lnav Log file navigator

START HERE

`lnav <file>`
Open a log file

`:`
Command prompt

`/`
Search with a regex

`;`
SQL prompt

`n` / `Shift` + `n`
Next / previous hit

`i`
Histogram view

`e` / `Shift` + `e`
Next / previous error

`?`
Built-in help

Open files formats auto-detected | **Filter and search** / and : prompts | **Mark lines** m, tags, comments | **Query with SQL** ; prompt | **Export** :write-to and friends

CONCEPTS

lnav detects log formats itself, merges all opened files by timestamp and follows them as they grow.

Piped input works too: journalctl -f | lnav. Add -t to stamp each line with its arrival time.

Prompts have history on the Up arrow; Esc cancels a prompt, Ctrl+] aborts it.

MOVING AROUND

`j` / `Down` Down a line

`k` / `Up` Up a line

`Space` / `PgDn` Down a page

`b` / `PgUp` Up a page

`g` / `Home` Top of the view

`G` / `End` Bottom of the view

`Ctrl` + `d` Down half a page

`Ctrl` + `u` Up half a page

`h` / `Left` Scroll left half a page

`l` / `Right`
Scroll right half a page

`Shift` + `h` / `Shift` + `l`
Scroll 10 columns left / right

`{` / `}` Previous / next section

`Ctrl` + `w` Toggle word wrap

`` ` `` Focus the breadcrumb bar

`Ctrl` + `x` Toggle cursor mode

JUMPING BY EVENT

`e` / `Shift` + `e`
Next / previous error

`w` / `Shift` + `w`
Next / previous warning

`n` / `Shift` + `n`
Next / previous search hit

`>` / `<`
Next / previous hit, scrolling sideways

`.` / `,`
Focus next / previous named search

`f` / `Shift` + `f`
Next / previous file

JUMPING BY EVENT (cont.)

`u` / `Shift` + `u`
Next / previous bookmark

`o` / `Shift` + `o`
Next / previous message with same opid

`s` / `Shift` + `s`
Next / previous message-rate slowdown

TIME TRAVEL

`d` / `Shift` + `d`
Forward / back 24 hours

`0` / `Shift` + `0`
Next / previous day

`7` / `8` Previous / next minute

`1-6`
Next Nth ten-minute block of the hour

`r` / `Shift` + `r`
Repeat last relative goto forward / back

`:goto <time|line#|N%>`
Jump to a time, line or percentage

`:hide-lines-before <date>`
Hide lines before a date

`:hide-lines-after <date>`
Hide lines after a date

`lnav -S <time>`
Index only content since a time

SEARCH AND FILTER

`/` Search lines with a regex

`:filter-in <regex>`
Show only matching lines

`:filter-out <regex>`
Hide matching lines

`:delete-filter <regex>`
Remove a filter

`Tab` Open filters / files panel

`Ctrl` + `f`
Enable or disable all filters

`z` / `Shift` + `z`
More / less filter context lines

`:set-min-log-level <level>`
Hide messages below a level

`:filter-expr <sql-expr>`
Filter by a SQL expression

`:highlight <regex>`
Colour matching text

SEARCH AND FILTER (cont.)

`:create-named-search <name> <regex>`
Save a search under a name

MARKS AND NOTES

`m` Mark or unmark a line

`Shift` + `m`
Mark range up to the last mark

`c`
Copy marked lines to clipboard

`Shift` + `c` Clear all marks

`:tag <tag>`
Tag the focused line

`:comment <text>`
Comment on the focused line

`:append-to <path>`
Append marked lines to a file

`:pipe-to <shell-cmd>`
Pipe marked lines to a command

VIEWS

`q`
Back to the previous view, or quit

`?` Show built-in help

`i` Toggle histogram view

`t` Toggle text file view

`p` Toggle log parser results

`Shift` + `p`
Toggle pretty-printed view

`v` Toggle SQL result view

`Shift` + `t`
Show elapsed time from a mark

`x`
Hide or show message fields

`=`
Pause or resume loading new data

`Shift` + `x`
Close the current file

`Ctrl` + `p`
Show or hide the data preview panel

`Ctrl` + `l`
Lo-fi mode for copying text

`Ctrl` + `r` Reset session state

`:switch-to-view <view>`
Go to a named view

SQL AND EXPORT

`;` Open the SQL prompt

`|` Run a saved script

`;SELECT * FROM <log-table> LIMIT 10`
Query a log format table

`:summarize <column>`
Profile a column of results

`:write-csv-to <path>`
Write SQL results as CSV

`:write-json-to <path>`
Write results as JSON

`:open <path>`
Open more files or a directory

`:close <path>`
Close a file

`:hide-file <path>`
Hide a file from the view

`:sh <cmd>`
Run a command and view its output

COMMAND LINE

`lnav <file> <dir>`
Open files and directories

`lnav -r <dir>`
Load files recursively

`lnav -t`
Timestamp piped input lines

`lnav -n`
Run headless, no curses UI

`lnav -c "<command>"`
Run a command, SQL or search at start

`lnav -f <script>`
Run a command file

`lnav -e "<cmd>"`
Show a shell command's output

RECIPES

Follow the system journal

```
journalctl -f | lnav
# then: e to jump to errors, i for a histogram
```

Errors from one hour as CSV

```
lnav -n -c ':goto 2026-10-12 14:00' \
  -c ';SELECT log_time, log_body FROM all_logs WHERE log_level = "error"' \
  -c ':write-csv-to errors.csv' app.log
```

Trace one request

```
:filter-in req-4711
# m to mark lines, c to copy them
# :append-to notes.txt
```