

# Prime console file manager

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for version 1.1

Mohammed Isam ([mohammed\\_isam1984@yahoo.com](mailto:mohammed_isam1984@yahoo.com))

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# 1 Overview of the Prime console file manager

## 1.1 What is Prime?

Prime is a GNU software, part of the GnuDOS package.

Prime is a file manager which works under the GNU/Linux console. It was influenced by other file managers (like the well known XTree Gold which was popular under MS-DOS). It provides a user friendly interface with menus, shortcuts, and key navigation. It is distributed as part of the GnuDOS package which was developed to help users coming from DOS-like environment feel ease when dealing with the GNU system.

Prime provides multi-level experience, the level of complexity can be adjusted by the user: you want to use DOS-keys with a few basic GNU ones? you want to go with the full power of the GNU system? All are options that are provided by the six levels of experience of Prime:

1. Newbie: All DOS shortcut keys, no GNU keys yet
2. Novice: DOS shortcut keys, some of which are replaced with GNU's
3. Intermediate: DOS keys with a few more replaced with GNU keys
4. Advanced: ... And more GNU keys in
5. Expert: Very few DOS keys, most are GNU keys
6. Veteran: Only GNU keys, no DOS-like keys

You start with level 1 by default.

To set your level, call prime with '`--level X`' or '`-l X`' options, Where X is the level desired, for example:

```
$prime --level 2
```

## 1.2 Which keys are defined for which level?

Below is a table showing the DOS-like key combinations along with their respective GNU key bindings. To the right is the level at which a certain key is defined. Each key defined is recognized in higher levels (e.g. level 2 keys are recognized in levels 3-4-5-6). Note that in level 6 only GNU keys are defined, no DOS keys will work at this level!.

### Keybindings:

In the table below, C-something means pressing down CTRL and then pressing the other key. Note that '^' is the same as 'C', meaning CTRL-key, it is just typed like this so DOS users can feel familiar with the text.

The same as M-something, which means META or ALT.

Function	DOS-like key	GNU key	GnuDOS Level
All DOS bindings and no GNU bindings			Newbie
Next Line	Down	C-n	Novice

Prev. Line	Up	C-p	Novice
Backward	Left	C-b	Novice
Forward	Right	C-f	Novice
Back One Word	^Left	M-b	Novice
Fwd One Word	^Right	M-f	Novice
Cancel	ESC	C-g	Intermediate
Next Screen	PgDn	C-v	Intermediate
Prev. Screen	PgUp	M-v	Intermediate
Start of Line	Home	C-a	Intermediate
End of Line	End	C-e	Intermediate
Start of text	^Home	C-<	Intermediate
End of text	^End	C->	Intermediate
Del prev char	BkSpc	DEL (is BkSpc)	Advanced
Del next char	Delete	C-d	Advanced
Del prev word	^BkSpc	M-DEL (is M-BkSpc)	Advanced
Del next word	^Delete	M-d	Advanced
Select text	SHIFT+Arrow	C-Space	Advanced
Cut (kill)	BkSpc/Del	C-w	Advanced
Quit	^Q	C-x C-c	Expert
Paste (yanking)	^V	C-y	Expert
Del Line	^D	C-k	Expert
Undo	^Z	C-/, C-., C-x u	Expert
Open File	^O	C-x C-f	Expert
Save File	^S	C-x C-s	Expert
Find (Search)	^F	C-s (forward search)	Expert
		C-r (reverse search)	Expert
Help	F1	C-h ?	Expert
All GNU bindings and no DOS bindings			Veteran

### 1.3 Why should I use it?

If you like using the console (like most GNU/Linux vintage users do), and you came from DOS land, having a nice and easy way to run through your directory trees and moving files around will be an important asset in your toolset, plus you will easily dive into the GNU system key bindings.

## 1.4 What do I need?

The program can be invoked from the linux console or under X from an xterm.

## 1.5 How to use it?

Simply invoke the 'prime' executable from the bash shell. The components of the main window can be found under See [Chapter 2 \[Main Window\]](#), page 4. The description of the menus in See [Chapter 3 \[Menus\]](#), page 5. And the shortcut keys in See [Chapter 4 \[Shortcuts\]](#), page 6.

## 1.6 What else?

To help the developers (and yourself) debugging the program, Prime sends log information by default to a file named 'prime.log' in the user's home directory (e.g. /home/username). If you wish log information to be sent to another file, invoke the program with the file name on the command line, e.g.

```
$prime --log log-file-name
$prime -g log-file-name
```

If you don't want log information, invoke Prime as

```
$prime --no-log
```

If you want to reset the configuration file to it's default values, invoke Prime as

```
$prime --reset-config
$prime -r
```

You can export directory tree of a given directory to a given file without starting Prime by typing:

```
$prime -e|--export dirname filename
```

Note you will only type '-e' or '--export', not both.

Prime starts with the directory tree of the current working directory. To open Prime with the directory tree of another location, type:

```
$prime dirname
```

Where `dirname` is the path name which is to be loaded into Prime on program start. Currently there is partial wildcard support. That means for example that you can specify '~' to indicate your home directory, and you can use '\*' inside the program (in the search dialog box) but no further wildcards (like '?') are supported Currently. Examples:

```
$prime ~/projects
```

Will open the subdirectory 'projects' of the home directory

The following are examples of accepted ways to enter wildcard strings in the Find file dialog box:

```
file*
*.c
a*.c
```

## 2 Prime main window

After running Prime, you are faced with a window that has the following components:

### 2.1 Menu bar

Located at the top of the window. Contains the menus: File, Edit, and Help. The details of these menus can be found under See [Chapter 3 \[Menus\]](#), page 5.

### 2.2 Main Window

The rest of the main window has three parts:

- Directory view (left side): you can navigate the directory tree of the current working directory
- File view (right side): navigate/select files in the current dir
- Bottom view: shows the current working directory and the number of selected items

## 3 Working around with menus

Menus are on the menu bar on the top of the See [Chapter 2 \[Main Window\]](#), page 4. They are:

### 3.1 File Menu (opened by pressing ALT+F):

- Open Location: Opens specific location to view its directory tree
- Export: Saves the directory tree into a file on disk
- Print: Prints the directory tree to printer
- Exit: Exits Prime

### 3.2 Edit Menu (opened by pressing ALT+E):

- Space bar: toggle selection. Selected items are marked with a "\*"
- Cut selection (if no selection, cut current item). Cut items are marked with a "^"
- Copy selection (if no selection, copy current item). Copy items are marked with a "#"
- Paste: Pastes the list of cut/copied files and directories into current location
- Mark All: Mark all the files/dirs with '\*'
- Unmark All: Unmarks all the files/dirs
- Clear selection: Clears all marks including items marked for cut/copy
- Find: Finds a file

### 3.3 Help Menu (opened by pressing ALT+H):

- View README: Displays the README file installed with the package
- GNU keybindings: Displays the keybindings file installed with the package
- Quick Referece: Shows a quick reference for Prime functions
- About Prime: Shows About dialog box



## 4 Using keyboard shortcuts

Moving around with Shortcut Keys:

ALT+F: Open File menu  
ALT+E: Open Edit menu  
ALT+H: Open Help menu

(1) File menu shortcuts:

CTRL+N: Create new directory under current working directory  
CTRL+O: Open location  
CTRL+E: Export directory tree into external file  
CTRL+P: Print current directory tree  
CTRL+Q: Exit program

(2) Edit menu shortcuts:

CTRL+X: Cut selection (if no selection, cut current item).  
Cut items are marked with "^"  
CTRL+C: Copy selection (if no selection, copy current item).  
Copy items are marked with "#"  
CTRL+V: Paste cut/copy items in the current directory  
CTRL+F: Find a file  
CTRL+A: Select all items in the active dir/file window  
CTRL+Z: Deselects all items in the active dir/file window  
CTRL+W: Deselect all, including items marked for cut/copy  
Space bar: Toggle selection. Selected items are marked "\*"

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