ncdu Disk usage browser

CONCEPTS

Scan once, then dig down: the biggest entries sit on top, so open the top directory and repeat.

Scan ncdu <path>
↓ -o / -O
Export file JSON or binary
↓ -f
Browse read-only view
↓ d
Delete live scan only

Imported scans cannot delete, refresh or spawn a shell; only a live scan can.

NAVIGATE

Up / Down
Move the selection

k / j
Move up / down (vi keys)

Enter / Right
Open the selected directory

Left / h
Go to the parent directory

?
Show help, keys and about

q
Quit ncdu

SORT AND VIEW

s
Sort by size; press again to reverse

n
Sort by name; press again to reverse

C
Sort by item count

a
Toggle disk usage / apparent size

g
Cycle percentage and graph display

c
Show item counts

SORT AND VIEW (cont.)

t
Directories first on or off

e
Show or hide hidden and excluded items

ACT ON ITEMS

d
Delete the selected item

i
Show details of the selected item

r
Rescan the current directory

b
Open a shell in this directory

Flags in the first column: ! unreadable, . error below, > other filesystem, @ symlink or special, H hard link counted already, e empty dir, < excluded.

SCAN OPTIONS

`ncdu <path>`
Scan a directory and browse it

`ncdu -x <path>`
Stay on one filesystem

`ncdu -e <path>`
Also record owner, mode and mtime

`ncdu -t <n> <path>`
Scan with n threads

`ncdu --exclude <pattern> <path>`
Skip matching files (repeatable)

EXPORT AND IMPORT

`ncdu -o <file> <path>`
Scan and save as JSON

`ncdu -O <file> <path>`
Scan and save in binary format

`ncdu -f <file>`
Browse a saved scan

SAFETY AND CONFIG

`ncdu -r <path>`
Read-only: no delete