

Terminal Basics

Your Workflow, Your Way

Building Productive Development Environments

The Big Picture

"Create your own workflow and work environment that works for **you**."

This is a **starting point** based on collective experience.

The end goal: **Make you as productive as possible** to perform the task at hand.

Why Terminal Skills Matter

- **Speed**: Commands execute faster than clicking through menus
- **Automation**: Repeat tasks with a single command
- **Remote Work**: Essential for SSH and cloud environments
- **Universal**: Works across Mac, Linux, and Windows (WSL)
- **Power**: Access to tools GUIs don't expose

The terminal isn't scary—it's liberating.

Learning Path Overview

Terminal Apps → Shells → Editors → Navigation →
Redirection → Advanced Topics → Mastery

Today's Focus: The foundation you need to start building your workflow

Your Mission: Experiment, customize, make it yours

1. Terminal Applications

Built-in Options

- **Terminal.app** (Mac) - Simple, reliable, always there
- Good for: Quick tasks, beginners

Power User Alternatives

- **iTerm2** - Split panes, customization, hotkeys
- **Terminus** - Cross-platform, modern UI
- **Warp** - AI-powered, IDE-like features

Choose based on: Your needs, not hype

2. Understanding Shells

What is a Shell?

The interpreter between you and the operating system

The Big Three

- **sh** - The original, maximum portability
- **bash** - The workhorse, most common
- **zsh** - Modern features, macOS default

Pro Tip: Learn bash first, explore zsh for daily use

Shell Superpowers: oh-my-zsh

Transform your zsh experience

- 300+ plugins (git, docker, kubectl)
- 150+ themes for beautiful prompts
- Auto-completion on steroids
- Community-driven

Installation: One command, instant productivity boost

Make your terminal work harder so you don't have to.

3. Text Editors

nano - The Friendly One

- Commands shown on screen
- No learning curve
- Perfect for quick edits

vim - The Power Tool

- Steep learning curve, massive payoff
- Available everywhere
- Muscle memory = speed

Start with nano, graduate to vim when ready

4. Filesystem Navigation

Essential Commands

```
pwd      # Where am I?  
ls       # What's here?  
cd       # Take me there  
mkdir    # Create space  
rm       # Remove (carefully!)
```

Master these, master your environment

Tab completion is your best friend

5. Redirection & Pipes

The Unix Philosophy: Do one thing well, chain them together

```
command1 | command2 | command3
```

Real Power

- `>` Save output to file
- `>>` Append to file
- `|` Chain commands together

This is where terminal becomes magical

6. Advanced Topics

Level Up Your Game

- **Environment Variables** - Configure your environment
- **Aliases** - Create shortcuts for common commands
- **Command History** - Never retype commands
- **File Permissions** - Security and access control
- **Terminal Multiplexers** - screen/tmux for persistence

Small optimizations compound into massive productivity gains

Your Action Plan

Week 1: Pick a terminal app, get comfortable

Week 2: Learn basic navigation and file operations

Week 3: Master your editor (start with nano)

Week 4: Explore pipes and redirection

Month 2: Customize with aliases and oh-my-zsh

Month 3: You're dangerous (in a good way)

The Training Plan

Comprehensive Guide Available

- 6 detailed sections with exercises
- Quick reference cheat sheets
- Troubleshooting tips
- Progressive learning path

Location: `terminal-basics/terminal-training-plan.md`

Your roadmap to terminal mastery

Remember

- ✓ **There's no "right" way** - only what works for you
- ✓ **Start simple** - complexity comes with time
- ✓ **Practice daily** - even 5 minutes counts
- ✓ **Customize everything** - make it yours
- ✓ **Share knowledge** - we all learn together

Key Takeaway

The terminal is not a destination

It's a tool to make you more productive

Your workflow. Your rules. Your productivity.

Questions?

Let's discuss how to make the terminal work for YOU

Resources: `terminal-basics/terminal-training-plan.md`

Thank You

Now go build something amazing

The terminal is waiting...