

NAME

stowify - Backup, relocate, and stow dotfiles and system files

SYNOPSIS

```
stowify.sh [FILES...]  
stowify.sh --undo
```

DESCRIPTION

stowify is a standalone Bash script designed to help users manage dotfiles and system configuration files using GNU Stow. It automates the process of:

- Backing up files before moving
- Structuring them into stow-compatible modules
- Linking them back using stow
- Logging all activity for later restore

OPTIONS

FILES...

One or more absolute paths to files or directories to be stowified.

--undo

Restores all previously stowed files from the latest backup and removes symlinks by unstowing the corresponding modules.

FEATURES

- Supports both user and system files
- Backs up originals to ~/dotfiles_backup/TIMESTAMP/
- Stores modules in ~/dotfiles/MODULENAME/
- Creates symlinks with stow or sudo stow as appropriate
- Logs stow operations in ~/dotfiles/stow_targets.txt
- Detects duplicates and skips already-stowed modules
- Supports Thunar custom actions
- GUI feedback via zenity (optional)
- Desktop notifications via notify-send (optional)

USAGE EXAMPLES

```
# Stowify a file  
$ stowify.sh ~/.bashrc  
  
# Stowify multiple files  
$ stowify.sh ~/.vimrc ~/.local/bin/mytool /usr/share/pixmaps/icon.png  
  
# Undo last stowify session  
$ stowify.sh --undo
```

FILES

~/dotfiles/	Base directory for all modules
~/dotfiles_backup/	Timestamped backups of original files
~/dotfiles/stow_targets.txt	Tracks all stowified modules and destinations
~/bin/stowify.sh	The script itself

EXIT STATUS

0 on success
1 if an error occurs or file not found

SEE ALSO

stow(1), zenity(1), notify-send(1)

AUTHOR

Developed by Tom Cashen with the help of ChatGPT. Inspired by the simplicity of GNU Stow and the power of modular configuration.

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