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Introduction

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This guide will teach you how to efficiently use `ranger`.

User interface

The main window consists of three panels by default (it's called [Miller columns](#) by the way):

- the middle one with the contents of the current directory,
- the left one shows the parent directory, with the current directory highlighted,
- the right one serves various previews; I will tell you more about it later.

If you're familiar with [vim](#), you should feel right at home with `ranger`'s UI conventions. `ranger` uses the `h j k l` keys for navigation and borrows many idioms from `vim`. For example: `yy` (copy line in `vim`) copies a file, `pp` pastes it and `dd` cuts the file. The more complex functions may be called from the command line invoked with `:` (a colon).

The current file's attributes may be seen at the bottom and the current directory path may be seen at the top.

For the `mc` users

If you're familiar with `mc` ([Midnight Commander](#)) the first thing you may notice is the lack of the second panel for the file navigation. It may seem like a limitation but in most cases people use only one panel at a time. `ranger` allows you to create new tabs (like in a web browser) and switch between them with either `Alt-number` or `Tab`. If you open just two tabs, `ranger`'s tabs effectively behave just like `mc`'s panels. And you can even open more if such need arises.

Movement

The basic movement keys are inspired by `vim`: `jk` moves up and down, `l` enters the selected directory or opens a file and `h` returns to the parent directory. Many other navigation keys known

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