

## du (show disk space usage of files)

The command *du* ("disk usage") shows how much space files and directories occupy on disk. It is most commonly called with the option *-h*("human-readable"):

```
du -h somedir
```

In this example, *du* is used to show how much space *somedir* consumes. If you leave out the argument *somedir*, *du* will assume that you want to see the disk usage of the current directory. Here is some sample output:

```
8.0K somedir/subdir1  
484K somedir/subdir2  
496K somedir
```

You'll notice that *du* works recursively, showing the sizes of subdirectories separately. If this is not what you want, use the *-s* option ("summarize"), which only shows the size of the top directory. When I'm running low on disk space, I call *du -sh \** in my home directory to find out which of my files and directories occupy the largest amount of disk space.