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How To Add Auto-Suggestion And Syntax Highlighting in MacOS/Linux Terminal

Introducing oh-my-zsh and its plugins



In my previous [article](#), I talked about customizing the Linux terminal. On this article, I will show you how to do the same for the Mac terminal. Auto-suggestion and syntax highlighting are very useful for people who use the terminal often, having to deal with so many different commands and arguments. It's true that,



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Oh-my-zsh framework

In my previous article, we already talked about *oh-my-zsh*, the framework for *zsh* shell that can manage our *zsh* configuration. So, to enable auto-suggestion and syntax highlighting we only need to install certain plugins to *oh-my-zsh*. **Please make sure you have *oh-my-zsh* already installed.** After, you can use the following command to download the plugins:

```
$ git clone https://github.com/zsh-users/zsh-autosuggestions.git  
$ZSH_CUSTOM/plugins/zsh-autosuggestions //auto suggestion
```

```
$ git clone https://github.com/zsh-users/zsh-syntax-highlighting.git  
$ZSH_CUSTOM/plugins/zsh-syntax-highlighting //syntax highlighting
```

When the downloading process completes, use your text editor and open `.zshrc` in your home directory, to change it from:

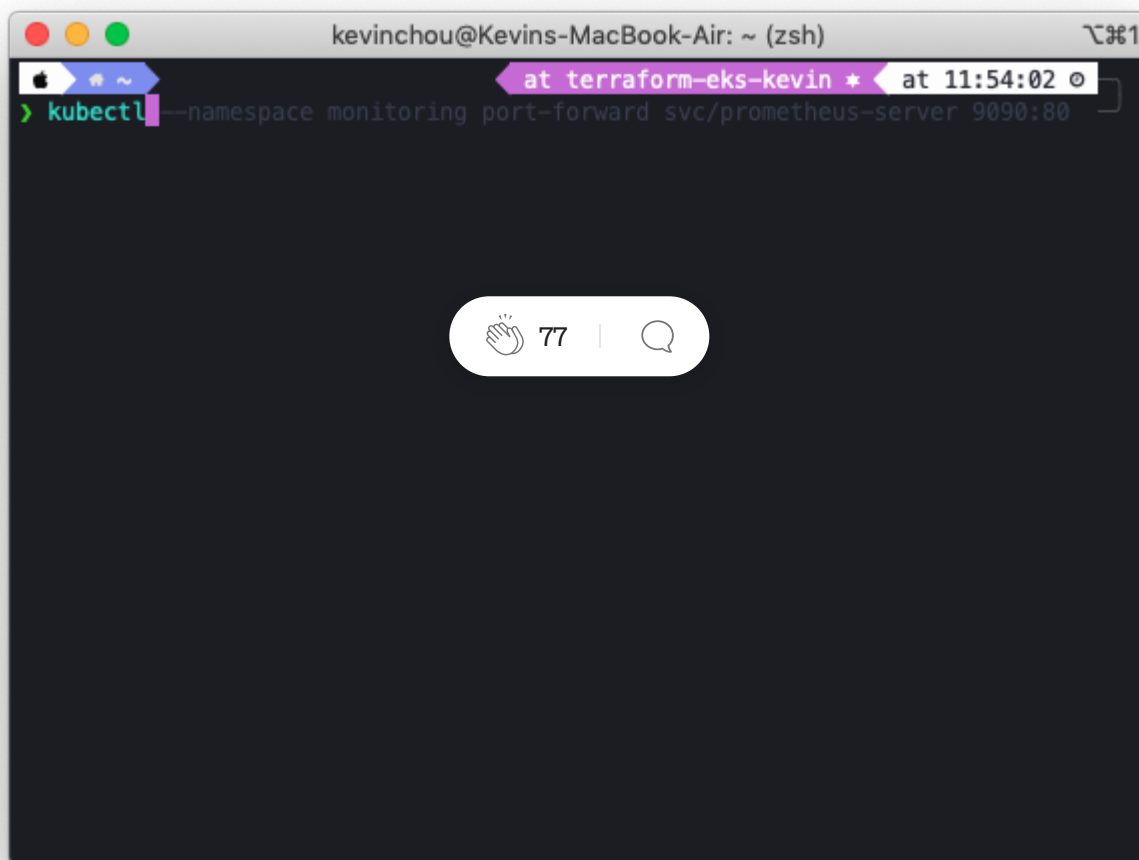
```
plugins=(git)
```

to this:

```
plugins=(git zsh-autosuggestions zsh-syntax-highlighting)
```

Next, just close your terminal and reopen it. You now have auto-suggestions enabled:



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The terminal suggests previously used commands

You can use the arrow keys to find and fill-in commands:



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```
kevinchou@Kevins-MacBook-Air: ~ (zsh)
> kubectl --namespace monitoring port-forward svc/prometheus-server 9090:80
```

Filling-in commands

For example, you see my `kubectl` command above colored blue. This is because the plugin syntax highlighted it.

Plugins for oh-my-zsh

Oh-my-zsh has a lot of plugins to choose from and you can check them out in `~/.oh-my-zsh/plugins` folder.



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You can add any additional plugin you'd like as we added auto-suggestion and syntax highlighting before. For example, I have added a plugin for the `kubectl` command (which is the utility used to connect to our Kubernetes cluster master) and *oh-my-zsh* suggests the next parameter of the command like this:



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If, for example, you want to choose `create` as the next param, you can select it and press `Enter` . By pressing the `tab` button, you can see again the newly suggested commands:



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You See? *Oh-my-zsh* is very useful for working with terminal.

That's it. Thank you for reading my article

References

1. <https://gist.github.com/dogrocker/1efb8fd9427779c827058f873b94df95>





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