lnav Log file navigator

CONCEPTS

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

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

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

{ / } Previous / next section

Ctrl + w Toggle word wrap

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

f / Shift + f
Next / previous file

JUMPING BY EVENT (cont.)

u / Shift + u
Next / previous bookmark

TIME TRAVEL

d / Shift + d
Forward / back 24 hours

0 / Shift + 0
Next / previous day

7 / 8 Previous / next minute

`: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

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

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

MARKS AND NOTES (cont.)

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

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

SQL AND EXPORT

; Open the SQL prompt

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

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

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

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

RECIPES

Follow the system journal

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

Trace one request

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