

NAME

iselect — Interactive Selection Tool

SYNOPSIS

```
iselect [-d beg, end] [-cfae] [-p linenum] [-k key[:okef]] [-m] [-n name]
  [-t title] [-SKP] [-Q fallback] line...
iselect [-d beg, end] [-cfae] [-p linenum] [-k key[:okef]] [-m] [-n name]
  [-t title] [-SKP] [-Q fallback] <lines>
iselect -V|-h
```

DESCRIPTION**Intent**

iselect is an interactive line selection tool, operating via a full-screen Curses-based terminal session. It can be used either as a user interface frontend controlled by the shell, Perl, or another type of script backend as its wrapper, or in batch as a pipe filter (usually between **grep** and the final executing command). In other words: **iselect** was designed to be used for any type of interactive line-based selection.

Input Data

If no arguments are given, lines are read from the standard input stream. Otherwise, *lines* are used directly.

Each selectable line is fully bold; parts of other lines may be set in bold by wrapping them in `...`.

Selections

By default, a single line may be chosen; with **-m** multiple lines can be selected. By default, only lines containing the tag `<s>` (or with different delimiters set with **-d**) may be selected. **-a** allows selecting all lines, but the tag is always removed. Selected lines are written to the standard output stream

The tag has a variant that looks like `<s:result text>`, which, instead of writing the line itself, writes *result text*. Every format specifier in the form `%[prompt string]s` or `%[prompt string]S` in the output is replaced by a line entered in an interactive prompt. The `s` variant allows empty responses; `S` doesn't.

OPTIONS**Input Options**

- d** *beg, end*, **--delimiter=***beg, end*
Sets the delimiters for the selection tags. The default is `<` and `>` — the selection tags have to read `<s>` and `<s:result text>`.
- c**, **--strip-comments**
Discard input lines starting with `#`.
- f**, **--force-browse**
Open the full-screen browser even if input contains less than `<2` lines. This may happen anyway if a `%[prompt] s` needs to be substituted.
- a**, **--all-select**
Force all lines to be selectable. `<s>` tags are still removed.
- e**, **--exit-no-select**
Exit immediately if no lines are selectable.

Display Options

- p**, **--position=***linenum*
Sets the cursor position to 1-based *linenum*.
- k**, **--key=***key:okef*
Maps *key* to *okef*. Both may be either a printable character or one of **SPACE**, **RETURN**, **KEY_UP** (↑), **KEY_DOWN** (↓), **KEY_LEFT** (←), **KEY_RIGHT** (→), **KEY_PPAGE** (PgUp), **KEY_NPAGE** (PgDn). This can be given any number of times, and is applied in order.
- k**, **--key=***key*
Same as **-k** *key*:RETURN. For example, **-k** *f* allows using `'f'` to confirm the selection.

-m, --multi-line

Allow selecting more than one line with Space.

-n, --name=*name*

Changes the string displayed flush left at the bottom of the browser window from "iSelect".

-t, --title=*title*

Sets the *file* . . . , displayed centered at the bottom of the browser window.

Output Options

-S, --strip-result

Strip all leading and trailing whitespace from the result string.

-K, --key-result

Prefix each result with the key used to confirm the selection. This is usually "RETURN" or "KEY_RIGHT", but in the presence of **-k**, this is the (unmapped) *key*; thus, with **-k** *f*, selecting line Foo Bar by pressing 'f' yields f:Foo Bar. A Space is rendered as a literal space, not as "SPACE".

-P, --position-result

Prefix each result with its 1-based line number in the buffer.

-Q, --quit-result=*fallback*

Write *fallback* to the standard output stream when quitting.

Giving Feedback

-v, --version

Write the version and licence information to the standard output stream, exit 0.

-h, --help

Write the usage string information to the standard error stream, exit 0.

KEYSTROKES

Cursor Movement

Use these to browse through the selection list:

```
CURSOR-UP ..... Move cursor one line up
CURSOR-DOWN ... Move cursor one line down
PAGE-UP ..... Move cursor one page up
PAGE-DOWN ..... Move cursor one page down
g ..... Goto first line
G ..... Goto last line
```

Line Selection

Use these to select one line and exit in standard mode, or one or more lines in multi-line mode:

```
RETURN ..... Select line and exit
CURSOR-RIGHT .. Select line and exit
SPACE ..... Select line and stay (multi-line mode only)
C ..... Clear current marks (multi-line mode only)
```

Others

Use these to quit **iSelect** or to show the help or version pages:

```
q ..... Quit (exit without selection)
CURSOR-LEFT ... Quit (exit without selection)
h ..... Help Page
v ..... Version Page
```

FILES

The Curses session is always opened on `/dev/tty`, because the standard I/O streams are usually tied to pipes.

EXIT STATUS

0 if a selection was made, a selection wasn't made, or succumbed to SIGINT or SIGTERM.
 1 if an unknown `[o]key` was given or an I/O error occurred.

EXAMPLES

As an example we present a real-life situation where **iSelect** can enhance existing functionality. We define two shell functions (for your `$HOME/.bashrc` file) which enhance the shell's **cd** built-in.

```
# database scan
cds () {
    find "$HOME" -type d | sort > ~/.dirs &
}

# enhanced cd command
cd () {
    if [ -d "$1" ]; then
        builtin cd "$1"
    else
        builtin cd "$(grep -E "/$1[/]*$" ~/.dirs |
                    iselect -a -Q "$1" -n "chdir" \
                    -t "Change Directory to...")"
    fi
}
```

This **cd()** is compatible with the built-in in the case where the specified directory actually exists. When it doesn't, the original **cd** would immediately give an error (assuming `CDPATH` is not set). This version tries harder by searching for such a directory in a previously-built (via **cds()**) (`$HOME/.dirs`) file. When no match is found, **iSelect** just returns the given directory as the default result and **cd** fails as usual. When only one directory was found, **iSelect** gives it to **cd** silently. Only when more than one directory was found, **iSelect** shows a menu to pick between matches interactively. The chosen directory is then given to **cd**.

For more useful examples on how to use **iSelect**, see <https://git.sr.ht/~nabijaczleweli/oss-iselect/tree/trunk/item/example>.

AUTHORS

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SEE ALSO

New iSelect Home: <https://sr.ht/~nabijaczleweli/oss-iselect>