

# Prime console file manager

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for version 1.0

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# 1 Overview of the Prime console file manager

## 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 environments 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 the mino with '-levelX' or '-lX' options, Where X is the level desired, for example:

```
$prime --level2
```

## 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 5 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

Del selection 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

=====

## 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.

## What do I need?

The program can be invoked from the linux console or under X11 from an xterm.

## 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.

## 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-file-name
```

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

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

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 -d|--dir 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. 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:

### Menu bar

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

### 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:

### (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

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

- Space bar: toggle selection. Selected items are marked "\*"
- Cut selection (if no selection, cut current item). Cut items marked "^"
- Copy selection (if no selection, copy current item). Copy items marked "#"
- 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) Help Menu (opened by pressing ALT+H):

- View README: Displays the README 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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