Transform Your Terminal with Ghostty and Yazi

Yingqi Jing

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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".
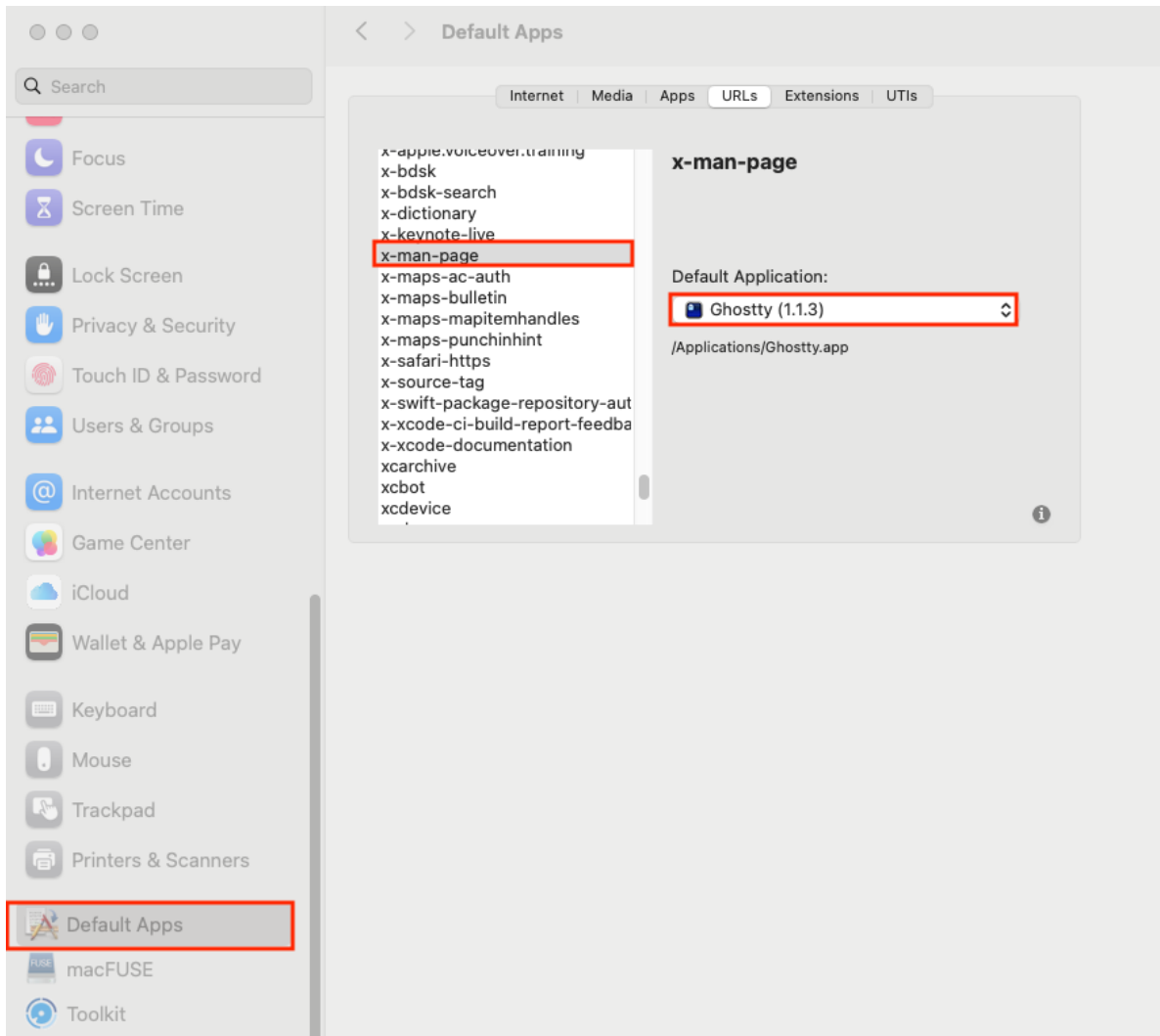
Figure 1: Set ghostty as default app for opening terminal

- (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.
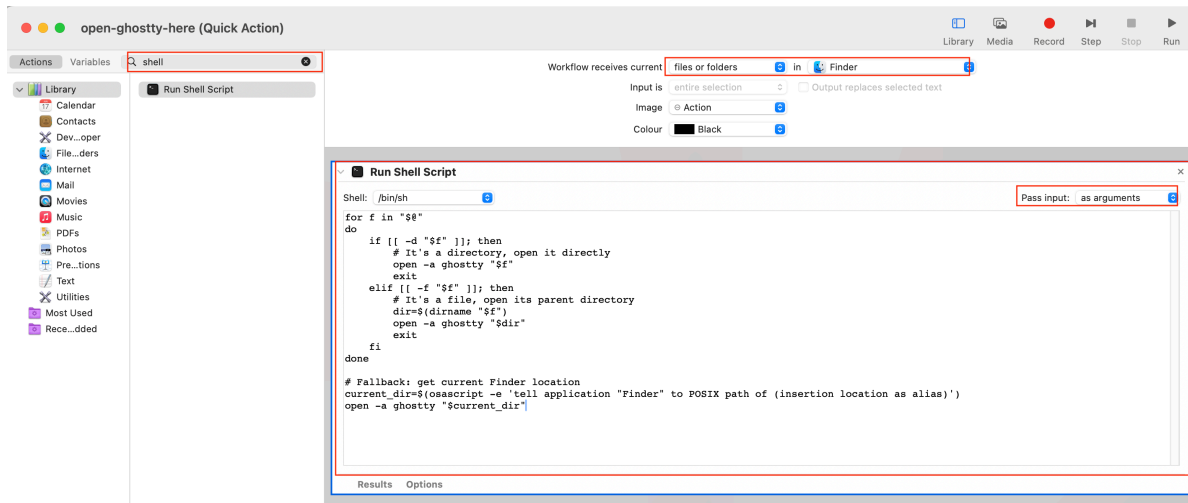
Figure 2: Automator Quick Action

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

`~` Open help

`F1` Open help (alternative)

Navigation & Tabs

`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

Bookmarks

`ma` Add bookmark

`md` Delete bookmark

`'k` Jump by bookmark key

Open Files & Folders

`o` Open file with default editor

`O` Open file and select editor

`Ctrl+N` Open folder in current dir

File Operations

`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

View & Preview

`.` 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

Shell & Terminal

`;` Launch shell interactively

`!` Run fish shell

`s` Switch to terminal

`Ctrl+D` Back to Yazi

Figure 4: Useful Yazi Keybindings