

Rewritten in Rust: Modern Alternatives of Command-Line Tools

Shell # Rust

2020-07-30 · 4 min read

Shell is the essential tool for every programmer. The more familiar you become with the available tools, the more efficient you can be with using your computer. Here's a list of command-line tools written in Rust that aim to provide modern, often much faster, alternatives to the existing shell commands.

bat

bat is a cat clone with syntax highlighting and Git integration that works on Windows, MacOS and Linux. It provides syntax highlighting for many file extensions by default.

```
File: App.vue

File: App.vue

*** ... • bat App.vue

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```

exa

exa is a modern replacement for ls, the default command-line program in Unix/Linux for listing directory contents. exa supports icons with the --icons flag.

```
zaiste@licklider: ~/code/github/doom-emacs
doom-emacs · fix-faq-link … • exa
                                                            init.test.el Makefile
                                 init.el
                                                                                                  README.md
core early-init.el init.example.el LICENSE
                                                                                   modules
doom-emacs · fix-faq-link … • exa -l
                      - zaiste 24 May 2019 bin
drwxr-xr-x
                      - zaiste 24 May 2019 core
drwxr-xr-x
drwxr-xr-x
                      - zaiste 24 May 2019 docs
.rw-r--r- 808 zaiste 24 May 2019 early-init.el
.rw-r--r- 4.5k zaiste 24 May 2019 init.el
                                                2019 init.el
2019 init.example.el
.rw-r--r-- 9.0k zaiste 24 May
.rw-r--r- 261 zaiste 24 May 2019 init.test.el
.rw-r--r-- 1.1k zaiste 24 May 2019 LICENSE

      .rw-r--r-
      1.3k zaiste
      24 May
      2019 modules

      drwxr-xr-x
      - zaiste
      24 May
      2019 modules

      .rw-r--r-
      8.8k zaiste
      24 May
      2019 modules

      2009 doom-emacs
      fix-faq-link ... ●

 Click here to configure status bar
```

fd

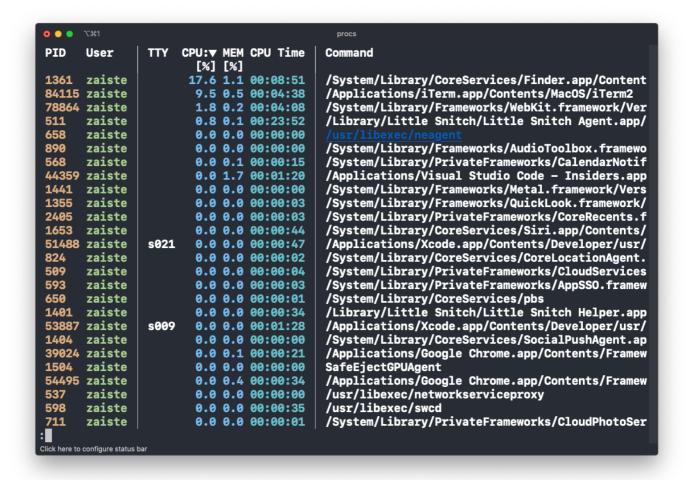
In is a fast and user-friendly alternative to find, the built-in command-line program in Unix/Linux for walking a file hierarchy. fd provides opinionated defaults for the most common use cases. To find a specific file by name, you write fd PATTERN instead of find -iname '*PATTERN*'. fd is also extremely fast and it comes with a ton of options like ignoring hidden directories, files and patterns from .gitignore by default.

```
Pdoom-emacs · fix-faq-link ... • fd init
early-init.el
init.el
init.example.el
init.test.el
modules/config/literate/init.el
modules/editor/file-templates/templates/emacs-lisp-mode/__initfile
Pdoom-emacs · fix-faq-link ... • ■

Click here to configure status bar
```

procs

procs is a modern replacement for ps, the default command-line program in Unix/Linux for getting information about processes. It provides convenient, human-readable (and colored) output format by default.



sd

sd is an intuitive find & replace command-line tool, it is an alternative to sed, the built-in command-line program in Unix/Linux for parsing and transforming text (). sd has simpler syntax for replacing all occurrences and it uses the convenient regex syntax that you already know from JavaScript and Python. sd is also 2x-11x faster than sed.

sed is a programmable text editor, with search and replace being a common use case. In that light, sd is more like tr, but on steroids. (thanks /u/oleid for the suggestion).

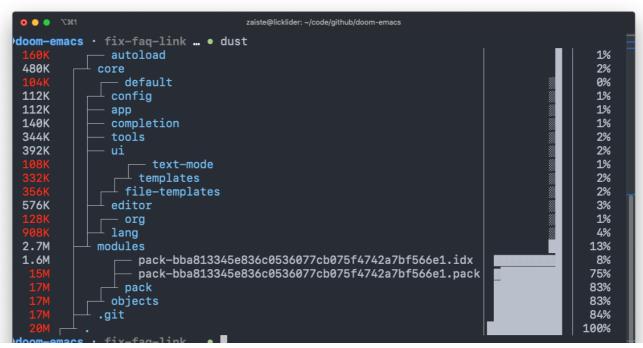
```
zaiste@licklider: -/code/github/doom-emacs

bdoom-emacs • fix-faq-link ... • sd emacs vim # instead of: sed s/emacs/vim/g

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```

dust

dust is a more intuitive version of du, the built-in command-line program in Unix/Linux for displaying disk usage statistics. By default dust sorts the directories by size.



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GitHub

starship

The minimal, blazing-fast, and infinitely customizable prompt for any shell.

GitHub

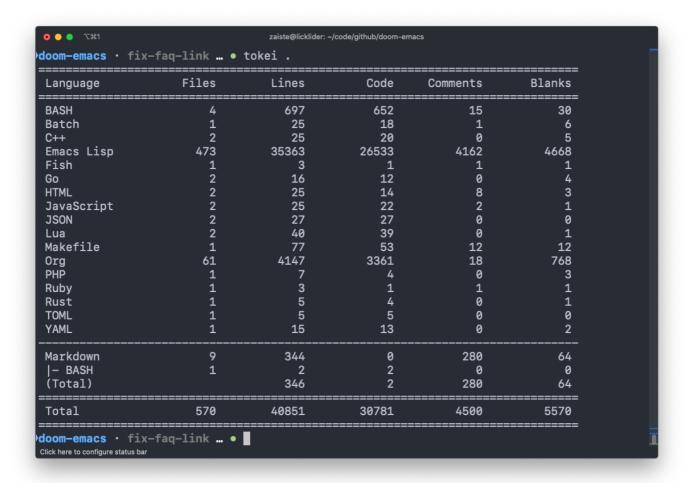
ripgrep

ripgrep is an extremely fast alternative to grep, the built-in command-line program in Unix/Linux for searching files by pattern. ripgrep is a line-oriented search tool that recursively searches your current directory for a regex pattern. By default, ripgrep respects <code>.gitignore</code> and automatically skips hidden files, directories and binary files.

GitHub

tokei

tokei is a program that displays statistics about your code. It shows the number of files, total lines within those files and code, comments, and blanks grouped by language.



GitHub

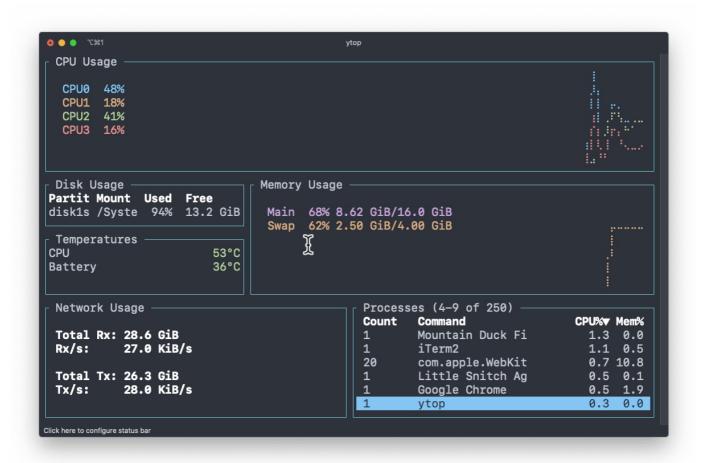
hyperfine

hyperfine is a command-line benchmarking tool. Among many features, it provides statistical analysis across multiple runs, support for arbitrary shell commands, constant feedback about the benchmark progress and current estimates and more.

```
Pidoom-emacs · fix-faq-link ... • hyperfine --warmup 3 'fd -e el' 'find . -iname "*.el" |
```

ytop

ytop is an alternative to top, the built-in command-line program in Unix/Linux for displaying information about processes.



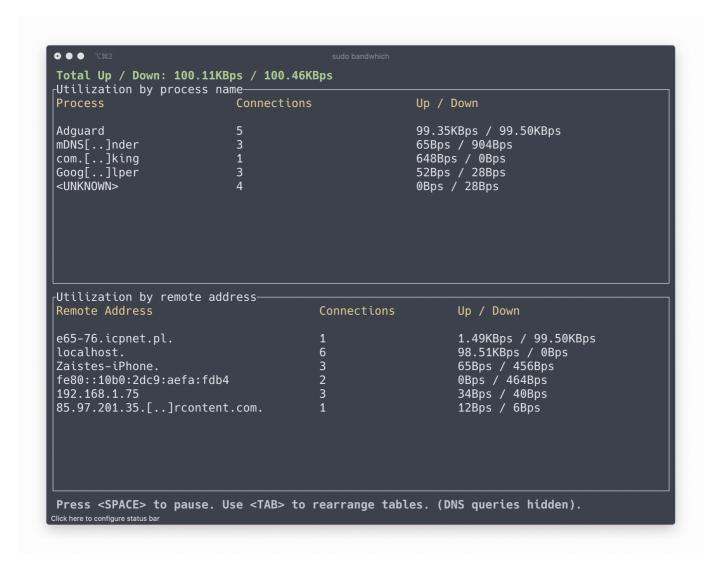
tealdeer

tealdeer is a very fast implementation of tldr, a command-line program for displaying simplified, example based and community-driven man pages.



bandwhich

bandwhich is a CLI utility for displaying current network utilization by process, connection and remote IP or hostname.



grex

grex is a command-line tool and library for generating regular expressions from user-provided test cases.



rmesg

rmesg is a dmesg implementation in Rust (and available as a library for Rust programs to consume kernel message logs.)

zoxide

zoxide is a blazing fast autojumper, intended to completely replace the cd command. It allows you to change directories without typing out the entire path name.



GitHub

Bonus: nushell

mushell is a new type of shell, written in Rust. Its goal is to create a modern shell alternative that's still based on the Unix philosophy, but adapted to the current era. It supports piping and filtering in a way similar to awk and sed with a column view so that you can combine operations like in SQL. (thanks /u/matu3ba for the suggestion).



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Kretes

Flutter In Practice

Emacs Doom

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