gdu Fast disk usage

START HERE

- **Up** / **Down** — Move the selection
- **?** — Show help
- **Enter** / **Right** — Open the directory
- **q** — Quit gdu
- **Left** / **h** — Back to the parent
- **s** — Sort by size
- **d** — Delete the selection
- **/** — Search by name

Scan gdu <path> → **-o** / **-f** **Browse** sort, filter, info → **d** / **D** / **e** **Clean up** delete, trash, empty

CONCEPTS

Start gdu in the directory you suspect, then dive into the biggest entry and repeat; the bar shows each entry's share.

Scans use many cores, great on SSDs; add --sequential on a spinning disk.

Hard links are counted once. Default sizes are disk usage; press a to compare with apparent size.

NAVIGATE

Up / **Down** — Move the selection

k / **j** — Move up / down (vi keys)

Enter / **Right** — Open the selected directory

l — Open the directory (vi key)

Left / **h** — Go to the parent directory

PgUp / **PgDn** — Move a page at a time

g / **G** — Jump to the top / bottom

/ — Search entries by name

? — Show the help window

NAVIGATE (cont.)

q — Quit (asks after a long scan)

Q — Quit and print the current directory

Handy for a shell wrapper that cds to where you ended up.

SORT AND VIEW

s — Sort by size; again to reverse

n — Sort by name; again to reverse

C — Sort by item count

M — Sort by mtime

a — Toggle disk usage / apparent size

c — Show or hide item counts

m — Show or hide latest mtime

B — Align bars to the biggest entry

T — Filter by file type (extension)

ACT ON ITEMS

d — Delete the selected item

Asks for confirmation. Disabled by --no-delete.

ACT ON ITEMS (cont.)

D — Move the item to the trash

Uses the built-in trash unless --trash-command is set.

e — Empty the directory or file

i — Show info about the item

v — View the file's content

r — Rescan the current directory

Space — Mark an item for deletion

y — Copy the item's path to the clipboard

o — Open in an external program

I — Ignore the item

p — Print marked paths on exit

b — Spawn a shell in this directory

E — Export the analysis as JSON

Mark several items with Space, then delete them in one go.

DURING A SCAN

Tab — Preview results found so far

DURING A SCAN (cont.)

Esc — Stop scanning, keep results

Ctrl + **C** — Stop scanning; again to quit

With --ctrl-c-quits the first press quits.

RUN IT

gdu — Analyse the current directory

`gdu <path>` — Analyse a directory

`gdu <dir1> <dir2>` — Analyse several directories

gdu -d — List mounted disks

`gdu -x <path>` — Stay on one filesystem

gdu -a — Start on apparent size

gdu -C — Show item counts

gdu -M — Show latest mtime

gdu --si — Use kB / MB, not KiB / MiB

gdu --collapse-path — Merge single-child directory chains

`gdu --web <path>` — Browse in a web UI

FILTER THE SCAN

`gdu -i <dir>,<dir> <path>` — Ignore paths (default /proc,/dev,/sys,/run)

`gdu -I '<regex>' <path>` — Ignore paths by pattern

`gdu -X <file> <path>` — Read ignore patterns from a file

`gdu -G .gitignore <path>` — Ignore using gitignore-style rules

`gdu -H <path>` — Skip hidden directories

`gdu -T <ext>,<ext> <path>` — Include only these file types

`gdu --min-age 30d <path>` — Only files at least 30 days old

NON-INTERACTIVE AND EXPORT

`gdu -n <path>` — Print sizes, no TUI

`gdu -ps <path>` — Print only the total

`gdu -t 10 <path>` — Show the 10 largest files

`gdu -n --depth 2 <path>` — Print the tree to depth 2

`gdu -o- <path> | gzip > scan.json.gz` — Export a scan as JSON

NON-INTERACTIVE AND EXPORT (cont.)

`zcat scan.json.gz | gdu -f-` — Browse a saved scan

SAFETY AND CONFIG

`gdu --no-delete` — Disable all deletion

`gdu --trash-command '<command>'` — Own command for the D key

Example: 'trash-put --trash-dir ~/mytrash'.

`gdu -m <n>` — Limit CPU cores used

RECIPES

Find what fills the disk

```
gdu -x /
# s sorts by size, Enter dives in,
# d or D cleans up
```

Quick check, no UI

```
gdu -t 10 ~/projects
gdu -ps ~/Downloads
```

Scan big, browse later

```
gdu -o- / | gzip -c > report.json.gz
zcat report.json.gz | gdu -f-
```

Review safely, skip build output

```
gdu --no-delete -G .gitignore ~/projects
gdu -H ~/projects
```