

e-cd: Fast Directory Changer

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1 Introduction

`e-cd` is one of those tiny tools to make a developer's life easier (and maybe even bearable). The idea behind `e-cd` is that changing directories should be easier: say `xd ulac` instead of `cd /usr/local/apache/conf`.

`e-cd` is a small C program that takes its argument and tries to resolve it letter by letter into a directory. When that succeeds, a `cd` command is sent to the output. The shell should then pick up the output and change-dir there.

2 Installation

The installation of `e-cd` is very easy: the archive `e-cd.tar.gz` is unpacked, and a `make install` is done in the source directory `e-cd/`, which is created in the unpacking.

A successful installation will put the binary `e-cd` in the directory pointed to by the environment variable `$EBINDIR`. The e-tunity utility library `e-lib` is necessary during compilation.

3 Shell configuration

Following the installation, commands such as `cd 'e-cd ulac'` can be executed. But that's not yet quite what we want. To enable a transparent usage of `e-cd` in a shell, the following function can be used:

```
1  xd () {
2      if [ -z "$1" ]; then
3          popd >/dev/null;
4      else
5          if [ -z "$2" ]; then
6              newdir='/e-cd $@';
7              test "$newdir" != "." && pushd "$newdir" >/dev/null;
8          else
9              echo 'xd - fast directory changer' 1>&2;
10             echo 'Usage: xd ulb - takes you to say /usr/local/bin' 1>&2;
11             echo '  or: xd      - takes you to previous directory' 1>&2;
12             return 1;
13         fi;
14     fi
15 }
```

This is an example of a Bash function, that can be placed in a user profile `~/.profile`, or in a system-wide profile `/etc/profile`. Functions for other shells (csh, tcsh) are not further shown here.