

lf (list files) Cheatsheet

Overview and Core Concepts

`lf` is a terminal file manager written in Go, inspired by `ranger`. It uses a server-client architecture to share state between multiple instances and provides Vim-like keybindings for efficient file system navigation.

Navigation and Movement

- `k` or `↑`: Move up.
- `j` or `↓`: Move down.
- `h` or `←`: Move to parent directory.
- `l` or `→`: Open file or enter directory.
- `gg`: Move to top of the list.
- `G`: Move to bottom of the list.
- `H`, `M`, `L`: Move to high (top), middle, or low (bottom) of the screen.
- `~` or `gh`: Change directory to home (`$HOME`).

File and Directory Management

- `Space`: Select or unselect current item (for batch operations).
- `d`: Move selected items to trash (`~/.local/share/lf/trash` typically).
- `D`: Delete selected items permanently.
- `y`: Yank (copy) selected items.
- `c`: Cut selected items.
- `p`: Paste yanked or cut items to current directory.
- `r`: Rename selected item.
- `:mkdir <name>`: Create new directory.
- `:touch <name>`: Create new empty file.

Search and Filtering

- `/`: Search mode (incremental filtering as you type).
- `f`: Filter mode (pattern based).
- `?`: Browse previous search command history.

Shell Integration and Commands

- `!`: Execute the command in the shell (e.g. `!zip -r archive.zip folder`).

- `$`: Open a shell prompt in the current directory (exit shell to return to `lf`).
- `c`: Clear command line or jump to client mode for scripting interactions.

View Options and Sorting

- `zh`: Toggle visibility of hidden files.
- `zr`: Reverse the sorting order.
- `zs`: Change sort criteria (n: name, s: size, t: time).
- `zp`: Toggle preview pane display.

Configuration and Customization

Configuration file location: `~/.config/lf/lfrc`.

- **Key Mapping:** `map gh cd ~`.
- **Custom Command:** `cmd my-command echo "hello"`.
- **Previewer Settings:**

```
# In lfrc
set previewer "/path/to/
preview_script.sh"
```

Terminal Multiplexing (tmux/zellij)

Because of its server-client architecture, `lf` works exceptionally well with multiplexers. You can yank a file in one pane and paste it into another running instance of `lf` in real-time.

Pro Tips

Directory Sync on Exit

To make your shell change directory to the last visited path when exiting `lf`, use a wrapper function like this in your `.bashrc` or `.zshrc`:

```
lfcd () {
  tmp="$(mktemp)"
  lf -last-dir-path="$tmp" "$@"
  if [ -f "$tmp" ]; then
    dir="$(cat "$tmp")"
    rm -f "$tmp"
    if [ -d "$dir" ]; then
```

```
      if [ "$dir" != "$(pwd)" ];
    then
      cd "$dir"
    fi
  fi
}
# Use 'lfc d' instead of 'lf' to
navigate.
```

Rapid Selection

Use `v` in conjunction with movement to quickly select a range of files for batch processing.