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An iTerm2 Cheatsheet

 [iterm2.md](#)

Tabs and Windows

Function	Shortcut
New Tab	⌘ + T
Close Tab or Window	⌘ + W (same as many mac apps)
Go to Tab	⌘ + Number Key (ie: ⌘2 is 2nd tab)
Go to Split Pane by Direction	⌘ + Option + Arrow Key
Cycle iTerm Windows	⌘ + backtick (true of all mac apps and works with desktops/mission control)
Splitting	
Split Window Vertically (same profile)	⌘ + D
Split Window Horizontally (same profile)	⌘ + Shift + D (mnemonic: shift is a wide horizontal key)
Moving	
Move a pane with the mouse	⌘ + Alt + Shift and then drag the pane from anywhere
Fullscreen	
Fullscreen	⌘ + Enter

Function	Shortcut
Maximize a pane	⌘ + Shift + Enter (use with fullscreen to temp fullscreen a pane!)
Resize Pane	Ctrl + ⌘ + Arrow (given you haven't mapped this to something else)
Less Often Used By Me	
Go to Split Pane by Order of Use	⌘ +] , ⌘ + [
Split Window Horizontally (new profile)	Option + ⌘ + H
Split Window Vertically (new profile)	Option + ⌘ + V
Previous Tab	⌘ + Left Arrow (I usually move by tab number)
Next Tab	⌘ + Right Arrow
Go to Window	⌘ + Option + Number

My Favorite Shell Key Combos

These might be helpful to getting you faster with the shell but really this isn't iTerm2 specific. I'm assuming you are using bash or zsh on Mac. There are many tips but I use these quite a bit. There is also more than one way to do it sometimes so adopt what you like best.

Hopefully some of these change your life. :)

Function	Shortcut	Use
Delete to start of line	Ctrl + U	Use this to start over typing without hitting Ctrl-C
Delete to end of line	Ctrl + K	Use this with command history to repeat commands and changing one thing at the end!

Function	Shortcut	Use
Repeat last command	Up Arrow	Cycle and browse your history with up and down. <code>Ctrl-R</code> is faster if you know the string you are looking for.
Move back and forth on a line	Arrow Keys	This takes you off the home row but it's easy to remember
Move back and forth on a line by words	<code>⌘</code> + Arrow Keys	Fast way to jump to a word to correct a typo or "run again" with minor changes
Delete previous word (in shell)	<code>Ctrl</code> + <code>W</code>	It's faster to delete by words. Especially when your last command was wrong by a single typo or something.
Clear screen	<code>Ctrl</code> + <code>L</code>	This is telling the shell to do it instead of an explicit command like <code>clear</code> or <code>cls</code> in DOS. If you use <code>⌘</code> + <code>K</code> , this is telling iTerm to clear the screen which might have the same result or do something terrible (like when using a TUI like <code>top</code> or <code>htop</code>). In general, use this instead of typing <code>clear</code> over and over.

Moving Faster

A lot of shell shortcuts work in iTerm and it's good to learn these because arrow keys, home/end keys and Mac equivalents don't always work. For example `⌘` + Left Arrow is usually the same as `Home` (go to beginning of current line) but that doesn't work in the shell. `Home` works in many apps but it takes you away from the home row.

Function	Shortcut
Move to the start of line	<code>Ctrl</code> + <code>A</code> or <code>Home</code>
Move to the end of line	<code>Ctrl</code> + <code>E</code> or <code>End</code>
Move forward a word	<code>Option</code> + <code>F</code>

Function	Shortcut
Move backward a word	Option + B
Set Mark	⌘ + M
Jump to Mark	⌘ + J
Moving by word on a line (this is a shell thing but passes through fine)	Ctrl + Left/Right Arrow
Cursor Jump with Mouse (shell and vim - might depend on config)	Option + Left Click

Copy and Paste with iTerm without using the mouse

I don't use this feature too much. I instead just mouse select (which copies to the clipboard) and paste. There's no need to Copy to the clipboard if you have `General > Selection > Copy to pasteboard on selection enabled`.

Function	Shortcut
Enter Copy Mode	Shift + ⌘ + C
Enter Character Selection Mode in Copy Mode	Ctrl + V
Move cursor in Copy Mode	HJKL vim motions or arrow keys
Copy text in Copy Mode	Ctrl + K

Copy actions goes into the normal system clipboard which you can paste like normal.

Search the Command History

Some of these are not directly related to iTerm and are just "shell features". Like, if you open Terminal.app on Mac some of these still work because it's the shell and not iTerm. I'm including them anyway.

Function	Shortcut
Search as you type	Ctrl + R and type the search term; Repeat Ctrl + R to loop through result

Function	Shortcut
Search the last remembered search term	Ctrl + R twice
End the search at current history entry	Ctrl + Y
Cancel the search and restore original line	Ctrl + G

Misc

Function	Shortcut
Clear the screen/pane (when Ctrl + L won't work)	⌘ + K (I use this all the time)
Broadcast command to all panes in window (nice when needed!)	⌘ + Alt + I (again to toggle)
Find Cursor	⌘ + / <i>or use a theme or cursor shape that is easy to see</i>

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cagricolak commented on Nov 28, 2019

Thank you

AntonioArts commented on Dec 29, 2019

Very handy, thank you!

zandegran commented on Feb 6, 2020

⌘ + Shift + arrow-up
⌘ + Shift + arrow-down

For navigating marks. If shell integration is enabled all commands are marked automatically, and you can quickly go to previous commands and their output.



emreac commented on Mar 11, 2020

Thank you!

AlaaHamoudah commented on Mar 16, 2020

I am new to iTerm and I am so used to move between words using the option and the arrow, it's not working here and also the ctrl + arrows is not working as well

squarism commented on Mar 18, 2020 • edited ▼

Author

I am new to iTerm and I am so used to move between words using the option and the arrow, it's not working here and also the ctrl + arrows is not working as well

@AlaaHamoudah

Thanks, the correct modifier key is `⌥` (option). I edited this gist. Check Preferences > Profiles > Keys that your left option key is set to `Esc+`.

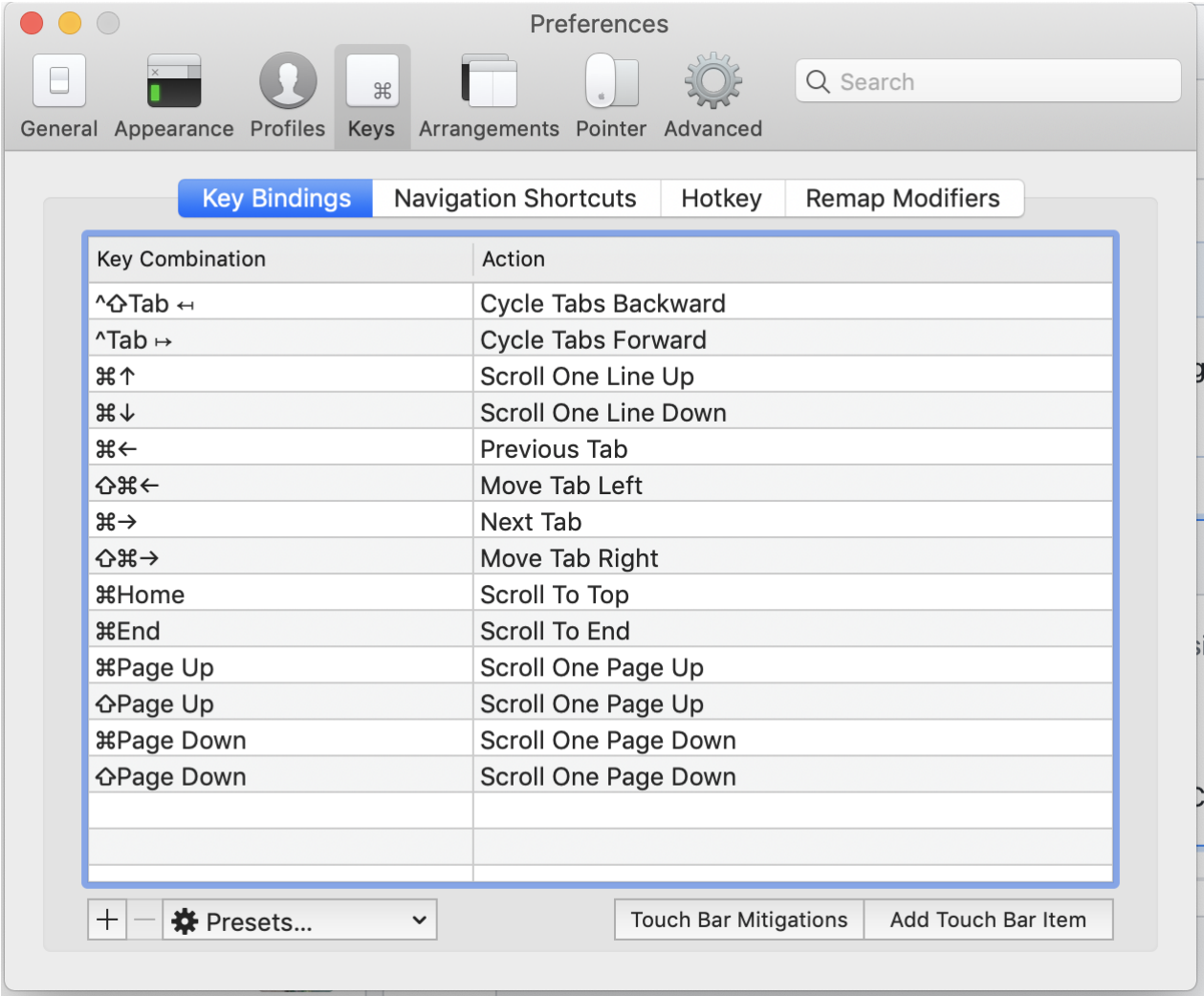
Edit: Preferences > Profiles > Keys

See screenshot below. Thank you **@SlowerLoris**

AlaaHamoudah commented on Mar 19, 2020 • edited ▼

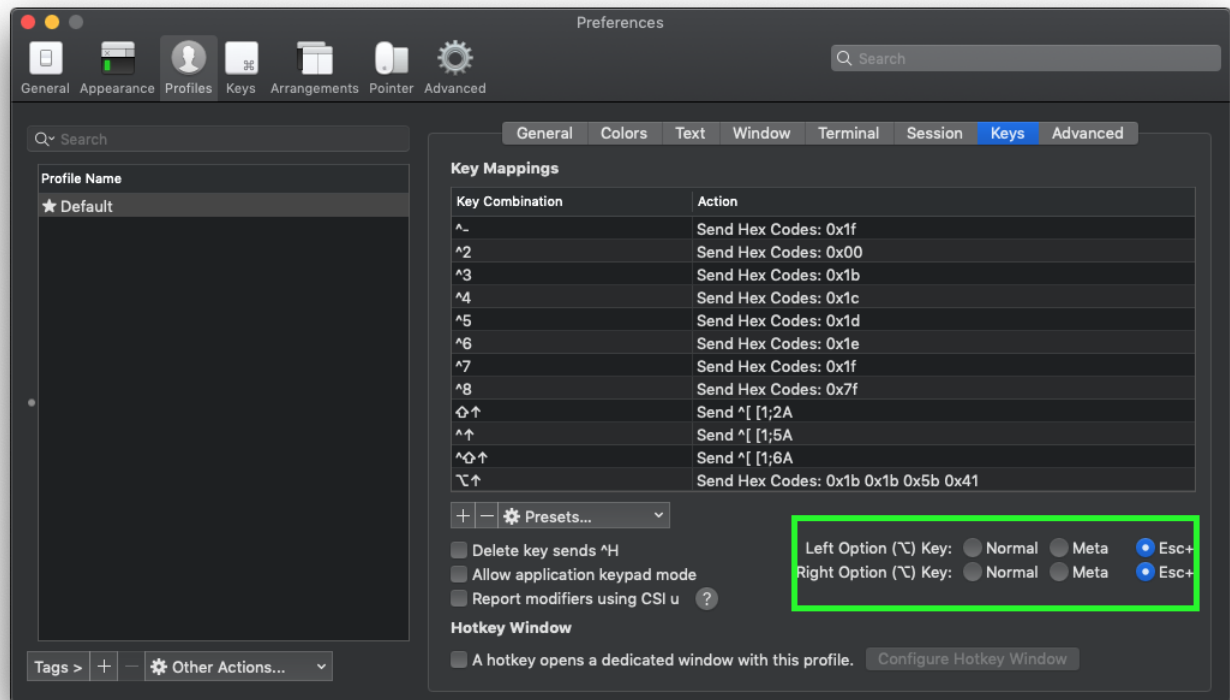
Thanks for ur response, but still not clear for me. Here are my keys, the left option is not set to anything, and there is no Esc+ in the dropdown list.

Also, I am used on the right option to work with the arrows as the normal shell, not the left one. Is this doable here?



SlowerLoris commented on Mar 23, 2020

@AlaaHamoudah Go to Profiles tab (not Keys), you will see this:



yuchdev commented on Apr 30, 2020

Ctrl + D
closes panel which you split by ⌘ + D

squarism commented on Apr 30, 2020

Author

@yuchdev Ctrl-D is a common unix convention. It's not related to iTerm but you are not wrong. 😊 It's a shortcut for EOF which is the same thing as typing `exit` but it's also useful for `cat` and other shell tricks. ⌘+W is a closer accompanying shortcut for ⌘+D because it closes a window, if it is a pane, it will close that pane.

gaochundong commented on Jun 30, 2020

Thanks

akki commented on Jul 6, 2020

Thanks @SlowerLoris , that worked for me ❤️

decpx584 commented on Jul 21, 2020

Thanks so much for this, **@suarism** ! I'm a new developing student and this will really help me out.

ronakzala commented on Jul 24, 2020

Thank you so much for this curated list of shortcuts!

PropeReferio commented on Aug 8, 2020

Loving iTerm2 in general.

I'd like to be able to skip words in the terminal with Option + Left Arrow/Right Arrow, but it's currently only working with Option +F/B. I set the left option key to Esc+ already.

How can I configure such that the arrow keys work? Thanks.

suarism commented on Aug 12, 2020 • edited ▼

Author

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How can I configure such that the arrow keys work? Thanks.

@PropeReferio Ctrl+Arrow keys might work for you. It seems to work on Mac locally and a remote ssh Linux shell. I think that's just a terminal thing and not anything iTerm is messing with. I know Putty/Windows seems to handle this ok. So Ctrl+Arrow keys will jump by words on a current line of a shell. Useful for editing history or some really long command. 🌻

Norgul commented on Oct 18, 2020

Does anyone else have `ls` executed on right `Option + L` ? Where is that being set?

mariuserlenbruch commented on Dec 14, 2020

Does anyone else have `ls` executed on right `Option + L` ? Where is that being set?

yep... same problem here.

squarism commented on Dec 14, 2020 • edited ▾

Author

Does anyone else have `ls` executed on right `Option + L` ? Where is that being set?

yep... same problem here.

I don't know. That's really surprising. Left option doesn't do this. It's not even running `ls` , it's doing the equivalent somehow. It does not do this in the stock `Terminal.app` and removing a bunch of key modifiers doesn't do anything (you can test in a new profile). If you really are curious, I'd signup for gitlab and post an issue here: <https://gitlab.com/gnachman/iterm2/>

Norgul commented on Dec 18, 2020 • edited ▾

@mariuserlenbruch @squarism

It may have sounded wrong, but I didn't actually mean it is a problem. I love the the feature and would like to remap it :D

But since I have no idea where to set it, I can't do it.

yihau commented on Jan 27, 2021

Thank you!!!!!!!

plantegg commented on Jul 21, 2021

can we fire command at a time in multiple windows?

`command + shift + I`: If you find the need to enter the same commands into multiple panes at the same time, simply hit "`⌘Command + ⇧Shift + I`". You will receive a small notification about sending input to all panes, the next text you type will physically begin typing into all open panes for your current tab and is executed once you hit "`↵Return`".

`⌘Command + ⌥Option + I`: send command to all panes in current tab

Zalexios commented on Aug 14, 2021

Here's an easier way to replicate a/e Home/End Key Mappings by sending 1 as hex for home and 5 as hex for end. I read somewhere the hex codes for skipping words without modifying the option key to send escape but I couldn't find it just now.

Jump to the start of the line (Home):

Keyboard Shortcut:

⌘← (Command + Left-Arrow)

Action:

Send Hex Code

1

Jump to the end of the line (End):

Keyboard Shortcut:

⌘→ (Command + Right-Arrow)

Action:

Send Hex Code

5

arvindkgs commented on Aug 24, 2021

⌘ + o shows a dialog with all profiles and selection of a profile opens tab in specific profile

xu20160924 commented on Sep 1, 2021

Does anyone know if there have a shortcut to show all Snippet?

≡ Send Snippet...

I'd like to show all snippets, and then choose one using the up/down arrow key.

hui-zheng commented on Sep 23, 2021

To Undo the last changes. use Ctrl-x Ctrl-u or Ctrl-_

ahsanfarooq3423 commented on Jan 4

Thanks

parin13 commented on Jan 22

any option to rename a particular plane?

xu20160924 commented 18 days ago

Does anyone know why when I use fn + delete to delete a character after the cursor, it prints tilde(~) and didn't work

dudeinthemirror commented 9 days ago · edited ▼

You can add `set -o vi` and `export EDITOR=vi` in your `.zshrc` (or `.bashrc`, or what have you). After you source it

(`. ~/.zshrc`), you are now in vi insert mode. Then you can do:

ESC - to exit the insert mode.

k - to move back in history

j - to move forward in history

/ pattern - to search for a command in the history containing 'pattern'

O - to move to the beginning of the line

\$ - to move to the end of the line

l - move to the right one char at a time

h - move to the left one char at a time

w - to move to the right one word at a time

b - to move to the left one word at a time

cw - to change word

dw - to delete word

C - to change to the end of line

D - to delete to the end of line

... etc ... etc ... you get the point I hope :)