fzf Fuzzy finder

CONCEPTS

fzf reads lines on stdin, shows a filterable list and prints the chosen line(s) on stdout. It is a filter, so anything that makes lines can feed it.

Source stdin, find, or walker
↓ lines
fzf type to filter, move, mark
↓ selection
stdout chosen line(s)
↓ consumed by
Command vim, cd, kill, git ...
How fzf fits in a pipeline

Run eval "$(fzf --bash)" in ~/.bashrc (or source <(fzf --zsh)) to get Ctrl+T, Ctrl+R, Alt+C and ** completion.

RUNNING FZF

<cmd> **| fzf**
Choose one line from the input

fzf
Browse files under the current dir

fzf -m
Multi-select (Tab marks, Shift+Tab unmarks)

fzf -q '*<query>***'**
Start with a query typed in

fzf -1 -0
Auto-pick a single match, exit on none

fzf --height 40%
Inline list instead of full screen

fzf --layout reverse
Prompt at the top, list grows down

fzf --ansi
Keep colours from the input

fzf --print0
Separate output by NUL (pair with xargs -0)

KEYS INSIDE THE FINDER

Ctrl+J / Ctrl+N / Down
Move down

Ctrl+K / Ctrl+P / Up
Move up

KEYS INSIDE THE FINDER (cont.)

Enter
Accept the focused item

Esc / Ctrl+C / Ctrl+G
Quit without selecting

Tab / Shift+Tab
Mark or unmark item (with -m)

Ctrl+W / Ctrl+U
Delete word or whole query

SEARCH SYNTAX

Tokens (space = AND)

Token	Matches
`sbtrkt`	fuzzy
`'wild`	exact substring
`'wild'`	exact, word boundaries
`^music`	prefix
`.mp3$`	suffix
`!fire`	does not contain
`!^music`	does not start with
`a | b`	a OR b

fzf -e
Exact matching by default (' makes a term fuzzy)

fzf -i / +i
Force case-insensitive or case-sensitive

Terms are ANDed, so 'core go$ | rb$' narrows quickly.

SHELL INTEGRATION

eval "$(fzf --bash)"
Enable bindings and completion in bash

source <(fzf --zsh)
Enable in zsh

fzf --fish | source
Enable in fish

Ctrl+T
Paste selected files or dirs at the cursor

Ctrl+R
Fuzzy search command history

Alt+C
cd into a selected directory

<cmd> ***<Tab>***
Fuzzy completion of paths, e.g. vim **<Tab>

kill -9 *<Tab>***
Pick a process to kill

SHELL INTEGRATION (cont.)

ssh *<Tab>***
Pick a host from config and hosts files

PREVIEW AND LAYOUT

fzf --preview 'cat {}'
Show a preview of the focused line

fzf --preview-window right,50%
Position and size the preview

--preview-window hidden
Start hidden (toggle with a bind)

{} in a preview or bind is the focused line in single quotes; {+} is every marked line, {q} is the query.

FIELDS AND OUTPUT

--nth 2
Search only field 2

--with-nth 2..
Show only fields from 2 onwards

BINDINGS AND ACTIONS

--bind 'ctrl-/:toggle-preview'
Bind a key to a preview toggle

--bind 'enter:become(vim {})'
Replace fzf with a command on Enter

--bind 'ctrl-o:execute(*<cmd>***{})'**
Run a command, then return to fzf

--bind 'ctrl-r:reload(*<cmd>***)'**
Replace the list with new output

CONFIGURATION

FZF_DEFAULT_OPTS
Options applied to every run

FZF_DEFAULT_COMMAND
Where fzf gets candidates with no stdin