
KNOWLEDGE BASE ARTICLE

Search for large files and folders using ncdu

Learn how to use ncdu, a text-based disk utility for Unix systems, to identify and manage large files and folders. It offers a user-friendly interface and options for exporting data in JSON format.

PUBLISHED

24 Jun 2022

DOCUMENT

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ncdu: NCurses Disk Usage

ncdu (NCurses Disk Usage) is a disk utility for Unix systems. It serves a similar purpose to the `du` utility but features a text-based user interface via the curses programming library. Users can navigate the list using the arrow keys and delete files that are taking up too much space by pressing the 'd' key. From version 1.09 onwards, ncdu can export the file listing in JSON format.

The ncdu package is available in distribution repositories like Debian, Ubuntu, Linux Mint, and their derivatives.

Installation on Ubuntu

```
apt-get update
apt-get install ncdu
```

Usage

```
ncdu <options> <directory>
```

Options

- `-h` : This help message
- `-q` : Quiet mode, refresh interval 2 seconds

- `-v` : Print version
- `-x` : Same filesystem
- `-r` : Read only
- `-o FILE` : Export scanned directory to FILE
- `-f FILE` : Import scanned directory from FILE
- `-0, -1, -2` : UI to use when scanning (0=none, 2=full ncurses)
- `--si` : Use base 10 (SI) prefixes instead of base 2
- `--exclude PATTERN` : Exclude files that match PATTERN
- `-X, --exclude-from FILE` : Exclude files that match any pattern in FILE
- `--exclude-caches` : Exclude directories containing CACHEDIR.TAG
- `--confirm-quit` : Confirm quitting ncd

```

kyle@kyle-HP-EliteBook-8460p: ~
ncdu 1.14.1 ~ Use the arrow keys to navigate, press ? for help
--- /home/kyle ---
79.6 GiB [#####] /VirtualBox VMs
21.1 GiB [##      ] /Downloads
7.3 GiB [          ] /Videos
2.3 GiB [          ] /.cache
1.5 GiB [          ]
1.0 GiB [          ]
846.1 MiB [          ]
230.2 MiB [          ]
210.8 MiB [          ]
136.6 MiB [          ]
123.0 MiB [          ]
89.3 MiB [          ]
79.1 MiB [          ]
39.2 MiB [          ]
35.3 MiB [          ]
9.7 MiB [          ] /.local
3.3 MiB [          ] /.PlayOnLinux
1.8 MiB [          ] /.android
284.0 KiB [          ] /Pictures
Total disk usage: 114.7 GiB Apparent size: 114.4 GiB Items: 161364

Item info
Name: Documents
Path: /home/kyle
Type: Directory

Disk usage: 136.6 MiB (143,286,272 B)
Apparent size: 133.2 MiB (139,660,719 B)

Press i to hide this window
  
```

For more information, visit the [ncdu official website](https://ncdu.github.io/).