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

u / **Shift** + **u**
Next / previous bookmark

JUMPING BY EVENT (cont.)

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

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

MARKS AND NOTES

m Mark or unmark a line

MARKS AND NOTES (cont.)

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

SQL AND EXPORT (cont.)

: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

lnav -N
Don't open the default syslog

lnav -q
Act like a pager

lnav -i *<file>*
Install a format or config file

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
```

Browse rotated logs

```
lnav /var/log/nginx/
# f / Shift+f switches between
files
```