

OpenTerminal 2.07

What does OpenTerminal do?

When you are working in the Finder and you discover that you need a Terminal window, you have to open Terminal and "cd" to the folder you were working on. With OpenTerminal you just click its icon or chose it from the Finder's contextual menu and a terminal with the correct path shows up.

What is new in OpenTerminal 2.07 (07/31/2010)?

- Works better with Mac OS X's Spaces feature
- Includes some new workarounds for iTerm bugs
- Updated the alternative icon for the Finder's toolbar so it's no longer misaligned.
- Works better with Visor (added in 2.06b)

If you already have another version of OpenTerminal installed, put it in the trash, then copy the new version to the old location and finally log out and in again to activate the new version.

What are the system requirements?

This application needs Mac OS X 10.6. OpenTerminal 1.3.1 for Mac OS X 10.2, OpenTerminal 2.0.3 for Mac OS X 10.3 and 10.4 and OpenTerminal 2.0.5 for Mac OS X 10.5 are still available.

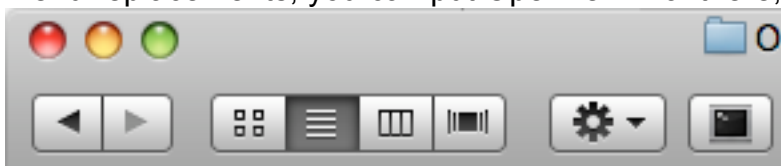
iTerm support has been tested with version 0.10.

How do I use it?

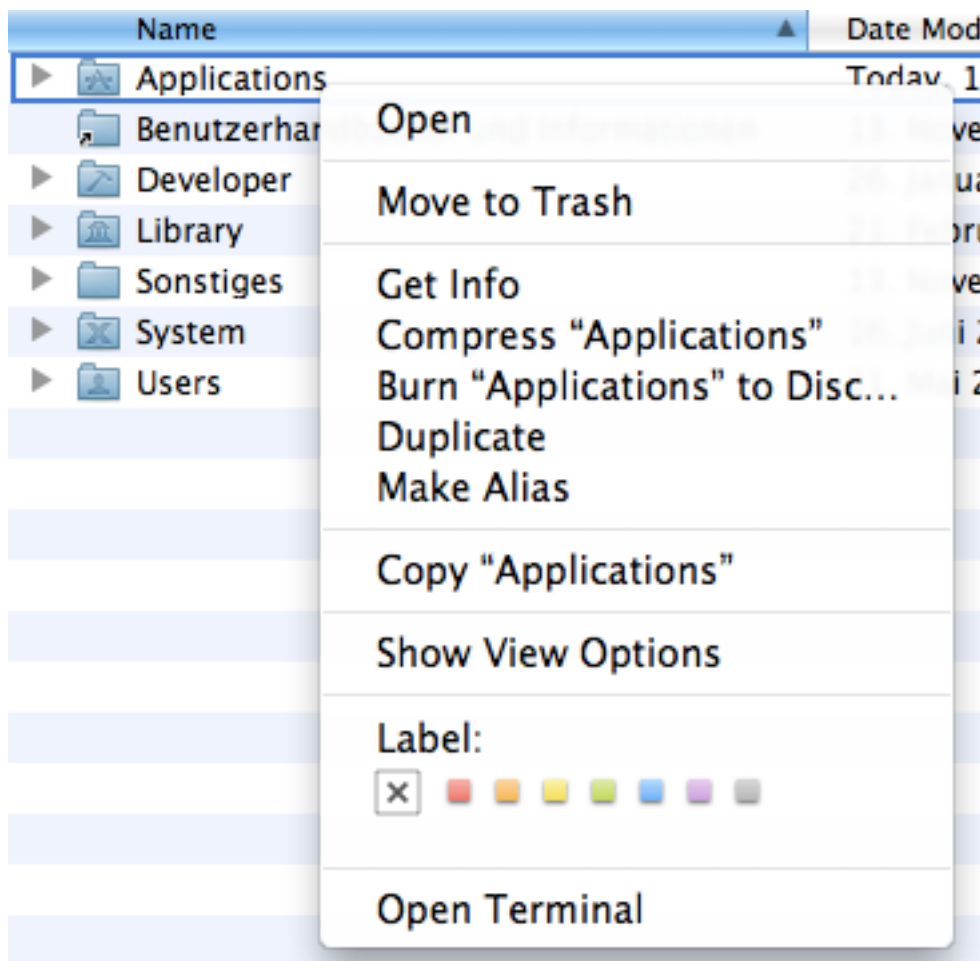
First, install the OpenTerminal application somewhere, e.g. by moving it to your Applications/Utilites folder. If you want to use the OpenTerminal service (e.g. in the Finder's contextual menu), you have to put it somewhere under "Applications".

OpenTerminal can be used in four ways:

- 1) You can drag the application into your Finder toolbar (as shown in the picture, see also chapter "Alternative toolbar icon" below) or put it in the Dock. Then click it to open a Terminal window with the path of the current Finder window. If you use DragThing, Overflow or other Dock / classic Apple menu replacements, you can put OpenTerminal there, too.



- 2) You can also drag folders to the OpenTerminal icon in order to display corresponding Terminal windows. If you drop a file onto OpenTerminal, OpenTerminal will open the folder that file is in.
- 3) Unfortunately, Mac OS X 10.6 in 64-bit mode does no longer support contextual menu plugins. The plugin has therefore been replaced by a "service". After installing OpenTerminal somewhere in the Applications folder and logging out and in again, the OpenTerminal service will be displayed in the "Services" menu and the Finder's contextual menu. You can disable it or create a shortcut key in System Preferences under "Keyboard"-"Keyboard Shortcuts"-"Services".



- 4) David Blache posted a useful tip to the comment area on MacUpdate and Versiontracker. You can add a "cdf" command to your shell so that you can switch to the folder of the current Finder window by simply entering "cdf". See section "How do I create the optional cdf command" below. This works not only with iTerm and Terminal, but with every terminal application, e.g. xterm. Thanks to David for sharing this idea!

How do I change the preferences?

When you start OpenTerminal for the first time, the preferences dialog will automatically appear. If you want to modify your preferences later, press the option key while starting OpenTerminal and the preferences dialog will appear again.

In the preferences you can select:

- 1) Whether you want OpenTerminal to stay in the background (see below for more information).
- 2) Whether you want to use Terminal or iTerm.
- 3) Whether OpenTerminal should use an already open terminal if there is one and change its path or always open a new terminal window. To reverse your selection temporarily, press the command key or the shift key while activating OpenTerminal.
- 4) Whether you want to open new tabs instead of new windows. To reverse your selection temporarily, enable Caps Lock before activating OpenTerminal.
- 5) Whether OpenTerminal may switch to another space if it can use an existing terminal there.
- 6) Whether OpenTerminal should take the path from a currently selected folder if there is one in the current Finder window or use the directory of the current Finder window itself.
- 7) Whether you want OpenTerminal to use "pushd" instead of "cd".
- 8) Whether you are using csh/tcsh or not. This is important if you work with non-ASCII folder names.

Alternative toolbar icon

The default OpenTerminal icon doesn't really fit in the Finder toolbar. Here's how you can change the icon to the included "Alternative icon":

- 1) Ctrl-click (or right-click) the "Alternative icon" file in the Finder and choose "Get Info".
- 2) Select the icon in the upper left corner of the "Get Info" panel and choose "Copy" from the "Edit" menu.
- 3) Now open the "Get Info" panel for the OpenTerminal application, select its icon and paste the alternative icon there. (If you want to remove the alternative icon later, select it again in the "Get Info" panel of the OpenTerminal application and choose "Cut" from the "Edit" menu.

The alternative icon isn't highlighted correctly when you click it, but I think there's nothing I can do about that.

Does OpenTerminal work with Visor?

To use OpenTerminal with Visor, select the "Use an existing Terminal session if possible" option and deselect "Use tabs instead of windows".

Why is OpenTerminal a background application?

There are already some AppleScripts and applications available (cd2me, Termici, Open Terminal Here) which do the same thing as OpenTerminal. However, they need a few seconds to launch every time you click on them. I found that a bit annoying and therefore wrote OpenTerminal, which stays in the background and doesn't need to launch when you click on it.

Does OpenTerminal slow down the computer while running in the background?

OpenTerminal uses absolutely no processor time unless you activate it. It uses a bit of memory, but no more than a typical Dashboard Widget. If you want to save that memory, you can disable the background mode. If you do that, OpenTerminal won't be any faster than the other applications anymore. Since the latest versions of OpenTerminal also have more features like Unicode support and a contextual menu plugin, it still makes sense to use OpenTerminal even without the speed advantage.

How do I create the optional cdf command?

If you use bash, add the following line (without the line break) to both ~/.bashrc and ~/.bash_profile

```
alias cdf='eval `osascript /Applications/Utilities/OpenTerminal.app/Contents/Resources/Scripts/OpenTerminal.scpt `'
```

For csh/tcsh, you replace "=" with a space and add the line to ~/.cshrc. Of course you have to change the path if you haven't installed OpenTerminal to /Applications/Utilities . By default, the cdf command uses cd or pushd according to your OpenTerminal preferences, but you can add a parameter to make it use a specified command. You could create both a cdf and a pushdf command with these two lines:

```
alias cdf='eval `osascript /Applications/Utilities/OpenTerminal.app/Contents/Resources/Scripts/OpenTerminal.scpt cd`'  
alias pushdf='eval `osascript /Applications/Utilities/OpenTerminal.app/Contents/Resources/Scripts/OpenTerminal.scpt pushd`'
```

How exactly does the cdf command work?

The "osascript" command directly accesses the OpenTerminal script without launching the OpenTerminal application. This means the command won't become slower if you disable OpenTerminal's background mode. OpenTerminal returns a

complete `cd` command with the path of the current Finder window and `"eval"` then executes that command. If the path contains any Unicode characters, OpenTerminal cannot return them directly to the shell. Instead it writes the `cd` command to a temporary file and then returns a `"."` command that executes the temporary file. If you have selected `"csh/tcsh"` in your OpenTerminal preferences, it will use the `"source"` command instead of `"."`. You can override this by passing a second parameter to the script, so if you want `cd` support in `tcsh` (supports only `"source"`) and `ksh` (supports only `"."`) at the same time, add

```
alias cdf='eval `osascript /Applications/Utilities/OpenTerminal.app/Contents/Resources/Scripts/OpenTerminal.scpt cd .`'
```

to your `~/kshrc` file and

```
alias cdf 'eval `osascript /Applications/Utilities/OpenTerminal.app/Contents/Resources/Scripts/OpenTerminal.scpt cd source`'
```

to your `~/cshrc` file.

Are there any known bugs?

When you open a Finder window without a corresponding file system path (e.g. a Spotlight window or the Network window) and activate OpenTerminal for that window, it will `cd` to your Trash folder. That's because the Finder doesn't return a path for the Trash window, either, so OpenTerminal cannot distinguish between the Trash window (which has a file system path) and windows without a corresponding file system path.

Snow Leopard's Finder has a bug where it sometimes needs several seconds to find out which folder is currently open. This always happens with the same folders. Unfortunately, I cannot do anything about it.

Terminal.app lacks a "make new tab" command, therefore OpenTerminal can only open tabs in Terminal windows if you have the "Enable access for assistive devices" option turned on in the Universal Access preference pane in System Preferences.

OpenTerminal sometimes gets confused if Terminal's preferences window is open.

If you find a new bug, please e-mail me.

Version history:

What was new in OpenTerminal 2.0.6b (07/30/2010)?

- Works better with Visor

What was new in OpenTerminal 2.0.6 (07/29/2010)?

- Is compatible with (and requires) Mac OS X 10.6

What was new in OpenTerminal 2.0.5 (10/06/2008)?

- Fixes a bug where OpenTerminal would try to cd into a selected file
- Restores compatibility with iTerm \geq 0.9.6
- Includes an alternative icon for the Finder toolbar

Thanks to Johannes Fortmann, Russell E. Owen and William Wu for reporting the bugs!

What was new in OpenTerminal 2.0.4 (01/25/2008)?

- This version drops support for Mac OS X 10.3 Panther and Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger (version 2.0.3 is still available for download)
- Many incompatibilities with Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard have been fixed
- Tabs in Leopard's Terminal are now supported

What was new in OpenTerminal 2.0.3 (12/05/2006)?

- There was an incompatibility between the OpenTerminal contextual menu plugin and the "FruitMenu" hack from Unsanity. The new contextual menu plugin works fine with FruitMenu.
- After Terminal (on Tiger) receives any AppleScript command, it no longer responds to double-clicking saved ".term" files. This is a bug in Terminal that has been reported to Apple a few months ago, but it's still not fixed. For those who want to use both OpenTerminal and .term files, OpenTerminal now includes a patch for Terminal's AppleScript support that fixes the bug. (Many thanks to Ken Weingold for reporting these two issues!)
- David Blache posted a great idea to the comment area on MacUpdate and Versiontracker: You can implement a "cdf" command that changes the working directory of the current Terminal session to the front-most Finder window. This can now be combined with OpenTerminal so that "cdf" can use OpenTerminal's functionality (support for Unicode file names, cd to the desktop if no windows are open, cd to the trash folder, etc.). It works with every terminal application including xterm!
- A small bug in the handling of Unicode file names was fixed.

What was new in OpenTerminal 2.0.2 (11/27/2006)?

- If you run OpenTerminal 2.0.1 and then click the "Use Settings As Defaults" button in Terminal's "Window Settings", every new Terminal window will first execute a "cd" command from then on. This is now fixed.
- AppleScript has a bug where it confuses files if you have two volumes with the same name. OpenTerminal now includes a workaround.
- OpenTerminal now uses the cool icon of "OpenTerminalHere" by Marc Liyanage. Many thanks to Marc!
- OpenTerminal now supports Mac OS X 10.3.9 once again. The dialogs are less pretty in Panther, but the core functionality is the same as in Tiger. Many thanks to Mark Allan for sending me a version of the contextual menu plugin that works with 10.3.9!

What was new in OpenTerminal 2.0.1 (11/4/2006)?

- Works correctly with uncommon keyboard layouts, e.g. Dvorak.
- Terminal windows now always have the correct title bar settings.

What was new in OpenTerminal 2.0 (11/2/2006)?

- A contextual menu plugin for the Finder
- Full support for iTerm
- Includes a workaround for a Finder bug that prevented OpenTerminal from opening a Terminal for the trash window
- A minor bug in the Unicode support has been fixed
- OpenTerminal now works while the preferences window is open
- The preferences window looks better on 800x600 screens (no longer slips under the Dock)

What was new in OpenTerminal 1.5 (10/29/2006)?

- You can now disable the background mode if you really need to save memory
- OpenTerminal automatically adds itself to your login items when background mode is enabled
- OpenTerminal displays a help screen with usage instructions if you double-click it instead of putting it in the Dock or Finder toolbar (or DragThing etc.)
- Fixes a bug introduced by new login item behaviour in OS X 10.3 or 10.4.
- 1.5.1: Works correctly if you do not use the login shell in the Terminal application

What was new in OpenTerminal 1.4 (10/29/2006)?

- Universal Binary
- Needs Mac OS X 10.4
- Works if floating Finder windows (Inspector or View Options) are open
- Works when the path contains Unicode characters
- Tries to work around an ugly bug in Terminal where Terminal simply ignores the "do script" command
- Supports the "pushd" command in addition to "cd"

What was new in OpenTerminal 1.3 (09/03/2002)?

- There is now a preferences dialog.
- You can set the default to "always open new terminal".
- You can drag folders to the OpenTerminal icon.
- You can tell OpenTerminal to use the current selection in the Finder instead of the current window.
- The title bar settings of the "Terminal" application are now respected (see known bugs)

What was new in OpenTerminal 1.2 (09/02/2002)?

- Fixed a bug where OpenTerminal would not open a new window even though the current window was busy doing something. (Thanks to Wincent for reporting this!)
- Some people requested that the command key should work like the shift key (to open a new terminal window). This is now implemented.

What was new in OpenTerminal 1.1 (09/02/2002)?

- If there is already a terminal open which is not doing anything at the moment,

OpenTerminal will change the path of that terminal instead of opening a new one. In version 1.1, you can press the shift key while clicking on the OpenTerminal icon and you will get a new terminal.

What was new in OpenTerminal 1.0 (09/01/2002)

- First version

I'm interested in the source code. Where can I get it?

OpenTerminal was originally written in 2002 with AppleScript Studio. AppleScript Studio is now deprecated and can no longer be used for new projects, so I don't think the source code is still very useful for others. If you are still interested, just send me an e-mail and I'll send the source code to you. OpenTerminal was written with AppleScript Studio 1.4. Parts are written in Objective-C.

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OpenTerminal icon made by Marc Liyanage

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