VFS, configuration paths, subshell, troubleshooting, references

VFS: browse "special paths" — mc1

Key	Action
Concept	VFS lets you *cd into* archives and remotes like directories.
C-x a	List active VFS directories — gist.
Tip	VFS can stack (for example, an archive stored on an sftp:// path).

Remote VFS — mc1

Key	Action
sh://	sh://[user@]machine[:port]/[remote-dir]
sftp://	sftp://[user@]machine[:port]/[remote-dir]
Example	sh://joe@somehost:2222/private
Example	sftp://joe@somehost:2222/private

Archives and EXTfs — mc1

Key	Action
Example	cd documents.zip/uzip:// (man page example).
Pattern	cd file.tar.gz/utar:// (extfs name varies).
Standalone	cd fsname:// (enter an extfs "filesystem").

Undelete (optional ext2) — mc1

Key	Action
undel://	undel://DEVICEPART (for example, undel://sda2) if built with support.

Configuration paths — mc1

Key	Action
Main config	~/.config/mc/ini
Panels	~/.config/mc/panels.ini
Extensions	~/.config/mc/mc.ext.ini
User menu	~/.config/mc/menu
Keymap	~/.config/mc/mc.keymap
Highlighting	~/.config/mc/filehighlight.ini (if supported).

Subshell notes — mc1

Key	Action
-u / -U	Disable / force subshell.
Concept	Subshell shares your shell environment and aliases while mc runs.
bashrc	Often ~/.local/share/mc/bashrc (varies by install).

Troubleshooting quick hits

Key	Action
F10 stolen →	Quit via menu (F9 →) Quit) or remap the terminal key.
Alt combos	Use Esc then key (Meta emulation).
tmux/screen	Try mc -g; then re-run Learn keys.
Display odd	Try mc -a (ASCII) or adjust terminal settings.

References (URLs)

Key	Action
mc1	https://source.midnight-commander.org/man/mc.html
gist	https://gist.github.com/samiraguiar/9cd4264445545cfd459d
site	https://midnight-commander.org/

Midnight Commander (mc) — one-stop cheatsheet

Midnight Commander is an orthodox (two-pane) terminal file manager—think "visual shell": navigate directories, tag groups of files, and perform copy/move/rename/delete at speed, while also having built-in viewer/editor, a configurable user menu, background jobs, and a Virtual File System (VFS) that lets you browse archives and remote hosts (for example, sftp:// and sh://) as if they were local directories.

Legend / conventions

- **C-x** = Ctrl+x.   **A-x** = Alt+x.
- No Alt/Meta? Press **Esc**, release, then type the character.
- Many terminals map **Esc**+1..9,0 → **F1..F10**.
- **Esc Esc** quickly dismisses menus and popups — gist.

Core model

- **Current panel** + **other panel** (destination default).
- **Menu bar** (focus with **F9**); **command line** at bottom.
- **Tagged files**: if any are tagged, most operations apply to the tagged set.

Launch & CLI options — mc1

- Start: **mc** or **mc dir1 [dir2]** (set panel dirs).
- Viewer: **mc -v FILE**   Editor: **mc -e [FILE]**.
- Subshell: **mc -u** (disable) **mc -U** (force).
- Color: **mc -c** (force) **mc -b** (B/W) **mc -C ARG** (palette).
- Mouse/tty: **mc -d** (no mouse) **mc -g** (oldmouse) **mc -x** (xterm).
- Keymap: **mc -K FILE** **mc —nokeymap**.
- Directory print: **mc -P FILE** (for mc.sh "cd after exit" wrapper).
- Info: **mc -V** (version) **mc -h** (help).

Core function keys — File menu

Key	Action
F1	Help (contextual).
F2	User menu (custom actions and macros).
F3	View file (**Shift-F3** raw view; disregard extension).
F4	Edit file (**Shift-F4** create new file).
F5	Copy selected or tagged to other panel directory.
F6	Move selected or tagged (**Shift-F6** rename under cursor).
F7	Mkdir.
F8	Delete.
F9	Focus top menu bar.
F10	Quit.

Selection — gist

Key	Action
Insert/C-t	Select or deselect file.
*	Invert selection on files.
+	Selection options (including custom pattern).
-	Deselect options (pattern).

Quick navigation — gist

Key	Action
Tab/C-i	Jump to other panel.
A-c	Quick cd dialog.
A-?	Search dialog.
C-s	Search for item.
A-s	Incremental search (repeat **A-s** to next occurrence).
C-\	Directory hotlist.

Navigation, display, panels menu, and command prompt

Navigation keys — gist

Key	Action
C-p/Up	Move selection to previous entry.
C-n/Down	Move selection to next entry.
A-g	First visible item.
A-r	Middle item.
A-j	Last visible item.
A-v/PgUp	One page up.
A-p/PgDn	One page down.
A-</Home	Top (first entry).
A->/End	Bottom (last entry).

Directory history — gist

Key	Action
A-y	Previous directory in directory history.
A-u	Next directory in directory history.
A-Shift-h	Show path history.

Display — gist

Key	Action
C-r	Refresh current panel.
C-u	Swap panels.
A-,	Toggle panel layout (horizontal/vertical).
C-x i	Toggle other panel to information mode.
C-x q	Toggle other panel to quick view mode.
A-i	Other panel shows same directory as current.
A-o	Show highlighted directory in the other panel.
A-t	Change panel view (full/brief/long).
A-.	Toggle "Show hidden files".

Panels menu — via F9 then Left/Right

Key	Action
(menu)	Listing mode: Full / Brief / Long / User-defined.
(menu)	Info, Quick view, Tree, Tree view.
(menu)	Sort order: name/ext/time/size/inode; reverse toggle.
(menu)	Filter (limit visible); Select group (tag by pattern).
(menu)	Rescan/reread directory; Panelize (fill from command output).

Menus at a glance — F9

Key	Action
Left/Right	Listing mode, sort, filter/select, quick view/info, tree, panelize, hotlist.
File	View/edit/copy/move/mkdir/delete, link tools, quit.
Command	Find file, quick cd, hotlist, compare directories, external panelize, jobs.
Options	Configuration, appearance/layout, key learning, confirmations (build dependent).

File and directory operations — gist

Key	Action
C-x d	Compare directories.
C-x c	Chmod dialog.
C-x o	Chown dialog.
C-x C-s	Edit symlink.
C-x s	Create symlink dialog.
C-x l	Create hard link dialog.
C-x v	Relative symlink tool on selected or tagged.
C-x a	List active VFS directories.

Command prompt — gist

Key	Action
C-o	Drop to the console (toggle panels).
A-Enter	Put highlighted file name on command line.
C-x t	Put selected or tagged item names on command line.
C-Shift-Enter	Put full path of highlighted file on command line.
A-a/C-x p	Put full path of panel directory on command line.
A-h	Show command history.
A-n/A-p	Move up or down through command history.
C-x	External panelize (fill panel with command output).
C-x j	Show background jobs.

Quit variants — gist

Key	Action
F10	Quit (normal).
Shift-F10	Quiet exit without confirmation.

Viewer/editor, panelize recipes, user menu macros, keymaps

File view — gist

Key	Action
C-f	View the next file.
C-b	View the previous file.

Viewer (mcview): practical extras

Key	Action
/	Search.
n	Next match.
Shift-n	Previous match.
A-</A->	Begin/end of file (common navigation).

Editor (mcedit): quick survival

Key	Action
F2	Save.
F10	Exit editor.
F7	Search.
F4	Replace.
C-y	Delete line.
C-k	Delete to end of line.

Panelize: "virtual panels" from commands

Key	Action
C-x	External panelize (fill panel with command output).
Example	git ls-files (repo file list).
Example	rg -l PATTERN (files matching a pattern).
Example	find -type f -size +100M -print (large files).
Example	ls -1	… (pipelines that output one file per line).

Background jobs — gist

Key	Action
C-x j	Jobs list; inspect or cancel background operations.

User menu "@" commands — gist

Key	Action
F2-@	Run a command on the currently highlighted item.
Example	**F2-@ unzip** — unzip selected file.
Example	**F2-@ zip -r foo.zip** — zip current directory as foo.zip.
Example	**F2-@ 7za x** — extract selected file with 7zip.
Example	**F2-@ 7za a foo.7z** — 7zip current directory as foo.7z.
File	User menu file (common): ~/.config/mc/menu.

User menu macros — mc1

Key	Action
%f, %p	Current file (name/path).
%d, %D	Current directory / other panel directory.
%t, %T	Tagged files (this/other panel).
%v, %V	Tagged files with full paths.
%s, %S	Selected files (tagged if any else current).
%cd	Change directory (useful for VFS entrypoints).
%view[args]	Internal viewer (ascii/hex/nroff/…).
%{ prompt}	Prompt user for substitution text.
% var{ ENV:default}	Env var substitution with default.

Keymaps and Learn keys — mc1

Key	Action
Learn keys	Stores terminal sequences in ~/.config/mc/ini under [terminal:TERM].
-K/–keymap MC_KEYMAP	Load a specific keymap file. Environment variable that selects a keymap.
~/.config/ mc/mc.keym ap	Common user keymap location.