

TermAI Themes and Syntax Highlighting

TermAI provides beautiful syntax highlighting and theming for code, JSON, YAML, XML, and Markdown in both inline and chat modes.

Available Themes

TermAI supports several color themes optimized for different terminal backgrounds:

Dark Themes (For Dark Terminal Backgrounds)

1. dark (Default)

The default dark theme with balanced colors that work well with most dark terminals.

- Best for: General use, dark terminals
- Colors: Balanced blues, greens, and purples
- Optimized for: Ghostty, iTerm2, Terminal.app, VS Code terminal

2. dracula

A popular dark theme with vibrant purple and pink accents.

- Best for: Users who prefer bold, saturated colors
- Colors: Purple, pink, cyan, green
- Inspired by: <https://draculatheme.com/>

3. monokai

Classic dark theme with warm tones.

- Best for: Sublime Text users
- Colors: Yellow, orange, green, pink

4. solarized-dark

Precision colors for machines and people, dark version.

- Best for: Long coding sessions, reduced eye strain
- Colors: Carefully selected for optimal contrast
- More info: <https://ethanschoonover.com/solarized/>

Light Themes (For Light Terminal Backgrounds)

5. github

GitHub's light theme for code.

- Best for: Light terminal backgrounds
- Colors: Clean, professional look
- Similar to: GitHub's web interface

6. solarized-light

Solarized light version.

- Best for: Light backgrounds, outdoor work
- Colors: Warm, gentle on eyes

Adaptive Theme

7. auto

Automatically detects your terminal's background color and chooses an appropriate theme.

- Best for: Users who switch between light and dark modes
- Behavior: Adapts to terminal settings

Configuration

Changing Theme

Edit your config file (`~/.termai/config.yaml`) to change the theme:

```
ui:
  theme: "dark"          # Options: dark, dracula, monokai, github, solarized-dark,
  solarized-light, auto
  color_output: true     # Enable/disable all color output
  show_thinking: true    # Show AI thinking/reasoning process
```

Quick Config Edit

```
termai config edit
```

Syntax Highlighting Features

Supported Formats

TermAI automatically detects and highlights:

1. **JSON** - Pretty-prints and highlights JSON with color-coded keys, values, and brackets
2. **YAML** - Highlights YAML keys, values, and structure
3. **XML** - Highlights tags, attributes, and content
4. **Markdown** - Renders markdown with headers, lists, code blocks, links, and emphasis
5. **Code Blocks** - Highlights 20+ programming languages including:
 - Python, JavaScript, TypeScript, Go, Rust
 - Java, C, C++, C#
 - Ruby, PHP, Swift, Kotlin
 - Shell scripts, SQL, and more

How It Works

TermAI uses two powerful libraries:

- **Glamour** - For rendering beautiful Markdown with your chosen theme
- **Chroma** - For syntax highlighting code in various languages

The formatter automatically detects content type and applies appropriate highlighting.

Examples

JSON Response

When you ask for JSON data, you'll see:

- Green for keys

- Blue for string values
- Purple for numbers
- Gray for brackets and punctuation

Markdown Response

When the AI responds in Markdown, you'll see:

- Bold headers with colors
- Highlighted code blocks
- Styled lists and quotes
- Colored links

Code Explanations

When asking about code, the AI's code examples will have:

- Syntax-aware highlighting
- Language-specific colors
- Clear visual structure

Disabling Syntax Highlighting

If you prefer plain text output or have terminal compatibility issues:

```
ui:
  color_output: false
```

This will disable all ANSI colors and show plain text output.

Terminal Compatibility

Fully Supported Terminals

TermAI works best with modern terminals that support 256 colors and Unicode:

- **Ghostty** (macOS/Linux) - Excellent support
- **iTerm2** (macOS) - Excellent support
- **Terminal.app** (macOS) - Good support
- **Alacritty** (Cross-platform) - Excellent support
- **kitty** (Cross-platform) - Excellent support
- **Windows Terminal** (Windows) - Good support
- **VS Code Terminal** - Good support
- **tmux** - Good support (ensure 256 color mode)
- **screen** - Limited support (use `theme: "github"`)

Basic Support

- **xterm** - Basic colors only
- **cmd.exe** (Windows) - Limited color support, use Windows Terminal instead
- **Basic SSH terminals** - May have limited colors

Troubleshooting

Colors Not Showing

1. Check if your terminal supports 256 colors:

```
bash
echo $TERM
Should show xterm-256color or similar.
```

2. Set terminal to 256 color mode (for tmux):

```
bash
export TERM=screen-256color
# or
export TERM=tmux-256color
```

3. Try a different theme:

```
yaml
ui:
    theme: "github" # Light theme might work better
```

4. Check terminal preferences:

- Enable “Use bright colors for bold text”
- Enable “ANSI colors”
- Set color scheme to support 256 colors

Garbled Output

If you see weird characters instead of colors:

```
ui:
    color_output: false # Disable all colors
```

Theme Not Applying

1. Ensure config is saved properly:

```
bash
termal config show
```

2. Restart TermAI after config changes

3. Check for typos in theme name

Theme Development

Want to contribute a new theme? Here's how:

1. Themes are defined in `internal/ui/formatter.go`
2. For markdown themes, see Glamour documentation: <https://github.com/charmbracelet/glamour>
3. For code themes, see Chroma styles: <https://github.com/alethomas/chroma>

Best Practices

1. **Choose theme based on your terminal background**

- Dark background → Use `dark`, `dracula`, or `monokai`

- Light background → Use `github` or `solarized-light`
- Switching often → Use `auto`

2. For presentations or screenshots

- Use `dracula` for vibrant colors
- Use `github` for clean, professional look

3. For long coding sessions

- Use `solarized-dark` for reduced eye strain

4. When sharing output

- Consider `color_output: false` for plain text
- Or use `github` theme for universal compatibility

Examples by Use Case

Data Science / JSON/YAML Heavy

```
ui:
  theme: "monokai" # Great for data structures
```

Writing Documentation

```
ui:
  theme: "github" # Clean markdown rendering
```

Code Review / Development

```
ui:
  theme: "dracula" # Excellent syntax highlighting
```

SSH / Remote Work

```
ui:
  theme: "dark"      # Good compatibility
  color_output: true
```

Getting Help

If you have theme issues:

1. Check this documentation
2. Verify terminal capabilities: `echo $TERM`
3. Try `theme: "auto"` to let TermAI choose
4. Try `color_output: false` as a fallback
5. Report issues at: <https://github.com/user/termai/issues>

Credits

- Glamour: <https://github.com/charmbracelet/glamour>

- Chroma: <https://github.com/alecthomas/chroma>
- Lipgloss: <https://github.com/charmbracelet/lipgloss>
- Dracula Theme: <https://draculatheme.com/>
- Solarized: <https://ethanschoonover.com/solarized/>