# Midnight Commander

Two-panel file manager

**START HERE**

- **Tab** — Switch active panel
- **F3** / **F4** — View / edit file
- **Insert** — Tag / untag file
- **Alt** + **?** — Find file
- **F5** / **F6** — Copy / move to other panel
- **Ctrl** + **O** — Show the shell
- **F7** / **F8** — Make dir / delete
- **F10** — Quit

## CONCEPTS

| Active panel (source) | Other panel (target) |
|---|---|

Two panels: source and target

Copy and move go from the active panel to the other one; the dialog lets you change the target.

No function keys (terminal or desktop grabs them)? Press Esc, then 1-9 or 0 for F1-F10.

Enter runs the command line if you typed something; on an empty line it opens the file or directory.

Alt is Meta; if your terminal has none, press Esc first, then the key.

In the viewer: F2 toggles wrap, F4 hex mode, F5 goto line, F8 raw view. F10 leaves viewer and editor.

The keys + - * only act on selection while the command line is empty.

## FUNCTION KEYS

- **F1** Help
- **F2** User menu
- **F3** View file
- **F4** Edit file
- **F5** Copy
- **F6** Move / rename
- **F7** Make directory
- **F8** Delete
- **F9** Open menu bar
- **F10** Quit
- **Shift** + **F10** — Quit, keep shell in start dir
- **Shift** + **F3** — View raw, unfiltered
- **Shift** + **F4** — Edit, new file by name
- **Shift** + **F5** — Copy to a chosen path
- **Shift** + **F6** — Move to a chosen path

## PANELS

- **Tab** / **Ctrl** + **I** — Switch active panel

## PANELS (cont.)

- **Up** / **Down** — Move one entry
- **Home** / **End** — First / last entry
- **PageUp** / **PageDown** — Page up / down
- **Alt** + **G** / **Alt** + **R** / **Alt** + **J** — Top / middle / bottom of screen
- **Alt** + **O** — Show selected dir in other panel
- **Alt** + **I** — Other panel to this directory
- **Alt** + **Y** / **Alt** + **U** — Directory history back / forward
- **Alt** + **Shift** + **H** — Show directory history
- **Alt** + **T** — Cycle listing format
- **Alt** + **C** — Quick cd dialog
- **Ctrl** + **X** › **I** — Other panel shows info
- **Ctrl** + **X** › **Q** — Other panel shows quick view
- **Ctrl** + **L** — Repaint screen
- **Alt** + **E** — Change panel charset

## SELECT

- **Insert** / **Ctrl** + **T** — Tag or untag file
- **Plus** — Select by pattern
- **** — Unselect by pattern
- ***** — Invert selection
- **Ctrl** + **S** / **Alt** + **S** — Quick search in listing

*Press again for the next match; press twice to reuse the last pattern.*

## COMMAND LINE

- **Enter** — Run line, or open entry
- **Alt** + **Enter** — Paste file name to line
- **Ctrl** + **Shift** + **Enter** — Paste full path to line
- **Ctrl** + **X** › **T** / **Ctrl** + **X** › **Ctrl** + **T** — Paste tagged names (this / other)
- **Ctrl** + **X** › **P** / **Ctrl** + **X** › **Ctrl** + **P** — Paste panel path (this / other)
- **Alt** + **Tab** — Complete name

## COMMAND LINE (cont.)

- **Alt** + **P** / **Alt** + **N** — Previous / next command
- **Alt** + **H** — Show command history
- **Ctrl** + **Q** — Quote next key
- **Ctrl** + **A** / **Ctrl** + **E** — Start / end of line
- **Ctrl** + **K** — Kill to end of line
- **Ctrl** + **Y** — Yank killed text

## FILES

- **Ctrl** + **X** › **C** — Change permissions
- **Ctrl** + **X** › **O** — Change owner
- **Ctrl** + **X** › **E** — Change attributes
- **Ctrl** + **X** › **L** — Hard link
- **Ctrl** + **X** › **S** — Absolute symlink
- **Ctrl** + **X** › **V** — Relative symlink
- **Alt** + **!** — Filtered view

## FIND AND SHELL

- **Alt** + **?** — Find file by name or content
- **Ctrl** + **X** › **!** — Panelize command output

*Run e.g. find . -type l and browse the result as a panel.*

- **Ctrl** + **O** — Hide MC, show subshell

*Press Ctrl+O again to return to MC.*

- **Ctrl** + **** — Show directory hotlist
- **Ctrl** + **X** › **H** — Add current dir to hotlist

## VIEWER (F3)

- **F10** / **Esc** — Close viewer
- **Space** / **PageDown** — Page down
- **Backspace** / **PageUp** — Page up
- **g** / **G** — Top / bottom
- **u** / **d** — Half page up / down
- **/** / **F7** — Search forward
- **?** — Search backward
- **n** / **N** — Next match / reverse direction
- **Alt** + **R** — Toggle ruler

## VIEWER (F3) (cont.)

- **Ctrl** + **F** / **Ctrl** + **B** — Next / previous file
- **m** / **r** — Set / jump to mark (prefix a digit)

## EDITOR (F4)

- **Shift** + **Arrows** — Highlight text
- **Ctrl** + **Insert** — Copy block
- **Shift** + **Insert** — Paste block
- **Shift** + **Delete** — Cut block
- **Ctrl** + **Delete** — Delete block
- **Ctrl** + **R** — Start / stop macro recording
- **Ctrl** + **A** — Run recorded macro (then its key)

## REMOTE AND OPTIONS

### Remote paths (type via Alt+C)

| Path | Meaning |
|---|---|
| `sftp://user@host/dir` | SFTP, port 22 default |
| `sh://user@host/dir` | Shell link over ssh |
| `ftp://host/dir` | FTP, anonymous by default |

- **mc** › **-P** › *<file>* — Write last dir on exit
- **mc** › **-e** › *<file>* — Open straight in editor
- **mc** › **-v** › *<file>* — Open straight in viewer
- **mc** › **-u** — Start without subshell
- **mc** › *<dir1>* › *<dir2>* — Start with both panels

## RECIPES

### Copy between two dirs

```
mc /src /dst
# Insert on files (or + for a pattern)
# F5, confirm target, Enter
```

### Edit a file on a server

```
# Alt+C, type: sftp://user@host/etc
# select file, F4, edit, F2 to save
```

### Find and act on results

```
# Alt+? , enter name or content
# Panelize, then F5 / F8 on the listing
# Alt+C to leave the result panel
```

### Jump to a shell and back

```
# Ctrl+O   run commands in subshell
# Ctrl+O   return to Commander
```