

ncurses

Library for drawing text in the terminal

```
#include <ncurses.h>

int main()
{
    initscr();    /* Start curses mode    */
    printw("Hello World !!!"); /* Print Hello World    */
    refresh();   /* Print it on to the real screen */
    getch();     /* Wait for user input */
    endwin();    /* End curses mode    */

    return 0;
}
```

ncurses concepts

The **screen** represents the terminal where text can be displayed

(0,0) is the top, left corner

(num_rows, num_cols) is the bottom, right corner

```
int num_rows, num_cols;  
getmaxyx(stdscr, num_rows, num_cols);
```

The **cursor** controls where text is read or written

```
move(0, 0); //moves cursor  
getyx(stdscr, r, c); // get cursor pos  
addch('a'); // display 'a' at cursor  
mvaddch(10, 10, 'b'); // move cursor to (10,10) and display 'b'
```

```
initscr();
 keypad(stdscr, TRUE); // enable keyboard arrows
 cbreak(); // disable line buffering, e.g. trigger key input right away
 noecho(); // don't show typed input automatically

int r, c; int timeToQuit = 0;
while(!timeToQuit)
{
    int ch = getch();
    getyx(stdscr, r, c);

    if (ch == ESCAPE) timeToQuit = 1;
    else if (ch == KEY_UP) move(r - 1, 0);
    else if (ch == KEY_DOWN) move(r + 1, 0);
    else if (ch == KEY_LEFT) move(r, c - 1);
    else if (ch == KEY_RIGHT) move(r, c + 1);
    else if (ch == KEY_BACKSPACE) { move(r, c-1); addch(' '); move(r, c-1); }
    else addch(ch);
    refresh();
}
endwin();
```

Example: Simple typing demo

Example: reading a command

```
char mesg[]="Enter a string: ";    /* message to be appeared on the screen */
char str[80];
int row,col;                       /* to store the number of rows and *
                                   * the number of columns of the screen */
initscr();                          /* start the curses mode */

getmaxyx(stdscr,row,col);    /* get the number of rows and columns */
mvprintw(row/2,(col-strlen(mesg))/2,"%s",mesg);

getstr(str); // read characters into str until the user presses ENTER
mvprintw(LINES - 2, 0, "You Entered: %s", str);
getch();
endwin();
```

Example: setting colors

```
initscr();
 keypad(stdscr, TRUE); // enable keyboard arrows
cbreak(); // disable line buffering, e.g. trigger key input right away
noecho(); // don't show typed input automatically
start_color();
init_pair(1, COLOR_WHITE, COLOR_BLUE);
init_pair(2, COLOR_RED, COLOR_BLACK);

int r, c;
while(!timeToQuit)
{
    getmaxyx(stdscr,r,c);
    attron(COLOR_PAIR(2));
    mvprintw(10, 0, "Viola !!! In color ...");
    attroff(COLOR_PAIR(2));
    mvprintw(r-1, 0, "Viola !!! In color ...");
    mvchgat(r-1, 0, -1, A_NORMAL, 1, NULL);

    move(0,0);
    printw("Viola !!! In color ...");
    refresh();
}
endwin();
```

ncurses: handling files

```
.war and peace .  
.by leo tolstoy/  
tolstoi .....bo  
ok one 1805 ....  
..chapter i ...w  
ell prince so ge  
noa and lucca ar  
e now just famil  
y estates of the  
.buonapartes bu  
t i warn you if  
you dont tell me  
that this means  
war .if you sti  
ll try to defend  
the infamies an  
d horrors perpet  
rated by that .a  
ntichrist i rea  
lly believe he i  
s antichrist i
```

Text files contain a sequence of characters

Editors display text line by line

We need to read the text into a data structure that supports line-by-line editing

For large files, you can only show a portion of the file in the terminal

ncurses viewport handling

The file has lines from 0 to N where N is the number of lines

The terminal is a box that ranges from (0,0) in the top left and (terminal_height, terminal_width) in the bottom right.

To display text, we need to write to the terminal

- From (0,0) to (terminal_height, terminal_width)
- with the file contents from
 - (current_start_row, current_start_col) to
 - (current_start_row + terminal_height, current_start_col + terminal_width)

```
chapter i
```

```
well prince so genoa and lucca are now just family estates of the
buonapartes but i warn you if you dont tell me that this means war
if you still try to defend the infamies and horrors perpetrated by that
antichrist i really believe he is antichrist i will have nothing more
to do with you and you are no longer my friend no longer my faithful
slave as you call yourself but how do you do i see i have frightened
you sit down and tell me all the news
```

```
it was in july 1805 and the speaker was the well known anna pavlovna
scherer maid of honor and favorite of the empress marya fedorovna with
these words she greeted prince vasili kuragin a man of high rank and
importance who was the first to arrive at her reception anna pavlovna
had had a cough for some days she was as she said suffering from la
grippe grippe being then a new word in st petersburg used only by the
elite
```

```
all her invitations without exception written in french and delivered
by a scarlet liveried footman that morning ran as follows
```

```
if you have nothing better to do count on prince and if the
prospect of spending an evening with a poor invalid is not too terrible
i shall be very charmed to see you tonight between 7 and 10 annette
scherer
```

```
heavens what a virulent attack replied the prince not in the
least disconcerted by this reception he had just entered wearing an
embroidered court uniform knee breeches and shoes and had stars on
his breast and a serene expression on his flat face he spoke in that
refined french in which our grandfathers not only spoke but thought and
with the gentle patronizing intonation natural to a man of importance
who had grown old in society and at court he went up to anna pavlovna
```