.

## --no-history

Do not write commands to the history file (see also the *HistIgnore* option in the configuration file).

#### --no-open-auto

Same as --no-cd-auto, but applies to files instead of directories.

## --no-refresh-on-resize

Do not attempt to refresh the list of files upon window's resize.

### --no-restore-last-path

By default, **clifm** saves the last visited directory for each workspace to restore it in the next session. Use this option to disable this behavior.

### --no-suggestions

Disable the auto-suggestions system.

## --no-tips

Disable startup tips.

### --no-truncate-names

Do not truncate filenames (see MaxFilenameLen in the configuration file).

# --no-unicode

Do not use Unicode decorations.

## --no-warning-prompt

Disable the warning prompt (used to highlight invalid command names).

### --no-welcome-message

Disable the welcome message.

## --only-dirs

List directories only.

# --open=FILE

Run as a standalone file opener: open *FILE* and exit, where FILE can be a regular file or a directory, using either standard notation (/dir/file) or the URI file scheme (file://dir/file), or a URL (www.domain or https://domain).

### --opener=APPLICATION

Use APPLICATION (e.g.: rifle or xdg-open) as file opener/launcher (instead of Lira, clifm's default opener).

## --pager-view=*MODE*

List files in the pager according to MODE. Possible values: *auto* (use the current listing mode - this is the default), *long* (list files in long view), and *short* (list files in short view).

# --physical-size

Display physical file sizes (device usage) instead of logical sizes (apparent size).

## --preview=FILE

Display a preview of FILE (via Shotgun) and exit. Use --shotgun-file to set an alternative configuration file. Consult the **SHOTGUN** section below for more information.

### --print-sel

Print the list of selected files. The maximum number of selected files to be printed can be specified using the MaxPrintSelfiles option in the configuration file. By default, this is set to 0 (auto), meaning it will never exceed half the terminal height. Use -1 to remove the limit or specify any other positive value.

## --prop-fields=FORMAT

Set fields to be displayed in long view mode. For information on how to construct this format string consult the *PropFields* option in the configuration file.

### --ptime-style=STYLE

Time/date style used by the p/pp command and the --stat/--stat-full command line switches. Available styles: **default**, **iso**, **long-iso**, **full-iso**, **full-iso-nano**, **+FORMAT**. FORMAT is interpreted like in **strftime**(3). Nano-second precision is available via the %N modifier (like in **date**(1)).

# --readonly

Run in read—only mode (internal commands able to modify the filesystem are disabled). Disabled commands are: ac, ad, bb, bl/bleach, br/bulk, c, dup, l, le, m, md, n/new, oc, paste, pc, r, rr, t/trash, tag, te, u/undel/untrash, and vv, plus the shell commands cp, rm, mv, ln, mkdir, rmdir, link, and unlink.

### --report-cwd

Report the current directory to the underlying terminal (using the OSC-7 escape sequence, not supported by all terminals)

## --rl-vi-mode

Set readline to vi editing mode (defaults to emacs editing mode).

## --secure-cmds

Sanitize commands passed to the OS to mitigate command injection attacks (--secure-env is implied). Consult the **SECURITY** section below for more information.

### --secure-env

Run clifm in a secure environment (regular mode). Consult the SECURITY section below.

## --secure-env-full

Run clifm in a secure environment (full mode). Consult the SECURITY section below.

### --sel-file=FILE

Set *FILE* as the selections file.

### --share-selbox

Make the Selection Box common (that is, accessible) to different profiles. By default, each profile has a private Selection Box.

# --shotgun-file=FILE

Set FILE as shotgun's configuration file. See the SHOTGUN section below for more information.

--si Display file sizes in SI units (powers of 1000) instead of 1024.

# --smenutab

Use *smenu* to display completion matches.

## --sort-reverse

Sort files in reverse order (e.g.: z–a instead of a–z).

## --stat FILE...

Run the p command on FILE(s) and exit. This must be the **last option** on the command line. Use --ptime-style to set a custom date/time format.

### --stat-full FILE..

Same as --stat, but it runs the pp command (instead of p) on FILE(s).

#### --stdtab

Use the standard mode (readline's builtin) for tab completion.

## --time-style=STYLE

Time/date style used in long view. Available styles: **default**, **relative**, **iso**, **long-iso**, **full-iso**, **+FORMAT**. FORMAT is interpreted like in **strftime**(3).

#### --trash-as-rm

Make the *r* command move files to the trash instead of removing them.

#### --unicode

By default, Unicode decorations are used if Unicode support is detected for the running terminal. Use this option to force Unicode decorations.

### --virtual-dir=PATH

Use *PATH* as **Clifm**'s virtual directory.

## --virtual-dir-full-paths

Print filenames in virtual directories as absolute paths instead of just basenames.

### --vt100

Run in VT100 compatibility mode.

Options precedence order: 1) command line flags; 2) configuration file; 3) default values.

## 4. COMMANDS

Help for all commands listed here can be accessed via the -h or --help options. For example, use p --help to get help about the properties function.

**NOTE:** ELN = Entry List Number. For example, in the line "12 openbox" (when listing files), 12 is the ELN corresponding to the file named "openbox". The slash followed by a number (/xx) after directories and symbolic links to directories (the file counter) indicates the number of files in the corresponding directory, excluding self and parent directories ("." and ".." respectively).

**NOTE 3: clifm** supports **fused parameters** for internal commands taking an ELN or range of ELNs as parameters. Much like short options for command line programs, you can omit the space between internal commands and the corresponding ELN passed as argument. For example, you can write *CMDELN* instead of *CMD ELN*. Thus, o12 or s1-5 can be used instead of o12 and o12 and o13 respectively. Be aware, however, that omitting the space character will disable tab completion for ELNs. If there is a file named o13 (more generally, CMDELN), and if you want to refer to this file instead of a **clifm** command, escape the filename to prevent the split: o13 respectively.

**NOTE 4: clifm** implements a **fastback** function, which converts "... n" or "cmd ... n" into ".../.. n" or "cmd .../.. n". In other words, subsequent dots after ".." will be converted each into "/..". For example, if you are in your home directory and type "..." or "cd ...", and since "..." amounts to ".../..", you will be taken to the root directory. Tab completion is available for the fastback function: typying "....bin" followed by TAB will yield ".../../bin".

## FILE/DIR

If the *autocd* and *auto-open* functions are enabled, which is the default value, open FILE or change directory to DIR. In other words, *FILE* amounts to *open FILE* or *o FILE*, and *DIR* to *cd DIR*. ELNs, of course, are allowed. Example: 12.

### |PATTERN[-filetype][-x][DIR]

This is the **quick search** function. Type / followed by a glob or regular (or extended regular) expression, and **clifm** will list all matches in the current working directory. For example, both /\*.pdf and /.pdf\$ expressions will list all PDF files in the current working directory, the former using wildcards, and the second a regular expression.

You can list previously used search patterns via TAB: /\*< TAB>.

**Note**: By default, the search function attempts to resolve a pattern first as glob, and then, if no matches are found, as a regular expression. This behavior can be customized however in the configuration file, via the *SearchStrategy* option.

**Note 2**: If no further parameter is provided, but only a glob pattern (wildcards), you can expand the pattern into the corresponding matches via the TAB key. For example, to list all C files in the current directory: /\*.c<TAB>.

**Note 3**: Expressions containing no pattern metacharacter are automatically transformed into a glob/regular expression (depending on the value of the *SearchStrategy* option). For example, /test becomes \*test\* or /.\*test.\*.

## 1. Case sensitivity

By default, regular expressions are case insensitive (glob expressions, by contrast, are always case sensitive). However, you can enable case sensitive search by setting the *CaseSensitiveSearch* option to *true* in the configuration file.

# 2. Destination directory

To search for files in any directory other than the current directory, specify the directory name as a further parameter. This parameter (DIR) can be an absolute path, a relative path, or an ELN. For example, enter  $/^{2}A$  7 to search for all files starting with 'A' in the directory corresponding to the ELN 7.

# 3. File type filter

The result of the search can be further filtered by specifying a filter type: -b, -c, -d, -f, -l, -p, -s, -O, and -P (block device, character device, directory, regular file, symbolic link, FIFO/pipe, socket, door (Solaris), and port (Solaris) respectively. For example, /[.-].\*d\$ -d Documents/ will list all directories containing a dot or a dash and ending with 'd' in the directory named Documents.

### 4. Negate a pattern

The quick search function also supports invert search: prepend the exclamation mark (!) to negate a given search pattern. For example: !.\*s\$ -d/etc will match all directories in /etc not ending with 's', just as !D\* will match all files in the current directory not starting with 'D'.

## 5. Recursive search

To perform a recursive search use the -x parameter, and, optionally, a search path (DIR) (file type

filter is not allowed). The search will be performed using **find**(1) as follows: *find DIR MODE PAT-TERN*. If no search path is provided, the search is executed starting in the current directory. Otherwise, the search starts in DIR. MODE is one of:

- -name: if SearchStrategy is not regex-only and CaseSensitiveSearch is set to true
- -iname: if SearchStrategy is not regex-only and CaseSensitiveSearch is set to false
- -regex: if SearchStrategy is regex-only and CaseSensitiveSearch is set to true
- -iregex: if SearchStrategy is regex-only and CaseSensitiveSearch is set to false

## ;[CMD],:[CMD]

If no CMD, run the system shell in the current working directory. If CMD is specified, skip all **clifm** expansions (see the **BUILT-IN EXPANSIONS** section below) and run the input string (CMD) as is via the default system shell.

### ac, ad ELN/FILE...

Archive/compress and dearchive/decompress one or multiple files and/or directories. The archiver function brings two modes: ac, to generate archives or compressed files, and ad, to decompress or dearchive files, either just listing, extracting, recompressing, or mounting their content. In this latter case, the mountpoint used automatically is  $$HOME/.config/clifm/PRO-FILE/mounts/ARCHIVE_NAME$ .

The function accepts single and multiple filenames, wildcards, ELN ranges, and the 'sel' keyword. For example: *ac sel*, *ac 4–25 myfile*, or *ad \*.tar.gz*. Multiple archive/compression formats are supported, including Zstandard. When it comes to ISO 9660 files only single files are supported.

The archive mount function for non ISO files depends on **archivemount**, while the remaining functions depend on **atool** and other third–party utilities for achive formats support, for example, **p7zip**. **p7zip** is also used to manage most decompressing options for ISO 9660 files, except for mount, in which case **mount(8)** is used. Creation of ISO files is done via **genisoimage(1)**. For more information consult **atool(1)**, **archivemount(1)**, **zstd(1)**, and **7z(1)**.

### acd, autocd [on, off, status]

Toggle the autocd function. If set to on, *DIR* amounts to *cd DIR*.

## actions [list] [edit [APP]]

To list available actions (or plugins) use the *list* subcommand. Note that, since *list* is the default action, it can be omitted.

Use the *edit* subcommand to add, remove or modify custom actions (using APP if specified or the default associated application for text files otherwise).

The aim of this function is to allow the user to easily add custom commands and functions to **clifm**. In other words, the actions function is a plugins capability.

The general procedure is quite simple: a) edit the actions file (via actions edit) and bind a custom action name to an executable file (written in any language you want, be it a shell or Python script, a C program or whatever you like). Example: "myaction=myscript.sh". b) Now, drop the corresponding script (in our example, myscript.sh) into the plugins directory, usually, 7.con-fig/clifm/plugins (see the **FILES** section below). 3) Once this is done, you can call the script using the custom action name defined before as if it were any other command: run myaction, and myscript.sh will be executed.

Note that all arguments passed to the action command (*myaction*) are passed to the script or program as well (*myscript.sh*), which is executed via the system shell.

To assist the user when writing plugins, **clifm**'s state information is exported via environment variables when running plugins. For example, **CLIFM\_LONG\_VIEW** is set to 1 if currently running in long view. See the **ENVIRONMENT** section for the complete list of exported values.

The plugins bundled with **clifm** (take a look at the plugins directory) can be used as a starting point to create new plugins.

```
alias [import FILE] [ls,list] [NAME]
```

With no argument (or with *ls,list* parameters), it prints the list of available aliases, if any. To get the description of a specific alias enter *alias* followed by the alias name. To write a new alias simply enter *edit* (or press F10) to open the configuration file and add a line like this: "alias name='command args...'" or "alias name='directory'".

To import aliases from a file, provided it contains aliases in the specified form (i.e. the POSIX syntax for the *alias* shell command), use the *import* parameter. Aliases conflicting with some of the internal commands won't be imported.

However, a neat usage for the alias function is not so much to bind short keys to commands, but to files and directories visited regularly. In this way, it is possible to bind as many files or directories, no matter how deep they are in the filesystem, to very short strings, even single characters. For example, "alias w='/some/file/deep/in/the/filesystem'. Now, no matter where we are, we can just enter 'w', provided *autocd* and/or *auto-open* function is enabled, to access the file or directory we want. Theoretically at least, this procedure can be repeated until the system memory is exhausted.

To create multiple aliases for files at once, this is the recommended procedure: 1) Select all files you want to alias with the *sel* function: *s file1 file2 file3* .... 2) Export the selected files into a temporary file running *exp sel*; 3) Edit this file to contain only valid alias lines:

```
alias a1='file1'
alias b1='file2'
alias c1='file3'
```

NOTE: Make sure alias names do not conflict with other commands, either internal or external. To bypass the conflicts check, performed automatically by the 'alias import' command, you can edit the aliases file manually (F10).

4) Finally, import this file with the *alias* function: *alias import tmp\_file*. Now, you can access any of these files by entering just a few characters: a1, b1, and c1.

```
auto [list | none | unset | OPTION=VALUE...]
```

Set a temporary autocommand for the current directory.

Unlike **permanent** autocommands, defined in the configuration file via the *autocmd* keyword (see the **AUTOCOMMANDS** section below), options set via the *auto* command are **temporary**, i.e., valid only for the current directory and the current session.

Options set via this command take precedence over both permanent autocommands and regular options (set either via the command line or the configuration file).

# **Examples**

List available autocommands auto list

List files in the current directory in long view auto lv=1

List only PDF files, set the color scheme to nord, and sort files by size auto ft=.\*.pdf\$,cs=nord,st=size

The same list of options can be specified sequentially (i.e., previous options are preserved)

auto ft=.\*.pdf\$
auto cs=nord
auto st=size

Unset the files filter and the color scheme, and change sort to blocks **auto ft=,cs=,st=blocks** 

Unset all temporary autocommands previously set for the current directory **auto unset** 

Reload the current directory ignoring all autocommands (including permanent autocommands) **auto none** 

For the list of available option codes consult the **AUTOCOMMANDS** section or enter *help auto-commands*.

```
ao, auto-open [on, off, status]
```

Toggle the auto-open function. If set to on, FILE amounts to open FILE.

### **b, back** [*h*, *hist*] [*clear*] [*W!ELN*]

Unlike *cd* .., which sends you to the parent directory of the current directory, this command (with no argument) sends you back to the previously visited directory.

**clifm** keeps a record of all visited directories (to prevent a directory from being added to the directory history list use the *DirhistIgnore* option in the main configuration file). You can see this list by typing *b hist* or *b h*, and you can access any element in this list by simply passing the corresponding ELN in this list to the *back* command. Example:

- $:) > ^{\sim} $ bh$
- 1 /home/user
- 2 /etc
- 3 /proc
- $:) > ^{\$} b !3$
- :) > /proc \$

**NOTE:** the highlighted line (by default printed in bold cyan) indicates the current position of the *back* function in the directory history list.

Finally, you can also clear this history list by typing *b clear*.

The best way of navigating the directory history list, however, is via the *directory jumper* function. See the *j* command below. You can take a look at the *dh* command as well.

# bb, bleach ELN/FILE...

Bleach is a builtin filenames cleaner (based on detox [https://github.com/dharple/detox]), whose main aim is to rename filenames using only safe characters. Bleach cleans up filenames either by removing unsafe (extended-ASCII/Unicode) characters without an ASCII alternative/similar character, or by translating these unsafe characters into an alternative ASCII character based on familiarity/similarity.

These following simple rules are used to compose clean/safe filenames:

- NUL (\0) and slash (/) characters are completely disallowed
- Only characters from the Portable Filename Characters Set (a-zA-Z0-9.\_-) are allowed

- { [ ( ) ] } are replaced by a dash (-). Everything else is replaced by an underscore (\_)
- Unicode characters are translated, whenever possible, into an ASCII replacement. Otherwise, they are just ignored. For example, an upper case A with diacritic (accent, umlaut, diaresis, and so on) will be replaced by an ASCII A, but the smiley face emoji will be simply ignored. A few special signs will be translated into text, for instance, the pound sign will be replaced by "\_pound\_" and the Euro symbol by "EUR". Translations are made via a translation table (see the *cleaner\_table.h* in the source code).
  - Filenames never start with a dash (-)
  - Files named . and .. are not allowed
  - Append .bleach to single character filenames
  - Do not let a replacement filename start with a dot (hidden) if the original does not
  - Max filename length is NAME\_MAX (usually 255)

Modified filenames will be listed on screen asking the user for confirmation, allowing besides to edit (by pressing 'e') the list of modified filenames via a text editor.

If the replacement filename already exists, a dash and a number (starting from 1) will be appended. E.g.: file-3.

## **bd** [NAME]

bd is the backdir function: it takes you back to the parent directory matching NAME.

With no arguments, bd prints a menu with all parent directories relative to the current directory, allowing the user to select an entry. Otherwise, it checks the absolute current directory against the provided query string (NAME): if only one match is found, it automatically changes to this directory; if multiple matches are found, the list of matches is presented to the user in a selection menu. If NAME is a directory name, bd just changes to this directory, be it a parent of the current directory or not.

Tab completion and suggestions are available for this function.

# Example:

Provided that the current directory is /home/user/git/repositories/lambda, entering bd git will take you immediatelly to /home/user/git.

Note that there is no need to type the entire directory name; if the query is unambiguous, only a few characters, and even just one, suffices to match the appropriate directory. In our example, *bd g* is enough to take you to */home/user/git*, just as *bd h* will take you to */home*.

The query string can match any part of a directory name: *bd er*, for instance, will take you to /home/user, since it is an unambiguous query.

### bl FILE...

Create symbolic links (in the current directory) for each specified file. For example, to create symbolic links in the directory *dir* for all PNG files in the current directory, issue these commands: *s* \*.png, cd dir, and then bl sel.

**bm, bookmarks** [a, add FILENAME NAME [SHORTCUT]] [d, del NAME] [e, edit [APP]] [NAME, SHORTCUT]

Bookmarks can be managed either from the bookmark manager screen or from the command line.

# 1. The bookmark manager screen

To access the bookmark manager screen simply enter *bm*. Here you can cd to the desired bookmark by entering either its ELN or name (regular files can be bookmarked as well). In this screen

you can also add, remove, or edit your bookmarks by simply entering 'e' to edit the bookmarks file (which is simply a list of lines with this format: *name:path*. E.g.: "docs:/home/user/documents"). Make your changes, save, and exit.

### 2. The command line

Command	Description
bm add /media/mount mnt	Bookmark the /media/mount directory as "mnt"
bm mnt	Change to/open the bookmark named "mnt"
bm del mnt	Delete the bookmark named "mnt"
bm edit	Edit your bookmarks

A handy use for the bookmarks function is to create bookmarks using short names, which will be later easily accessible via tab completion.

### The b: construct

The b: construct is used as a way to quickly access/operate on bookmarks. A few examples:

Command	Description
b: <tab></tab>	List available bookmarks
b:net	Change to the bookmark named "net" (1)
p b:bm1 b:bm2	Print file properties of the bookmarks named "bm1" and "bm2"
s b:	Select all bookmarks at once

(1) If your are not sure about where a bookmark points to, type b:NAME<TAB>.

## br, bulk ELN/FILE... [:EDITOR]

Rename at once all files passed as arguments to the function. It accepts single and multiple filenames, wildcards, ELN ranges, and the *sel* keyword. Example: br myfile 4-10 sel.

Each filename will be copied to a temporary file, which will be opened via EDITOR (default associated application for plain text files if omitted), letting the user modify it. Once the file has been modified and saved, the modifications are printed on the screen and the user is asked for confirmation.

This builtin bulk rename function won't deal with deletions, replacements, filename conflicts and the like. For a smarter alternative use  $\mathbf{qmv}(1)$ .

# c, m, md, r

Short for the following commands respectively: cp - iRp, mv - i, mkdir - p, and rm (for files) or rm - r (for directories).

By default, the c, m, and r commands ask for confirmation before operations. Since this might sometimes be quite intrusive (specially when operating on large number of files), it is possible to turn interactivity off in two different ways:

- a) For the current command only: via the -f, --f or ce switch. Example: c-f sel, m-f sel, or r-f \*
- b) Permanently. Use the *cpCmd*, *mvCmd*, and *rmForce* options in the configuration file to permanently set any of these commands to non–interactive mode.

To use these commands without any of these arguments, or with any other argument you want, use

the non-abbreviated (shell) command, for instance, cp instead of c. Of course, you can also create aliases to use your preferred commands, for example, "c=´cp -adp´". Consult the *alias* command above for more information.

The l command allows the use of the e, edit option to modify the destination of a symbolic link. Example: l edit l2 (or le l2) to relink the symbolic link corresponding to the file whose ELN is 12.

When using the sel keyword and no destination is provided, c and m will copy/move selected files to the current directory.

Whenever sel is not used, but just a source filename (and no destination is provided), the m command behaves much like the imv(1) shell command (from the 'renameutils' package), providing an interactive renaming function: it prompts the user to enter a new name using the source filename as base, so that it does not need to be typed twice. For this alternative prompt, only tab completion for filenames is available.

**Clifm** supports **advcp**(1), **wcp**, and **rsync**(1) to copy files (they include a progress bar). To use them instead of **cp**(1) set the corresponding option (cpCmd) in the configuration file. If advcp is selected, the command used is advcp - giRp (or advcp - gRp, for non-interactive mode). If rsync, the command is rsync - avP. wcp takes no argument.

**advmv**(1) is also supported to move files (to add a progress bar to the move command). Use the mvCmd option in the configuration file to choose this alternative implementation of mv. In this case, the command used is advmv - gi (or advmv - g for non-interactive mode).

## cd [ELN/DIR]

Change the current working directory to ELN/DIR.

# Directories check order:

- 1. If no argument, change to the home directory (**HOME**, or, if **HOME** is not set, the sixth field of the entry corresponding to the current user in /etc/passwd)
- 2. If argument is an absolute path (begins with a slash character), or the first component is dot (.) or dot–dot (..), convert to canonical form (via **realpath**(3)) and, if a valid directory, change to this directory.
- 3. Check **CDPATH** environment variable and append /DIR to each of the paths specified here. If the result of the concatenation is a valid directory, change to it.
- 4. Check directories in the current working directory. If a matching directory is found, change to it.

You can use either ELNs or a string to indicate the directory you want. E.g.:  $cd\ 12$  or  $cd\ ^{\sim}/media$ . If autocd is enabled (default),  $cd\ 12$  and  $cd\ ^{\sim}/media$  can be written as 12 and  $^{\sim}/media$  respectively as well.

Unlike the shell  $\operatorname{cd}(1)$  command,  $\operatorname{clifm}$ 's builtin  $\operatorname{cd}$  function not only changes the current directory, but also lists its content (provided the option  $\operatorname{AutoLs}$  is enabled, which is the default) according to a comprehensive list of color codes. By default, the output of  $\operatorname{cd}$  is much like this shell command:  $\operatorname{cd}\operatorname{DIR} \&\& \operatorname{ls} - -\operatorname{color} = \operatorname{auto} - -\operatorname{group} - \operatorname{directories} - \operatorname{first}$ .

Automatic file listing can be disabled by either setting AutoLs to "false" in the configuration file or running **clifm** with the -O or --no-autols option.

# cl, columns [on, off]

Toggle columned file listing.

### cmd, commands

Show this list of commands. A more convenient way of getting information about **clifm** commands is via the interactive help plugin (depends on *fzf*), by default bound to the "ihelp" action name.

colors Preview the current color scheme

## **config** [edit [APP]] [reset, reload, dump]

Manage the main configuration file.

To edit the configuration file use the *edit* subcommand. If an application is specified (*config edit APP*), *APP* will be used to open the file (otherwise, the default associated program will be used). Edit settings to your liking if necessary, save, and quit the editor. Changes are automatically applied. Note that, since *edit* is the default action, it can be omitted. Enter just *config* to open the configuration file, or *config APP* to open it using *APP*.

Use the *reload* subcommand to reload the main configuration file and update settings accordingly.

Use the *reset* subcommand to generate a fresh configuration file and create a backup copy of the old one (named *clifmrc.YYYYMMDD@HH:MM:SS*).

The *dump* subcommand prints the list of settings (as defined in the main configuration file) with their current value. Those differing from the default values are highlighted, and the default value for the corresponding option is displayed in brackets.

## **cs, colorschemes** [edit [APP]] [n, name] [p, preview] [check-ext] [NAME]

With no arguments, list available color schemes (cs name (or cs n) to print the current color scheme name).

To get a preview of the current color scheme use the *preview* subcommand: *cs preview*.

Use the *check–ext* subcommand to check for file extension conflicts: *cs check–ext*.

Use the *edit* subcommand to open/edit the configuration file of the current color scheme (open with APP if specified or via the default associated application).

To switch color schemes, specify the color scheme name: cs NAME. (Tab completion is available: cs < TAB >).

# d, dup FILE...

Duplicate files passed as parameters, either directories or regular files. The user will be asked for a destination directory. Duplicated filenames are generated by appending ".copy" to the basename of each source file. For example: d/my/file will copy /my/file to the directory selected by the user as file.copy. If file.copy already exists, an extra suffix will be added as follows: file.copy-N, where N is a positive integer (starting at 1).

If  $\mathbf{rsync}(1)$  is found, it will be used as follows: rsync - aczvAXHS - -progress. Else,  $\mathbf{cp}(1)$  will be used: cp - a.

# dh [STRING] [PATH] [!ELN]

With no parameters, it prints the directory history list. To filter this list just pass a query string: only entries matching this query will be displayed. In both cases, tab completion is available. For example: *dh down*<*TAB*> will list only those entries matching *down* (fuzzily, if *fuzzy*–*matching* is enabled).

To access a specific entry, you can pass the entry number preceded by an exclamation mark. For example, if you want the entry number 12, enter *dh* !12 to change to the corresponding directory.

Finally, if an absolute path is passed as first parameter, dh works just as the cd command.

*Note*: Take a look at the j command as well. Both commands deal with the list of visited directories, but in slightly different ways: while dh deals with the list of the last MaxDirhist entries (see the configuration file), the j command deals with the ranked list of visited directories.

### **ds, desel** [\*, a, all] [FILE]...

Deselect one or more selected files.

If no parameter is passed, the user is prompted to either mark selected files to be deselected or to edit the selections file (entering 'e') via a text editor to manually deselect files.

Use \*, a or all to deselect all selected entries at once. E.g.: ds \*.

You can also pass the filename(s) (or ELNs) to be deselected as a parameter. For example: ds my-file 24.

Tab completion is available for this command.

### **exp** [*FILE*]...

With no argument, export the list of files in the current working directory to a temporary file. Otherwise, export only those specified as further arguments: they can be directories, filenames, ELNs or some search expression like "\*.c".

### ext [on, off, status]

Toggle the ability external commands.

# **f, forth** [h, hist] [clear] [!ELN]

It works just like the *back* function, but it goes forward in the history record. Of course, you can use f hist, f h, and f !ELN.

## **fc** [on, off, status]

By default, **clifm** prints the number of files contained by listed directories next to the directory name. However, since this is an expensive feature, it might be desirable (for example, when listing files in a remote machine) to disable this feature. Use the *off* subcommand to disable it. To permanently disable it, use the *FilesCounter* option in the configuration file.

# **ff**, **dirs**–**first** [on, off, status]

Toggle list directories first.

### **ft, filter** [*unset*] [[!]REGEX,=FILE-TYPE-CHAR]

Filter the current list of files, either by filename (via a regular expression) or file type (via a file type character).

With no argument, ft prints the current filter. To remove the current filter use the *unset* option. To set a new filter enter ft followed by a filter expression (use the exclamation mark to reverse the meaning of a filter). Examples:

Exclude hidden files:

ft!^.

List only files ending with .pdf:

ft .\*\.pdf\$

List only symbolic links:

ft =l

Exclude socket files:

ft !=s

The list of file type characters is included in the **FILE FILTERS** section below.

The filter will be lost at program exit. To permanently set a filter use the *Filter* option (in the configuration file) or the **CLIFM\_FILTER** environment variable (consult the **ENVIRONMENT** and the **FILE FILTERS** sections below).

**fz** [on, off]

Toggle recursive directory sizes (long view only).

**hf, hh, hidden** [on, off, first, last, status]

Set hidden files on/off (use *first/last* to sort hidden files before/after non-hidden files respectively).

**history** [edit [APP]] [clear] [-n] [on, off, status, show-time]

With no arguments, it prints the commands history list (use *show-time* to print timestamps as well). If *clear* is passed as argument, it will delete all entries in the history file. Use *edit* to open the history file and modify it as required (the file will be opened with APP, if specified, or with the default associated application otherwise). —*n* tells the *history* command to list only the last 'n' commands in the history list. Finally, you can disable history (subsequent entries won't be written to the history file) via *history off* (you can also use the *HistIgnore* option in the configuration file to prevent specific command lines from being added to the history list).

You can use the exclamation mark (!) to perform some history commands:

!<TAB>: List history entries

!!: Execute the last command.

!n: Execute the command number 'n' in the history list.

!-n: Execute the 'last - n' command in the history list.

!STRING: Execute the command starting with STRING. Tab completion is available in this case: !STRING<TAB>.

icons [on, off]

Toggle icons.

**Note**: Depending on how the terminal renders icons, the apparent space between icons and filenames may not be the most appropriate. This space can be adjusted using the *IconsGap* option in the configuration file (valid values: 0, 1, 2).

```
\mathbf{j} [--purge [NUM]] [--edit], jc, jl, jp [STR]..., \mathbf{je}
```

j is the fastest way of using **Kangaroo**, a **directory jumper** function used to quickly navigate through the jump database (i.e. a database of visited directories).

With no argument, j just lists the entries in the jump database (1)(2), printing: **a**) order number of the corresponding entry, **b**) total sum of visits, **c**) days since the first visit, **d**) hours since the last visit, **e**) the rank value, and **f**) the directory name itself. An asterisk next to the rank value means that the corresponding directory will not be removed from the database, despite its rank, either because it has been visited in the last 24 hours, or because it is bookmarked, pinned, or currently active in some workspace.

- (1) To prevent a directory from being *added* to the jump database use the *DirhistIgnore* option in the main configuration file.
- (2) To prevent a directory from being *removed* from the jump database, edit the database (*j edit*) and prepend a plus sign (+) to the corresponding line.

Otherwise, if a query string is provided as parameter, *j* searches for this string in the database and cd to the best ranked matching entry. Example: *j Down* will probably take you to /home/user/Downloads, provided this directory has been already visited and is the best ranked match in the database. For a more detailed description of the matching algorithm see the

### KANGAROO FRECENCY ALGORITHM section below.

Multiple query strings can be passed to the function. For example, *j et mo* will first check for "et" in the jump database and then will further filter the search using the second parameter: "mo". It will most probably take you (again, provided the directory has been already visited and is the best ranked match) to */etc/modprobe.d* directory. Bear in mind that if STR is an actual directory, *jump* will just cd to it without performing any query.

The backslash (\) and the slash (/) can be used to instruct **Kangaroo** to search for the string query only in the first or last path segment of each entry in the database respectively. Let's suppose we have two entries matching **src** in the database: /media/src/images and /home/user/Downloads/clifm/src. If the first entry is better ranked than the second, j src will match this first entry. However, if what we really want is the second entry, appending a slash to the query string instructs **Kangaroo** to only match entries having src in the last path segment, here /home/user/Downloads/clifm/src.

Since it is not always obvious or easy to know where exactly a query string will take you, **clifm** (if the suggestions system is enabled) will print, at the right of the cursor, the path matched by **Kangaroo**. If that is the actually intended path, press the Right arrow key to accept the suggestion. Otherwise, it will be ignored. You can also use tab completion to print the list of matches for the current query string. For example: j - c < TAB > to list all entries in the directory history list containing a dash (–) and a  $\acute{c}$ .

j accepts four modifiers: 'e', 'p' 'c', and 'l', the first standing for "edit", the second for "parent", the third for "child", and the last one for "list". Thus, je (or j--edit) will open the jump database to be edited as required; jc will search for files querying only child directories relative to the current working directory, while jp will do the same but for parent directories. Finally, jl just prints the matches for the given query string(s), but without changing the current directory. Examples:

Command	Description
jp foo	Change to the best ranked <b>parent</b> directory containing the string "foo".
jc bar test	Change to the best ranked <b>child</b> directory containing the string "bar" and "test"
jl foo	Print all entries in the database containing the word "foo"

Use the --purge option to shrink the database. Without further parameters, --purge removes all non-existent (un-stat'able) directories from the database. If a numeric parameter is passed, by contrast, all entries ranked below this number will be removed from the database. For example, j  $--purge\ 100$  will remove all entries ranked below 100.

You can also manually edit the database file using the je (or j--edit) command: edit whatever needs to be edited, save changes, and close the editor. This is useful, for example, to remove a specific entry/directory from the database (however, bear in mind that if the directory is in the directory history, it will not be removed from the jump database).

To mark an entry as permanent (prevent it from being removed from the database), follow any of these procedures:

- a. Bookmark it.
- b. Edit the jump database (je or j --edit) and prepend a plus sign (+) to the corresponding entry.

An alternative way of navigating the jump database is using the jumper plugin (located in the plugins directory and bound by default to the "++" action name), which uses *fzf* to enable fuzzy searches. Enter ++ to perform a fuzzy search over the jump database.

Take a look at the *dh* command as well.

- **k** If running in long view, toggle follow-links (Alt++ is also available). See the -L, --follow-symlinks-long command line switch.
- **kk** Toggle max-filename-len (Ctrl+Alt+l is also available)

## **kb, keybinds** [list] [bind FUNCTION] [edit [APP]] [conflict] [reset] [readline]

With no argument (or if the argument is *list*), prints the current keybindings and their associated functions.

To change a keybinding use the bind subcommand.

Type *kb bind* <*TAB*> to get the list of bindable functions.

Enter *kb bind FUNCTION* to set a new keybinding for FUNCTION. For example, to bind the function *previous-dir* to a new key, enter *kb bind previous-dir*. You'll see a little prompt: press the key combination you want to associate to the specified function and the press **Enter** (while in this prompt, press **Ctrl+d** to abort or **Ctrl+c** to clear the current line).

To manually edit your keybindings use the *edit* option (the keybindings file will be opened with APP, if specified, or with the default associated application otherwise).

If you somehow messed up your keybindings, you can check for keybinding conflicts with the *conflict* option, or use the *reset* option to create a fresh keybindings file with the default values.

To unbind a function run *kb edit* and comment out the corresponding entry. Note that some functions may have several entries, associating them to multiple keybindings: comment them out all if required.

To list readline keybindings (defined in ~/.config/clifm/readline.clifm), use the readline option. The syntax is the same as the one used by readline's .inputrc file (consult http://tiswww.case.edu/php/chet/readline/readline.html#SEC9 for more information.)

**l, le** Create (*l*) or edit (*le*) symbolic links.

The syntax for the *l* command is: *l TARGET [LINK\_NAME]*. Note that if *LINK\_NAME* is omitted, the symbolic link is created as *TARGET\_BASENAME.link* in the current directory.

By default, the link target is created literally (like ln -s would). The link creation mode can be set via the LinkCreationMode option in the configuration file. Available modes are: absolute, literal, and relative (like ln -rs would).

To edit the target of a symbolic link use the *le* command followed by the desired link name. The user will be prompted to enter a new link target, using the current one as template.

# **ll, lv** [on, off]

Toggle long/detail view mode.

lm [on, off]

Toggle the light mode. This option, aimed at making file listing faster than the default mode, is especially useful for really old hardware or when working on remote machines (for more information see the **NOTE ON SPEED** section below).

 $oxed{log} \ [cmd \ [list, on, off, status, clear]] \ [msg \ [list, on, off, status, clear]]}$ 

Enable, disable, clear, list or check the status of the program logs, either message (errors and warnings) or command logs. Example: *log cmd on*, to enable command logs, or *log msg clear*, to clear/remove message logs.

Consult the FILES section below for information about how logs are written to the logs file.

### media

**NOTE**: This command is Linux-specific

List available storage devices and mount/unmount the selected one using either *udevil* or *udisks2* (at least one of these must be installed. *udevil* will be preferred over *udisks2*). If the device is unmounted, it will be automatically mounted, and if mounted, it will be automatically unmounted.

Though mountpoints are determined by the mounting application itself (*udevil* or *udisks2*), **clifm** will automatically cd to the corresponding mountpoint whenever the mount operation was succesfull.

When unmounting, and if the current directory is inside the mountpoint, **clifm** will attempt to cd to the previous visited directory, and, if none, to the home directory, before unmounting the device.

To get information about a device, enter *iELN*, for example, *i12*, provided '12' is the ELN of the device you want.

### **mf** [NUM, unset]

List only up to NUM files (valid range: >= 0). Use *unset* to list all files (default). An indicator (listed\_files/total\_files) will be printed below the list of files whenever some file is excluded from the current list (e.g. 20/310). Note however that though some files are excluded, all of them are loaded anyway, so that you can still perform any valid operation on them. For example, even if only 10 files are listed, you can still search for ALL symbolic links in the corresponding directory using the appropriate command: /\* -l.

**mm, mime** [open FILE] [info FILE] [edit [APP]] [import] This is Lira, **clifm**'s file opener.

Use the *open* subcommand to open a file with the default associated application. Note that, since *open* is the default action, it can be omitted. For example: *mm file.pdf*. The same can be achieved more easily via the *open command: open file.pdf* (or using the short command, *o file.pdf*). Or, even shorter, just *file.pdf*.

The *info* option prints MIME information about FILE: its MIME type, and, if any, the application associated to this filename or to the file's MIME type.

The *edit* option allows you to edit and customize the MIME list file. So, if a file has no default associated application, first get its MIME info or its file extension (running *mm info FILE*), and then add a value for it to the MIME list file using the *edit* option (*mm edit* or F6). Check the **FILE OPENER** section below for information about the mimelist file syntax.

Finally, via the *import* option **clifm** will try to import MIME associations from the system looking for *mimeapps.list* files in those paths specified by the Freedesktop specification (see *https://specifications.freedesktop.org/mime-apps-spec/mime-apps-spec-latest.html*). If at least one MIME association is successfuly imported, it will be stored as *mimelist.clifm.XXXXXX* (where XXXXXX is a random six digits alphanumerical string). You can add these new associations to your mimelist file using the *mime edit* command.

### mp, mountpoints

List available mountpoints and change the current working directory to the selected mountpoint.

### msg, messages [clear]

With no arguments, prints the list of messages in the current session. The *clear* option tells **clifm** to empty the messages list.

## n, new [FILE[@TEMPLATE]]... [DIR/]...

Create new regular files and/or directories.

If a filename ends with a slash (/), it will be taken as a directory name. Else, it will be created as a regular file. E.g.: *n myfile mydir*/, to create a file named *myfile* and a directory named *mydir*. If no filename is provided, the user will be prompted to enter one.

# **Automatic templates**

New regular files will be created from a **template file** if:

- 1. The file to be created has a filename extension (e.g., file.html).
- 2. A file named like this extension, here *html*, exists in the templates directory (1).

If both conditions are met, running *n file.html* will create a new file named *file.html* which is a copy of the *html* file in the templates directory.

Note that template names are not limited to actual file extensions: you can name your templates whatever you like (with any content you want) provided new files are created using the template name as extension. E.g.: n file.my\_super\_cool\_template.

## **Explicit templates**

If a filename is followed by the expression @TEMPLATE, where TEMPLATE is any regular file found in the templates directory(1), the file will be created as a copy of the corresponding file template. E.g., n file.sh@my\_script.sh.

Tab completion is available for explicit templates: *n file*@<*TAB*>

(1) The templates directory is **\$CLIFM\_TEMPLATES\_DIR**, **\$XDG\_TEMPLATES\_DIR**, or *Templates*, in this precendence order.

**Filename validation** is performed over names before creation. In case of an unsafe name, the user is warned and asked for confirmation.

A name (namely, any component of a path) is considered unsafe if:

- 1. Starts with a dash (–): command option flags collision
- 2. Is a reserved keyword/expression (internal): fastback (...), ELN/range (12, 1–45), and MIME/file type expansion (@query, =x)
- 3. Is a reserved system/shell keyword ("', '.', '..')
- 4. Contains embedded control characters (0x00–0x1f in the ASCII table)
- 5. Contains embedded shell meta-characters (\*?:[]"<>|(){}&'!\;\$)
- 6. It is too long (larger than NAME\_MAX, usually 255 bytes)

For more information about unsafe filenames consult https://dwheeler.com/essays/fix-ing-unix-linux-filenames.html.

**net** [NAME] [list] [edit] [m, mount NAME] [u, unmount NAME]

# 1. The configuration file

The *net* command manages connections to remote systems via a simple samba-like configuration file (\$HOME/.config/clifm/profiles/PROFILE/nets.clifm). Here you can specify multiple remotes and options for each of these remotes. Syntax example for this file:

[remote\_name]

Comment=A nice descriptive comment

Mountpoint=/path/to/mountpoint

MountCmd=sudo mount.cifs //192.168.0.12/share %m -o OPTIONS

UnmountCmd=sudo umount %m

AutoUnmount=true (Auto-unmount this remote at exit)

AutoMount=false (Auto-mount this remote at startup)

**Note**: %m can be used as a placeholder for *Mountpoint*. %m will be replaced by the value of *Mountpoint*.

## **1.a.** Mounting remote filesystems

## A Samba share:

[samba share]

Comment=My samba share

Mountpoint="~/.config/clifm/mounts/smb\_share"

MountCmd=sudo mount.cifs //192.168.0.26/samba\_share %m -o mapchars,credentials=/etc/samba/credentials/samba share

UnmountCmd=sudo umount %m

AutoUnmount=false

AutoMount=false

# A SSH filesystem (sshfs):

[ssh share]

Comment=My ssh share

Mountpoint="/media/ssh"

MountCmd=sshfs user@192.168.0.26: %m -C -p 22

UnmountCmd=fusermount3 -u %m

AutoUnmount=true

AutoMount=false

# 1.b. Mounting local filesystems

Though originally intended to manage remote filesystems, *net* can also manage **local filesystems**. Just provide the appropriate mount and unmount commands. Since the device name assigned by the kernel might change accross reboots (specially when it comes to removable drives), it is recommended to mount using the device's UUID (Universal Unique Identifier) instead of the drive name. For example:

MountCmd=sudo mount -U c98d91g4-6781... %m

Here's an example of how to set up *net* to mount USB devices, one with a FAT filesystem, and another with an ISO9660 filesystem:

[Sandisk USB]

Comment=Sandisk USB drive

Mountpoint="/media/usb"

MountCmd=sudo mount -o gid=1000,fmask=113,dmask=002 -U 5847-xxxx %m

UnmountCmd=sudo umount %m

AutoUnmount=false

AutoMount=false

[Kingston USB]

Comment=Kingston USB drive

Mountpoint="/media/usb2"

MountCmd=sudo mount -t iso9660 -U 2020-10-01-15-xx-yy-zz %m
UnmountCmd=sudo umount %m
AutoUnmount=false
AutoMount=false

**NOTE**: The *gid*, *fmask*, and *dmask* options are used to allow the user to access the mountpoint without elevated privileges.

If the device data is unknown, as it often happens when it comes to removable devices, you should use the *media* command instead.

# 2. Command syntax

Without arguments (or via the *list* subcommand), *net* lists the configuration for each remote available in the configuration file.

Use the *edit* option to edit the remotes configuration file. If no further argument is specified, the file will be opened with the current file opener. However, you can pass an application as second parameter to open to configuration file. Example: *net edit nano*.

If not already mounted, the *m*, *mount* option mounts the specified remote using the mount command and the mounpoint specified in the confifuration file and automatically cd to the corresponding mountpoint. Example: *net m smb\_work*. Since *mount* is the default action, it can be omitted: *net smb\_work*.

The *u*, *unmount* option unmounts the specified remote using the unmount command specified in the configuration file. For example: *net u smb\_work*. Tab completion is also available for this function.

**NOTE**: If you only need to copy some files to a remote location (including mobile phones) without the need to mount the resource, you can make use of the cprm.sh plugin, bound by default to the cr action. Set up your remotes (cr --edit) and then send the file you want (cr FILE).

## o, open *ELN/FILE* [APPLICATION]

Open FILE, which can be either a directory, in which case it works just like the *cd* command (see above), a regular file, or a symbolic link to either of the two. For example: *o 12*, *o filename*, *o /path/to/filename*.

By default, the *open* function will open files with the default application associated to them via *Lira*, the builtin file opener (see the *mime* command above). However, if you want to open a file with a different application, add the application name as second argument, e.g. *o 12 leafpad* or *o12 leafpad*.

If you want to run the program in the background, simply add the ampersand character, as usual: o 12 &, o 12&, o 12& or (if auto-open is enabled) just 12&.

If the file to be opened is an archive/compressed file, the archive function (see the *ad* command above) will be executed instead.

## oc ELN/FILE...

Interactively change file ownership.

A new prompt is displayed using user and primary group common to all files passed as parameters as ownership template.

Ownership (both user and primary group, if specified) is changed for all files passed as parameters. If the file is a symbolic link, the operation is performed on the target file, and not on the symbolic link itself. Bear in mind that recursion is not supported: use **chown**(1) (with the -R option) instead.

Both names and ID numbers are allowed (Tab completion for names is available).

If only a name/number is entered, it is taken as the user who owns the file(s).

Use the *pc* command to edit files permissions.

## **opener** [default] [APPLICATION]

With no argument, prints the currently used file opener (by default, *Lira*, **clifm**'s builtin opener). Otherwise, set APPLICATION (say *rifle* or *xdg-open*) as opener or, if *default* is passed instead, use *Lira*.

## ow ELN/FILE [APPLICATION]

If APPLICATION is specified, open ELN/FILE with APPLICATION. In case you need to add parameters to APPLICATION, it is recommended to quote the expression: *ow FILE "APP ARG..."*.

If no APPLICATION is specified, the list of available applications associated to ELN/FILE (either via its MIME type or its file extension) is printed, allowing the user to choose one of these applications, and then open the file with the selected application.

This command supports tab completion. Type "ow filename < TAB>" and those applications able to open ELN/FILE will be listed.

# p, pp, prop ELN/FILE...

Print file properties for ELN/FILE. The output of this function is much like the combined output of ls - l and stat.

By default, directories size is not shown. Use pp instead of just p to print directories size as well (it could take longer depending on the directory's content). On the other side, and unlike p, pp provides information about the dereferenced symlinks (namely, the symlink target) instead of the symlink itself. However, note that, in case of symbolic links to directories, p provides information about the link target if the provided filename ends with a slash. Otherwise, information about the link target is displayed.

The time format used to display time information can be customized via the *PTimeStyle* option in the configuration file (defaults to "%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S.%N %z", where %N stands for nano-second precision).

If you need to list the properties of all files in the current directory, try the long view mode (ll or Alt+l). Fields displayed in this mode can be customized using the PropFields option in the configuration file. For custom timestamp formats use the TimeStyle option.

For more information about file details consult the file-details help topic: help file-details.

## pc ELN/FILE...

Interactively change files permissions (only traditional Unix permissions are supported).

A new prompt is displayed using actual permissions (in symbolic notation) of the file to be edited as template. If editing multiple files with *different sets of permissions*, only shared permission bits are set in the permissions template.

Bear in mind that, if editing multiple files at once, say pc sel or pc \*.c, the new permissions set will be applied to all of them.

Both symbolic and octal notation for the new permissions set are allowed.

Recursively setting file permissions is not supported. Use **chmod**(1) with the -R flag instead.

If you just need to toggle the executable permission bit on a file, you can use the te command.

Use the oc command to edit files ownership.

# **pf, profile** [ls, list] [set, add, del PROFILE] [rename PROFILE NEW\_NAME]

With no arguments, prints the name of the currently used profile. Use the *ls* or *list* option to list available profiles. To switch, add, delete, or rename a profile, use the *set*, *add*, *del*, and *rename* options respectively.

**pg, pager** [on, off, once, status, [NUM]]

Run or set Mas, Clifm's builtin files pager.

With no parameter, just run the pager (Alt+0 is also available).

If set to *on*, run the pager whenever the list of files does not fit on the screen.

Set it to any positive integer greater than 1 to run the pager whenever the number of files in the current directory is greater than or equal to this value, say 1000 (0 amounts to *off* and 1 to *on*).

Set to *once* to run the pager only once (overwriting whatever was its previous value).

While paging, the following keys are available:

**?**, **h**: Help

Down arrow, Enter, Space: Advance one line

**Page down**: Advance one page

q: Stop paging (without printing remaining files)

c: Stop paging (printing remaining files)

Note: To scroll lines up, use whatever your terminal emulator has to offer (e.g.: mouse scrolling or some keybinding).

By default, the pager lists files using the current listing mode (long or short). Use PagerView in the configuration file (or --pager-view in the command line) to force the use of a specific mode. Possibles values:

auto: Use the current listing mode (default)

**long**: List files in long view **short**: List files in short view

# pin [FILE/DIR]

Pin a file or directory to be accessed later via the comma (,) keyword. For example, run *pin mydir* and then access *mydir* as follows: cd, where the comma is automatically expanded to the pinned file, in this case *mydir*. The comma keyword could be used with any command, either internal or external, e.g, ls,.

With no arguments, the *pin* command prints the current pinned file, if any. If an argument is given, it will be taken as a filename to be pinned. Running this command again, frees the previous pinned file and sets a new one. In other words, only one pin is supported at a time.

An easy alternative to create as many pins or shortcuts as you want, and how you want, is to use the *alias* function. Bookmarks could also be used to achieve a very similar result.

At program exit, the pinned file is written to a file in the configuration directory (as .pin) to be loaded in the next session.

## prompt [set NAME] [list] [edit [APP]] [unset] [reload]

Manage **clifm**'s prompts. Use the *set* subcommand to temporarily change the current prompt to the prompt named NAME (use the *unset* subcommand to unset the current prompt and set the default one). Available prompts (which can be listed via *prompt list* or *prompt set* <*TAB*>) are defined in the prompts file (\$HOME/.config/clifm/prompts.clifm). To permanently set a prompt, edit your color scheme file (via the *cs edit* command) and set *Prompt* to either a prompt code or a prompt name (as defined in the prompts file).

### q, quit, exit

Quit clifm.

### rf, refresh

Refresh the screen, that is, reprint files in the current directory and update the prompt. If the current directory is not accessible for any reason, *rf* will go up until it finds an accessible one and then will change to this directory.

### rl, reload

Reload all settings, except those passed as command line arguments, from the configuration file.

## rr [DIR] [EDITOR]

Remove files and/or directories in bulk using a text editor.

rr writes all filenames in DIR (or in the current directory if DIR is omitted) to a temporary file and opens it using EDITOR (or the default associated application for text/plain MIME type, if EDITOR is omitted).

Once in the editor, remove the lines corresponding to the files you want to delete. Save changes and close the editor. Removed files will be listed and the user asked for confirmation.

## s, sel ELN/FILE... [[!]PATTERN] [-filetype] [:PATH]

Mark one or more files (either regular files or directories) as selected (send to the Selection Box). sel accepts individual elements, range of elements, say 1–6, filenames and paths, just as wildcards (globbing) and regular expressions. Example: s 1 4–10 r file\* filename /path/to/filename.

If not in light mode, once a file is selected, and if the file is in the current directory, the corresponding filename will be highlighted with a mark (colored according to the value of *li* in the color scheme file (by default bold green)) at the left of the filename (and at the right of its ELN).

Just as in the *search* function, it is also possible to further filter the list of matches indicating the desired file type. For instance, s - d will select all directories in the current working directory. For available file type filters see the *search* function above.

By default, the selection function operates on the current working directory. To select files in any other directory use the ":PATH" expression. For example, to select all regular files with a .conf extension in the /etc directory, the command would be:  $s.*\setminus.conf$ \$ -f:/etc\$, or using wildcards:  $s.*\setminus.conf$ \$ -f:/etc\$. Of course, you can also do just s.-f/etc/\*.conf\$.

Just as in the case of the *search* function, inverse matching is supported for patterns, either wild-cards or regular expressions. To invert the meaning and action of a pattern, prepend an exclamation mark (!). E.g., to select all non-hidden regular files in the Documents directory, issue this command:  $s \ !^- -f : Documents$ , or, to select all directories in /etc, except those ending with ".d":  $s \ !^* \cdot d - d : /etc$ .

Glob and regular expressions can be used together. For example:  $s \lceil r/R \rceil .*d\$ /etc/*.conf$  will select all files starting with either 'r' or 'R' and ending with 'd' in the current working directory, plus

all .conf files in the /etc directory. However, this use is discouraged if both patterns refer to the same directory, since the second one will probably override the result of the first one.

It is important to note that glob expressions are evaluated before regular expressions, in such a way that any pattern that could be understood by both kinds of pattern matching mechanisms will be evaluated first according to the former, that is, as a glob expression. For example, '.\*', as regular expression, should match all files. However, since glob expressions are evaluated first, it will only match hidden files. To select all files using a glob expression, try '.\* \*', or, with a regular expression: '^' or '(.\*?)'. The keyboard shortcut Alt+a is also available to perform the same operation.

The Selection Box is accessible from different instances of the program, provided they use the same profile (see the *profile* command below). By default, indeed, each profile keeps a private Selection Box, being thus not accessible to other profiles. You can nonetheless modify this behavior via the *ShareSelbox* option in the configuration file. If *ShareSelbox* is enabled, selected files are stored in <code>/tmp/clifm/username/.selbox.clifm</code>. Otherwise, <code>/tmp/clifm/username/.selbox\_profile-name.clifm</code> is used (this is the default).

## Operating on selected files

To operate on one or more selected files use the *sel* keyword (s: can be used as well). For example, to print the file properties of all selected files: p *sel* (or p s:). Use s:<TAB> to list selected files (multi–selection is available if running in fzf mode).

## Listing selected files

To list selected files use the sb command (standing for Selection Box). You can also type s:<TAB>.

## **Deselecting files**

To deselect files use the ds command. See above. You can also press Alt+d to deselect all files at once.

**Note:** If there is a file named sel in the current directory, use ./sel to distinguish it from the sel keyword. For example, enter p ./sel to tell **clifm** that you want to get the properties of the file named sel rather than the properties of the currently selected files.

For more information consult the **BUILT-IN EXPANSIONS** section below.

# sb, selbox

Print the elements currently contained in the Selection Box.

splash Print the splash screen.

# st, sort [METHOD] [rev]

With no argument, print the current sort order. Else, sort files by METHOD, where METHOD is one of: 0=none, 1=name, 2=size, 3=atime, 4=btime, 5=ctime, 6=mtime, 7=version, 8=extension, 9=inode, 10=owner, 11=group, 12=blocks, 13=links, or 14=type (e.g.: *st atime* or *st 3*). Methods 10 and 11 sort by owner and group ID names if using ID names in long view (see the *PropFields* option in the configuration file). Else, ID numbers are used. The default order is *version*.

By default, files are sorted from less to more (e.g.: from 'a' to 'z' if sorting by **name**). Use the *rev* subcommand to invert this order. E.g.: *st rev* or *st inode rev*. Switch back to the previous state running *st rev* again.

Take a look at the configuration file for extra sort options (ListDirsFirst, PrioritySortChar,

ShowHiddenFiles).

**stats** Print file statistics for files in the current directory (not available in light mode).

t, trash [ELN/FILE]... [ls, list] [clear, empty] [del [FILE]...]]

Move specified files to the trash can (e.g. *t file1 file2*).

With no argument (or by passing the *ls* option), it prints the list of currently trashed files. The *clear* (or *empty*) sucommand removes all files from the trash can, while the *del* subcommand lists trashed files allowing the user to permanently remove one or more trashed files. If using *del*, tab completion to list/select currently trashed files is available.

The trash directory is  $\$XDG\_DATA\_HOME/Trash$ , falling back to \$HOME/.local/share/Trash. To set an alternative trash directory use the -T, -trash-dir command line option.

Since this trash system follows the Freedesktop specification, it is able to handle files trashed by different Trash implementations.

To restore trashed files (to their original location) see the *undel* command below.

tag [add, del, list, list-full, new, merge, rename, untag] [FILE]... [[:]TAG]

tag is the main *Etiqueta* command, **clifm**'s builtin files tagging system. See the **FILE TAGS** section for a complete description of this command.

te FILE...

Toggle the executable bit (on user, group, and others) on FILE(s). It is equivalent to the  $-\mathbf{x}$  and  $+\mathbf{x}$  options for the **chmod**(1) command.

**tips** Print the list of **clifm** tips

**u, undel, untrash** [\*, a, all] [FILE]...

If filenames are passed as parameters, undelete these files, that is, restore them to their original location. Otherwise, this function prints a list of currently trashed files allowing the user to choose one or more of these files to be restored. Use the \*, a or all parameters to restore all trashed files at once. Tab completion to list/select currently trashed files is available.

**unpin** This command takes no argument. It just frees the current pin and, if it exists, deletes the .pin file generated by the pin command.

vv FILE... DIR

Copy FILE(s) to DIR and bulk rename them at once.

ver, version

Show **clifm** version details.

**view** [edit [APP] | purge]

preview files in the current directory (full screen). Requires fzf(1). Alt+- is also available.

By pressing Enter or Right, the currently highlighted file will be selected and *view* closed. To select multiple files, mark them with the TAB key and then press Enter or Right to confirm. To quit *view* press Escape or the Left arrow key.

Run *view purge* to purge the thumbnails directory (\$XDG\_CACHE\_HOME/clifm/thumbnails) of dangling thumbnails.

To edit the previewer configuration file enter *view edit*, or *view edit vi* to open it with a specific application, in this case,  $\mathbf{vi}(1)$ .

For **image previews** consult the Wiki (https://github.com/leo-arch/clifm/tree/master/misc/tools/imgprev) or enter help image-previews.

For further information consult the **SHOTGUN** section below.

```
ws [NUM/NAME [unset], +, -]
```

**Clifm** offers up to eight workspaces, each with its own independent path.

With no argument, the ws command prints the list of workspaces and its corresponding paths, highlighting the current workspace.

Use *NUM* to switch to the workspace number NUM, *NAME* to switch to the workspace named NAME, the plus sign (+) to switch to the next workspace, and the minus sign (–) to switch to the previous workspace.

To unset a workspace use the *unset* subcommand preceded by the workspace (either number or name) to be unset. For example: ws 2 unset.

Four keyboard shortcuts are available to easily switch to any of the first four workspaces: Alt+[1-4].

Every time an empty workspace is created, it starts in the current working directory.

Though by default workspaces are unnamed, you can name them however you like using the *WorkspaceNames* option in the configuration file.

Use autocommands to persistenly set options per workspace, for example, to always list files in the third workspace in long view. See the **AUTOCOMMANDS** section below for more information.

Make local settings private to the current workspace by setting the *PrivateWorkspaceSettings* option to *true* in the configuration file: settings changed via either the command line or keyboard shortcuts (say Alt+l, to toggle the long view) will apply only to the current workspace and will be remembered even when switching workspaces.

To directly operate on a workspace (namely, the path it points to) you can use the w: construct followed by a workspace number or name. For example, to copy all .png files in the current directory to the third workspace, enter c \*.png w:3. Press TAB immediately after w: to get the list of available workspaces.

## **x, X** [DIR]

Open DIR, or the current working directory if DIR is not specified, in a new instance of **clifm** (as root if X, as the current unprivileged user if x) using the value of *TerminalCmd* (from the configuration file) as terminal emulator. If this value is not set, *xterm* will be used as fallback terminal emulator. This function is only available for graphical environments.

# Shell-builtins implementations

```
pwd [-LP]
```

Print the current working directory

```
export NAME=VALUE...
```

Export variables to the environment

```
umask [VALUE]
```

Print/set the current umask value

### unset NAME

Remove a variable from the environment

## 5. FILE FILTERS

**Clifm** provides multiple ways to filter the current list of files:

a) Hidden files: via the  $-\mathbf{A}$  and  $-\mathbf{a}$  command line flags, the hh command, and the Alt+. keybinding.

Files listed in a file named .hidden in the current directory will be hidden as well whenever hidden files are not shown (wildcards are supported).

- **b)** Directories: via the --only-dirs command line switch and the Alt+, keybinding.
- c) Filenames and file types: either via a regular expression or a file type character (see below) using the *ft* command (the *Filter* option in the configuration file and the **CLIFM\_FILTER** environment variable are also available). For example, to exclude backup files (ending with a tilde):

# CLIFM\_FILTER='!.\*~\(\sigma\) clifm

or (in the configuration file):

Filter="!.\*~\$"

or (via the ft command):

## ft!.\*~\$

See the ft command for a few more examples.

d) Filtering files via the TAB key:

You can filter files **by name** using wildcards. For example: p \*.mp3 < TAB > (or /\*.mp3 < TAB >) to get a list of MP3 files in the current directory.

Files can also be filtered **by MIME-type** via the '@' keyword. Type @<TAB> to list all MIME-types found in the current directory, or @query<TAB> to list all files whose MIME-type includes the string "query". For example, @image<TAB> will list all files in the current directory whose MIME type includes the string "image".

Finally, files can be filtered as well **by file type** using the '=' keyword followed by a file type character (see below). For example, = l < TAB > to get a list of symbolic links in the current directory.

Note: If using tab completion in fzf mode, multi-selection is allowed (except in the case of @<TAB>).

Available file type characters:

- b: Block devices
- c: Character devices
- C: Files with capabilities (1)(2)
- d: Directories
- **D**: Empty directories
- **f**: Regular files
- F: Empty regular files

- g: SGID files (2)
- h: Multi-hardlink files (directories excluded)
- 1: Symbolic links
- L: Broken symbolic links
- o: Other-writable files (2)
- **p**: FIFO/pipes (2)
- s: Sockets (2)
- O: Doors (Solaris only)
- **P**: Event ports (Solaris only)
- t: Files with the sticky bit set (2)
- **u**: SUID files (2)
- x: Executable files (2)
- (1) Only for tab completion
- (2) Not available in light mode
- e) Grouping files (via automatic expansion):

By means of the above features, you can easily group and operate on groups of files. For example, this command:

vt b: @image =x sel t:work \*.txt

opens a virtual directory (see the **VIRTUAL DIRECTORIES** section below) automatically expanding the above expressions as follows:

Expression	Description
b:	All your bookmarks (paths)
@image	All image files (CWD)
=x	All executable files (CWD)
sel	All selected files
t:work	All files tagged aswork
*.txt	All .txt files (CWD)

# 6. KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

The following is the list of default keyboard shortcuts:

Key	Description
Ctrl+Alt+j	Toggle the vi editing mode
Right, Ctrl+f	Accept the current suggestion
Alt+Right, Alt+f	Accept the first suggested word (up to the first slash or space)
Alt+c	Clear the current command line buffer
Alt+q	Delete last word (up to last slash or space)
Alt+i, Alt+.	Toggle hidden-files
Alt+l	Toggle long-view
Alt++	Toggle follow–links (long view only)
Alt+g	Toggle list-directories-first
Alt+,	Toggle list-only-directories
Ctrl+Alt+l	Toggle max-filename-length
Ctrl+Alt+i, Alt+Tab	Toggle disk-usage-analyzer
Alt+w	Toggle full-path-filenames (virtual directories)
Ctrl+l	Refresh the screen (reprint the list of files in the current directory)
Alt+t	Clear program messages
Alt+m	List mountpoints
Alt+b	Launch the Bookmark Manager
Alt+h	Show the directory history
Alt+n	Create new file or directory
Alt+s	Open the Selection Box
Alt+-	Launch the file previewer (view command)
Alt+a	Select all files in the current directory
Alt+d	Deselect all files
Alt+0	Run MAS, the file pager
Alt+p	Change to the pinned directory
Alt+1	Switch to workspace 1
Alt+2	Switch to workspace 2
Alt+3	Switch to workspace 3
Alt+4	Switch to workspace 4

Key	Description
Alt+r	Change to the root directory
Alt+e, Home	Change to the home directory
Alt+u, Shift+Up	Change to the parent directory
Alt+j, Shift+Left	Change to the previously visited directory
Alt+k, Shift+Right	Change to the next visited directory
Ctrl+Alt+o	Switch to the previous profile
Ctrl+Alt+p	Switch to the next profile
Ctrl+Alt+a	Archive selected files
Ctrl+Alt+e	Export selected files
Ctrl+Alt+r	Rename selected files
Ctrl+Alt+d	Remove selected files
Ctrl+Alt+t	Trash selected files
Ctrl+Alt+v	Copy selected files to the current directory
Alt+y	Toggle light-mode
Alt+z	Switch to previous sort method
Alt+x	Switch to next sort method
Ctrl+Alt+x	Launch a new instance of <b>clifm</b>
Ctrl+y	Copy the contents of the line buffer to the clipboard (1)
F1	Go to the manpage
F2	List commands
F3	List keybindings
F6	Open the MIME list file
F7	Open the shotgun configuration file
F8	Open the current color scheme file
F9	Open the keybindings file
F10	Open the main configuration file
F11	Open the bookmarks file
F12	Quit

(1) This shortcut is bound to the *xclip* plugin. See the **PLUGINS** section below for more information.

# **Customizing keybindings**

The above are the default keyboard shortcuts. However, they can be customized using the *kb bind* command (for more information consult the description for the *kb* command above).

The keybindings configuration file can also be manually edited using the *kb edit* command (for more details take a look at the description provided by this file itself).

# Readline keybindings

Readline keybindings for command line editing, such as Ctrl+a, to move the cursor to the beginning of the line, or Ctrl+e, to move it to the end, should work out of the box. Of course, you can modify these keybindings by editing the  $\tilde{\ }/.config/clifm/readline.clifm$  file, following the same rules used by readline itself for the  $\tilde{\ }/.inputrc$  file. For more information consult the readline documentation (**readline**(3)).

## **Keybindings for plugins**

**clifm** provides sixteen customizable keybindings for custom plugins. The procedure for setting a keybinding for a plugin is the following:

- 1. Copy your plugin to the plugins directory (or use any of the plugins already in there)
- **2.** Link pluginx (where 'x' is the plugin number [1–16]) to your plugin using the *actions edit* command. E.g.: "plugin1=myplugin.sh"
- 3. Set a keybinding for pluginx using the *kb edit* command. E.g.: "plugin1:\M−7"

## Kitty keyboard protocol support

The Kitty Keyboard Protocol offers a significant improvement over the current handling of keyboard events in terminals. This protocol utilizes *CSI u* escape sequences and introduces several enhancements, including the ability to use extra modifier keys such as Super, Meta, and Hyper.

To enable the Kitty Keyboard Protocol, follow these steps:

- **1**. Download the specially crafted keybindings configuration file designed to handle *CSI u* escape sequences (https://github.com/leo-arch/clifm/blob/master/misc/kitty/keybindings.clifm).
- **2**. Configure **clifm** to use this new file instead of the default one ( $^{\sim}$ /.config/clifm/keybindings.clifm) by using the -k command line switch. Alternatively, you can replace the default file with the new one.
- 3. If your terminal is not already set up to send  $CSI\ u$  sequences, use the --kitty-keys command line switch.

Summarizing, and once you have the replacement keybindings file in place, run the following command:

### clifm -k /path/to/keybindings/file --kitty-keys

## **Important**

When using the Kitty Keyboard Protocol, the Ctrl+d shortcut (used to quit secondary prompts) will no longer work. To resolve this issue, add the following line to your *kitty.conf* file:

## map control+d send\_text kitty \x04

This will force the terminal to emit the old value for this specific key binding, providing a workaround for the issue.

# **Troubleshooting**

Some of these default keybindings may not work on your console/terminal emulator, depending on your system. Some useful tips on this regard:

Haiku terminal: Most of these keybindings won't work on the Haiku terminal, since Alt plays here the role Ctrl usually plays in most other systems (see the Haiku documentation). To fix this, set your custom keybindings.

Kernel builtin console: Key sequences involving the Shift key (S-up, S-left, and S-right in our case) will just not work. Use the alternative key sequences instead: M-u, M-j, and M-k respectively

NetBSD (wsvt25) and OpenBSD (vt220) kernel consoles: Key sequences involving the Alt key won't work out of the box. Here's how to make them work:

# On OpenBSD:

- 1) Copy /etc/examples/wsconsctl.conf to /etc (if it does not already exist)
- 2) Add the metaesc flag to your current keyboard enconding. For example keyboard.encod-ing=us.metaesc

You might need to reboot the machine for changes to take effect.

## On NetBSD:

Add the *metaesc* flag to your current encoding in /etc/wscons.conf. Example: encoding us.metaesc You might need to reboot the machine for changes to take effect.

Konsole: If Shift+left and Shift+right are not already bound to any function, you need to bind them manually. Go to Settings -> Edit current profile -> Keyboard -> Default (Xfree4), and add these values:

Left+Shift  $\E[1;2D]$ Right+Shift  $\E[1;2C]$ 

If they are already bound, by contrast, you only need to unbound them. Go to "Settings -> Configure keyboard shortcuts", click on the corresponding keybinding, and set it to "Custom (none)").

Terminology/Yakuake: Shift+left and Shift+right are already bound to other functions, so that you only need to unbind them or rebind the corresponding functions to different key sequences.

Of course, the above two procedures should be similar in case of keybinding issues in other terminal emulators.

In case some of these keybindings are already used by your Window Manager, you only need to unbind the key or rebind the corresponding function to another key. Since each Window Manager uses its own mechanisms to set/unset keybindings, you should consult the appropriate manual.

# 7. THEMING

All customization settings (theming) are made from a single configuration file (the color scheme file), installed by default in \$XDG\_DATA\_DIRS/clifm/colors (usually /usr/local/share/clifm/colors or /usr/share/clifm/colors), though color scheme files found in \$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME/clifm/colors (usually \$HOME/.config/clifm/colors) take precedence.

**Note**: Color scheme files are copied automatically to the local colors directory when running the *cs edit* command.

Each color scheme may include any (or all) of the below options:

*FiletypeColors* = Colors for different file types, such as directory, regular files, and so on. See the **COLORS** section below.

*InterfaceColors* = Colors for **clifm**'s interface, such as ELNs, file properties bits, suggestions, syntax highlighting, etc. See the **COLORS** section below.

*ExtColors* = Colors for files based on filename extensions. See the **COLORS** section below.

*DateShades* = A comma delimited list of colors used to print timestamps (long view). Consult the default color scheme file for more information.

*SizeShades* = A comma delimited list of colors used to print file sizes (long view). Consult the default color scheme file for more information.

*DirIconColor* = Color for the directory icon (when icons are enabled). See the **COLORS** section below. Only when using icons–in–terminal or Nerfonts. If using rather emoji–icons (default build), this option is ignored.

*Prompt* = Define Clifm's prompt. See the **THE PROMPT** section below.

*DividingLine* = The line dividing the current list of files and the prompt. See the **THE DIVIDING LINE** below.

FzfTabOptions = Options to be passed to fzf when using the fzf mode for tab completion, including colors. See the **BUILT-IN EXPANSIONS** section below.

The color scheme (or just theme) can be set either via the command line (--color-scheme=NAME), via the *ColorScheme* option in the main configuration file, or using the *cs* command, for instance, *cs mytheme*. Enter just *cs* to list available color schemes (tab completion is available). To edit the current color scheme enter *cs edit*.

## 1. COLORS

If 256 colors support is detected for the current terminal, and not set in any other way (either via the *ColorScheme* option in the configuration file or the --color-scheme command line switch), **clifm** will attempt to load the 256 colors version of the default color scheme: default-256. Otherwise, it falls back to the 16

colors version.

All color codes are specified in the corresponding color scheme file (by default ~/.config/clifm/colors/default.clifm). You can edit this file pressing **F8** or entering *cs edit*.

#### a. Color codes

Colors are specified using the same format used by **dircolors**(1) and the **LS\_COLORS** environment variable, namely, a colon separated list of codes with this general format: *name=value*, where *name* refers to an interface element, and *value* to the color to be used by this element.

This is the list of **file type codes** (you will find them in the *FiletypeColors* section of the current color scheme file):

```
di = directory
ed = empty directory
nd = directory with no read/exec permission (1)
fi = regular file
ef = empty regular file
nf = file with no read permission (1)
ln = symlink
mh = multi-hardlink file
or = orphaned or broken symlink
bd = block device
cd = character device
pi = FIFO, pipe
so = socket
su = SUID file
sg = SGID file
tw = sticky and other writable directory
st = sticky and not other writable directory
ow = other writable directory
ex = executable file
ee = empty executable file
ca = file with capabilities
oo = door/port (Solaris only)
no = unknown file type
uf = unaccessible files (fstatat(3) error)
```

(1) If unset, the corresponding file type color is used and an exclamation mark is printed before the filename in the file list (provided icons are disabled -otherwise the lock icon is used- and **clifm** is not running in light mode -in light mode access checks are not performed). The color used for the exclamation mark is xf (see below).

The following codes are used for different interface elements (in the *InterfaceColors* section of the current color scheme file):

## **Suggestions**

```
sb = shell builtins
sc = aliases and shell command names
sd = internal commands description
sf = ELNs, bookmarks, tag, and filenames
sh = commands history entries
sx = suggestions for clifm's internal commands and parameters
sp = suggestions pointer (e.g.: 56 > filename, where '>' is the suggestion pointer)
sz = filenames (fuzzy)
```

# **Syntax highlighting**

```
hb = brackets '()[]{}'
```

hc = comments (lines starting with '#')

hd = slashes

he = expansion chars ~\*\*

hn = numbers

hp = option parameters (starting with '-')

hq = quoted strings (both single and double quotes)

hr = process redirection (>)

hs = process separators (; & |)

hv = variable names (starting with '\$')

hw = Backslash (aka whack)

# **Prompt elements**

li = selected files

ti = trash indicator

ac = autocommand indicator

em = error message indicator

wm = warning message indicator

nm = notice message indicator

ro = read-only mode indicator

si = stealth mode indicator

tx = command line text (regular prompt)

# File properties

db = file allocated blocks

dd = last access/change/modification time(1)

de = file inode number (long view only)

dg = group ID (provided the user has access to the file)

dk = number of links (long view only)

dn = dash (unset property)

do = octal value for file properties

dp = SUID, SGID, sticky bit

dr = read permission bit

dt = timestamp identification mark(2)

du = user ID (provided the user has access to the file)

dw = write permission bit

dxd = executable permission bit (directories)

dxr = executable permission bit (regular files)

dz = size(1)

- (1) If unset (default), gradient colors are used (based on file size and file age).
- (2) If unset (default), a dimmed version of the current timestamp color is used.

**NOTE**: For a better graphical representation of file properties, 256 colors are used if possible (otherwise, **clifm** falls back to 16 colors).

## Miscellaneous interface elements

fc = files counter

df = default color

dl = dividing line

el = ELN color

lc = symbolic link indicator (ColorLinksAsTarget only)

mi = misc indicators (disk usage, sort method, bulk rename, jump database list)

```
ts = matching suffix for possible tab completed entries tt = tilde for truncated filenames wc = welcome message wsN = color for workspace N (1-8) xs = exit code: success xf = exit code: failure
```

# b. Supported colors

4-bit, 8-bit (256-colors), and 24-bit (true colors) colors are supported.

Colors are defined basically as SGR sequences (excluding the initial escape character and the ending 'm'), the same sequences used by the **LS\_COLORS** environment variable. However, shortcuts for 8-bit (256-colors) and 24-bit (true color) colors are available. For example:

```
31 4-bit

38;5;160 8-bit

@160 8-bit (short)

38;2;255;0;0 24-bit

#ff0000 24-bit (short, HEX)(1)
```

(1) Both three and six digits hexadecimal colors (lower or uppercase) are supported. For example, #f00 amounts to #ff0000.

A *single* attribute can be added to hex colors and 256 colors (in the form @NUM) using a dash and an attribute number (#RRGGBB-[1-9] or @NUM-[1-9]), where 1-9 is:

- 1: Bold or increased intensity
- 2: Faint, decreased intensity or dim
- 3: Italic (Not widely supported)
- 4: Underline
- 5: Slow blink
- 6: Rapid blink
- 7: Reverse video or invert
- 8: Conceal or hide (Not widely supported)
- 9: Crossed-out or strike

Note: Some attributes may not be supported by all terminal emulators.

For example, for bold red the hex code is **#ff0000–1**, while the 256-colors code is **@160–1**. (for more information about SGR sequences consult <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ANSI">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ANSI</a> escape code).

#### c. Color names

**Xterm-like color names** are also supported. For example: **ex=DodgerBlue2**.

This is the list of color names (as defined by  $\mathbf{vifm}(1)$ ):

```
0 Black
                 86 Aquamarine1
                                     172 Orange3
1 Red
                                      173 LightSalmon3_2
                87 DarkSlateGray2
2 Green
                 88 DarkRed 2
                                     174 LightPink3
3 Yellow
                 89 DeepPink4 2
                                      175 Pink3
4 Blue
                90 DarkMagenta
                                     176 Plum3
                  91 DarkMagenta_2
5 Magenta
                                        177 Violet
6 Cyan
                 92 DarkViolet
                                    178 Gold3 2
7 White
                 93 Purple
                                  179 LightGoldenrod3
8 LightBlack
                  94 Orange4_2
                                      180 Tan
9 LightRed
                  95 LightPink4
                                     181 MistyRose3
10 LightGreen
                   96 Plum4
                                     182 Thistle3
                                          183 Plum2
11 LightYellow
                    97 MediumPurple3
```

```
12 LightBlue
                   98 MediumPurple3_2
                                           184 Yellow3_2
13 LightMagenta
                      99 SlateBlue1
                                         185 Khaki3
14 LightCyan
                   100 Yellow4
                                       186 LightGoldenrod2
                    101 Wheat4
15 LightWhite
                                        187 LightYellow3
16 Grey0
                  102 Grey53
                                     188 Grey84
17 NavyBlue
                    103 LightSlateGrey
                                          189 LightSteelBlue1
18 DarkBlue
                   104 MediumPurple
                                          190 Yellow2
19 Blue3
                  105 LightSlateBlue
                                        191 DarkOliveGreen1
20 Blue 32
                   106 Yellow4 2
                                        192 DarkOliveGreen1 2
21 Blue1
                  107 DarkOliveGreen3
                                         193 DarkSeaGreen1_2
22 DarkGreen
                    108 DarkSeaGreen
                                           194 Honeydew2
23 DeepSkyBlue4
                      109 LightSkyBlue3
                                            195 LightCyan1
24 DeepSkyBlue4 2
                       110 LightSkyBlue3_2
                                               196 Red1
25 DeepSkyBlue4 3
                       111 SkyBlue2
                                           197 DeepPink2
26 DodgerBlue3
                     112 Chartreuse 22
                                           198 DeepPink1
27 DodgerBlue2
                     113 DarkOliveGreen3 2
                                              199 DeepPink1 2
28 Green4
                  114 PaleGreen3 2
                                        200 Magenta 22
29 SpringGreen4
                     115 DarkSeaGreen3
                                            201 Magenta1
                                          202 OrangeRed1
30 Turquoise4
                    116 DarkSlateGray3
31 DeepSkyBlue3
                      117 SkyBlue1
                                          203 IndianRed1
32 DeepSkyBlue3_2
                       118 Chartreuse1
                                            204 IndianRed1_2
33 DodgerBlue1
                     119 LightGreen_2
                                           205 HotPink
34 Green3
                  120 LightGreen_3
                                        206 HotPink_2
35 SpringGreen3
                     121 PaleGreen1
                                          207 MediumOrchid1 2
36 DarkCyan
                    122 Aquamarine1_2
                                           208 DarkOrange
37 LightSeaGreen
                     123 DarkSlateGray1
                                            209 Salmon1
38 DeepSkyBlue2
                      124 Red3
                                        210 LightCoral
39 DeepSkyBlue1
                      125 DeepPink4_3
                                            211 PaleVioletRed1
40 Green3_2
                   126 MediumVioletRed
                                            212 Orchid2
41 SpringGreen3_2
                      127 Magenta3
                                           213 Orchid1
42 SpringGreen2
                     128 Dark Violet 2
                                           214 Orange1
43 Cyan3
                                      215 SandyBrown
                  129 Purple_2
44 DarkTurquoise
                     130 DarkOrange3
                                           216 LightSalmon1
45 Turquoise2
                    131 IndianRed
                                        217 LightPink1
                                       218 Pink1
46 Green1
                  132 HotPink3
                      133 MediumOrchid3
                                              219 Plum1
47 SpringGreen2 2
48 SpringGreen1
                     134 MediumOrchid
                                            220 Gold1
49 MediumSpringGreen
                        135 MediumPurple2
                                                221 LightGoldenrod2 2
50 Cyan2
                  136 DarkGoldenrod
                                         222 LightGoldenrod2_3
51 Cyan1
                                        223 NavajoWhite1
                  137 LightSalmon3
52 DarkRed
                   138 RosyBrown
                                         224 MistyRose1
53 DeepPink4
                    139 Grey63
                                       225 Thistle1
54 Purple4
                  140 MediumPurple2_2
                                           226 Yellow1
55 Purple4_2
                   141 MediumPurple1
                                           227 LightGoldenrod1
56 Purple3
                  142 Gold3
                                     228 Khaki1
57 BlueViolet
                   143 DarkKhaki
                                        229 Wheat1
58 Orange4
                   144 NavajoWhite3
                                         230 Cornsilk1
                                      231 Grey100
59 Grey37
                   145 Grey69
60 MediumPurple4
                      146 LightSteelBlue3
                                             232 Grey3
61 SlateBlue3
                   147 LightSteelBlue
                                         233 Grey7
62 SlateBlue3_2
                    148 Yellow3
                                        234 Grey11
63 RoyalBlue1
                    149 DarkOliveGreen3_3
                                             235 Grey15
64 Chartreuse4
                    150 DarkSeaGreen3_2
                                            236 Grey19
65 DarkSeaGreen4
                      151 DarkSeaGreen2
                                             237 Grey23
```

```
66 PaleTurquoise4
                    152 LightCyan3
                                         238 Grey27
67 SteelBlue
                  153 LightSkyBlue1
                                        239 Grey30
68 SteelBlue3
                  154 Green Yellow
                                       240 Grey35
                                            241 Grey39
69 CornflowerBlue
                    155 DarkOliveGreen2
70 Chartreuse3
                   156 PaleGreen1 2
                                        242 Grey42
71 DarkSeaGreen4 2
                      157 DarkSeaGreen2_2
                                              243 Grey46
72 CadetBlue
                  158 DarkSeaGreen1
                                         244 Grey50
73 CadetBlue 2
                   159 PaleTurquoise1
                                         245 Grey54
74 SkyBlue3
                   160 Red3 2
                                      246 Grey58
75 SteelBlue1
                  161 DeepPink3
                                       247 Grey62
76 Chartreuse3 2
                    162 DeepPink3_2
                                         248 Grey66
77 PaleGreen3
                   163 Magenta3_2
                                        249 Grey70
78 SeaGreen3
                   164 Magenta3_3
                                        250 Grey74
79 Aquamarine3
                    165 Magenta2
                                        251 Grey78
80 MediumTurquoise
                      166 DarkOrange3 2
                                             252 Grey82
81 SteelBlue1 2
                    167 IndianRed 2
                                        253 Grey85
82 Chartreuse2
                   168 HotPink3 2
                                        254 Grey89
                   169 HotPink2
83 SeaGreen2
                                       255 Grey93
                   170 Orchid
84 SeaGreen1
85 SeaGreen1 2
                    171 MediumOrchid1
```

Just as with hex colors, a single attribute can be appended to color names. For example, SteelBlue1-1 to get the bold version of this color.

# d. Color variables

Up to 128 custom color variables can be used via the *define* keyword to make it easier to build and read theme files. Example:

```
define FTYPE_DIR=31
define IFACE_ELN=4;38;2;255;255;0;48;2;0;14;191
FiletpeColors="di=FTPYE_DIR:"
InterfaceColors="el=IFACE_ELN:"
```

These variables can only be used for *FiletypeColors*, *InterfaceColors*, *ExtColors*, and *DirIconColor*. The *Prompt* line (if using a prompt code) uses full SGR sequences or prompt–specific color codes instead.

#### e. Examples

A few examples to put all this together:

```
fi=4;31 (regular files are 4-bit underlined red)
di=@33-1 (directories are 8-bit bold light-blue)
ln=#5fd7ff (symbolic links are 24-bit light cyan)
so=Yellow3 (socket files are Yellow3)
```

More complex combinations can be achieved using complete SGR sequences (for example, to add a background color). E.g.:

```
fi=4;38;2;245;76;48;2;0;0;255
```

will print regular files underlined and using a bold orange color on a blue background. In this case, just make sure to use a terminal emulator supporting true colors. To test your terminal color capabilities use the *colors.sh* script (in the plugins directory).

**NOTE**: It may happen that, for some reason, you need to force **clifm** to use colors despite the value of the **TERM** variable. The OpenBSD console, for example, sets **TERM** to *vt220* by default, which, according to the *terminfo* database, does not support color. However, the OpenBSD console does actually support color. In this case, you can set the **CLIFM\_FORCE\_COLOR** a specific value even if the value of **TERM** says

otherwise. Supported values are: 8, 16, 256, truecolor (or 24bit).

To see a colored list of the currently used colors run the cs preview command.

To run colorless use the *--no-color* command line option or set either **CLIFM\_NO\_COLOR** or **NO\_COLOR** environment variables to any value. For more information about the no-color initiative see *https://no-color.org/* 

For a full no-color experience recall to edit your prompt removing all color codes.

#### 2. THE PROMPT

**Clifm**'s prompt is taken from the *Prompt* line in the color scheme file using a prompt name as defined in the prompts file, for example, *Prompt="security-scanner"*.

Each prompt is built following almost the same escape codes and rules used by the Bash prompt, except that it does not accept shell functions (like conditionals and loops). Command substitution (in the form (cmd)), prompt modules (in the form (cmd)), color codes (in the form (color)), string literals, and escape sequences can be used to build the prompt.

Consult the prompts file (using the *prompt edit* command) for detailed information and examples on how to build a prompt.

By default, for intstance, **clifm**'s prompt line is this:

```
"'%{reset}\I[\S%{reset}]\I \A \u:\H %{cyan}\w%{reset}\n<\z%{reset}> %{blue}\$%{reset} "
```

which once decoded should look something like this:

```
[1] 13:45 user:hostname /my/path <0> $
```

with the workspace number printed in blue, the path in cyan, the last exit status in green (or red in case of error), and the dollar sign in blue.

A more "classic" prompt can be generated as follows:

```
"\u@\U\w>"
```

or, using now command substitution:

```
"$(whoami)@$(hostname) $(pwd)>"
```

# **Prompt notifications**

A bold red 'R' at the left of the prompt reminds the user that the program is running as root. A bold green 'S' indicates that there are elements in the Selection Box. In the same way, a cyan 'T' means that there are currently files in the trash can, just as a bold blue 'S' means that the program is running in stealth mode. Finally, **clifm** makes use of three kind of messages: errors (a red 'E' at the left of the prompt), warnings (a yellow 'W'), and simple notices (a green 'N').

If *Notifications* is set to "false" in the prompts file, the above notifications won't be printed by the prompt, but are still available to the user as escape codes (see above) and environment variables (see the **ENVI-RONMENT** section below) to build custom prompts.

# The Warning Prompt

The suggestions system includes a secondary, warning prompt, used to highlight wrong/invalid/non-existent command names. Once an invalid command is entered, the regular prompt will be switched to the warning prompt.

The wrong command name check is omitted if the input string:

```
Is quoted (e.g.: "string" or 'string')
```

Is bracketed (e.g.: (string), [string], or {string})

It starts with a stream redirection character (e.g.: <string or >string)

Is a comment (e.g.: #string)
It starts with one or more spaces
Is an assignment (e.g.: foo=var)
It is escaped (e.g.: \string)

The warning prompt can be customized by means of the same rules used by the regular prompt. To use a custom warning prompt, modify the *WarningPrompt* line in the prompts file (via the *prompt edit* command). It defaults to

```
"%{reset}%{b:red}(!)%{n:dim} > "
```

the last line of the regular prompt will become "(!) > ", with "(!)" printed in bold red.

To disable this feature use the -no-warning-prompt command line switch or set the *EnableWarning-prompt* option to **false** in the prompts file.

**NOTE**: Bear in mind that the warning prompt depends on the suggestions system, so that it will not be available if this system is disabled.

#### 3. THE DIVIDING LINE

The line dividing the current list of files and the prompt. It can be customized via the *DividingLine* option in the color scheme file to fit your prompt design and/or color scheme.

DividingLine accepts one or more ASCII or Unicode characters (in both cases you only need to type/paste here the chosen character(s)). If only one character is specified (by default, "-"), it will be repeatedly printed to fulfill the current line up to the right edge of the screen or terminal window. If you don't want to cover the whole line, specify two or more characters, in which case only these characters (and no more) will be used as dividing line. For example: "----->". To use an empty line, set DividingLineChar to "0" (that is, as a character, not as a number). Finally, if this value is not set, a special line drawn with box-drawing characters will be used (box-drawing characters are not supported by all terminal emulators).

The color of this line is set via the dl color code in the color scheme file. Consult the **COLOR CODE** section above for more information.

## 4. FZF WINDOW

Refer to the **Tab completion** section below.

# 8. BUILT-IN EXPANSIONS

# The SEL keyword

**Clifm** will automatically expand the *sel* keyword: *sel* indeed amounts to 'file1 file2 file3 ...' In this way, you can use the *sel* keyword with any command. *s*: can be used interchangeably (with the difference that *s*: can be used as first word, and not only as parameter to other commands).

If you want to set the executable bit on several files, for instance, simply select the files you want and then run this command: chmod + x sel. Or, if you want to copy or move several files to some directory: cp sel 12, or mv sel 12 (provided the ELN 12 corresponds to a directory), respectively.

If the destination directory is omitted, selected files are copied to the current working directory, that is to say, mv sel amounts to mv sel ..

To trash or remove selected files, simply run tr sel or rm sel respectively. The same goes for wildcards and braces: chmod + x\*, for example, will set the executable bit on all files (excluding hidden files) in the current working directory, while chmod + x  $file\{1,2,3\}$  will do it for file1, file2, and file3 respectively.

If using the fzf mode for tab completion (see below), you can operate only on *some* selected files as follows: type *CMD sel* and, without appending any space char, press TAB: the list of selected files will be displayed. Choose one or more of them (use TAB to mark entries) to operate only on those specific files. For

example, to print the file properties of some specific selected files: p sel->TAB, select the files you want via TAB, press Enter or Right (marked files will be inserted in the command line), and the press Enter, as usual.

# **Tab completion**

There are four modes for tab completion: *standard* (interface provided by readline), *fzf*, which depends on **fzf** (*https://github.com/junegunn/fzf*) (version 0.18.0 or later), *fnf* (*https://github.com/leo-arch/fnf*), and *smenu* (*https://github.com/p-gen/smenu*). By default, if the *fzf* binary is found in **PATH**, **clifm** will attempt to use *fzf* to display completions. You can force the use of the remaining modes via the *--stdtab*, *--fnftab*, and *--smenutab* command line switches. The *TabCompletionMode* option in the configuration file can be used to permanently set the tab completion mode.

If using the *fzf* mode, the completions interface can be customized using the *FzfTabOptions* option in the color scheme file. —height, —margin, +i/-i, —read0, —query, and —ansi will be appended to set up some details of the completions interface. Set this value to *none* to pass no option, to the empty string to load the default values, or to any other custom value. Unless set to *none*, any option specified here will override **FZF\_DEFAULT\_OPTS**.

Default values for this option are:

--color=16,prompt:6,fg+:-1,pointer:4,hl:5,hl+:5,gutter:-1,marker:2,border:7:dim --bind tab:accept,right:accept,left:abort,alt-p:toggle-preview --inline-info --layout=reverse-list --preview-window=wrap,border-left

Consult **fzf**(1) for more information.

If set neither in *FzfTabOptions* nor in **FZF\_DEFAULT\_OPTS** (in this order), the height of the fzf window is set to the default value: 40% of the current terminal number of line/rows.

To use fzf global values (defined in **FZF\_DEFAULT\_OPTS**), set *FzfTabOptions* to *none*.

File previews are available in fzf mode via *shotgun*. See the **SHOTGUN** section above.

Image previews are available via the *clifming* plugin. Run *help image-previews* for more information.

If using the *smenu* mode, the interface can be customized using the **CLIFM\_SMENU\_OPTIONS** environment variable. For example:

```
export CLIFM_SMENU_OPTIONS="-a t:2,b b:4 c:r ct:2,r sf:6,r st:5,r mt:5,b"
```

Consult **smenu**(1) for more information.

For information about how to customize fnf consult fnf(1).

**Clifm** can perform fuzzy tab completion (just as suggestions) for filenames and paths (e.g. "dwn" is completed/suggested as "Downloads"). To enable this feature use the --fuzzy-matching command line switch or set FuzzyMatching to true in the configuration file.

Besides the default *tab completion* for command **names and paths**, you can also expand **ELNs** using the TAB key. Example: type 'o 12', press TAB, and it becomes 'o filename', or, if 12 refers to a directory, 'o dir/'. **clifm** uses a Bash–style quoting system, so that this filename: "this is a test@version $\{1\}$ " is expanded as follows: this\ is\ a\ test\@version\{1\}

ELNs and **ELN ranges** will be also automatically expanded, provided the corresponding ELNs actually exist, that is to say, provided some filename is listed on the screen under those numbers. For example: 'diff 1 118' will only expand '1', but not '118', if there is no ELN 118. In the same way, the range 1–118 will only be expanded provided there are 118 or more elements listed on the screen. Note that the second field oa a range can be omitted, in which case the ELN of the last listed file is assumed (e.g.: provided there are 100 listed files, 12– is equivalent to 12–100).

Since ranges can be a bit tricky, tab completion is available to make sure this range actually includes the desired filenames.

If this feature somehow conflicts with the command you want to run, say, 'chmod 644 ...', because the current number of files is equal or larger than 644 (in which case **clifm** will expand that number), then you can simply run the command as external: ';chmod 644 ...'

Tab completion for commands, paths, users home directory, workspaces, wildcards\*, file types\*, environment variables, bookmarks, profiles, color schemes, file tags, commands history, directory history (via the *jump* command), remote resources, sort methods, ranges\*, the 'sel' keyword\*, trashed files\*, plus the deselect\* and the open—with commands (*ow*) is also available. To make use of the bookmarks completion, make sure to specify some name for your bookmarks, since these names are used by the completion function.

\* When using fzf mode for tab completion, multi-selection is available: Press TAB to expand possible selections, then press TAB again to mark desired entries. Once desired entries are marked, press Enter or the Right arrow key: marked entries will be inserted into the command line. Multi-selection is also available for the following commands, provided there is no slash in the query string: ac, ad, bb, br, d/dup, p/pr/prop, r, s, t/tr/trash, and te.

Of course, combinations of all these features is also possible. Example: *cp sel file\** 2 23–31 . will copy all selected files, plus all files whose name starts with "file", plus those files corresponding to the ELNs 2, and 23 to 31, to the current working directory.

In addition to completions and expansions, an *auto-suggestions system* is also available. See the **AUTO-SUGGESTIONS** section below.

#### 9. FILE OPENER

As **clifm**'s builtin file opener, *Lira* takes care of opening files when no opening application has been specified in the command line (or when running as a standalone file opener, via the *--open* command line switch). It does this by automatically parsing a MIME list file (see the **FILES** section below): it looks first for a matching pattern (either a MIME type or a filename), then checks the existence of the command associated to this pattern, and finally executes it.

*Lira* is controlled via the *mime* command. File associations are stored in the MIME list file and can be edited using the *mime edit* command.

When running for the first time, or whenever the MIME list file cannot be found, **clifm** will copy the MIME definitions file from the **DATADIR** directory (usually /usr/share/clifm/mimelist.clifm) to the local configuration directory.

**Lira** will check the file line by line, and if a matching line is found, and if at least one of the specified applications exists, this application will be used to open the corresponding associated file. Else, the next line will be checked. In other words, the precedence order is top to bottom (for lines) and left to right (for applications).

**Note**: In case of directories (whose MIME type is *inode/directory*), the entry will be used **only** for the open—with command (*ow*).

# A note about MIME types

File MIME types are determined using *libmagic*—the same library used by **file**(1)—, which, though highly reliable, is not bullet-proof. Sometimes it fails, either because the appropriate MIME type is not in its database, or because the database is just wrong. In either case, you can manually map file extensions to MIME types using a specific file (by default, ~/.mime.types).(1)

By way of example, *libmagic* knows nothing about ILBM image files, and returns *application/zip* for Open-Raster images. Create ~/.mime.types with the following content:

```
image/x-ilbm iff lbm image/openraster ora
```

Restart **clifm** and these MIME types will be immediately associated to all files having the specified extensions (to test it, run *mm info* on any of these files).(2)

If required, edit the mimelist and the preview files (*mm edit* and *view edit*, to specify how files are opened and previewed respectively), and add a new line handling the corresponding MIME types (say, *image/x-ilbm=APP* and *image/openraster=APP*). See below for more information.

- (1) To use a different file, set **\$CLIFM\_MIMETYPES\_FILE** to the desired file, for example, *CLIFM\_MIMETYPES\_FILE=/etc/mime.types clifm*.
- (2) In case of issues, bear in mind that the *mime.types* file is read top to bottom, and that, in case of conclicts (mostly duplicate extensions), only the last entry is effective.

**Important**: Though sometimes convenient, determining file types by means of filename extensions alone is unreliable: a file, no matter its type, can bear any file extension, without restriction. Because of this, you might end up executing a command that was not intended due to wrong file identification. Be extra careful when doing this.

# 1. Syntax

In its most basic form, each line in the MIME list file consists of:

- **a)** A left value: this is just a regular expression indicating what we are trying to match (it can be a filename, a file extension, or a MIME type).
- **b)** A right value: a semicolon separated list of commands to be used as the opening application (the first existing program found in this list will be used).

For example:

```
^text/.*=leafpad
```

which is to be read as follows: Open text files (in this case we are partially matching a MIME type) using **leafpad**.

As explained below, this basic rule can be modified to get much more control on **what** we are matching and **how** we execute the opening application.

The syntax is this:

```
[!][X:][N:]REGEX=CMD [ARGS] [%[f,x]] [![E,O]] [&]; ...
```

Note that this syntax departs from the Freedesktop specification in that we do not rely on desktop files (mostly used by desktop environments), but rather on **commands and parameters**.

# 2. The left value (REGEX)

# 2.1. The X prefix

Without any prefixes, the rule will attempt to match MIME types, disregarding if we are running on a graphical or non-graphical environment. For example,

```
^text/.*=leafpad
```

instructs **lira** to open all text files using **leafpad**, no matter if we are running on a graphical or non-graphical environment.

However, we usually do not want to use **leafpad** if we are not running on a graphical environment. In this case, we can write a double rule as follows:

```
X:^text/.*=leafpad
!X:^text/.*=nano
```

where the first rule (via the **X** prefix) is intended for use on graphical environments, where we can use **leaf-pad**, and the second one (via the **!X** prefix) for non-graphical environments, where we rather prefer to use **nano**.

# 2.2. The N prefix

Sometimes MIME types are not enough to identify a file, or we just want to match a specific filename. In this case, we can use the  $\bf N$  prefix to tell  $\bf Lira$  that we want to match a filename instead of a MIME type. For example:

# X:N:^filename.txt\$=leafpad

in which case we want to match exactly the filename *filename.txt* (no matter its MIME type).

If we want to match file extensions, instead of entire filenames, we can use a regular expression, as follows:

# X:N:.\*.txt\$=leafpad

Here, we are not matching a specific filename, but a specific file extension, so that the rule reads as follows: open all files ending with .txt using **leafpad**.

# 3. The right value (CMD)

The right value is a semicolon separated list of commands, each of which contains a command, and optionally, command arguments and modifiers. For example:

# X:N:.\*.txt\$=leafpad --sync,geany,mousepad,nano

which means: Open .txt files (graphical environments only) using *leafpad --sync*, or, if not found, *geany*, *mousepad*, or *nano*, in this order. The file to be opened will be appended to the command string, say *leaf-pad --sync FILE*.

## 3.1. The %f placeholder

Use the **%f** placeholder to specify the position of the file to be opened in the command, for example:

# mpv %f --terminal=no

will be translated into: mpv FILE --terminal=no

If the placeholder is not specified, the file to be opened will be appended to the command string. Thus, this: mpv --terminal=no amounts to this: mpv --terminal=no FILE.

# 3.2. STDERR and STDOUT

Sometimes we might need to silence either standard error (**STDERR**), standard output (**STDOUT**), or both. Use **!E** and **!O** to silence them respectively. Both can be used together: **!EO**. Example: *leafpad %f !EO*, or, to silence only **STDERR**: *leafpad %f !E*.

# 3.3. Run in the background

The ampersand character (&) can be used, as usual, to run the opening application in the background. Example: leafpad % f &.

# 3.4. The %x flag

The %x flag is a shorthand for "%f!EO &": the command will be executed in the background and both STDOUT and STDERR will be silenced. As a plus, the command is executed in a new session, i.e. detached from the running terminal (via setsid(3). This flag is recommended to open files via graphical applications. Examples:

For GUI applications:

# APP %x

For terminal applications:

# TERM -e APP %x

Replace TERM and APP by the appropriate values (say, xterm and vi respectively). The -e option might vary depending on the terminal emulator used.

**Note**: In case of archives, the builtin *ad* command can be used as opening application.

# 3.5. Environment variables

Environment variables (e.g. **\$EDITOR**, **\$VISUAL**, **\$BROWSER**, and even **\$PAGER**) are also recognized by *Lira*. You can even set custom environment variables to be used exclusively by **clifm**. For example, you can set **CLIFM\_TERM**, **CLIFM\_EDITOR**, and **CLIFM\_PDF**, and then use them to define some associations:

# X:text/plain=\$CLIFM\_TERM -e \$CLIFM\_EDITOR %f & X:N:.\*\.pdf\$=\$CLIFM\_PDF %f &

# 3.6. Using shell scripts

Bear in mind that commands will be executed directly without shell intervention, so that no shell goodies (like pipes, conditions, loops, etc) are available. In case you need something more complex than a single command (including shell capabilities) write your own script and place the path to the script in place of the command. For example:

# X:^text/.\*:~/scripts/my\_cool\_script.sh

# 4. Examples:

Match a complete filename:

# X:N:some\_filename=nano;vim;vi;emacs

**Note**: If the filename contains a dot, quote it like this: some\_filename\.ext (to prevent the REGEX parser from interpreting the dot).

Open video files with **mpv** in the foreground and silence STDERR:

```
^video/.*=mpv %f !E
```

Open video files with gmplayer in the background and silence both STDERR and STDOUT:

```
'video/.*=gmplayer %f !EO & (or 'gmplayer %x')
```

Match multiple filenames (starting with "str"):

X:N:^str.\*=leafpad %x;mousepad %x;kate %x;gedit %x

Match a single extension:

X:N:.\*\.txt\$=leafpad %x;mousepad %x;kate %x;gedit %x !X:N:.\*\.^txt\$=nano;vim;vi;emacs

Match multiple extensions:

X:N:.\*\.(sh|c|py|pl)\$:geany %x;leafpad %x;nano

Match a single mimetype:

!X:^audio/mp3\$=mpv %f --terminal=no;ffplay -nodisp -autoexit;mpv;mplayer

Match mutiple mimetypes:

X: audio/.\*=mplayer;mplayer2;vlc %x;gmplayer %x;smplayer %x;totem %x

In case of MIME types, you can also write the entire expression without relying on any regular expression. For example:

!X:text/plain=\$TERM -e \$EDITOR %x

For more information take a look at the mimelist file itself (F6 or mm edit).

# 5. Using a third-party opener

This can be done in two ways:

**a.** Set *Opener* in the configuration file to the name of the desired opener. For example, to use Ranger's **ri-fle**(1):

#### Opener=rifle

or, if you prefer **xdg-open**(1):

# Opener=xdg-open

**b.** Tell *Lira* to open all files, no matter the MIME type or filename, via the desired opener. For example:

```
.*=rifle
```

#### 6. Using Clifm as a standalone file opener

Though **clifm** is a file manager, it can be used as a simple file opener via the --open command line option. For example:

```
clifm —open /path/to/my_file.jpg
clifm —open /path/to/my_dir
clifm —open https://some_domain
```

**Note**: When opening web resources **clifm** will query the mimelist file using text/html as MIME type. Whatever association it finds for this specific MIME type will be used to open the web resource.

# 10. SHOTGUN

## 1. Tab completion with file previews

Shotgun is **clifm**'s builtin files previewer. Though, as described below, it may be used as a standalone and general purpose file previewer (similar in this regard to **pistol**(1)), it is mainly intended to be used by **clifm**'s tab completion function running in fzf mode: every time tab completion is invoked for files, *shotgun* will be executed with the currently highlighted file as argument (as shown below) to generate the preview. Set the FzfPreview option in the configuration file to *false* (or run with --no-fzfpreview) to disable this feature.

Shotgun is also used by the view command to display file previews in full screen.

# 2. Running as a standalone files previewer

Executed via the --preview command line switch, *shotgun* performs file preview for any file passed as argument. For example:

```
clifm --preview myfile.txt
```

This command generates a preview of the file *myfile.txt* and then quits **clifm**.

## 3. Customization

Previewing applications (based on either MIME type or filename) are defined in a configuration file (\$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME/clifm/profiles/PROFILE/preview.clifm) using the same syntax used by Lira (the builtin file opener). See the **FILE OPENER** section above.

You can set an alternative configuration file via the --shotgun-file command line switch:

```
clifm --shotgun-file=/path/to/shotgun/config/file --preview=myfile.txt
```

To customize the appearance of the preview window, use the --preview-window option in the FzfTabOptions line in the current color scheme file. For example, if you want the preview window down the file list (instead of to the right):

# --preview-window=down

Default keybindings for the preview window:

**Alt+p**: Toggle the preview window on/off

Ctrl+Up / Shift+Up: Scroll the preview window up one line

Ctrl+Down / Shift+Down: Scroll the preview window down one line

**Alt+Up**: Scroll the preview window up one page **Alt+Down**: Scroll the preview window down one page

Keybindings can be customized using the --bind option in the FzfTabOptions field in the color scheme file

Consult **fzf**(1) for more information.

# 4. Image previews

Image previews are available via the *clifmimg* plugin. Run *help image-previews* or consult the Wiki for more information: *https://github.com/leo-arch/clifm/tree/master/misc/tools/imgprev* 

# 11. AUTO-SUGGESTIONS

*Gemini* is a builtin suggestions system (similar to that provided by the Fish shell). As you type, *Gemini* will suggest possible completions right after the current cursor position.

The following checks are availabe (the order can be customized, see below):

- a. ELNs
- b. clifm commands and parameters (including the sel keyword)
- c. Entries in the command history list (already used commands)
- d. Filenames in the current working directory and paths (1)
- e. Entries in the jump database
- f. Aliases names
- g. Bookmarks names
- h. Program names in PATH
- i. Shell builtins (2)
- (1) Fuzzy suggestions are supported. For example: dwn > Downloads. Enable this feature via the --fuzzy-marching command line switch or setting FuzzyMatching to true in the configuration file.
- (2) The shell name is taken from /bin/sh. The following shells are supported: bash, dash, fish, ksh, tcsh, and zsh. Command names are checked in the following order: **clifm** internal commands, commands in **PATH**, and shell builtins.

**Note**: By default, a brief description for internal commands is suggested. You can disable this feature via the *SuggestCmdDesc* option in the configuration file.

To accept the entire suggestion press **Right** or **Ctrl+f**: the cursor will move to the end of the suggested command and the suggestion color will change to that of the typed text; next, you can press **Enter** to execute the command as usual. Otherwise, if the suggestion is not accepted, it will be simply ignored and you can continue editing the current command line however you want.

To accept the first suggested word only (up to first slash or space), press rather Alt+Right or Alt+f. Not available for ELNs, aliases and bookmarks names.

Bear in mind that suggestions for ELNs, aliases, bookmarks names, the jump function (invoked by the j command), just as filenames and paths (if fuzzy-suggestions are enabled) do not work as the remaining suggestions: they do not suggest possible completions for the current input, but rather the value pointed to by it. For example, if you type "12" and the current list of files includes a filename whose ELN is '12', the filename corresponding to this ELN will be printed next to "12" as follows: 12 > filename (where the underscore is the current cursor position). Press Right or Ctrl+f to accept the suggestion, in which case the text typed so far will be replaced by the suggestion.

The order of the suggestion checks can be customized via the *SuggestionStrategy* option in the configuration file. Each check is assigned a lowercase character:

- a = Aliases names
- c = Possible completions
- e = ELNs
- f = Files in the current directory
- h = Entries in the commands history
- j = Entries in the jump database

The value taken by *SuggestionStrategy* is a string containing one or more of the above characters. The characters order in this string specifies the order in which the suggestion checks will be performed. For example, to perform all checks in the same order above, the value of the string should be **acefhj** (without quotes). Or, if you prefer to run the history check first: **hacefj**. Finally, you can ignore one or more checks by just omitting the corresponding character (to skip all checks, set the option value to a single dash (–)). So, to ignore the aliases and the ELN checks, set *SuggestionStrategy* to **hcfj**. The default value for this option is **ehfjac**.

**Note**: The check for program names in **PATH** is always executed at last, except when the *ExternalCommands* option is disabled, in which case suggestions for them are simply not displayed.

Suggestions will be printed using one of the following color codes (see the COLOR CODES section above):

- sf: Used for file and directory names. This includes suggestions for ELNs, bookmarks names, files in the current directory, and possible completions. Default value: 2;4;36 (dimmed underlined cyan)
- sh: Used for entries in the commands history.
- sc: Used for aliases and program names in **PATH**.
- sx: Used for **clifm** internal commands and parameters.
- sp: Greater-than sign (>) used when suggesting ELNs, bookmarks, and aliases names.

You can set *SuggestFiletypeColor* to *true* in the configuration file to use the color of the file type of the current filename (as set in the color scheme file) instead of the value of *sf*. For example, if a suggestion is printed for a file that is a symbolic link, *ln* or *or* (if it's a broken link) will be used instead of *sf*.

## 12. SHELL FUNCTIONS

**Clifm** includes a few shell functions to perform specific actions (cd-on-quit, and subshell-notice). Take a look at the corresponding files, in /usr/share/clifm/functions, and follow the instructions. Needles to say, you can write your own functions.

## 13. PLUGINS

Plugins are just scripts or programs (written in any language) intended to add, extend or improve **clifm**'s functionalities. They are linked to actions names defined in a dedicated configuration file (\$XDG\_CON-FIG HOME/clifm/profiles/PROFILE/actions.clifm).

**Note**: In *stealth mode*, since access to configuration files is not allowed, plugins are disabled.

To list available actions and the plugins they are linked to, run actions.

To execute a given plugin, enter the corresponding action name (plus parameters if requiered).

To get information about a specific plugin, enter the action name followed by --help.

Though several plugins are provided at installation time (in the *plugins* directory), you can write your owns as you like, with any language you like, and for whatever purpose you want. Writing plugins is generally quite easy; but your mileage may vary depending on what you are trying to achieve. A good place to start is examining the provided plugins and reading the *actions* command description, just as the **ENVIRON-MENT** and **FILES** sections below.

A convenient helper script is provided to get a consistent look across all plugins, specially those running fzf. This helper script is located in *DATADIR/clifm/plugins/plugins-helper*, but it will be overridden by \$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME/clifm/plugins/plugins-helper if found. The location of this file is set by **clifm** itself in the **CLIFM\_PLUGINS\_HELPER** environment variable to be used by plugins. Source the file and use any of the functions and variables provided by it to write a new fzf plugin:

```
# Source our plugins helper
if [ -z "$CLIFM_PLUGINS_HELPER" ] || ! [ -f "$CLIFM_PLUGINS_HELPER" ]; then
printf "clifm: Unable to find plugins—helper file\n" >&2
exit 1
fi
# shellcheck source=/dev/null
. "$CLIFM_PLUGINS_HELPER"
```

Plugins can talk to **clifm** via a dedicated pipe created for this purpose and exposed via an environment variable (**CLIFM\_BUS**). Write to the pipe and **clifm** will hear and handle the message immediately after the plugin's execution. If the message is a path, **clifm** will run the *open* function, changing the current directory to the new path, if a directory, or opening it with the *file opener*, if a file. Otherwise, if the message is not a path, it will be taken and executed as a command. Examples:

```
'echo "/tmp" > "$CLIFM_BUS" ' tellsclifm to change the current directory to /tmp
```

'echo "s \*.png" > "\$CLIFM\_BUS"' makes **clifm** select all files in the current directory ending with ".png"

The pipe (**CLIFM\_BUS**) is deleted immediately after the execution of its content and recreated before running any other plugin.

This is a list of available plugins:

Action name	Description	Dependencies
bn	Create files in batch	_
bcp	Copy files in batch	_
bmi	Import bookmarks	-
clip	Interact with the system clipboard	(1)
unset	Test terminal's colors capability	(2)
cr	Copy files to a remote location	fzf, and scp, ffsend, or croc
da	Disk usage analyzer	du, fzf
dr	Drag and drop files	dragon or dragon-drag-and-drop
fdups	Find/remove file dups	(3)
+	Find files in the current directory	fzf or rofi
_ (underscore)	Quickly change directory	fzf
h	Browse the commands history	fzf
- (yes, just a dash)	Navigate/select/preview files	See section below
*	Select files (includes flat view)	fzf, find
**	Deselect files	fzf
unset	Show git repo status	git (4)
ih	Browse clifm's manpage	fzf
i	Image thumbnails previewer	sxiv, feh or lsix
++	Jump to a directory in the jump database	fzf or rofi
kd	Decrypt a GnuPG encrypted file	gpg, tar, sed, grep
ke	Encrypt files/dirs using GnuPG	gpg, tar, sed, fzf, awk, xargs
ml	List files by a given MIME type	fzf, file
music	Create a music playlist	mplayer
gg	Pipe files in CWD through a pager	less, column
ptot	Preview PDF files as text	pdftotext
rrm	Recursively remove files	find, fzf
//	Search files by content	fzf, ripgrep
unset	Update plugins	(5)
vid	Preview video files thumbnails	ffmpegthumbnailer
vt	Virtual directory for sets of files	sed
wall	Set image as wallpaper	(6)
unset	Pick/select files via <b>clifm</b>	(7)
Ctrl+y	Copy the line buffer to the clipboard	(8)

- (1) xclip or xsel (Xorg), wl-copy/wl-paste (Wayland), clipboard (Haiku), clip (Cygwin), pbcopy/pbget (MacOS), termux-clipboard-get/termux-clipboard-set (Termux), cb (cross-platform: https://github.com/Slackadays/Clipboard)
- (2) colors.sh (by default unset)
- (3) find, md5sum, sort, uniq, xargs, sed, stat
- **(4)** The *git\_status.sh* plugin is not intended to be used as a normal plugin, that is, executed via an action name, but rather to be executed as a prompt command (it will be executed immediately before each prompt). Add this line to the main configuration file:

promptcmd /usr/share/clifm/plugins/git\_status.sh

Whereas this plugin provides basic Git integration, it could be easily modified (it is just a few lines long) to include whatever git function you might need.

- (5) update.sh (by default unset)
- (6) feh, xloadimage, hsetroot, or nitrogen (for X); swww or swaybg (for Wayland)
- (7) file\_picker.sh (by default unset). Usage example: ls -ld \$(file\_picker.sh)
- (8) Dependencies: cb, wl-copy, xclip, xsel, pbcopy, termux-clipboard-set, clipboard, or clip. Consult the plugin file itself (*xclip.sh*) for more information

# Dependencies of the previewer plugin (fzfnav.sh)

archives: atool, bsdtar, or tar

images: kitty terminal, imagemagick, and ueberzug or viu or catimg or img2txt or pixterm

fonts: fontpreview or fontforge

**docs**: libreoffice, catdoc, odt2txt, pandoc **PDF**: pdftoppm, pdftotext or mutool

epub: epub-thumbnailer DjVu: djvulibre or djvutxt postscript: ghostscript videos: ffmpegthumbnailer audio: ffmpeg, mplayer, or mpv web: w3m, links, elinks, or pandoc

markdown: glow

highlight: bat, highlight, or pygmentize

torrent: transmission-cli
json: python or pq

file info: exiftool, mediainfo, or file

To run the *pager.sh* plugin, for example, you only need to enter the corresponding action name, in this case gg. In case of need, all plugins provide a -h, -help switch for a brief usage description.

**Note**: The fzfnav plugin uses fzf(1) to navigate the filesystem and BFG (a script located in the plugins directory) to show previews (to display image previews BFG requires full requires full or the Kitty protocol via the Kitty terminal). A configuration file (full full full

**Note 2**: An alternative files previewing function (builtin, and thereby faster than *BFG*) is provided by *shot-gun*. See the **SHOTGUN** section above for more information.

In addition to the builtin *BFG* previewer, *fzfnav* supports the use of both Ranger's *scope.sh* script and **pistol**(1). To use **scope**, edit the *BFG* configuration file and set USE\_SCOPE to 1 and SCOPE\_FILE to the correct path to the *scope.sh* file (normally *\$HOME/.config/ranger/scope.sh*). To use **pistol** instead, set USE PISTOL to 1.

Take a look at the Wiki for more information: https://github.com/clifm/wiki/Advanced#plugins

# 14. AUTOCOMMANDS

Heavily inspired by **Vifm**, the *autocommands* function allows the user a fine–grained control over **clifm** settings. It is mostly devised as a way to improve performance for remote filesystems (usually slower than local ones) by allowing you to turn off some features (like the files counter) that might greatly affect performance under some circumstances (like remote connections). However, the *autocommands* function is not restricted to this specific use case: use it for whatever purpose you find useful.

**Note**: We describe here **permanent** autocommands, which need to be defined in the configuration file. **Temporary** autocommands (set via the command line and valid only for the current directory and the current session) are also available via the *auto* command. See above.

Add a line preceded by the *autocmd* keyword to the main configuration file. The general syntax is: *autocmd TARGET cmd,cmd,cmd* 

**TARGET** specifies the object to which subsequent commands will apply. It can match either **directory** names (paths) or workspaces.

1. To match directory names use a glob pattern (as specified by **glob**(7)). If no glob metacharacter is provided, the string will be compared as is to the current working directory. To invert the meaning of a pattern, prepend an exclamation mark. To match all directories under a specific directory (including this directory itself) use the double asterisk (\*\*). A few examples:

**~/Downloads** Match exactly the Downloads directory (and *only* this directory) in your home directory **^/Downloads/\*** Recursively match all subdirectories in **^/Downloads (excluding** the Downloads directory itself)

**/~/Downloads/\*\*** Recursively match all subdirectories in ~/Downloads (**including** the Downloads directory itself)

~/Downloads/\*.d Match all subdirectories in ~/Downloads ending with ".d" (excluding the Downloads directory itself)

!**~/Downloads** Match everything except the **~/Downloads** directory

2. You can match workspaces using the ampersand character (@) followed by the ws keyword and then the workspace number. For example, to match the third workspace: @ws3, or, to match the first workspace, @ws1. To match instead all workspaces except the second one: !@ws2.

**TARGET** is followed by a comma separated list of commands:

!CMD: The exclamation mark allows you to run shell commands, custom binaries or scripts

The following codes are used to control clifm's file list:

```
Code Description
                       Example
                      cs=zenburn
cs
   Color scheme
fc
   Files counter
                    fc=0
ft Files filter
                  ft=.*\.pdf$
fz Recursive dir sizes fz=1
hf,hh Hidden files
                      hf=0
lm Light mode
                     lm=1
lv,ll Long/detail view
                     1v=0
mf Max files
                    mf=100 (1)
mn Max filename length mn=20 (1)
od Only directories
                     od=1
pg
    Pager
                   pg=0
    Sort method
                     st=5
st
    Reverse sort
```

To remove a value, set the option to an empty value. For example, to remove the files filter and the color scheme: ft=,cs=.

(1) This option supports the *unset* keyword to remove the corresponding limit. E.g.: *mf=unset,mn=unset*.

# **Examples**

- 1. Run in light mode and disable the files counter for the *remotes* directory:(1) autocmd /media/remotes/\*\* lm=1,fc=0
- **2.** Just a friendly reminder:

autcomd ~/important !printf "Important: keep your fingers outta here!\n" && read -n1

- 3. This directory has thousands of files. Show only the first hundred and enable the pager: autocmd /usr/bin mf=100,pg=1
- **4.** Lots of media files (with large filenames). Truncate filenames to 20 chars max and run the files previewer:(2)

autocmd ~/Downloads mn=20,!~/.config/clifm/plugins/fzfnav.sh

- 5. I want the second workspace, no matter what the current directory is, to list files in long view: autocmd @ws2 lv=1
- 6. Mmm, just because I can. Be creative! autocmd /home/user hf=0,cs=nord,lv=1 autocmd / lv=1,fc=0,cs=solarized,st=5
- (1) This is the recommended configuration for remote filesystems
- (2) As seen here, plugins can be used as well: in this case, we want to run *fzfnav* (to make use of the files preview capability) whenever we enter the *Downloads* directory, usually containing videos, music, and images. **NOTE**: If you decide to use a plugin, bear in mind that it won't be able to communicate with **clifm**, because the *autocommand* function always executes commands as external applications using the system shell.

Bear in mind that *autocmd* directives are evaluated from top to bottom, so that subsequent matching entries will overwrite options set by previous entries.

## **Autocommand notifications**

By default, a gray 'A' is printed to the left of the prompt whenever an autocommand is active for the current directory.

The behavior of this indicator can be customized via the *InformAutocmd* option in the configuration file.

The color code used to colorize this indicator is *ac* (see the **COLORS** section above).

# Autocommand files: .cfm.in and .cfm.out

To use this feature, you must first set *ReadAutocmdFiles* to *true* in the main configuration file. However, bear in mind that autocommand files will never be read if running on an untrusted environment (i.e. if running with — secure—cmds, — secure—env, or — secure—env—full).

Two files are specifically checked by the autocommands function: *.cfm.in* and *.cfm.out* (they must be non-empty regular files of at most **PATH\_MAX** (usually 4096) bytes, and no NUL byte must be contained in them).

The content of these files is a single instruction, either a shell command or, if you need more elaborated stuff, a script (or custom binary). Note that codes to modify **clifm**'s settings (as described above) are not available here.

If a directory contains a file named .cfm.in, clifm will execute (via the system shell) its content when entering this directory (before listing files). If the file is named rather .cfm.out, its content will be executed immediately after leaving this directory (and before listing the new directory's content).

For example, if you want a simple notification whenever you enter or leave your home directory, create both .cfm.in and .cfm.out files in the home directory with the following content:

```
For .cfm.in:
printf "Entering %s ..." "$PWD" && read -n1 && clear

For .cfm.out:
printf "Leaving %s ..." "$OLDPWD" && read -n1
```

#### 15. FILE TAGS

Etiqueta is clifm's builtin files tagging system

# 1. How does Etiqueta work?

File tags are created via symlinks using a specific directory under the user's profile: \$\{XDG\_CON-FIG\_DIR:-\home/USER\.config\}\/clifm\/profiles\/USER\/tags

Every time a new tag is created, a new directory named as the tag itself is created in the tags directory. Tagged files are just symbolic links to the actual files created in the appropriate directory. For example, if you tag \( \sqrt{myfile.txt} \) as work, a symbolic link to \( \sqrt{myfile.txt}, \) named \( myfile.txt \) will be created in \( tags/work. \)

# 2. Handling file tags

tag is the main **Etiqueta** command and is used to handle file tags. Its syntax is as follows:

tag [add, del, list, list-full, new, merge, rename, untag] [FILE]... [[:]TAG]

NOTE: The :TAG notation is used for commands taking both file and tag names: 'tag add FILES(s) :TAG ...', to tag files, and 'tag untag :TAG file1 file2', to untag files. Otherwise, TAG is used (without the leading colon). For example: 'tag new docs', to create a new tag named docs, or 'tag del png', to delete the tag named png.

Both short and long command format can be used:

Short format	Long format	Description
ta	tag add	Tag files
td	tag del	Delete tag(s)
tl	tag list	List tags or tagged files
tm	tag rename	Rename tags
tn	tag new	Create new tag(s)
tu	tag untag	Untag file(s)
ty	tag merge	Merge two tags

# 3. Usage examples

Short format	Long format	Description
tl	tag list	List available tags
-	tag list-full	List available tags and all tagged files
tl work	tag list work	List all files tagged as work
tl file.txt	tag list file.txt	List tags applied to the file <i>file.txt</i>
tn dogs cats	tag new dogs cats	Create two empty tags: dogs and cats
ta *.png :images :png	tag add *.png :images :png	Tag PNG files as both <i>images</i> and <i>png</i> (1) (2)
ta sel :special	tag add sel :special	Tag all selected files as special
tr documents docs	tag rename documents docs	Rename the tag documents as docs
ty png images	tag merge png images	Merge the tag png into images (3)
td images	tag del images	Remove the tag images (4)
tu :work file1 dir2	tag untag :work file1 dir2	Untag a few files from work (5)

- (1) Tags are created if they do not exist
- (2) Since add is the default action, it can be omitted: tag \*.png :images :png.
- (3) All files tagged as png will be now tagged as images, and the png tag will be removed.
- (4) Untag all files tagged as *images* and remove the tag itself
- (5) Tab completion is available to complete tagged files. If using the fzf mode, multiple files can be selected using the the TAB key.

# 4. Operating on tagged files

The *t:TAG* construct (or tag expression) is used to operate on tagged files via any command, be it internal or external. A few examples:

Command	Description
p t:docs	Print properties of files tagged as docs
r t:images	Remove all files tagged as images
stat t:docs t:work	Run stat(1) over all files tagged as <i>docs</i> and all files tagged as <i>work</i>

# 4.1 Operating on specific tagged files

**NOTE**: This feature, as always when multi–selection is involved, is only available when tab completion mode is set to *fzf*. See the **Tab completion** subsection of the **BUILT–IN–EXPANSIONS** section above.

You might not want to operate on **all** files tagged as some specific tag, say *work*, but rather on **some** files tagged as *work*. Tab completion is used to achieve this aim.

Let's suppose you have a tag named *work* which contains ten tagged files, but you need to operate (say, print the file properties) only on two of them, say, *work1.odt* and *work2.odt*:

# p t:work<TAB>

The list of files tagged as *work* will be displayed via fzf. Now mark the two files you need using **TAB**, press **Enter** or **Right**, and the absolute path to both files will be inserted into the command line. So, '**p** t:work' will be replaced by '**p** /path/to/work1.odt /path/to/work2.odt'.

# 16. VIRTUAL DIRECTORIES

CliFM is able to read and list files from the standard input stream (STDIN). Each file in the list should be an absolute path, terminated with a new line character (\n) and stripped from extra characters not belonging to the path itself. The size of the input stream buffer is 262MiB (65536 paths, provided each path takes PATH\_MAX bytes (4096 by default)).

Each file passed via standard input is stored as a symbolic link pointing to the original file in a temporary directory (called here virtual directory) with read–only (0500) permissions. This directory, and all its contents, will be deleted at program exit. Use the -virtual-dir command line flag to specify a custom directory (it if does not exist, it will be created) instead of the default one, created in the system temporary directory (usually /tmp/clifm/USER/vdir.XXXXXX, where XXXXXXX is a random six digits string).

The user can operate on these files as if they were any other regular file, since all operations performed on these symbolic links (provided the current working directory is the virtual directory where all these files are stored) are performed on the target files and NOT on the symbolic links themselves.

Once in the virtual directory, files are listed by default using only the base name of the target file. For example, if the target file is /home/user/Downloads/myfile.tar.gz, this file will be listed as myfile.tar.gz. If this file already exists in the virtual directory (because there is another target file with the same base name, say, /home/user/Documents/tars/myfile.tar.gz), a random six digits suffix will be appended to the file (for instance, myfile.tar.gz.12Rgj6).

Since this listing mode does not allow the user to get a clear idea of the actual location of each listed file, a keybinding (by default Alt+w) is available to toggle short (base names only) and long filenames: in this latter case, filenames are listed using the absolute path to the target file, replacing slashes by colons (:). For example, if the target file is home/user/Downloads/myfile.tar.gz, it will be listed in the virtual directory as home:user:Downloads:myfile.tar.gz.

If you prefer the long names approach, you can use the -virtual-dir-full-paths command line flag.

**Note**: Bear in mind that the restore last path function is disabled when listing in this way.

CliFM provides to ways of using virtual directories:

- 1. Reading files from the standard input
- 2. Listing sets of files via the *virtualize.sh* plugin (which is in fact a special use case of point 1)

#### 1. Standard input

Examples:

ls -Ad /var/\* | clifm

This command will pass all files in the directory /var to CliFM

If you need to perform more specific queries, you can use find(1) as follows:

find -maxdepth 1 -size +500k -print0 | tr  $\oldsymbol{'}$ 0'  $\oldsymbol{'}$ n' | sed 's/.//g' | clifm

The above command will pass all files in the current directory bigger than 500KiB to CliFM.

You can also use stream redirection:

# ls -Ad \$PWD/\* > list.txt clifm < list.txt

# 2. The virtualization plugin

The *virtualize.sh* plugin, bound by default to the *vt* action name, is intended to provide an easy way of listing sets or collections of files, such as selected, tagged, or bookmarked files. For example, to send all selected files to a virtual directory, you can issue this command:

#### vt sel

and, if you want rather files tagged as PDF:

## vt t:PDF

Of course, individual files can also be used:

#### vt file1 file2 file3

Once executed, the vt plugin will launch a new instance of CliFM (on a new terminal emulator window) where you can operate on the specified files as if they were just normal files. Once done, quit this new instance (via the q command) to return to the primary instance of CliFM.

**Note**: By default, the terminal emulator used is **xterm**(1), but it can be changed by editing the plugin script (*virtualize.sh*).

If navigating the filesystem, you can quickly go back to the virtual directory using the -d option: vt - d. The navigation keys (see the **KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS** section above) and the **CLIFM\_VIR-TUAL\_DIR** environment variable are also available (Shift+Left/Shift+Right or cd  $CLIFM_VIR-TUAL_DIR$ ).

**Tip**: Write an alias to make this even easier:

alias vtd='cd \$CLIFM\_VIRTUAL\_DIR'

# 17. NOTE ON SPEED

**clifm** is by itself quite fast by default, but if speed is still an issue, it is possible to get some extra performance.

The two most time consuming features are:

- 1) The files counter, used to print the number of files contained by listed directories. Disabling this option produces a nice performance boost.
- 2) In normal mode, **fstatat**(3) is used to gather information about listed files. Since this function, especially when executed hundreds (and even thousands) of times, is quite time consuming, the *light mode* was implemented as an alternative listing process omitting all calls to this function (this does not apply, however, to the long view: since we need to display files information, **fstatat**(3) is required).

When running in light mode, however, a few features are lost:

1. Only basic file classification is performed, namely, that provided by the  $d_type$  field of a direct struct (see **readdir**(3)). Bear in mind, nonetheless, that whenever \_DIRENT\_HAVE\_D\_TYPE was not set at compile time, or in case of a DT\_UNKNOWN value for a given entry (we might be facing a filesystem not

returning the  $d_type$  value, for example, loop devices), **clifm** will fall back to **stat**(3) to get basic files classification.

- 2. Color per file extension is disabled for performance reasons.
- 3. The marker for selected files (\*) is lost as well: to keep track of selected files and thus recognize them in the current list of files, we make use of files device and inode number, which is provided by **fstatat(3)**.

Besides these two features, a few more things can be disabled to get some extra speed (though perhaps unnoticeable): icons (if enabled), columns, colors, and, if already running without colors, file type indicators. Because listing lots of files could be expensive and time consuming, you can also try to limit the number of files printed for each visited directory (see the *mf* command above).

Despite the above, however, it is important to bear in mind that listing speed does not only depend on the program's code and enabled features, but also on the terminal emulator used. Old, basic terminal emulators like Xterm, Aterm, and the kernel builtin console are really slow compared to more modern ones like Urxvt, Lxterminal, ST, and Terminator, to name just a few.

If using Xterm, a nice speed boost is provided by the fast scroll option: set *fastScroll* to true in your ~.Xre-sources file. See **xterm**(1).

# 18. KANGAROO FRECENCY ALGORITHM

The directory jumper function is designed to learn the navigation habits of the user. The information is stored in a database (see the **FILES** section below) used to get the best match for a given string provided by the user. In this sense, Kangaroo is like a quick, smart, and evolved cd function.

The information stored in the database, always per directory, is:

- a) Permanent entry ('+'): this directory will not be removed from the database, no matter its rank
- b) Number of visits
- c) Date of first visit (seconds since the Unix epoch)
- d) Date of the last visit (seconds since Unix epoch)
- e) The absolute path to each visited directory

With this information it is possible to build a ranking of directories to offer the user the most accurate matches for each query string. The matching algorithm takes into account mainly two factors: frequency and recency (which is why this kind of algorithm is often called a **frecency** algorithm).

After getting an initial list of matches based on the query string(s) entered by the user, the frequency algorithm is applied on each entry in the list. The algorithm is quite simple: (visits \* VISIT-CREDIT) / days-since-first-visit. As a result, we get the average of visits per day since the day of the first visit (what we call *the directory rank*).

NOTE: VISIT-CREDIT is a hardcoded value: 200.

There are however some further steps in the ranking process: **Bonus points**.

Extra credits or penalties are assigned based on the directories **last access time** according to the following simple algorithms:

Within last hour: rank \* 4 Within last day: rank \* 2 Within last week: rank / 2

More than a week: rank / 4

If the last query string matches the **basename** of a directory, the entry for this directory has 300 extra

credits. This is done simply because users normally use directory basenames as query strings: they are easier to remember.

In the same way, **pinned** directories get 1000 extra credits, **bookmarked directories** 500 credits, directories active in a **workspace** 300 credits, and directories marked as **permanent** 300 credits.

For example: if the query string is "test", /media/data/test will be matched. Now, if this directory was accessed within the last hour, and its rank was 200, it becomes 800. But, because the search string matches its basename, it gets 300 extra credits, and, if this directory is in addition bookmarked, pinned, and marked as permanent, it gets 1800 extra credits. In this way the total rank of this directory in the matching process is 2900. In doing so, we have more chances of matching what the user actually wanted to match.

Once all entries in the initial list of matches have been filtered via the above procedure and ranked, we can return the best ranked entry. The higher rank a directory has, the more priority it has over the remaining entries in the initial list of matches.

Automatic maintenance is done on the database applying a few simple procedures:

- a) If *PurgeJumpDB* is set to *true* (see the main configuration file), each entry in the database is checked at startup to remove non–existent directories. This option is set to *false* by default to avoid removing paths pointing to unmounted filesystems (like removable devices or remote locations) which you still might want to keep. Non–existent directories, however, will be removed soon or later anyway due to their low rank value (see below).
- b) Once the rank of a directory falls below *MinJumpRank* (by default 10), it is forgotten and deleted from the database. The *MinJumpRank* value can be customized in the configuration file. To make non–frequently visited directories disappear quicker from the database, increase this value. If set to 0, by contrast, directories will never be removed from the database.
- c) Once the sum total of ranks reaches *MaxJumpTotalRank* (by default 100000), each individual rank is divided by a dynamic factor so that the total rank becomes less than or equal to *MaxJumpTotalRank*. If some rank falls in the process below *MinJumpRank* (and provided this latter is not 0), it is removed from the database. *MaxJumpTotalRank* can be modified in the configuration file. The higher the value of *MaxJumpTotalRank*, the more time directories will be kept in the database.

NOTE: Directories visited in the last 24 hours, just as pinned, bookmarked directories, and directories currently used in some workspace, will not be removed from the database, no matter what their rank is. In other words, if you want to indefinitely keep a given directory in the jump database, bookmark it, or mark it as permanent (edit the database, via *je* or *j* --edit, and prepend a plus sign (+) to the corresponding entry).

The idea of 'frecency' was, as far as I know, first devised and designed by Mozilla. See <a href="https://wiki.mozilla.org/User:Mconnor/Past/PlacesFrecency">https://wiki.mozilla.org/User:Mconnor/Past/PlacesFrecency</a>. However, it is also implemented, though using different algorithms, by different projects like **autojump**, **z.lua**, and **zoxide**.

# 19. ENVIRONMENT

The following variables are read at initialization time:

#### NO COLOR

If set to any value, **clifm** will run colorless

# CLIFM\_NO\_COLOR

Same as NO\_COLOR, but specific to clifm

# CLICOLOR\_FORCE

Force the use of colors, even if the terminal does not report color support

#### **CLIFM FORCE COLOR**

Same as CLICOLOR\_FORCE, but accepts a specific color value (8, 16, 256, truecolor or 24bit).

#### COLORTERM

If set to either *truecolor* or *24bit*, **clifm** assumes the terminal emulator to be capable of displaying true colors (and thereby also 256 colors), despite what the **terminfo**(5) database informs.

# **CLIFM FILE COLORS**

A colon separated list of file type color codes in the same form specified above in the **COLOR CODES** section

# CLIFM\_EXT\_COLORS

Same as above, but for file extensions

# CLIFM\_IFACE\_COLORS

Same as above, but for different elements of clifm's interface

#### **CLIFM DATE SHADES**

A comma separated list of colors used to print timetamps based on age

# CLIFM\_SIZE\_SHADES

Same as **CLIFM\_DATE\_SHADES**, but for file sizes

# **CLIFM PREVIEW MAX SIZE**

If running with ——preview, or PreviewMaxSize is not set in the configuration file, no preview is generated for files larger that this value. The value must be specified in KiB: for example, 2048 is read as 2 MiB.

#### **CLIFM TEMPLATES DIR**

A custom file templates directory

# **CLIFM HISTFILE**

A custom commands history file

#### **CLIFM FILTER**

Define a file filter. If set, this variable overrides the *Filter* option in the configuration file

## **CLIFM SUDO CMD**

Name of the authenticator program. Used by the X command (to launch a new instance of \*\*clifm\*\* as root), the Alt+v keybinding (to prepend the authenticator program name to the current command line), and for some operations on archives (ISO files). Defaults to sudo (or doas if compiled on OpenBSD). Example:  $CLIFM\_SUDO\_CMD=doas$  clifm.

#### **SHELL**

An absolute path to the shell to be used by **clifm** to run external commands. Only values found in /etc/shells are allowed.

# CLIFM\_SHELL

Same as SHELL, but specific to clifm (takes precedence over SHELL).

#### **TMPDIR**

Path to a directory where temporary files will be created

## CLIFM\_TMPDIR

Same as TMPDIR, but specific to clifm (takes precendece over TMPDIR)

# **TERM**

Terminal type for which output is to be prepared

# FZF\_DEFAULT\_OPTS

A quoted list of options to be passed to fzf (if used for tab completion)

# TIME\_STYLE

If set from neither -time-style nor TimeStyle (in the configuration file), use this time style for the long view mode

# CLIFM\_TIME\_STYLE

Same as TIME\_STYLE, but specific to clifm (takes precedence over TIME\_STYLE)

#### PTIME STYLE

If set from neither --ptime-style nor PTimeStyle (in the configuration file), use this time style for the p/pp command and the --stat/--stat-full command line switches

#### **CLIFM COLUMNS**

The number of terminal columns

# CLIFM\_LINES

The number of terminal lines

#### **CLIFM MIMETYPES FILE**

Set a custom mime.types file (instead of the default, ~/.mime.types). Consult the **FILE OPENER** section form more information.

Except when running in **stealth mode**, **clifm** sets the following environment variables:

#### **CLIFM**

Path to the configuration directory. By inspecting this variable other programs can find out if they were spawned by **clifm**. It can also be used to quickly jump to the configuration directory: *cd* \$*CLIFM* or just \$*CLIFM* 

## **CLIFMRC**

Path to the main configuration file (by default ~/.config/clifm/profiles/default/clifmrc)

#### **CLIFM PID**

PID number of clifm's running instance

# **CLIFM VERSION**

Version number of clifm's running instance

# **CLIFM VIRTUAL DIR**

Path to the currently used virtual directory only if (and while) the virtual directory function is exectued. See the **VIRTUAL DIRECTORIES** section above.

## **SHLVL**

Incremented by one each time a new shell is started.

#### **CLIFMLVL**

Same as **SHLVL**, but specific to **clifm**.

If *Notifications* is set to *false* for the current prompt, the following variables are exported to the environment to be used, if needed, by your custom prompt:

# **CLIFM STAT SEL**

Current number of selected files

# CLIFM\_STAT\_TRASH

Current number of trashed files

#### **CLIFM STAT ERROR MSGS**

Current number of error messages

# CLIFM\_STAT\_WARNING\_MSGS

Current number of warning messages

# CLIFM\_STAT\_NOTICE\_MSGS

Current number of notice messages

# **CLIFM STAT WS**

Current workspace number

# CLIFM\_STAT\_EXIT

Exit code of the last executed command

#### **CLIFM STAT ROOT**

1 if user is root (UID = 0), 0 otherwise

# **CLIFM STAT STEALTH**

1 if running in stealth mode, 0 otherwise

When running a plugin, the following environment variables are set:

#### **CLIFM BUS**

The path to a pipe by means of which plugins can talk to **clifm**. See the **PLUGINS** section for more information.

# **CLIFM COLOR SCHEME**

Set to the name of the current color scheme

#### **CLIFM COLORLESS**

Set to 1 if running without colors

# **CLIFM CUR WS**

Set to the current workspace number

# CLIFM\_DIRS\_FIRST

Set to 1 if list-dirs-first is enabled. Otherwise it is set to 0

#### **CLIFM FILES COUNTER**

Set to 1 if files-counter is enabled. Otherwise it is set to 0

# **CLIFM FILES FILTER**

Set to the files filter string. Unset if no files filter is set

# CLIFM\_FILTER\_REVERSE

Set to 1 if filter-reverse is set or to 0 otherwise (unset if no files filter is set)

# **CLIFM FOLLOW LINKS**

Set to 1 if follow-symlinks is enabled. Otherwise it is set to 0

# CLIFM\_LIGHT\_MODE

Set to 1 if light-mode is enabled. Otherwise it is set to 0

#### **CLIFM LINE**

When running a plugin via a keybinding, this variable holds the content of the current line buffer. For a usage example see the *xclip.sh* plugin.

# **CLIFM LONG VIEW**

Set to 1 if long-view is enabled. Otherwise it is set to 0

#### **CLIFM MAX FILES**

Set to MAX\_FILES if max-files is set. Unset otherwise.

# CLIFM\_ONLY\_DIRS

Set to 1 if only-dirs is enabled. Otherwise it is set to 0

# CLIFM\_PLUGINS\_HELPER

Set to the absolute path to the plugins-helper script used by several plugins.

# **CLIFM PROFILE**

Set to the name of the current profile.

# CLIFM\_SEL\_FILES

Set to the number of currently selected files (unset if there are no selected files)

# CLIFM\_SELFILE

Set to the path to the current selection file

#### **CLIFM SHOW HIDDEN**

Set to 1-3 if show-hidden is enabled (true, first, last, in this order). Otherwise it is set to 0.

#### **CLIFM SORT REVERSE**

Set to 1 if sort-reverse is enabled. Otherwise it is set to 0

# **CLIFM SORT STYLE**

Set to the current sort method

# CLIFM\_TRASH\_FILES

Set to the number of currently trashed files (unset if there are no trashed files)

#### **CLIFM TRUNCATE NAMES**

Set to 1 if truncate-names is enabled. Otherwise it is set to 0

# 20. SECURITY

Since **clifm** executes OS commands, it needs to provide a way to securely run these commands, specially when it comes to untrusted environments. Two features are provided to achieve this aim: **secure environment** and **secure commands**.

Both features are aimed at protecting the program and the system as such from malicious input, either coming from environment variables or from indirect input, that is to say, input coming not from the command line (in which is assumed that it is the user herself who is executing the given command), but from files: this is the case of default associated applications (the *mime* command), autocommands, aliases, plugins, (un)mount commands (via the *net* command), just as profile and prompt commands.

In an untrusted environment, an attacker could cause unexpected and insecure behavior (even command injection) using environment variables, or inject malicious commands via indirect input, commands which will be later executed by **clifm** without the user's consent (i.e. automatically). This is why we provide a mechanism to minimize this danger: if running in an untrusted environment, the secure environment and secure commands features are there to prevent (at least as far as possible) this kind of attacks.

#### A) Secure environment

Programs inherit the environment from the parent process. However, if this inherited environment is not trusted, not secure, it is always a good idea to sanitize it using only sane values, preventing thus undesired and uncontrolled input that might endanger the program and the system itself.

The secure-environment function forces **clifm** to run on a such a sanitized environment.

There are two secure—environment modes, the *regular*, and the *full* one. To enable the regular mode, run **clifm** with the --secure-env command line option. Otherwise, enable the full mode using --se-cure-env-full.

a) *Regular*: in this mode, the inherited environment is cleared, though a few variables are preserved to keep **clifm** running as stable as possible. These preserved variables are: **TERM**, **DISPLAY**, **LANG**, **TZ**, and, if fzf tab completion mode is enabled, **FZF DEFAULT OPTS**.

The following variables are set in an environment agnostic way (that is, securely):

- HOME, SHELL, and USER are retrieved using getpwuid(3)
- PATH is set consulting \_PATH\_STDPATH (or \_CS\_PATH if the former is not available)
- **IFS** is set to a sane, hard-coded value: "\n\t" (space, new line char, and horizontal TAB)

As a plus, **1**) core dumps are disabled, **2**) the umask value is set to 0077 at startup and the creation mode (when using the *new* command) is forced to 0700 for directories and 0600 for files, **3**) non–standard file descriptors (>2) are closed, **4**) SUID/SGID privileges, if any, are dropped, and **5**) autocommand files aren't read at all (even if *ReadAutocmdFiles* is set to true).

**b)** *Full*: this mode is just like the regular mode, except that *nothing* is imported from the environment at all and only **PATH**, **HOME**, **USER**, **SHELL**, and **IFS** are set (as described above). Everything else remains unset, and is the user's responsibility to set environment variables (via the export function), as needed. In this case, you might want to set, at least, **TERM**, and, if running in a graphical environment, **DISPLAY**.

Be aware that enabling secure-environment might break some functions, depending on the system configuration.

#### B) Secure commands

Some commands are automatically executed by **clifm**: (un)mount commands (via the *net* command), opening applications (via *Lira*), aliases, and plugins, just as prompt, profile, and autocommands. These commands are read from a configuration file and then executed. Now, if an attacker has access to any of these files, she might force **clifm** to run any arbitrary command, and thereby possibly exposing the whole system.

Every time a command is thus automatically executed via the system shell (i.e. without the user's direct consent), the secure commands function performs four different, though intrinsically related tasks aimed to mitigate command injection and/or unexpected behavior:

- a) Plugins are disabled.
- **b)** Only command base names are allowed: *nano*, for instance, is allowed, while /usr/bin/nano is not. In this way we can guarantee that only commands found in a sanitized **PATH** (see the point **d** below) will be executed. This is done in order to prevent the execution of custom binaries/scripts, for example: /tmp/exec\_file.
- c) Commands are validated using a **whitelist** of safe characters (mostly to prevent stream redirection, conditional execution, and so on, for example, 'your\_command;some\_injected\_command'). This set of safe characters slightly vary depending on the command being executed (because they use different syntaxes):

Net command: a-zA-Z-.../=Prompt, profile, autocommands: a-zA-Z-.../"Mime command: a-zA-Z-.../%

Commands containing *at least one* unsafe character will be rejected. Of course, we cannot (and should not) prevent what looks like legitimate, benign commands from being executed. But we can stop commands that, in an untrusted environment, look suspicious. This is specially the case of stream redirection (>), pipes (|), sequential (;) and conditional execution (&&, ||), command substitution (\$(cmd)), and environment variables (\$VAR).

**d**) A secure environment is set (*--secure-env* is implied; to run on a fully sanitized environment run as follows: *--secure-cmds --secure-env-full*.

## 21. MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

# Sequential and conditional execution of commands:

For each of the internal commands (see the **COMMANDS** section above) you can use the semicolon to execute them sequentially and/or the double ampersand to execute them conditionally. Example: cmd1; cmd2 && cmd3.

Though you can use here external commands as well, bear in mind that, whenever at least one internal command is involved in a chained list of commands, **clifm** will take care of executing this list (simply because the system shell isn't able to understand any of these commands), so that no shell inter–process function (like pipes), nor any stream redirection or shell expression (like IF blocks or FOR loops) will be available. However, the shell is still used to run single external commands found in the chained list, but in isolation from the remaining commands in this list.

As a rule of thumb, when using chained commands make sure to always expand ELNs to avoid undesired consequences. If, for instance, you issue this command: *touch aaa && r 3*, you will end up deleting a file you were not intended to delete, simple because after the successful execution of the first command, the ELN 3 corresponds now to a different file.

# **External commands:**

**Clifm** is not limited to its own set of internal commands, like open, sel, trash, etc. It can run any external command as well, provided external commands are allowed (see the -x option, the *ext* command, or the configuration file).

External commands are executed using an actual shell (say, /bin/bash), which is specified by **clifm** as follows:

- 1. If the **CLIFM\_SHELL** environment variable is set, this value is used.
- 2. If the **SHELL** environment variable is set, this value is used.
- 3. If none of the above, the value will be taken from the *passwd* database (via **getpwuid**(3)).

By beginning the external command by a colon or a semicolon (':', ';') you tell **clifm** not to parse the input string, but instead letting this task to the system shell.

Bear in mind that **clifm** is not intended to be used as a shell, but as the file manager it is.

# Terminal emulators and non-ASCII characters:

It depends on the terminal emulator you use to correctly display non-ASCII characters and characters from the extended ASCII charset. If, for example, you create a filenamed "ñandú" (the Spanish word for 'rhea'), it will be correctly displayed by the Linux console, Lxterminal, and Urxvt, but not thus by more basic terminal emulators like Aterm.

#### **Spaces and filenames:**

When dealing with filenames containing spaces, you can use both single and double quotes (e.g.: "this file" or 'this file') plus the backslash character (e.g.: this\ file).

# Starting path:

By default, **clifm** starts in the current working directory. However, you can always specify a different path by passing it as positional parameter. E.g.: *clifm /home/user/misc*. You can also permanently set up the starting path in the **clifm** configuration file. If the *RestoreLastPath* option is set to *true*, **clifm** will start instead in the last visited directory (and in the last used workspace), unless the starting path (and optionally the workspace number) is specified using the appropriate command line options.

# Default profile:

**Clifm**'s default profile is *default*. To create alternative profiles use the -P command line option or the *pf* add command (see above).

# **22. FILES**

#### **CONFIGURATION FILE**

The main configuration file is looked up in these places (and in this order):

- **1.** -c, -c on fig-file switch
- 2. \$CLIFMRC variable
- **3.** \$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME/clifm/profiles/PROFILE/clifmrc directory

If **\$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME** is not set, *\$HOME/.config* is used instead. If running with secure-environment (via either *--secure-ends*, *--secure-env*, or *--secure-env-full*) no environment

variable is read, so that the home directory is taken instead from the password database (via **getp-wuid**(3)).

PROFILE is by default default (unless set via -P, --profile).

You can access the configuration file either via the *config* command or pressing F10.

A description for each option in the configuration file can be found in the configuration file itself.

# **PROFILE FILE**

The profile is  $\$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME/clifm/profiles/PROFILE/profile.clifm$ . In this file you can add those commands you want to be executed at startup. You can also permanently set here some custom variables, e.g.: 'dir="/path/to/dir"'. This variable may be used as a shortcut to that directory, for instance: cd \$dir. Custom variables could also be temporarily defined via the command prompt: E.g.: user@hostname \$ var="This is a test". Temporary variables will be removed at program exit. Internal variables are disabled by default; enable them via the --int-vars command line switch.

#### PROMPTS FILE

This file contains prompts definitions and is located in *DATADIR/clifm/prompts.clifm*. It will be copied automatically to *\$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME/clifm/prompts.clifm* if it doesn't exist. The *Prompt* line in the color scheme file should point to one of the prompt names defined in this file. See the **PROMPT** section for more information.

# **KEYBINDINGS FILE**

The keybindings file is \$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME/clifm/keybindings,cfm. It will be copied from DATADIR/clifm (usually /usr/share/clifm), and if not found, it will be created anew with default values. This file is used to specify the keyboard shortcuts used for some ClifM's functions. The format for each keybinding is always "keyseq:function", where 'keyseq' is an escape sequence in GNU emacs style. A more detailed explanation can be found in the keybindings file itself.

# PLUGINS DIRECTORY

The directory used to store programs or scripts pointed to by actions (in other words, plugins) is *DATADIR/clifm/plugins* (usually */usr/share/clifm/plugins*). To edit these plugins copy them to \$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME/clifm/plugins and edit them to your liking. Plugins in this local directory take precedence over those in the system one.

# COLORS DIRECTORY

This directory, \$DATADIR/clifm/colors, contains available color schemes (or just themes) as files with a .clifm extension. You can copy these themes to the local colors directory (\$XDG\_CON-FIG\_HOME/clifm/colors) and edit them to your liking (or create new themes from the ground up). Themes in the local colors directory take precedence over those in the system directory. You can create as many themes as you want by dropping them into the local colors directory. The default color scheme file (default.clifm) can be used as a guide.

# **ACTIONS FILE**

The file used to define custom actions is \$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME/clifm/profiles/PROFILE/actions.clifm. It will be copied from DATADIR/clifm (usually /usr/share/clifm), and if not found, it will be created anew with default values.

# MIMELIST FILE

The mimelist file is \$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME/clifm/profiles/PROFILE/mimelist.clifm. It is a list of file types and name/extensions and their associated applications used by lira. It will be copied from DATADIR/clifm (usually /usr/share/clifm).

# PREVIEW FILE

The preview file is \$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME/clifm/profiles/PROFILE/preview.clifm and is shot-gun's configuration file. It makes use of the same syntax used by the mimelist file. It will be copied from DATADIR/clifm (usually /usr/share/clifm).

#### **BOOKMARKS FILE**

The bookmarks file is \$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME/clifm/profiles/PROFILE/bookmarks.clifm Just the list of the user's bookmarks used by the bookmarks function.

# **HISTORY FILE**

The history file is ~/.config/clifm/profiles/PROFILE/history.clifm. A list of commands entered by the user and used by the history function.

# **COMMANDS LOG FILE**

The commands log file is \$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME/clifm/profiles/PROFILE/cmdlogs.clifm. Command logs keep track of commands entered in the command line. These logs have this form: "[date] current\_working\_directory:command".

# **MESSAGES LOG FILE**

The messages log file is \$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME/clifm/profiles/PROFILE/msglogs.clifm. Message logs are a record of errors and warnings and have the following form: "[date] message".

# KANGAROO DATABASE

The directory jumper database is stored in \$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME/clifm/profiles/PRO-FILE/jump.clifm.

**NOTE**: If \$XDG\_CONFIG\_HOME is not set, \$HOME/.config/ is used instead.

# 23. EXAMPLES

NOTE: Always try TAB. Tab completion is available for many things

**NOTE 2**: Suggestions for possible completions are printed next to the text typed so far. To accept the given suggestion press Right (or Alt+f to accept only the first/next suggested word). Otherwise, the suggestion is just ignored

Get help: F1: manpage F2: keybindings F3: commands

# 1. NAVIGATION

Command	Description
/etc	Change directory to /etc (1)
5	Change to the directory whose ELN is 5 (2)
j <tab> (also dh <tab>)</tab></tab>	Navigate through visited directories
j xproj	Jump to ~/media/data/docs/work/mike/xproject (3)
b (Shift+Left, Alt+j)	Go back in the directory history list
f (Shift+Right, Alt+k)	Go forth in the directory history list
(Shift+Up, Alt+u)	Change to the parent directory
	Change to the parent directory of the current parent directory (4)
bd w	Change to the parent directory matching "w" (5)
ws2 (Alt+2)	Swtich to the second workspace (6)
/*.pdf <tab></tab>	List PDF files (current dir)
=x <tab></tab>	List executable files (current dir) (7)
@gzip <tab></tab>	List files (current dir) whose MIME type includes "gzip"
pin mydir	Pin the directory named <i>mydir</i>
,	Change to pinned directory
view (Alt+-)	Preview files (current dir) (8)
pg (Alt+0)	Run MAS, the files pager, on the current directory

- (1) cd/etc also works
- (2) Press TAB to make sure 5 is the file you want, or just pay attention to the suggestion. Press Right to accept the given suggestion
- (3) This depends on the database ranking. For more accuracy: *j mike xproj*. Tab completion is available: *j xproj*<*TAB*>
- (4) This is the fastback function: each susequent dot after the two first dots is understood as an extra "/.."
- (5) Type bd < TAB > to list all parent directories
- (6) Alt+[1-4] is available for workspaces 1-4
- (7) Type = < TAB > to get the list of available file type characters. Consult the **FILE FILTERS** section above for more information
- (8) This feature depends on fzf(1)

# 2. FILE OPERATIONS

Command	Description
myfile.txt	Open <i>myfile.txt</i> (with the default associated application)
myfile.txt vi	Open myfile.txt using vi (1)
24&	Open the file whose ELN is 24 in the background
n myfile mydir/	Create a new file named <i>myfile</i> and a new directory named <i>mydir</i> (2)(3)
p4	Print the properties of the file whose ELN is 4
pc myfile.txt	Edit the permission set of the file <i>myfile.txt</i> (use <i>oc</i> to edit ownership)
s *.c	Select all c files in the current directory
s /media/* <tab></tab>	Interactively select files in the directory /media (4)
s 1–4 8 19–26	Select multiple files in the current directory by ELN
sb (sel <tab> or s:<tab>)</tab></tab>	List selected files (5)
ds (ds <tab>)</tab>	Selectively deselect files using a menu
bm add mydir/ mybm	Bookmark the directory <i>mydir/</i> as "mybm"
bm mybm (b:mybm)	Access the bookmark named mybm (6)
bm del mybm	Remove the bookmark named <i>mybm</i>
bm (Alt+b or b: <tab>)</tab>	Open the bookmark manager
t 1-3 *.old	Trash a few files
u (u <tab>)</tab>	Selectively undelete/restore trashed files using a menu
t del (t del <tab>)</tab>	Selectively remove files from the trash can using a menu
t empty	Empty the trash can
ta *.pdf :mypdfs	Tag all PDF files in the current directory as mypdfs
p t:mypdfs	Print the file properties of all files tagged as mypdfs
/*.pdf	Search for all PDF files in the current directory
c sel	Copy selected files to the current directory
c *.txt 2	Copy all txt file to the directory whose ELN is 2
r sel	Remove all selected files (7)
m4	Rename the file whose ELN is 4 (8)

- (1) Use the ow command to select the opening application from a menu: ow myfile.txt or ow myfile.txt < TAB >
- (2) Note the ending slash in the directory name
- (3) Since **clifm** is integrated to the system shell, you can also use any of the shell commands you usually use to create new files. E.g.: *touch myfile* or *nano myfile*
- (4) Only for non-standard tab completion: fzf, fnf, smenu
- (5) You can also TAB expand the sel keyword: p sel<TAB> to list selected files (and optionally mark

multiple selected files to operate on)

- **(6)** Type bm < TAB > to get the list of available bookmark names
- (7) To remove files in bulk use the rr command
- (8) To rename files in bulk use the br command

# 3. MISC

Command	Description
hh (Alt+.)	Toggle hidden files
ll (Alt+l)	Toggle detail/long view mode
rf (Enter –on empty line– or Ctrl+l)	Clear/refresh the screen
Alt+,	Toggle list-directories-only
Alt+Tab, Ctrl+Alt+i	Toggle disk usage analyzer mode
! <tab></tab>	Navigate through the command history
config (F10)	View/edit the main configuration file
pf set test	Change to profile <i>test</i>
actions	List available actions/plugins
icons on	Want icons?
cs (cs <tab>)</tab>	List available color schemes
prompt (prompt <tab>)</tab>	List available prompts
q	I'm tired, quit

There is a lot more you can do, but this should be enough to get you started.

# **EXIT STATUS**

Clifm returns the exit status of the last executed command

# **CONFORMING TO**

**Clifm** is C99 compliant, and, if compiled with the \_BE\_POSIX flag, it is POSIX.1–2008 compliant as well. If not, just a single non–POSIX function is used: **statx**(2) (Linux specific), to get files birth time.

# **BUG AND FEATURE REQUESTS**

Report at <a href="https://github.com/leo\-arch/clifm/issues">https://github.com/leo\-arch/clifm/issues</a>

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