

Basic Concepts

fzf is a general-purpose command-line fuzzy finder. It reads a list from STDIN, filters it interactively, and outputs the selection to STDOUT.

Search Syntax

- **sb**: Fuzzy match (find items containing 's' and 'b' in that order).
- **'sb'**: Exact match (find literal "sb").
- **^sb**: Prefix-exact match (starts with "sb").
- **sb\$**: Suffix-exact match (ends with "sb").
- **!sb**: Inverse-exact match (does not contain "sb").
- **!^sb**: Inverse-prefix-exact match.
- **^sb | \$pattern**: OR operator.

Shell Key Bindings

- **Ctrl-t**: Search files and paste path to command line.
- **Ctrl-r**: Search command history.
- **Alt-c**: Fuzzy change directory (cd).
- **** + Tab**: Trigger fzf completion for many commands (e.g., `cd **`, `vim **`).

Command Line Usage

- `find . | fzf`: Find and select a file.
- `ls | fzf -m`: Multi-select items using **Tab**.
- `fzf --preview 'cat {}'`: Preview file content while searching.
- `fzf --reverse`: Display the search UI from top to bottom.
- `fzf --height 40%`: Run fzf in a smaller layout within the terminal.

Advanced Examples

```
# Preview using bat (syntax highlighting)
fzf --preview 'bat --style=numbers --color=always --line-range :500 {}'
```

```
# Git integration: branch search and checkout
git branch | fzf | xargs git checkout
```

```
# Process management: search and kill
```

```
ps aux | fzf | awk '{print $2}' | xargs
kill -9
```

Environment Variables

- **FZF_DEFAULT_COMMAND**: Default command to generate input (e.g., use `fd` or `ripgrep`).
- **FZF_DEFAULT_OPTS**: Global default options (colors, layout, etc.).
- **FZF_CTRL_T_OPTS**: Specific options for the **Ctrl-t** binding.

UI Customization

- `--layout=reverse`: Search bar at the top.
- `--border`: Add a border around the finder.
- `--color`: Customize every color aspect (bg, fg, hl, info, prompt, etc.).
- `--prompt='🔍 '`: Change the search prompt.