Taskwarrior – What's next? Introduction to Taskwarrior

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Taskwarrior academy

FrOSCon 2016



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Dirk Deimeke (that's me)

- ► Born 1968 in Wanne-Eickel
- ► Linux since 1996
- Emigrated 2008 to Switzerland
- ► Taskwarrior Team since 2010

Entry point for more https://d5e.org/



- ▶ I started out using Gina Trapani's todo.sh, which was great, but I soon wanted features that would have been difficult to implement in a shell script, so I wrote my own.
- ▶ It stemmed from the fact that a todo program needs to be simple to use, and unobtrusive, otherwise it's a hassle. But it can't be too simple.
- If you go to the trouble of capturing this information, it seems wasteful not to leverage it. So it has a lot of features, but tries to remain simple to use.
- ► There are many different methodologies people use for managing their work, and Taskwarrior tries to walk a line through the middle of all that, with features for all the different approaches.
- Taskwarrior is intended to scale with the user, from very simple straightforward usage up to quite sophisticated task management.



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Reasons for Taskwarrior

- ▶ is easy to learn.
- grows along with the work.
- ▶ is unbelievably powerful.
- ▶ is very fast.
- ▶ is easily extensible.
- ▶ is platform independent:
 - Most flavours of Unix and Linux, including Mac OS X
 - Windows 10 Linux Subsystem
 - ► Third-Party Apps (Android-Client, GUI based on NodeJS, ...)
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History – Some milestones

2006-11-29, v0.0.1

Project began as enhancement to todo.txt.

- 2008-06-03, v1.0.0
- 2012-03-17, v2.0.0
- 2014-01-15, v2.3.0

Task Server support

2015-10-21, v2.5.0

Improved command line parser

2016-02-24, v2.5.1

bug fix, code cleanup, performance release – no features.

near future, v2.6.0

overhaul recurrence and add more flavors of recurring tasks.

http://taskwarrior.org/docs/history.html



This workshop ...

This workshop hopefully is a real workshop.

It will live from you doing things and asking, it is not about me talking all of the time.

Nevertheless I will show you every command.



Installation from source

Attention!

Since some packagers (Debian and Ubuntu as examples) implement their thinking of the place where files have to be without changing the templates, an installation from source is the recommended way.

All you need to compile is

- GnuTLS (ideally version 3.2 or newer)
- ▶ libuuid
- ► CMake (2.8 or newer)
- ► make
- ► C++ Compiler (GCC 4.7 or Clang 3.3 or newer)

Some OSes (Darwin, FreeBSD...) include libuuid functionality in libc.



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Install dependencies

Install the necessary packages with your package manager.

CentOS, Fedora, openSUSE

gnutls-devel libuuid-devel cmake clang or gcc-c++

Debian, Ubuntu

libgnutls28-dev uuid-dev cmake clang or g++

Mac OS X

Install Xcode from Apple, via the AppStore, launch it, and select from some menu that you want the command line tools.

With Homebrew install the necessary packages:

brew install cmake git gnutls

Get the source

Either

```
curl -LO http://taskwarrior.org/download/task-2.5.1.tar.gz
tar xzf task-2.5.1.tar.gz
cd task-2.5.1
```

Οſ

```
git clone --recursive https://git.tasktools.org/scm/tm/task.git task.git cd task.git
# Updates
git pull --recurse-submodules=yes
git submodule update
```

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cd task.git
# Updates
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- 1. cmake . (not ./configure!) or
 cmake -DCMAKE_INSTALL_PREFIX=/home/user/task
- 2. make
- 3. sudo make install



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🕠 Test it

```
$ task diagnostics
A configuration file could not be found in
Would you like a sample /home/taskwarrior/.taskrc created, so Taskwarrior can proceed? (ves/no) ves
task 2.6.0
  Platform: Linux
Compiler
   Version: 4.8.5 20150623 (Red Hat 4.8.5-4)
      Caps: +stdc +stdc hosted +LP64 +c8 +i32 +164 +vp64 +time t64
Compliance: C++11
Build Features
     Built: May 17 2016 09:29:51
    Commit: b47fc52
     CMake: 2.8.11
   libuuid: libuuid + uuid unparse lower
 libgnutls: 3.3.8
Build type: release
Configuration
      File: /home/dirk/.taskrc (found), 1465 bytes, mode 100664
      Data: /home/dirk/.task (found), dir, mode 40755
   Locking: Enabled
        GC: Enabled
   $EDITOR: vim
```



A simple example

task add

task list

task <ID> start

task list

task <ID> stop

task list

task <ID> done



A simple example

Uncomment the theme you want to use from ~/.taskrc

```
# Color theme (uncomment one to use)
#include /usr/local/share/doc/task/rc/light-16.theme
#include /usr/local/share/doc/task/rc/light-256.theme
#include /usr/local/share/doc/task/rc/dark-16.theme
#include /usr/local/share/doc/task/rc/dark-256.theme
#include /usr/local/share/doc/task/rc/dark-red-256.theme
#include /usr/local/share/doc/task/rc/dark-green-256.theme
#include /usr/local/share/doc/task/rc/dark-blue-256.theme
#include /usr/local/share/doc/task/rc/dark-yolotes-256.theme
#include /usr/local/share/doc/task/rc/dark-yellow-green.theme
#include /usr/local/share/doc/task/rc/dark-gray-256.theme
#include /usr/local/share/doc/task/rc/dark-gray-blue-256.theme
#include /usr/local/share/doc/task/rc/dark-gray-blue-256.theme
#include /usr/local/share/doc/task/rc/solarized-dark-256.theme
#include /usr/local/share/doc/task/rc/solarized-dark-256.theme
```

#include /usr/local/share/doc/task/rc/no-color.theme

Packaged Taskwarrior

Your package distributor might have different ideas where the theme files should be.

Check with find / -name no-color.theme -type f 2>/dev/null

Nearly all commands work on a bunch of tasks

There is a lot more to explore.

Even the commands from the last section are more mighty than they seem.

- task add <mods> ▶ task <filter> list
- task <filter> start <mods>
- task <filter> stop <mods>

task <filter> done <mods>



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- ▶ task <filter> start <mods>
- task sincer start sinous
- ▶ task <filter> stop <mods>
- task <filter> done <mods>

To get an overview, take a look at the cheat sheet (pdf, 145kB) (or come over and grab a printed copy).

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task <filter> command <mods>

- ► Is the basic usage of all task related **write** commands.
- Write commands can operate on one task or a group of tasks or even on all tasks.
- Every command may be abbreviated up to the minimum that is necessary to identify a single command.
- ► Filters can be anything from nothing to simple IDs to regular expressions or Boolean constructs.
- Modifications can be either a change of description, a change of dates or anything else that changes a task.
- ► In our simple example we already used the write commands **add**, **done**, **start** and **stop**.



```
# Scripts shipped with Taskwarrior
ls /usr/local/share/doc/task/scripts/*
```

```
# Commandline completion tabtabtabtabtabtab ;-)
source /usr/local/share/doc/task/scripts/bash/task.sh
```

Make it persistent

echo source /usr/local/share/doc/task/scripts/bash/task.sh >> .bashrc

```
# Syntaxhighlighting for vim
[[ -d ~/.vim ]] || mkdir ~/.vim
cp -r /usr/local/share/doc/task/scripts/vim ~/.vim
```



These are the most important commands, just because I use them most ;-)

► task <filter> modify

The name says it, it modifies tasks according to the filter used.

- ► task <filter> edit

 This starts your favourite editor with the tasks you want to change.

 (Remember the syntax highlighting for vim?)
- ► task undo

 Reverts the most recent change to a task
- task help
 Gives an overview of implemented commands and custom reports.
- man task (taskrc, task-faq, task-sync)
 Show the (almighty) man-page(s). Unlike the man-pages of many other programs they are extremely helpful and full of information and examples. Try them!

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m minimal-digit month, for example 1 or 12



Dateformats - from 'man taskrc'

```
minimal-digit day.
                       for example 1 or 30
  two-digit year,
                        for example 09
D two-digit day,
                        for example 01 or 30
M two-digit month.
                        for example 01 or 12
Y four-digit year,
                        for example 2009
a short name of weekday, for example Mon or Wed
A long name of weekday, for example Monday or Wednesday
b short name of month, for example Jan or Aug
B long name of month, for example January or August
V weeknumber,
                     for example 03 or 37
H two-digit hour, for example 03 or 11
N two-digit minutes, for example 05 or 42
S two-digit seconds,
                      for example 07 or 47
The string may also contain other characters to act as spacers,
or formatting. Examples for other values of dateformat:
d/m/Y would use for input and output 24/7/2009
      would use for input and output 090724
yMD
M-D-Y would use for input and output 07-24-2009
Examples for other values of dateformat.report:
a D b Y (V) would do an output as "Fri 24 Jul 2009 (30)"
A. B D. Y
            would do an output as "Friday, July 24, 2009"
vV a Y-M-D would do an output as "v30 Fri 2009-07-24"
            would do an output as "110124.2342"
vMD.HN
m/d/Y H:N would do an output as "1/24/2011 10:42"
           H:N:S would do and output as "Mon 24 Jan 2011 11:19:42"
a D b Y
```



Set dateformat

Defined dateformats

The dateformat you define, will be used in **addition** to all the standard supported ISO-8601 formats.

task show dateformat

task config dateformat YMD task config dateformat.annotation YMD task config dateformat.report YMD

my dateformat was YMD-HN

task show dateformat

grep dateformat ~/.taskrc



task show weekstart

task config weekstart Monday

task show | wc -1 # nearly everything can be customized 235

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Special dates (1)

Relative wording

task ...due:today

task ...due:yesterday

task ...due:tomorrow

Day number with ordinal

task...due:23rd

task ...due:3wks

task ...due:1day

task...due:9hrs

At some point or later (sets the wait date to 1/18/2038)

task ... wait:later

task ... wait:someday



Special dates (2)

```
task ... due:sow # week
task ... due:eow
task ... due:soww # workweek
task ... due:eoww
task ... due:socw # current week
task ... due:eocw
task ... due:som # month
task ... due:eom
task ... due:soq # quarter
```

Start / end of ... (remember weekstart setting)

Next occurring weekday

task ...due:fri

task ... due:eoq task ... due:soy # year task ... due:eoy



task add due:20161231 "Celebrate Sylvester" task add due:Sunday "Drive home"

task list

task 2 modify wait:20160823

task list



Urgency and next

Based on your tasks attributes especially – but not limited to – the due date, Taskwarrior calculates an urgency value which will be used by some reports to sort the tasks.

You can increase urgency by adding the +next tag.

This is a very complex topic and goes beyond the scope of this introductory workshop.



```
task waiting
task 1 modify due:eom recur:monthly

task list
task recurring

# task id changed from 1 (task modify) to 4
# try task 1 edit
```



Recurrence modifiers (1)

hourly

Every hour.

daily, day, 1da, 2da, ...

Every day or a number of days.

weekdays

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and skipping weekend days.

weekly, 1wk, 2wks, ...

Every week or a number of weeks.

biweekly, fortnight

Every two weeks.

monthly

Every month.

quarterly, 1qtr, 2qtrs, ...

Every three months, a quarter, or a number of quarters.



Recurrence modifiers (2)

semiannual

Every six months.

annual, yearly, 1yr, 2yrs, ...

Every year or a number of years.

biannual, biyearly, 2yr

Every two years.



task add due:eom recur:monthly until:20161231 "Pay installment for credit"

task add "Prepare slides for workshop" task 6 modify entry:yesterday

task list



Holiday

Attention!

Holiday has nothing in common with the German words *Ferien* or *Urlaub* (this would be vacation). (Public) Holiday means *Feiertag*.

You can add holidays by either adding them via task config on the commandline or by adding them directly to the $^{\sim}/$.taskrc-File or by including an external holiday definition.

On holidata.net you find a growing list of holiday dates, licensed CC-BY and offered by volunteers. Service was introduced by the Taskwarrior team, who is responsible for hosting and conversion to different formats.



Add holiday / Configure calendar

task config holiday.swissnationalday.name Swiss National Day task config holiday.swissnationalday.date 20170801

Holiday is not highlighted by default task cale 08 2017

task show calendar task config calendar.holidays full

task cale 08 2017



Calendar with due tasks

task config calendar.holidays sparse task config calendar.details full

task cale



Project and subproject

task 3 modify pro:froscon

task 7 modify pro:froscon.workshop

task 4 modify pro:private

task list

Projects

task projects task pro:froscon ls task 7 done

FrOSCon 2016



Tags

task 3 modify +banking task 4 modify +banking

task list

task 3 mod -banking +bern

task +bern list

Priorities

task long

task 4 modify pri:H # can be either (H)igh, (M)edium or (L)ow task long

3 Annotations

task 3 annotate "Do not forget your head"

task 4 annotate "Use wifes account"

task list

task 4 denotate "Use wifes account"

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task add "Send letter to Fritz" task add "Write letter" task 7 modify depends:8 task blocked task unblocked

Dependency, part 2

task 7 done



task undo



Dependency, part 3

task 7,8 done



Predefined reports (from task reports), part 1

These reports were already used.

- blocked Lists all blocked tasks matching the specified criteria
- ▶ **list** Lists all tasks matching the specified criteria
- long Lists all task, all data, matching the specified criteria
- projects Shows a list of all project names used, and how many tasks are in each
- recurring Lists recurring tasks matching the specified criteria
- unblocked Lists all unblocked tasks matching the specified criteria
- waiting Lists all waiting tasks matching the specified criteria



Predefined reports (from task reports), part 2

New ones:

- ► **active** Lists active tasks matching the specified criteria
- ► **all** Lists all tasks matching the specified criteria, including parents of recurring tasks
- ► **blocking** Blocking tasks
- burndown.daily Shows a graphical burndown chart, by day
- ▶ **burndown.monthly** Shows a graphical burndown chart, by month
- ▶ **burndown.weekly** Shows a graphical burndown chart, by week
- ► completed Lists completed tasks matching the specified criteria
- ghistory.annual Shows a graphical report of task history, by year
- ▶ **ghistory.monthly** Shows a graphical report of task history, by month
- ▶ history.annual Shows a report of task history, by year
- ► history.monthly Shows a report of task history, by month
- information Shows all data and metadata for specified tasks
- ▶ **Is** Minimal listing of all tasks matching the specified criteria



Predefined reports (from task reports), part 3

And more:

- minimal A really minimal listing
- newest Shows the newest tasks
- next Lists the most urgent tasks
- ► oldest Shows the oldest tasks
- overdue Lists overdue tasks matching the specified criteria
- ready Most urgent actionable tasks
- summary Shows a report of task status by burndown-dailyoject
- ▶ tags Shows a list of all tags used

26 reports in total (as told by task reports)



Test the reports

task burndown.daily

task ghistory.annual task ghistory.monthly

task history.monthly

task ls task minimal task summary



Report definitions

task show report.minimal task show report.list

task show report # to see all definitions

task 11

Dirks former task list

```
echo "
report.ll.description=Dirks task list
report.ll.columns=id,project,priority,due,due.countdown,tags,description
report.ll.labels=ID,Project,Pri,Due,Countdown,Tags,Description
report.ll.sort=due+,priority-,project+,description+
report.ll.filter=status:pending
" >> ~/.taskrc
```



Set default command

task show default

task config default.command 11

task



Filtering in general

You can filter for any modifier. If you don't use a modifier description is searched for the term, which may be a regular expression, on the command line. Filters may be combined.

The following attribute modifiers maybe applied as well. Names in brackets can be used alternatively.

So a filter can look like attribute.modifier:value.

- before, after
- none, any
- ▶ is (equals), isnt (not)
- ► has (contains), hasnt
- startswith (left), endswith (right)
- word, noword



task

task pay

task /[Pp]ay/



task due.before:20160831

task project.not:taskwarrior

task project:froscon +banking task status:completed project:froscon task status:completed project:froscon completed

task show report.ll.filter



Attribute modifiers

task due.before:20160831

task project.not:taskwarrior

task project:froscon +banking

task status:completed project:froscon

task status:completed project:froscon completed

task show report.ll.filter



) Or ...

task list

task \(pro:taskwarrior or pro:private \) list
Brackets must be escaped for the shell



Search configuration

task show search

task show regex



Filter in reports

task show filter

Virtual Tags (1)

- ► **ACTIVE** Matches if the task is started
- ► **ANNOTATED** Matches if the task has annotations
- BLOCKED Matches if the task is blocked
- ► **BLOCKING** Matches if the task is blocking
- ► CHILD Matches if the task has a parent
- ► **COMPLETED** Matches if the task has completed status
- ► **DELETED** Matches if the task has deleted status
- ▶ **DUE** Matches if the task is due
- ► LATEST Matches if the task is the newest added task
- ► MONTH Matches if the task is due this month
- ► ORPHAN Matches if the task has any orphaned UDA values
- ► OVERDUE Matches if the task is overdue
- ► **PARENT** Matches if the task is a parent
- ► **PENDING** Matches if the task has pending status
- ► **PRIORITY** Matches if the task has a priority



- PROJECT Matches if the task has a project
- READY Matches if the task is actionable
- ► SCHEDULED Matches if the task is scheduled
- TAGGED Matches if the task has tags
- ► TODAY Matches if the task is due today
- ► TOMORROW Matches if the task is due sometime tomorrow
- UDA Matches if the task has any UDA values
- UNBLOCKED Matches if the task is not blocked
- ► UNTIL Matches if the task expires
- ► WAITING Matches if the task is waiting
- ► WEEK Matches if the task is due this week
- ► YEAR Matches if the task is due this year
- YESTERDAY Matches if the task was due sometime yesterday



This is by far not all

task log

for logging a task after it is already done.

task diag

to help support for diagnostic purpose.

UDA

User defined attributes.

• • •

and many more!



Questions?



Getting Help

There are several ways of getting help:

- ► Submit your details to our Q & A site, then wait patiently for the community to respond.
- ► Email us at support@taskwarrior.org, then wait patiently for a volunteer to respond.
- ➤ Join us IRC in the #taskwarrior channel on Freenode.net, and get a quick response from the community, where, as you have anticipated, we will walk you through the checklist above.
- Even though Twitter is no means of support, you can get in touch with @taskwarrior.
- ► We have a User Mailinglist which you can join anytime to discuss about Taskwarrior and techniques.
- ► The Developer Mailinglist is focussing on a more technical oriented audience.



Thanks for your patience!

Dirk Deimeke, Taskwarrior-Team, 2016, CC-BY dirk@deimeke.net d5e.org