

Terminal Aesthetics: How Beautiful Prompts Can Boost Your Productivity

Open Source Economics - Meetup

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Contents

- Why you should work in the terminal
- Why you shouldn't work in the terminal
- Designing a better terminal
- Available tools

Why you should work in the terminal

- Its all you have when working with servers
- You type faster than you click
- Powerful commands
- Very easy to write custom commands
- You can look like a hacker when sitting in a Cafe
- Don't trust me: <https://trstringer.com/using-the-terminal/>
- You know exactly what's happening (hopefully)


Example

Task: Draft an email listing section titles of a presentation

Why you shouldn't work in the terminal

Main reason: *Default terminals are hard to work with*

- Ugly
- No extra information
- No tab completion
- ...



```
Terminal — -zsh — 80x24
Last login: Fri Sep  3 14:27:54 on ttys000
$ defaults write com.apple.screencapture location ~/Documents
$ killall SystemUIServer
$
```

Designing a better terminal

What do we want?

- Highly subjective...
- Nevertheless, should think about our workflow
- Git, conda, misc, ...

- Am I in a git repository?
 - Do I have unstaged commits?
 - Have I pushed my changes?
 - Are there merge conflict?
-

- Which conda environment is activated?
-

- Syntax highlighting
- Tab-completion
- Jumping between directories (z-command)

Example

My terminal

Available tools

- Emulator: [iTerm2](#) (mac), [alacritty](#) (needs to be compiled on linux)
 - Shell: [zsh](#)
 - Prompt: [Powerlevel10k](#)
 - Configuration manager: [oh-my-zsh](#)
 - Plugin manager for ZSH: [antigen](#)
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- [Tutorial Blogpost 1](#)
- [Tutorial Blogpost 2](#)

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