

iTerm Shortcut Keys

November 4, 2015

If you use Mac OSX and do a lot of work in terminal the iTerm (<https://www.iterm2.com>) application will become your friend fast. It's a great terminal application and it would be hard to imagine my days without it.

Once you learn a few shortcut keys and develop your personal work flow you would hardly want to leave that black (differs) window.

Below is some of the shortcut keys I use.

Working with multiple terminals

It's rare occasion having only one terminal open as often I'm working with multiple projects / tools at the same time. Sometimes even if I'm not using something at the moment (or in the last few days / weeks) the terminal windows are left as is (often to avoid going to the needed directory). And sometimes you just need to try something fast and close it. Following shortcuts allow me to open new terminals, move between them, close once I'm done with it.

New Tab ⌘T

Previous Tab ⌘←

Next Tab ⌘→

Close tab ⌘W

You could move the tabs around using the following shortcut keys, but I rarely use them.

Move Tab Right ⇧⌘→

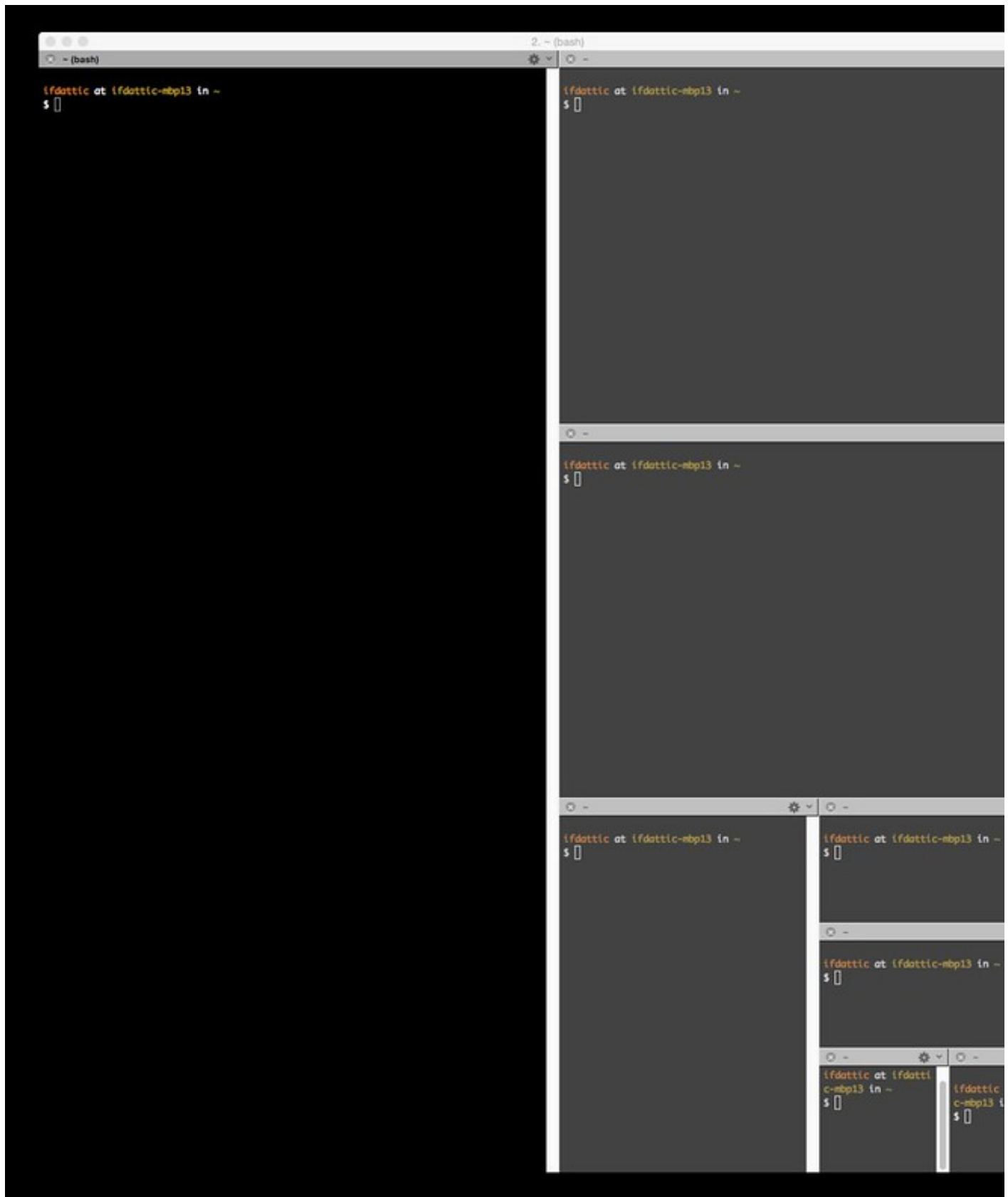
Move Tab Left ⇧⌘←

Working with multiple terminals in same tab

Opening a new tab takes care of the most use cases, but sometimes there's a need to see multiple terminals at the same time. The splitting the tab shortcut keys are the lifesaver in those moments. You can go crazy with splitting the current tab (if you need to)!

Split Vertically with Current Profile ⌘D

Split Horizontally with Current Profile ⇧⌘D



Your performance would suffer a lot if you had to use the mouse to use any of those terminals. For that problem the shortcut keys to move between the panes solve it.

Next Pane ⌘]

Previous Pane ⌘[

You can also move between panes directionally. Most of the time I can't remember the shortcut keys for it, previous/next pane works great, rarely have more than 2 panes at the time.

Select Pane Above ⌘⇧↑

Select Pane Below ⌘⇧↓

Select Pane Left ⌘⇧←

Select Pane Right ⌘⇧→

Interacting with the terminal

The following shortcut keys are not used that often (sometimes due to failing personal memory). They do come in handy from time to time when you need to do something with the output which is in terminal.

Clear Window \wedge L

Clear Buffer \mathbb{K}

Scroll Up \uparrow Page Up

Scroll Down \uparrow Page Down

Find... \mathbb{F}

Changing font size

The iTerm on my machine is configured to my liking and works for almost all the use cases. For that reason it's rare to change the font size. If you're making a presentation, recording screen cast or your eyes are tired shortcut keys for changing font size solves that problem.

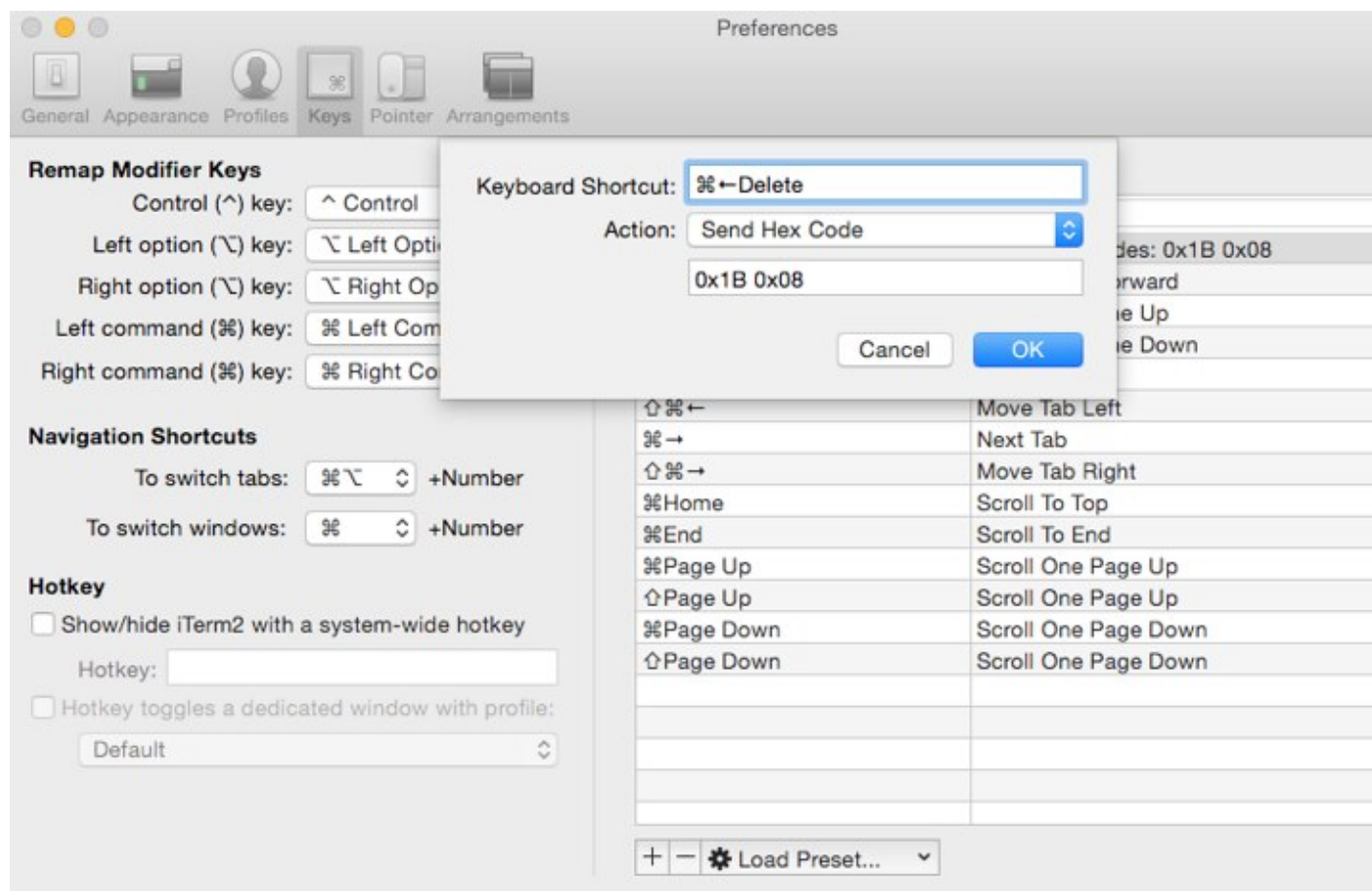
Make Text Bigger $\mathbb{+}$

Make Text Normal Size $\mathbb{0}$

Make Text Smaller $\mathbb{-}$

Custom shortcuts keys

You can change global shortcut keys from profile preferences **Keys** tab. One shortcut key I find useful is deleting the last word. It uses the `⌘←Delete` as keyboard shortcut and sends the `0x1B 0x08` hex code (action).



Go Left One Word `⌘←` (send escape sequence `b`)

Go Right One Word `⌘→` (send escape sequence `f`)

Conclusion

These are the shortcut keys I use daily with iTerm. Learning shortcut keys for any application can move you to a power user level and improve your productivity a lot. The problem is remembering all of them.

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