

# info

**info** is a simple-to-use documentation system, hypertextual in nature, although it does not require a graphical browser. The documentation is built using the Texinfo system, which is a reader you need know nothing about.

You may have noticed that many man pages say you can get more detailed information by running **info** on the command, such as in:

```
1  $ info ls
```

This pops you into a documentation page, which you can page through by hitting the space bar. Other key bindings are:

Key	Function
n	Go to next node
p	Go to previous node
u	Go to upper node
l	Go to last visited node
space or PageDown	Go to next page
delete\verb or backspace or PageUp	Go to previous page
/ or CTL-s	Search for the string prompted for
i	Search for a node containing the string prompted for

You will notice we distinguish between nodes and pages. The **info** page is a hierarchical tree of nodes, each of which may have multiple pages, or screenfuls.

```

student@ubuntu: ~
File: dir,      Node: Top,      This is the top of the INFO tree.

This is the Info main menu (aka directory node).
A few useful Info commands:

'q' quits;
'?' lists all Info commands;
'h' starts the Info tutorial;
'mTexinfo RET' visits the Texinfo manual, etc.

* Menu:

Basics
* Common options: (coreutils)Common options.
* Coreutils: (coreutils).      Core GNU (file, text, shell) utilities.
* Date input formats: (coreutils)Date input formats.
* File permissions: (coreutils)File permissions.
                                Access modes.
* Ed: (ed).                    The GNU line editor
* Finding files: (find).        Operating on files matching certain criteria.

C++ libraries
* autosprintf: (autosprintf).  Support for printf format strings in C++.

Compression
* Gzip: (gzip).                 General (de)compression of files (lzw).

-----Info: (dir)Top, 392 lines --Top-----
Welcome to Info version 6.1.  Type H for help, h for tutorial.

```

Lines which begin with an asterisk (\*) are nodes which you can jump to by moving to that line (with the arrow keys for example) and then hitting return.

**info** is easier to use than it is to describe. It often contains more exhaustive information than the man page, but sometimes it just regurgitates it.