tree Directory tree listing

START HERE

tree
Show this directory as a tree

tree -h
Show sizes, readable

tree <dir>
Show another directory

tree --gitignore
Respect .gitignore

tree -L 2
Limit depth to 2 levels

tree -a
Include hidden files

tree -d
Directories only

tree -I '<pattern>'
Hide matching names

CONCEPTS

tree skips dotfiles unless you pass -a, and prints a count of directories and files at the end.

Walk -L, -a, -x, -I
↓ filter
Filter -P, -I, --prune
↓ sort
Sort -t, -r, --dirsfirst
↓ decorate
Print -h, -p, -D, -J, -H

-P and -I take shell-style globs, not regexes; separate alternatives with | and quote the pattern.

-P only filters files; add --matchdirs to match directory names, and --prune to drop dirs left empty.

LISTING

tree
Print the current directory as a tree

tree <dir> ...
Several directories at once

LISTING (cont.)

tree -L <n>
Descend at most n levels

tree -a
Show hidden files too

tree -d
List directories only

tree -f
Print the full path of each entry

tree -l
Follow symlinks to directories

tree -x
Stay on one filesystem

tree --noreport
Omit the final count line

tree --filelimit <n>
Skip dirs holding more than n entries

tree --condense
Merge single-child dir chains

tree -i
No indentation lines (flat list)
Pair with -f for a plain list of paths.

tree -F
Append type markers (/ * @ |)

tree -Q
Quote filenames

FILTERING

tree -I '<glob>'
Hide matching files and dirs

tree -I 'node_modules|dist'
Hide several names

tree -P '<glob>'
Show only matching files

tree -P '*.py' --prune
Matching files, no empty dirs

tree --gitignore
Apply .gitignore rules

tree --gitfile <file>
Use another ignore file

tree --matchdirs
Apply -P to directory names

tree --ignore-case
Case-insensitive -P and -I

tree --prune
Drop empty directories

DETAILS

tree -h
Human-readable sizes

tree -s
Sizes in bytes

tree --du
Directory totals (implies -s)

DETAILS (cont.)

tree --si
Sizes in powers of 1000

tree -p
Show permissions

tree -u / -g
Show owner / group

tree -D
Show modification date

tree --timefmt '<fmt>'
Date format (strftime), implies -D

tree -pugh
Mode, owner, group and size

tree --inodes
Show inode numbers

tree --metafirst
Metadata before the tree lines

SORTING

tree --dirsfirst
Directories before files

tree --filesfirst
Files before directories

tree -t
Sort by modification time

tree -r
Reverse the order

SORTING (cont.)

tree -v
Natural version sort (v2 before v10)

tree --sort <key>
name, size, mtime, ctime, version, none

tree -U
Unsorted, directory order

OUTPUT

tree -J
JSON output

tree -X
XML output

tree -H <baseHREF>
HTML page with links

tree -H . -T '<title>' -o <file>
HTML with title to a file

tree -o <file>
Write output to a file

tree -n
Never colourise

tree -C
Force colour, even in a pipe
Needed for `tree -C | less -R`.

OUTPUT (cont.)

tree -A
ANSI line-drawing characters

tree --charset <name>
Output charset (e.g. ASCII)

tree --hyperlink
Clickable OSC 8 file links

tree --fromfile .
Build a tree from paths on stdin

RECIPES

Project overview

```
tree -a -L 3 --gitignore -I
'.git' --dirsfirst
# -I '.git': --gitignore does
not hide the .git dir itself
```

Biggest directories

```
tree --du -h -L 2 --sort size -
r
# totals per directory, largest
first
```

Tree of a file list

```
git ls-files | tree --
fromfile .
find . -name '*.md' | tree --
fromfile .
```

Share it as JSON or HTML

```
tree -J -L 2 src > tree.json
tree -H . -T 'Docs' -o
index.html docs/
```