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Useful Programs

Here are some sometimes-handy programs:

There are many that I don't even need to shout-out, they're quite well known such as youtube-dl, mpv, ffmpeg, vlc, so on.

zed

it's like vscode but substantially faster at parsing everything. bonus has copilot support and remote sessions like vscode

gdu

it's like ncdu but in golang and substantially faster on solid state

old recommendation:

ncdu

A fancier du. Sometimes, when your disk is almost full, you want to know what is using up the disk space. On Windows, tools like WinDirStat achieve this function.

On GNU/Linux, du will list the space of files used. However, the ncurses version is more useful

```
ncdu
```

It will print out in descending order the list of items using disk space.

parallel

The actual thread-ripper. Most programs are single threaded, but most modern systems have multiple cores. Parallel can help you run multiple instances of a program in parallel. This is especially useful when working with inputs and outputs that can be divided and merged later. For example, converting a folder of audio recordings to a different codec, or splitting text to process it in smaller chunks.

GNU Parallel takes in a list of files (or parameters) to give the multiple threads and can queue them. Say you have text files 1-100, parallel can run 8 at once, and when one finishes, queue the next one from the list.

rmlint

Useful deduplication. Can be set to reflink instead of delete, very handy for unorganized ppl like me w/ tons of duplicates.

example usage:

```
rmlint -vv -g -c sh:link .
```

shoutout to fclones which is faster on ssd but on hdd makes my hard drives sound like they are dying

Digikam

Very nice photo library and album collection. Includes ability to process raw photos internally or with Rawtherapee. Has some effects built in. Does face-recognition (offline) if trained. Easy to tag and sort stuff. Overall, nice.

It seems to struggle with my 60k photo multi-family setup a bit, but it's probably because I use a shared database on my home server. Easy enough to export an album as jpegs, burn onto a DVD and give to relatives.

Nativefier

RIP. this one is no more. PWA is not the same.

Turn terrible web apps into slightly less terrible electron based apps...
Mainframe→individial→mainframe(cloud)→? eventually I guess we'll go back to local compute?

Shorter list

My expanding list of things I've found handy.

- Multimedia
  - MPV/VLC
  - Imagemagick/Ffmpeg/Sox
  - yt-dlp (youtube-dl fork)
  - MPD (music) with ncmpcpp or Cantata
  - JXL utilities for JPEG-XL, VPX for VP9, AVIF, AV1
- Better Unix utilities (Thanks to vmeson/rwmacleod for pointing these ones out)
  - rg (better grep)
  - fd (better find)

- Filesystems
  - sshfs
  - s3fs
  - zfs
  - btrfs
- Backup
  - borg
  - growisofs (for multisession DVD/BD backup)
  - ddrescue for generating image of semi-dead disks (or disc)
  - photorec/testdisk for recovery. try it before you need it.

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