

## VFS, configuration paths, subshell, troubleshooting, references

### VFS: browse "special paths" — mc(1)

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

### Remote VFS — mc(1)

Key	Action
<b>sh://</b>	<i>sh://</i> [user@]machine[:port]/[remote_dir]
<b>sftp://</b>	<i>sftp://</i> [user@]machine[:port]/[remote_dir]
<b>Example</b>	<i>sh://joe@somehost:2222/private</i>
<b>Example</b>	<i>sftp://joe@somehost:2222/private</i>

### Archives and EXTfs — mc(1)

Key	Action
<b>Example</b>	<i>cd documents.zip/uzip://</i> (man page example).
<b>Pattern</b>	<i>cd file.tar.gz/utar://</i> (extfs name varies).
<b>Standalone</b>	<i>cd fsname://</i> (enter an extfs "filesystem").
<b>Undelete (optional ext2) — mc(1)</b>	
<b>Key</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>undel://</b>	<i>undel://DEVICEPART</i> (for example, <i>undel://sda2</i> ) if built with support.

### Configuration paths — mc(1)

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

### Subshell notes — mc(1)

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

### Troubleshooting quick hits

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

### References (URLs)

Key	Action
<b>mc(1)</b>	<a href="https://source.midnight-commander.org/man/mc.html">https://source.midnight-commander.org/man/mc.html</a>
<b>gist</b>	<a href="https://gist.github.com/samiragu">https://gist.github.com/samiragu</a>
<b>site</b>	<a href="https://midnight-commander.org/">https://midnight-commander.org/</a>

## 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 — mc(1)

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

### Selection — gist

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

### Quick navigation — gist

Key	Action
<b>Tab/C-i</b>	Jump to other panel.
<b>A-c</b>	Quick cd dialog.
<b>A-?</b>	Search dialog.
<b>C-s</b>	Search for item.
<b>A-s</b>	Incremental search (repeat <b>A-s</b> to next occurrence).
<b>C-\</b>	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, holist.
File	View/edit/copy/move/mkdir/delete, link tools, quit.
Command	Find file, quick cd, holist, 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-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 — mc(1)**

Key	Action
%f, %p	Current file (name/path).
%d, %D	Current directory / other panel directory.
%t, %T	Tagged file (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 — mc(1)**

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