# gdu Fast disk usage

**START HERE**

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

**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

**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.*

**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

**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

## RUN IT (cont.)

**gdu -B**
Show relative size bars

**gdu --si**
Use kB / MB, not KiB / MiB

**gdu --mouse**
Enable mouse support

**gdu -c**
Plain colours only

**gdu -u**
No Unicode symbols

**gdu --show-symlink-target**
Show name → target for symlinks

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

**gdu --web** *<path>*
Browse in a web UI

**gdu --web --web-listen localhost:8080** *<path>*
Fixed address for the web UI

**gdu --interactive** *<path>* **| tee out.txt**
Force the TUI when piped

## 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 -E** *<ext>*,*<ext>* *<path>*
Exclude these file types

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

**gdu --max-age 7d** *<path>*
Only files changed in the last 7 days

**gdu --since** *<date>* **--until** *<date>* *<path>*
Files in a date range

**gdu --archive-browsing** *<path>*
Browse into zip / tar archives

## NON-INTERACTIVE AND EXPORT

**gdu -n** *<path>*
Print sizes, no TUI

**gdu -ps** *<path>*
Print only the total

## NON-INTERACTIVE AND EXPORT (cont.)

**gdu -t 10** *<path>*
Show the 10 largest files

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

**gdu -n --no-prefix** *<path>*
Raw byte counts

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

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

**gdu --db scan.sqlite** *<path>*
Store the scan in SQLite or BadgerDB

**gdu -r --db scan.sqlite**
Reopen a stored scan, no rescan

## 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

**gdu --sequential**
Scan one at a time (HDDs)

**gdu -l gdu.log**
Log errors to a file

**gdu --config-file** *<file>*
Read settings from a file

**gdu --write-config**
Save current flags as config

Defaults live in ~/.config/gdu/gdu.yaml or ~/.gdu.yaml; the file holds the same options, e.g. no-color or sorting.

## 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
```