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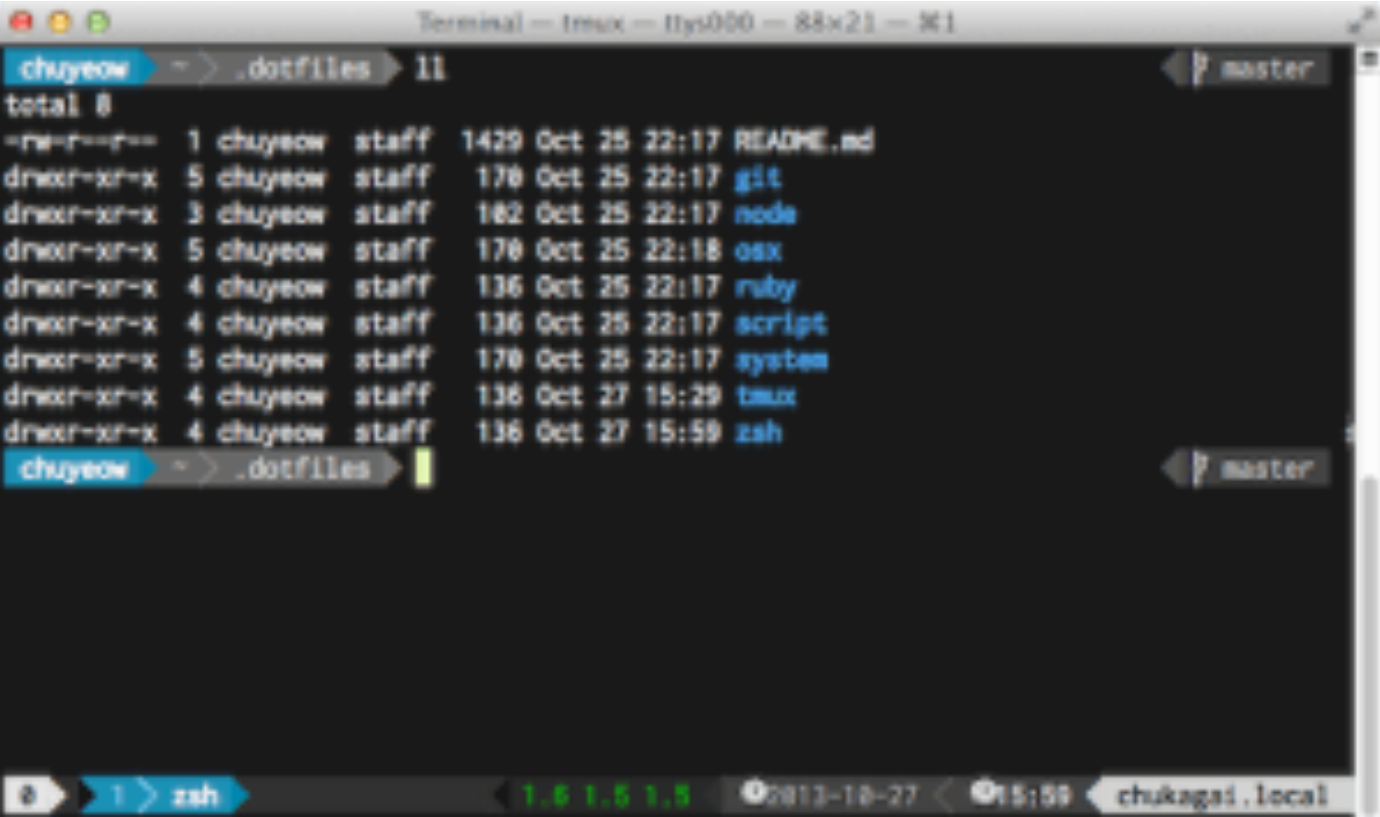
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Oct 2013

Installing Powerline on OS X + homebrew

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I've always wanted to get that fancy **Powerline** status bar and prompt. Chevrons and git branch icons in the terminal just sounds so... defying:



I'd failed to get it working properly before because of a combination of outdated Powerline docs and confusion between OS X's system **python/vim** and **homebrew's python/vim**. Some of my former colleagues detailed the pains and hours lost getting Powerline setup, so I gave up.

Anyway, I got a new Mac for work recently and decided to try again, and it was easier than I thought. You (including you, future Chu Yeow) can use this guide if you're using homebrew to install **vim** and **python** (and everything else like **zsh** and **tmux**).

Installing Powerline on OS X

1. Install python with homebrew: `brew install python`
2. Install vim with homebrew: `brew install vim --env-std --override-system-vim`. You must **install vim after python** so that it'll compile with homebrew's python.
3. Install powerline with pip: `pip install https://github.com/Lokaltog/powerline/tarball/develop`. Powerline should get installed to `/usr/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/powerline`.
4. `open /usr/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/powerline` – you should see the files required for integration with zsh, vim, tmux, etc. in the **bindings** directory. All you need to do now is to include these bindings in your zsh, vim and tmux config files – it's that simple!
5. Add Powerline to vim by adding these lines to `~/.vimrc`:

```
source /usr/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/powerline/bindings/vim
set laststatus=2
```

6. Add Powerline to tmux by adding this to `~/.tmux.conf`:

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```
source /usr/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/powerline/bindings/1
```

7. Add Powerline to zsh by adding this to `~/.zshrc`:

```
source /usr/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/powerline/bindings/z
```

If you use `oh-my-zsh`, be sure to `source` the Powerline bindings after `oh-my-zsh`'s.


8. Grab a patched font from <https://github.com/Lokaltog/powerline-fonts> (I use Inconsolata), and install it (just download, double-click the font file, and Install). If you don't use any of these fonts, you'll have to [patch your favorite font](#) yourself (*have fun with that!*)

That's all you need! Go crazy and start tweaking your Powerline colorscheme.

8 Responses to Installing Powerline on OS X + homebrew


kates
October 29th, 2013 at 9am

frist!




Paul
October 30th, 2013 at 10am

This was a nice, simple resource. Thanks! The directions at step 3 appear to be different now, though. Unless I did something wrong... Powerline now seems to install at ``/Library/Python/2.7/site-packages/powerline`` instead of ``/usr/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/powerline``.




Chu Yeow
October 31st, 2013 at 11am

Hey Paul, if Powerline gets installed to ``/Library/Python/2.7/site-packages/powerline``, I suspect ``pip`` is using system Python (or you might very unlikely have configured your site-packages path). You might wanna see if you can get it under ``/usr/local`` if sandboxing the Powerline install with homebrew is important to you.



Koen Van der Auwera
October 31st, 2013 at 5pm

Nice to see you're back! :)



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Leon

April 13th, 2014 at 7am

What is the benefit of installing vim through homebrew when it's already installed on the Mac? Is it just so it uses the correct version of python? Can you not set the existing version of vim to use the brewed python?

Travis

July 1st, 2014 at 12am

Thanks for this! I really didn't want to install MacPorts just to get powerline...

iTerm2 ? oh-my-zsh ???? ?? ???? I Ruby & Rails

December 16th, 2015 at 6pm

[...] <http://blog.codefront.net/2013/10/27/installing-powerline-on-os-x-homebrew/> [...]

???Terminal????? I Mingyo & Nari Studio

January 11th, 2016 at 10am

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