

Transform Your Terminal with Ghostty and Yazi

Yingqi Jing

July 21, 2025

Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Install Ghostty	2
2.1	brew install ghostty	2
2.2	set ghostty as default terminal emulator on mac	2
3	Install Yazi	6
3.1	brew install yazi and its dependencies	6
3.2	set alias in fish config	6
3.3	add configuration file and keymap for yazi	6

List of Figures

1	Set ghostty as default app for opening terminal	3
2	Automator Quick Action	4
3	Add keyboard shortcut to open Ghostty here	5
4	Useful Yazi Keybindings	7

List of Tables

1 Introduction

Why I Switched from Kitty and Vifm to Ghostty and Yazi? After years of experimenting with different terminal emulators and file managers, I've finally found my favorite combination: Ghostty and Yazi. These have recently gained a lot of popularity in the community. Briefly put, [Ghostty](#) is a modern terminal emulator that is fast, feature-rich, and native. [Yazi](#) is a blazing-fast terminal file manager. Together, they have transformed my daily workflow. In this blog, I'll show you how to set them up on your own computer, so you can supercharge your terminal experience just like I did.

Note: here I assume the default fish shell is used. You can install it in [this blog](#).

2 Install Ghostty

2.1 brew install ghostty

```
brew install --cask ghostty
```

2.2 set ghostty as default terminal emulator on mac

- (1) Install the “RCDefaultApp.prefPane” plugin

This plugin is used to set the default app for opening terminal in your system.

```
git clone https://github.com/JakeJing/fishconfig.git  
sudo mv fishconfig/kitty/RCDefaultApp.prefPane /Library/PreferencePanes/
```

- (2) Set ghostty as the “default app” for opening terminal

Go to system preferences -> default Apps -> click the “default Apps” -> URLS -> x-man-page -> set the default application as “ghostty”.

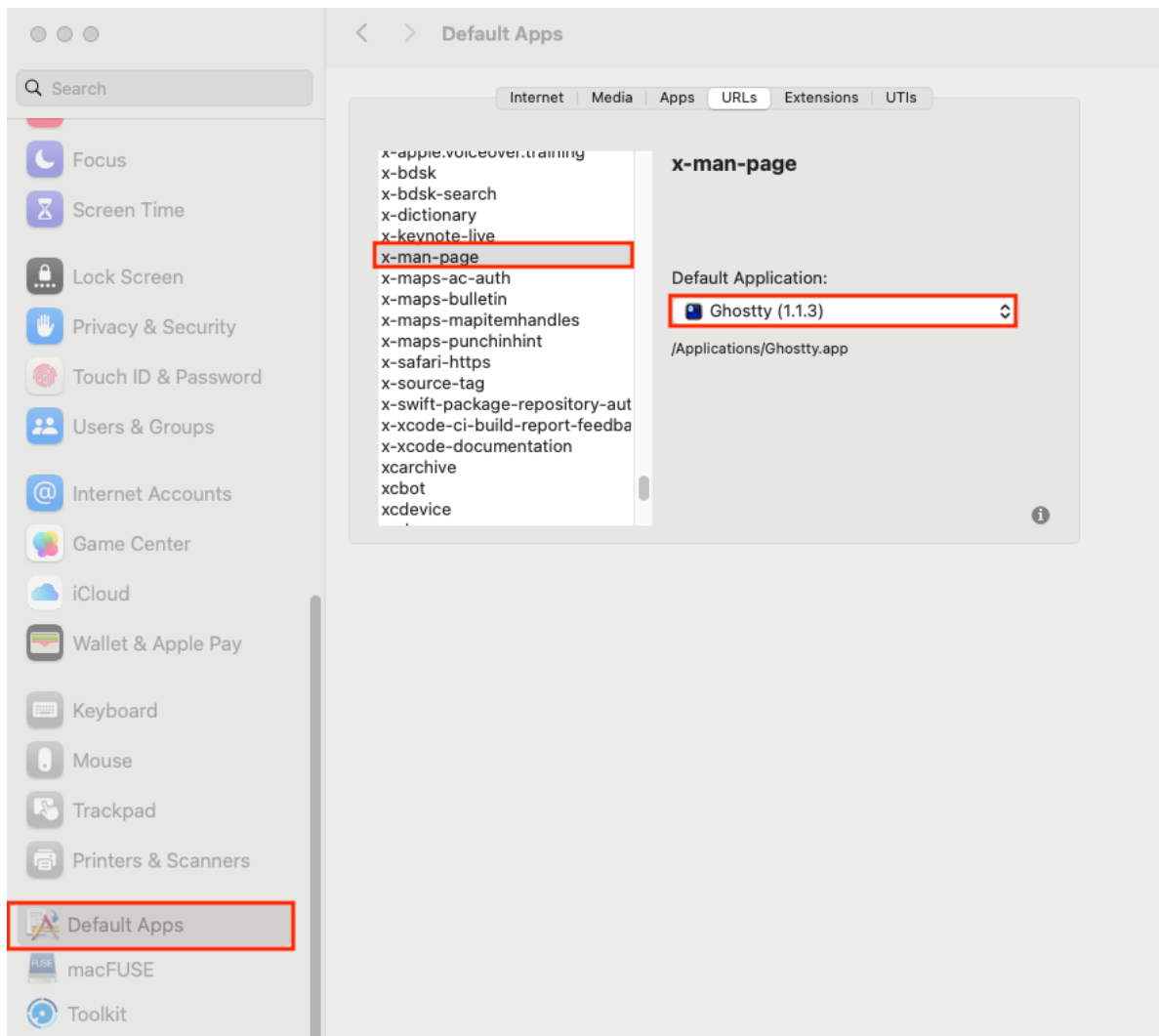


Figure 1: Set ghostty as default app for opening terminal

- (3) Add keyboard shortcut (shift-cmd-1) to open a new Ghostty window here

You can set a keyboard shortcut to open Ghostty here. However, the default option only works when your cursor is on a folder. To enable it when your cursor is on a file, you can create a new service using the Automator application. To do this, go to Automator -> Quick Action, and follow the steps in the image below.

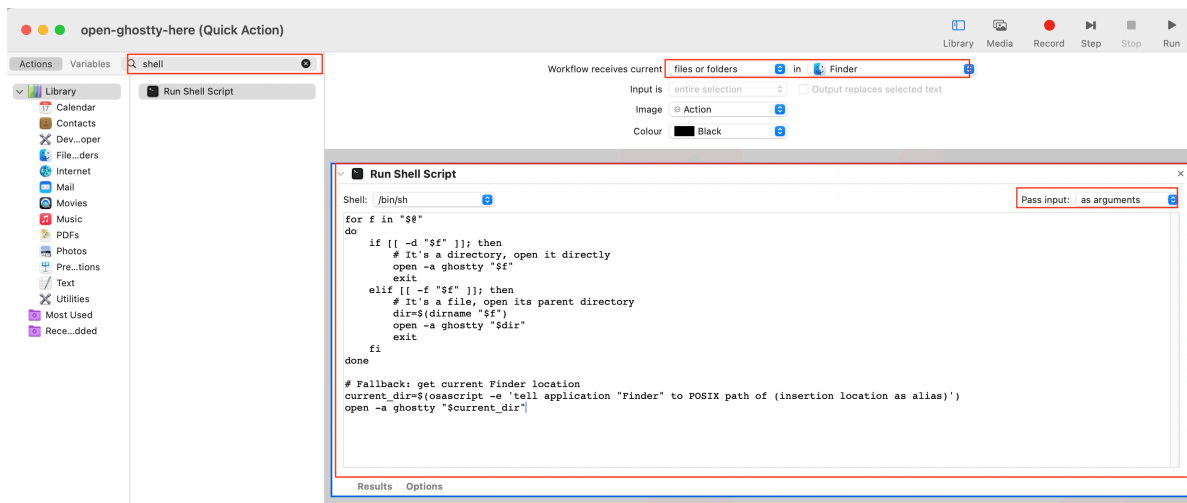


Figure 2: Automator Quick Action

After that, you can go to System Preferences -> Keyboard -> Shortcuts -> Services -> open-ghostty-here to add it (shift-cmd-1).



Figure 3: Add keyboard shortcut to open Ghostty here

This will automatically open a new Ghostty window here when you press shift-cmd-1. If there is an ongoing Ghostty window, it will open a new tab instead. So far there is no easy way to always open a new window (rather than a new tab or a new process) on mac, as far as I know.

```
# check the services
ls ~/Library/Services/
```

- (4) add configuration file for ghostty

```
wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/JakeJing/dotfiles/refs/heads/main/.config/ghostty/c
```

3 Install Yazi

3.1 brew install yazi and its dependencies

```
brew update  
brew install yazi ffmpeg sevenzip jq poppler fd ripgrep fzf zoxide resvg imagemagick font-
```

3.2 set alias in fish config

```
# yazi  
alias yz yazi  
alias y yazi  
alias a yazi
```

3.3 add configuration file and keymap for yazi

```
# clone my dotfiles  
git clone https://github.com/JakeJing/dotfiles.git  
# move yazi config  
mv dotfiles/.config/yazi -P ~/.config/yazi/
```

Yazi Keybindings

Help & Documentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Open help F1 Open help (alternative) 	Open Files & Folders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Open file with default editor O Open file and select editor Ctrl+N Open folder in current dir 	View & Preview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .. Toggle hidden files Ctrl+J/K Scroll preview content T Maximize preview panel B Show/hide preview panel Shift+K Preview parent folder :V View PDF using termpdf.py Ctrl+P System-level preview
Navigation & Tabs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> z/Z Jump to folder via Zoxide f String search Ctrl+U/D Go up/down half page t Open new tab at current director [/] Switch between tabs 1,2,3... Switch to tab by number Ctrl+X/C Close tab 	File Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Create file (use / for folder) A Create new directory r Rename current file y Yank (copy) selected file x Cut selected file p Paste yanked file d Delete file D Permanently delete file cc Copy file path cf Copy file name 	Shell & Terminal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ; Launch shell interactively ! Run fish shell s Switch to terminal Ctrl+D Back to Yazi
Bookmarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ma Add bookmark md Delete bookmark 'k Jump by bookmark key 		

Figure 4: Useful Yazi Keybindings