

Transform Your Terminal with Ghostty and Yazi

Jake 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”.

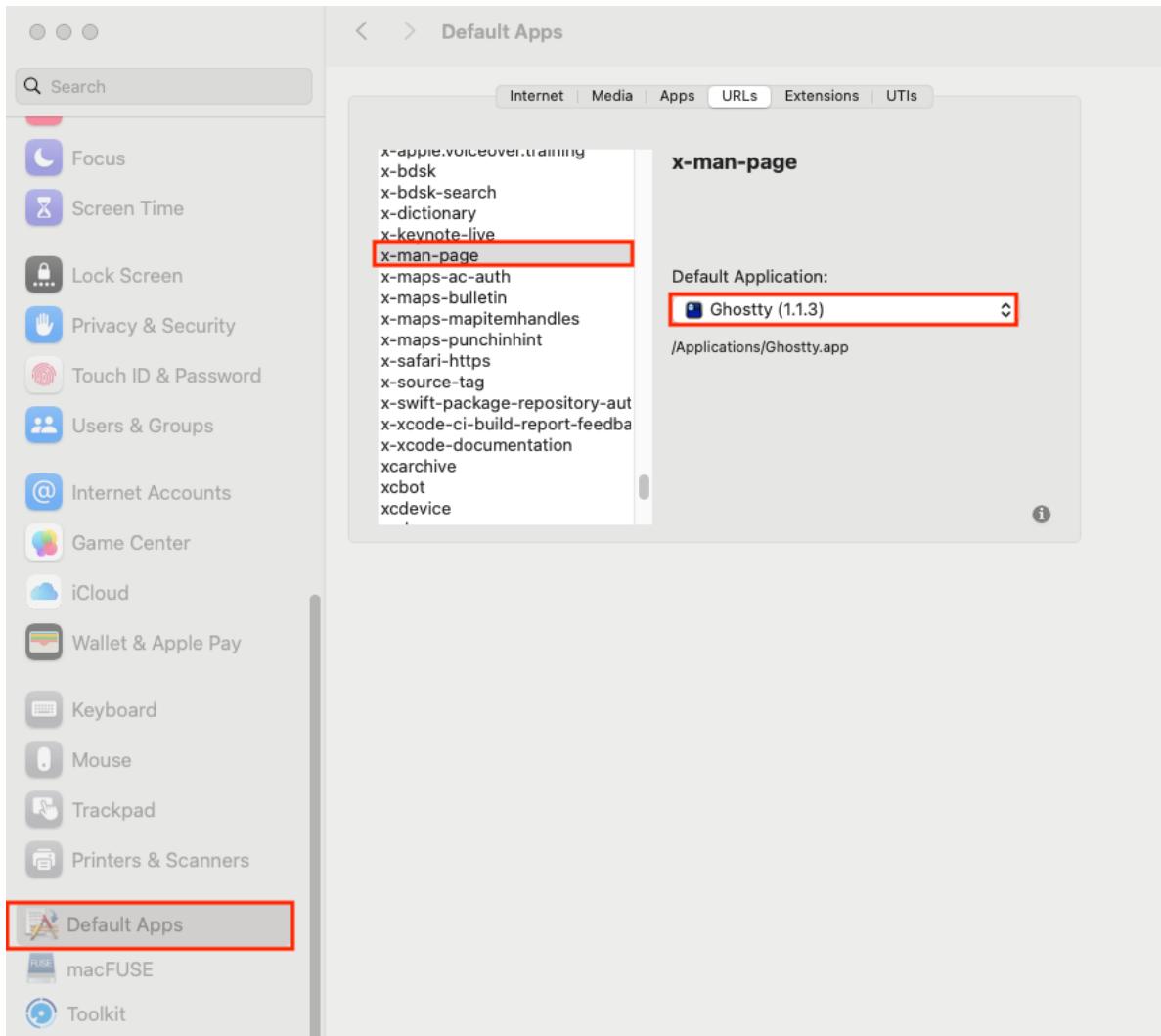


Figure 1: Set ghostty as default app for opening terminal

- (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.

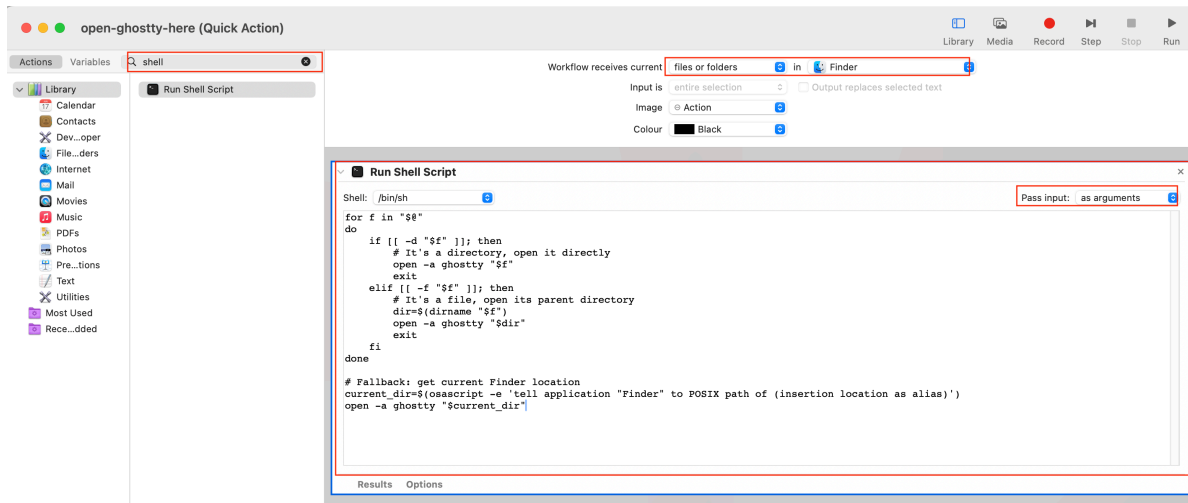


Figure 2: Automator Quick Action

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 Files & Folders	View & Preview
~ Open help	o Open file with default editor	.. Toggle hidden files
F1 Open help (alternative)	O Open file and select editor	Ctrl+J/K Scroll preview content
Navigation & Tabs	Ctrl+N Open folder in current dir	T Maximize preview panel
z/Z Jump to folder via Zoxide	File Operations	B Show/hide preview panel
f String search	a Create file (use / for folder)	Shift+K Preview parent folder
Ctrl+U/D Go up/down half page	A Create new directory	:V View PDF using termpdf.py
t Open new tab at current director	r Rename current file	Ctrl+P System-level preview
[/] Switch between tabs	y Yank (copy) selected file	Shell & Terminal
1,2,3... Switch to tab by number	x Cut selected file	; Launch shell interactively
Ctrl+C Close tab	p Paste yanked file	! Run fish shell
Bookmarks	d Delete file	s Switch to terminal
ma Add bookmark	D Permanently delete file	Ctrl+D Back to Yazi
md Delete bookmark	cc Copy file path	
'k Jump by bookmark key	cf Copy file name	

Figure 4: Useful Yazi Keybindings