



\$ Awesome OS X Command Line

A curated list of shell commands and tools specific to OS X.

"You don't have to know everything. You simply need to know where to find it when necessary." (John Brunner)



If you want to contribute, you are highly encouraged to do so. Please read the [contribution guidelines](#).

For more terminal shell goodness, please also see this list's sister list [Awesome Command Line Apps](#).

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Appearance

Transparency

Transparency in Menu and Windows

```
# Reduce Transparency
defaults write com.apple.universalaccess reduceTransparency -bool true

# Restore Default Transparency
defaults write com.apple.universalaccess reduceTransparency -bool false
```

Wallpaper

Set Wallpaper

```
# Up to Mountain Lion
osascript -e 'tell application "Finder" to set desktop picture to POSIX file "/path/to/picture.jpg"'

# Since Mavericks
sqlite3 ~/Library/Application\ Support/Dock/desktoppicture.db "update data set value = '/path/to/picture.jp'
```

Applications

App Store

List All Apps Downloaded from App Store

```
# Via find
find /Applications -path '*Contents/_MASReceipt/receipt' -maxdepth 4 -print |\sed 's#.app/Contents/_MASRece

# Via Spotlight
mdfind kMDItemAppStoreHasReceipt=1
```

Show Debug Menu

```
# Enable
defaults write com.apple.appstore ShowDebugMenu -bool true

# Disable (Default)
defaults write com.apple.appstore ShowDebugMenu -bool false
```

Apple Remote Desktop

Remove Apple Remote Desktop Settings

```
sudo rm -rf /var/db/RemoteManagement ; \
sudo defaults delete /Library/Preferences/com.apple.RemoteDesktop.plist ; \
defaults delete ~/Library/Preferences/com.apple.RemoteDesktop.plist ; \
```

```
sudo rm -r /Library/Application\ Support/Apple/Remote\ Desktop/ ; \
rm -r ~/Library/Application\ Support/Remote\ Desktop/ ; \
rm -r ~/Library/Containers/com.apple.RemoteDesktop
```

Contacts

Debug Mode

```
# Enable
defaults write com.apple.addressbook ABShowDebugMenu -bool true

# Disable (Default)
defaults write com.apple.addressbook ABShowDebugMenu -bool false
```

Google

Uninstall Google Update

```
~/Library/Google/GoogleSoftwareUpdate/GoogleSoftwareUpdate.bundle/Contents/Resources/ksinstall --nuke
```

iTunes

Keyboard Media Keys

```
# Stop Responding to Key Presses
launchctl unload -w /System/Library/LaunchAgents/com.apple.rcd.plist

# Respond to Key Presses (Default)
launchctl load -w /System/Library/LaunchAgents/com.apple.rcd.plist
```

Mail

Show Attachments as Icons

```
defaults write com.apple.mail DisableInlineAttachmentViewing -bool yes
```

Vacuum Mail Index

The AppleScript code below will quit Mail, vacuum the SQLite index, then re-open Mail. On a large email database that hasn't been optimized for a while, this can provide significant improvements in responsiveness and speed.

```
(*
Speed up Mail.app by vacuuming the Envelope Index
Code from: http://web.archive.org/web/20071008123746/http://www.hawkings.net/2007/03/03/scripts-to-automat
Originally by "pmbuko" with modifications by Romulo
Updated by Brett Terpstra 2012
Updated by Mathias Törnblom 2015 to support V3 in El Capitan and still keep backwards compatibility
Updated by Andrei Miclaus 2017 to support V4 in Sierra
*)

tell application "Mail" to quit
set os_version to do shell script "sw_vers -productVersion"
set mail_version to "V2"
considering numeric strings
    if "10.10" <= os_version then set mail_version to "V3"
    if "10.12" < os_version then set mail_version to "V4"
end considering

set sizeBefore to do shell script "ls -lnah ~/Library/Mail/" & mail_version & "/MailData | grep -E 'Envelope'
do shell script "/usr/bin/sqlite3 ~/Library/Mail/" & mail_version & "/MailData/Envelope\ Index vacuum"

set sizeAfter to do shell script "ls -lnah ~/Library/Mail/" & mail_version & "/MailData | grep -E 'Envelope'

display dialog ("Mail index before: " & sizeBefore & return & "Mail index after: " & sizeAfter & return & r

tell application "Mail" to activate
```

Safari

Enable Develop Menu and Web Inspector

```
defaults write com.apple.Safari IncludeInternalDebugMenu -bool true && \  
defaults write com.apple.Safari IncludeDevelopMenu -bool true && \  
defaults write com.apple.Safari WebKitDeveloperExtrasEnabledPreferenceKey -bool true && \  
defaults write com.apple.Safari com.apple.Safari.ContentPageGroupIdentifier.WebKit2DeveloperExtrasEnabled -  
defaults write -g WebKitDeveloperExtras -bool true
```

Get Current Page Data

Other options: get source , get text .

```
osascript -e 'tell application "Safari" to get URL of current tab of front window'
```

Sketch

Export Compact SVGs

```
defaults write com.bohemiancoding.sketch3 exportCompactSVG -bool yes
```

Skim

Turn Off Auto Reload Dialog

Removes the dialog and defaults to auto reload.

```
defaults write -app Skim SKAutoReloadFileUpdate -boolean true
```

TextEdit

Use Plain Text Mode as Default

```
defaults write com.apple.TextEdit RichText -int 0
```

Backup

Time Machine

Change Backup Interval

This changes the interval to 30 minutes. The integer value is the time in seconds.

```
sudo defaults write /System/Library/LaunchDaemons/com.apple.backupd-auto StartInterval -int 1800
```

Local Backups

Whether Time Machine performs local backups while the Time Machine backup volume is not available.

```
# Status  
defaults read /Library/Preferences/com.apple.TimeMachine MobileBackups  
  
# Enable (Default)  
sudo tmutil enablelocal  
  
# Disable  
sudo tmutil disablelocal
```

Prevent Time Machine from Prompting to Use New Hard Drives as Backup Volume

```
sudo defaults write /Library/Preferences/com.apple.TimeMachine DoNotOfferNewDisksForBackup -bool true
```

Verify Backup

Beginning in OS X 10.11, Time Machine records checksums of files copied into snapshots. Checksums are not retroactively computed for files that were copied by earlier releases of OS X.

```
sudo tmutil verifychecksums /path/to/backup
```

Developer

Vim

Compile Sane Vim

Compiling MacVim via Homebrew with all bells and whistles, including overriding system Vim.

```
brew install macvim --HEAD --with-cscope --with-lua --with-override-system-vim --with-luajit --with-python
```

Neovim

Install the development version of this modern Vim drop-in alternative via Homebrew.

```
brew install neovim/neovim/neovim
```

Xcode

Install Command Line Tools without Xcode

```
xcode-select --install
```

Remove All Unavailable Simulators

```
xcrun simctl delete unavailable
```

Dock

Add a Stack with Recent Applications

```
defaults write com.apple.dock persistent-others -array-add '{ "tile-data" = { "list-type" = 1; }; "tile-type" = "stack"; }' && \
killall Dock
```

Add a Space

```
defaults write com.apple.dock persistent-apps -array-add '{"tile-type"="spacer-tile";}' && \
killall Dock
```

Auto Rearrange Spaces Based on Most Recent Use

```
# Enable (Default)
defaults write com.apple.dock mru-spaces -bool true && \
killall Dock
```

```
# Disable
defaults write com.apple.dock mru-spaces -bool false && \
killall Dock
```

Icon Bounce

Global setting whether Dock icons should bounce when the respective application demands your attention.

```
# Enable (Default)
defaults write com.apple.dock no-bouncing -bool true && \
killall Dock

# Disable
defaults write com.apple.dock no-bouncing -bool false && \
killall Dock
```

Reset Dock

```
defaults delete com.apple.dock && \
killall Dock
```

Resize

Fully resize your Dock's body. To resize change the `0` value as an integer.

```
defaults write com.apple.dock tilesize -int 0 && \
killall Dock
```

Scroll Gestures

Use your touchpad or mouse scroll wheel to interact with Dock items. Allows you to use an upward scrolling gesture to open stacks. Using the same gesture on applications that are running invokes Exposé/Mission Control.

```
# Enable
defaults write com.apple.dock scroll-to-open -bool true && \
killall Dock

# Disable (Default)
defaults write com.apple.dock scroll-to-open -bool false && \
killall Dock
```

Set Auto Show/Hide Delay

The float number defines the show/hide delay in ms.

```
defaults write com.apple.Dock autohide-delay -float 0 && \
killall Dock
```

Show Hidden App Icons

```
# Enable
defaults write com.apple.dock showhidden -bool true && \
killall Dock

# Disable (Default)
defaults write com.apple.dock showhidden -bool false && \
killall Dock
```

Documents

Convert File to HTML

Supported formats are plain text, rich text (rtf) and Microsoft Word (doc/docx).

```
textutil -convert html file.ext
```

Files, Disks and Volumes

Create an Empty File

Creates an empty 10 gigabyte test file.

```
mkfile 10g /path/to/file
```

Disable Sudden Motion Sensor

Leaving this turned on is useless when you're using SSDs.

```
sudo pmset -a sms 0
```

Eject All Mountable Volumes

The only reliable way to do this is by sending an AppleScript command to Finder.

```
osascript -e 'tell application "Finder" to eject (every disk whose ejectable is true)'
```

Repair File Permissions

You don't have to use the Disk Utility GUI for this.

```
sudo diskutil repairPermissions /
```

Beginning with OS X El Capitan, system file permissions are automatically protected. It's no longer necessary to verify or repair permissions with Disk Utility. ([Source](#))

Set Boot Volume

```
blesss --mount "/path/to/mounted/volume" --setBoot
```

Show All Attached Disks and Partitions

```
diskutil list
```

View File System Usage

A continuous stream of file system access info.

```
sudo fs_usage
```

Disk Images

Create Disk Image From Folder Contents

```
hdiutil create -volname "Volume Name" -srcfolder /path/to/folder -ov diskimage.dmg
```

If you'd like to encrypt the disk image:

```
hdiutil create -encryption -stdinpass -volname "Volume Name" -srcfolder /path/to/folder -ov encrypted.dmg
```

By default, you'll be prompted for a password. You can automate that by piping in a password:

```
echo -n YourPassword | hdiutil create -encryption -stdinpass -volname "Volume Name" -srcfolder /path/to/fo1
```

Burn Disk Images to DVD

This command applies to .iso, .img and .dmg images.

```
hdiutil burn /path/to/image_file
```

Disable Disk Image Verification

```
defaults write com.apple.frameworks.diskimages skip-verify -bool true && \  
defaults write com.apple.frameworks.diskimages skip-verify-locked -bool true && \  
defaults write com.apple.frameworks.diskimages skip-verify-remote -bool true
```

Make Volume OS X Bootable

```
 bless --folder "/path/to/mounted/volume/System/Library/CoreServices" --bootinfo --bootefi
```

Mount Disk Image

```
hdiutil attach /path/to/diskimage.dmg
```

Unmount Disk Image

```
hdiutil detach /dev/disk2s1
```

Write Disk Image to Volume

Like the Disk Utility "Restore" function.

```
sudo asr -restore -noverify -source /path/to/diskimage.dmg -target /Volumes/VolumeToRestoreTo
```

Documents

Convert File to HTML

Supported formats are plain text, rich text (rtf) and Microsoft Word (doc/docx).

```
textutil -convert html file.ext
```

Finder

Files and Folders

Clear All ACLs

```
sudo chmod -RN /path/to/folder
```

Hide Folder in Finder

```
chflags hidden /path/to/folder/
```

Show All File Extensions

```
defaults write -g AppleShowAllExtensions -bool true
```

Show Hidden Files

```
# Show All
defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles true

# Restore Default File Visibility
defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles false
```

Remove Protected Flag

```
sudo chflags -R nouchg /path/to/file/or/folder
```

Show Full Path in Finder Title

```
defaults write com.apple.finder _FXShowPosixPathInTitle -bool true
```

Unhide User Library Folder

```
chflags nohidden ~/Library
```

Increase Number of Recent Places

```
defaults write -g NSNavRecentPlacesLimit -int 10 && \
killall Finder
```

Layout

Show "Quit Finder" Menu Item

Makes possible to see Finder menu item "Quit Finder" with default shortcut `[Cmd] + [Q]`

```
# Enable
defaults write com.apple.finder QuitMenuItem -bool true && \
killall Finder

# Disable (Default)
defaults write com.apple.finder QuitMenuItem -bool false && \
killall Finder
```

Smooth Scrolling

Useful if you're on an older Mac that messes up the animation.

```
# Disable
defaults write -g NSScrollAnimationEnabled -bool false

# Enable (Default)
defaults write -g NSScrollAnimationEnabled -bool true
```

Rubberband Scrolling

```
# Disable
defaults write -g NSScrollViewRubberbanding -bool false

# Enable (Default)
defaults write -g NSScrollViewRubberbanding -bool true
```

Expand Save Panel by Default

```
defaults write -g NSNavPanelExpandedStateForSaveMode -bool true && \
defaults write -g NSNavPanelExpandedStateForSaveMode2 -bool true
```

Desktop Icon Visibility

```
# Hide Icons
defaults write com.apple.finder CreateDesktop -bool false && \
killall Finder

# Show Icons (Default)
defaults write com.apple.finder CreateDesktop -bool true && \
killall Finder
```

Path Bar

```
# Show
defaults write com.apple.finder ShowPathbar -bool true

# Hide (Default)
defaults write com.apple.finder ShowPathbar -bool false
```

Scrollbar Visibility

Possible values: WhenScrolling , Automatic and Always .

```
defaults write -g AppleShowScrollBars -string "Always"
```

Status Bar

```
# Show
defaults write com.apple.finder ShowStatusBar -bool true

# Hide (Default)
defaults write com.apple.finder ShowStatusBar -bool false
```

Save to Disk by Default

Sets default save target to be a local disk, not iCloud.

```
defaults write -g NSDocumentSaveNewDocumentsToCloud -bool false
```

Set Current Folder as Default Search Scope

```
defaults write com.apple.finder FXDefaultSearchScope -string "SCcf"
```

Set Default Finder Location to Home Folder

```
defaults write com.apple.finder NewWindowTarget -string "PfLo" && \
defaults write com.apple.finder NewWindowTargetPath -string "file://${HOME}"
```

Set Sidebar Icon Size

Sets size to 'medium'.

```
defaults write -g NSTableViewDefaultSizeMode -int 2
```

Metadata Files

Disable Creation of Metadata Files on Network Volumes

Avoids creation of `.DS_Store` and `AppleDouble` files.

```
defaults write com.apple.desktopservices DSDontWriteNetworkStores -bool true
```

Disable Creation of Metadata Files on USB Volumes

Avoids creation of `.DS_Store` and `AppleDouble` files.

```
defaults write com.apple.desktopservices DSDontWriteUSBStores -bool true
```

Opening Things

Change Working Directory to Finder Path

If multiple windows are open, it chooses the top-most one.

```
cd "$(osascript -e 'tell app "Finder" to POSIX path of (insertion location as alias)')"
```

Open URL

```
open https://github.com
```

Open File

```
open README.md
```

Open Applications

You can open applications using `-a`.

```
open -a "Google Chrome" https://github.com
```

Open Folder

```
open /path/to/folder/
```

Open Current Folder

```
open .
```

Fonts

Clear Font Cache for Current User

To clear font caches for all users, put `sudo` in front of this command.

```
atsutil databases -removeUser && \  
atsutil server -shutdown && \  
atsutil server -ping
```

Get SF Mono Fonts

You need to download and install Xcode 8 beta for this to work. Afterwards they should be available in all applications.

```
cp -v /Applications/Xcode-beta.app/Contents/SharedFrameworks/DVTKit.framework/Versions/A/Resources/Fonts/SF
```

From Sierra onward, they are included in Terminal.app.

```
cp -v /Applications/Utilities/Terminal.app/Contents/Resources/Fonts/SFMono-* ~/Library/Fonts
```

Functions

Please see [this file](#).

Hardware

Bluetooth

```
# Status
defaults read /Library/Preferences/com.apple.Bluetooth ControllerPowerState

# Enable (Default)
sudo defaults write /Library/Preferences/com.apple.Bluetooth ControllerPowerState -int 1

# Disable
sudo defaults write /Library/Preferences/com.apple.Bluetooth ControllerPowerState -int 0 && \
sudo killall -HUP blued
```

Hardware Information

List All Hardware Ports

```
networksetup -listallhardwareports
```

Remaining Battery Percentage

```
pmset -g batt | egrep "([0-9]+\%).*" -o --colour=auto | cut -f1 -d';'
```

Remaining Battery Time

```
pmset -g batt | egrep "([0-9]+\%).*" -o --colour=auto | cut -f3 -d';'
```

Show Connected Device's UDID

```
system_profiler SPUSBDataType | sed -n -e '/iPad/,/Serial/p' -e '/iPhone/,/Serial/p'
```

Show Current Screen Resolution

```
system_profiler SPDisplaysDataType | grep Resolution
```

Show CPU Brand String

```
sysctl -n machdep.cpu.brand_string
```

Infrared Receiver

```
# Status
defaults read /Library/Preferences/com.apple.driver.AppleIRController DeviceEnabled

# Enable (Default)
defaults write /Library/Preferences/com.apple.driver.AppleIRController DeviceEnabled -int 1

# Disable
defaults write /Library/Preferences/com.apple.driver.AppleIRController DeviceEnabled -int 0
```

Power Management

Prevent System Sleep

Prevent sleep for 1 hour:

```
caffeinate -u -t 3600
```

Show All Power Management Settings

```
sudo pmset -g
```

Put Display to Sleep after 15 Minutes of Inactivity

```
sudo pmset displaysleep 15
```

Put Computer to Sleep after 30 Minutes of Inactivity

```
sudo pmset sleep 30
```

Check System Sleep Idle Time

```
sudo systemsetup -getcomputersleep
```

Set System Sleep Idle Time to 60 Minutes

```
sudo systemsetup -setcomputersleep 60
```

Turn Off System Sleep Completely

```
sudo systemsetup -setcomputersleep Never
```

Automatic Restart on System Freeze

```
sudo systemsetup -setrestartfreeze on
```

Chime When Charging

Play iOS charging sound when MagSafe is connected.

```
# Enable
defaults write com.apple.PowerChime ChimeOnAllHardware -bool true && \
open /System/Library/CoreServices/PowerChime.app

# Disable (Default)
defaults write com.apple.PowerChime ChimeOnAllHardware -bool false && \
killall PowerChime
```

Input Devices

Keyboard

Auto-Correct

```
# Disable
defaults write -g NSAutomaticSpellingCorrectionEnabled -bool false

# Enable (Default)
defaults write -g NSAutomaticSpellingCorrectionEnabled -bool true

# Show Status
defaults read -g NSAutomaticSpellingCorrectionEnabled
```

Full Keyboard Access

Enable Tab in modal dialogs.

```
# Text boxes and lists only (Default)
defaults write NSGlobalDomain AppleKeyboardUIMode -int 0

# All controls
defaults write NSGlobalDomain AppleKeyboardUIMode -int 3
```

Key Repeat

Disable the default "press and hold" behavior.

```
# Enable Key Repeat
defaults write -g ApplePressAndHoldEnabled -bool false

# Disable Key Repeat
defaults write -g ApplePressAndHoldEnabled -bool true
```

Key Repeat Rate

Sets a very fast repeat rate, adjust to taste.

```
defaults write -g KeyRepeat -int 0.02
```

Media

Audio

Convert Audio File to iPhone Ringtone

```
afconvert input.mp3 ringtone.m4r -f m4af
```

Create Audiobook From Text

Uses "Alex" voice, a plain UTF-8 encoded text file for input and AAC output.

```
say -v Alex -f file.txt -o "output.m4a"
```

Disable Sound Effects on Boot

```
sudo nvram SystemAudioVolume=""
```

Mute Audio Output

```
osascript -e 'set volume output muted true'
```

Set Audio Volume

```
osascript -e 'set volume 4'
```

Play Audio File

You can play all audio formats that are natively supported by QuickTime.

```
afplay -q 1 filename.mp3
```

Speak Text with System Default Voice

```
say 'All your base are belong to us!'
```

Video

Auto-Play Videos in QuickTime Player

```
defaults write com.apple.QuickTimePlayerX MGPlayMovieOnOpen 1
```

Networking

Bonjour

Bonjour Service

```
# Disable
sudo defaults write /System/Library/LaunchDaemons/com.apple.mDNSResponder.plist ProgramArguments -array-add

# Enable (Default)
sudo defaults write /System/Library/LaunchDaemons/com.apple.mDNSResponder.plist ProgramArguments -array "/t
```

DHCP

Renew DHCP Lease

```
sudo ipconfig set en0 DHCP
```

Show DHCP Info

```
ipconfig getpacket en0
```

DNS

Clear DNS Cache

```
sudo dscacheutil -flushcache && \
sudo killall -HUP mDNSResponder
```

Hostname

Set Computer Name/Host Name

```
sudo scutil --set ComputerName "newhostname" && \
sudo scutil --set HostName "newhostname" && \
sudo scutil --set LocalHostName "newhostname" && \
sudo defaults write /Library/Preferences/SystemConfiguration/com.apple.smb.server NetBIOSName -string "newf
```

Network Preferences

Network Locations

Switch between network locations created in the Network preference pane.

```
# Status
sselect

# Switch Network Location
sselect LocationNameFromStatus
```

Networking Tools

Ping a Host to See Whether It's Available

```
ping -o github.com
```

Troubleshoot Routing Problems

```
tracert github.com
```

SSH

Remote Login

```
# Enable remote login
sudo launchctl load -w /System/Library/LaunchDaemons/ssh.plist

# Disable remote login
sudo launchctl unload -w /System/Library/LaunchDaemons/ssh.plist
```

TCP/IP

Show Application Using a Certain Port

This outputs all applications currently using port 80.

```
sudo lsof -i :80
```

Show External IP Address

```
dig +short myip.opendns.com @resolver1.opendns.com
```

TFTP

Start Native TFTP Daemon

Files will be served from `/private/tftpboot`.

```
sudo launchctl load -F /System/Library/LaunchDaemons/tftp.plist && \
sudo launchctl start com.apple.tftpd
```

Wi-Fi

Join a Wi-Fi Network

```
networksetup -setairportnetwork en0 WIFI_SSID WIFI_PASSWORD
```

Scan Available Access Points

Create a symbolic link to the airport command for easy access:

```
sudo ln -s /System/Library/PrivateFrameworks/Apple80211.framework/Versions/Current/Resources/airport /usr/1
```

Run a wireless scan:

```
airport -s
```

Show Current SSID

```
/System/Library/PrivateFrameworks/Apple80211.framework/Versions/Current/Resources/airport -I | awk '/ SSID/
```

Show Local IP Address

```
ipconfig getifaddr en0
```

Show Wi-Fi Connection History

```
defaults read /Library/Preferences/SystemConfiguration/com.apple.airport.preferences | grep LastConnected -
```

Show Wi-Fi Network Passwords

Exchange SSID with the SSID of the access point you wish to query the password from.

```
security find-generic-password -D "AirPort network password" -a "SSID" -gw
```

Turn on Wi-Fi Adapter

```
networksetup -setairportpower en0 on
```

Package Managers

- [Fink](#) - The full world of Unix Open Source software for Darwin. A little outdated.
- [Homebrew](#) - The missing package manager for OS X. The most popular choice.
- [MacPorts](#) - Compile, install and upgrade either command-line, X11 or Aqua based open-source software. Very clean, it's what I use.

Printing

Clear Print Queue

```
cancel -a -
```

Expand Print Panel by Default

```
defaults write -g PMPrintingExpandedStateForPrint -bool true && \  
defaults write -g PMPrintingExpandedStateForPrint2 -bool true
```

Quit Printer App After Print Jobs Complete

```
defaults write com.apple.print.PrintingPrefs "Quit When Finished" -bool true
```

Security

Application Firewall

Firewall Service

```
# Show Status  
sudo /usr/libexec/ApplicationFirewall/socketfilterfw --getglobalstate  
  
# Enable  
sudo /usr/libexec/ApplicationFirewall/socketfilterfw --setglobalstate on
```

```
# Disable (Default)
sudo /usr/libexec/ApplicationFirewall/socketfilterfw --setglobalstate off
```

Add Application to Firewall

```
sudo /usr/libexec/ApplicationFirewall/socketfilterfw --add /path/to/file
```

Gatekeeper

Add Gatekeeper Exception

```
spctl --add /path/to/Application.app
```

Remove Gatekeeper Exception

```
spctl --remove /path/to/Application.app
```

Manage Gatekeeper

```
# Status
spctl --status

# Enable (Default)
sudo spctl --master-enable

# Disable
sudo spctl --master-disable
```

Passwords

Generate Secure Password and Copy to Clipboard

```
LC_ALL=C tr -dc "[:alpha:][:alnum:]" < /dev/urandom | head -c 20 | pbcopy
```

Physical Access

Launch Screen Saver

```
open /System/Library/Frameworks/ScreenSaver.framework/Versions/A/Resources/ScreenSaverEngine.app
```

Lock Screen

```
/System/Library/CoreServices/Menu\ Extras/User.menu/Contents/Resources/CGSession -suspend
```

Screensaver Immediate Lock

```
# Status
defaults read com.apple.screensaver askForPasswordDelay

# Enable (Default)
defaults write com.apple.screensaver askForPasswordDelay -int 0

# Disable (Integer = lock delay in seconds)
defaults write com.apple.screensaver askForPasswordDelay -int 10
```

Screensaver Password

```
# Status
defaults read com.apple.screensaver askForPassword
```

```
# Enable
defaults write com.apple.screensaver askForPassword -int 1

# Disable (Default)
defaults write com.apple.screensaver askForPassword -int 0
```

Wiping Data

Note: The `srm` command appears to have been removed on MacOS after 10.9. There is a note on an [Apple support page](#) hinting as to why:

With an SSD drive, Secure Erase and Erasing Free Space are not available in Disk Utility. These options are not needed for an SSD drive because a standard erase makes it difficult to recover data from an SSD.

Securely Remove File

```
srm /path/to/file
```

Securely Remove Folder

```
srm -r /path/to/folder/
```

Securely Remove Path (Force)

```
srm -rf /path/to/complete/destruction
```

Search

Find

Recursively Delete .DS_Store Files

```
find . -type f -name '*.DS_Store' -ls -delete
```

Locate

Build Locate Database

```
sudo launchctl load -w /System/Library/LaunchDaemons/com.apple.locate.plist
```

Search via Locate

The `-i` modifier makes the search case insensitive.

```
locate -i *.jpg
```

System

AirDrop

```
# Enable AirDrop over Ethernet and on Unsupported Macs
defaults write com.apple.NetworkBrowser BrowseAllInterfaces -bool true

# Enable (Default)
defaults remove com.apple.NetworkBrowser DisableAirDrop

# Disable
defaults write com.apple.NetworkBrowser DisableAirDrop -bool YES
```

AppleScript

Execute AppleScript

```
osascript /path/to/script.scpt
```

Basics

Compare Two Folders

```
diff -qr /path/to/folder1 /path/to/folder2
```

Copy Large File with Progress

Make sure you have `pv` installed and replace `/dev/rdisk2` with the appropriate write device or file.

```
FILE=/path/to/file.iso pv -s $(du -h $FILE | awk '/./ {print $1}') $FILE | sudo dd of=/dev/rdisk2 bs=1m
```

Restore Sane Shell

In case your shell session went insane (some script or application turned it into a garbled mess).

```
stty sane
```

Restart

```
sudo reboot
```

Shutdown

```
sudo poweroff
```

Show Build Number of OS

```
sw_vers
```

Uptime

How long since your last restart.

```
uptime
```

Clipboard

Copy data to Clipboard

```
cat whatever.txt | pbcopy
```

Convert Clipboard to Plain Text

```
pbpaste | textutil -convert txt -stdin -stdout -encoding 30 | pbcopy
```

Convert Tabs to Spaces for Clipboard Content

```
pbpaste | expand | pbcopy
```

Copy data from Clipboard

```
pbpaste > whatever.txt
```

Sort and Strip Duplicate Lines from Clipboard Content

```
pbpaste | sort | uniq | pbcopy
```

FileVault

Automatically Unlock FileVault on Restart

If FileVault is enabled on the current volume, it restarts the system, bypassing the initial unlock. The command may not work on all systems.

```
sudo fdsetup authrestart
```

FileVault Service

```
# Status
sudo fdsetup status

# Enable
sudo fdsetup enable

# Disable (Default)
sudo fdstatus disable
```

Information/Reports

Generate Advanced System and Performance Report

```
sudo sysdiagnose -f ~/Desktop/
```

Install OS

Create Bootable Installer

```
# El Capitan
sudo /Applications/Install\ OS\ X\ El\ Capitan.app/Contents/Resources/createinstallmedia --volume /Volumes/

# Yosemite
sudo /Applications/Install\ OS\ X\ Yosemite.app/Contents/Resources/createinstallmedia --volume /Volumes/My\

# Mavericks
sudo /Applications/Install\ OS\ X\ Mavericks.app/Contents/Resources/createinstallmedia --volume /Volumes/My\
```

Kernel Extensions

Display Status of Loaded Kernel Extensions

```
sudo kextstat -l
```

Load Kernel Extension

```
sudo kextload -b com.apple.driver.ExampleBundle
```

Unload Kernel Extensions

```
sudo kextunload -b com.apple.driver.ExampleBundle
```

LaunchAgents

Please see [this file](#).

LaunchServices

Rebuild LaunchServices Database

To be independent of OS X version, this relies on `locate` to find `lsregister`. If you do not have your `locate` database built yet, [do it](#).

```
sudo $(locate lsregister) -kill -seed -r
```

Login Window

Set Login Window Text

```
sudo defaults write /Library/Preferences/com.apple.loginwindow LoginwindowText "Your text"
```

Memory Management

Purge memory cache

```
sudo purge
```

Show Memory Statistics

```
# One time
vm_stat

# Table of data, repeat 10 times total, 1 second wait between each poll
vm_stat -c 10 1
```

Notification Center

Notification Center Service

```
# Disable
launchctl unload -w /System/Library/LaunchAgents/com.apple.notificationcenterui.plist && \
killall -9 NotificationCenter

# Enable (Default)
launchctl load -w /System/Library/LaunchAgents/com.apple.notificationcenterui.plist
```

QuickLook

Preview via QuickLook

```
qlmanage -p /path/to/file
```

Remote Apple Events

```
# Status
sudo systemsetup -getremoteappleevents

# Enable
sudo systemsetup -setremoteappleevents on
```

```
# Disable (Default)
sudo systemsetup -setremoteappleevents off
```

Root User

```
# Enable
dsenableroot

# Disable
dsenableroot -d
```

Safe Mode Boot

```
# Status
nvram boot-args

# Enable
sudo nvram boot-args="-x"

# Disable
sudo nvram boot-args=""
```

Screenshots

Take Delayed Screenshot

Takes a screenshot as JPEG after 3 seconds and displays in Preview.

```
screencapture -T 3 -t jpg -P delayedpic.jpg
```

Save Screenshots to Given Location

Sets location to ~/Desktop .

```
defaults write com.apple.screencapture location ~/Desktop && \
killall SystemUIServer
```

Save Screenshots in Given Format

Sets format to png . Other options are bmp , gif , jpg , jpeg , pdf , tiff .

```
defaults write com.apple.screencapture type -string "png"
```

Disable Shadow in Screenshots

```
defaults write com.apple.screencapture disable-shadow -bool true && \
killall SystemUIServer
```

Set Default Screenshot Name

Date and time remain unchanged.

```
defaults write com.apple.screencapture name "Example name" && \
killall SystemUIServer
```

Software Installation

Install PKG

```
installer -pkg /path/to/installer.pkg -target /
```

Software Update

Install All Available Software Updates

```
sudo softwareupdate -ia
```

Set Software Update Check Interval

Set to check daily instead of weekly.

```
defaults write com.apple.SoftwareUpdate ScheduleFrequency -int 1
```

Show Available Software Updates

```
sudo softwareupdate -l
```

Set Software Update Server

This should only be done for testing purposes or unmanaged clients. To use network-wide, either correctly set up DNS along with [Apple SUS service](#) and bind your clients via OpenDirectory. Alternatively, use [Reposado](#) together with correct network DNS settings to make resolution transparent. [Margarita](#) looks nice to have as well.

```
# Use own SUS
sudo defaults write /Library/Preferences/com.apple.SoftwareUpdate CatalogURL http://su.example.com:8088/inc

# Reset to Apple SUS
sudo defaults delete /Library/Preferences/com.apple.SoftwareUpdate CatalogURL
```

Spotlight

Spotlight Indexing

```
# Disable
mdutil -i off -d /path/to/volume

# Enable (Default)
mdutil -i on /path/to/volume
```

Erase Spotlight Index and Rebuild

```
mdutil -E /path/to/volume
```

Search via Spotlight

```
mdfind -name 'searchterm'
```

Show Spotlight Indexed Metadata

```
mdls /path/to/file
```

System Integrity Protection

Disable System Integrity Protection

Reboot while holding `⌘` + `R`, open the Terminal application and enter:

```
csrutil disable && reboot
```

Enable System Integrity Protection

Reboot while holding `|Cmd| + |R|`, open the Terminal application and enter:

```
csrutil enable && reboot
```

Date and Time

List Available Timezones

```
sudo systemsetup -listtimezones
```

Set Timezone

```
sudo systemsetup -settimezone Europe/Berlin
```

Set Clock Using Network Time

```
# Status
sudo systemsetup getusingnetworktime

# Enable (Default)
sudo systemsetup setusingnetworktime on

# Disable
sudo systemsetup setusingnetworktime off
```

Terminal

Ring Terminal Bell

Rings the terminal bell (if enabled) and puts a badge on it.

```
tput bel
```

Alternative Terminals

- [iTerm2](#) - A better Terminal.app.

Shells

Bash

Install the latest version and set as current users' default shell:

```
brew install bash && \
echo $(brew --prefix)/bin/bash | sudo tee -a /etc/shells && \
chsh -s $(brew --prefix)/bin/bash
```

- [Homepage](#) - The default shell for OS X and most other Unix-based operating systems.
- [Bash-it](#) - Community Bash framework, like Oh My Zsh for Bash.

fish

Install the latest version and set as current users' default shell:

```
brew install fish && \
echo $(brew --prefix)/bin/fish | sudo tee -a /etc/shells && \
chsh -s $(brew --prefix)/bin/fish
```

- [Homepage](#) - A smart and user-friendly command line shell for OS X, Linux, and the rest of the family.

- [Fisherman](#) - A blazing fast, modern plugin manager for Fish.
- [The Fishshell Framework](#) - Provides core infrastructure to allow you to install packages which extend or modify the look of your shell.
- [Installation & Configuration Tutorial](#) - How to Setup Fish Shell with Fisherman, Powerline Fonts, iTerm2 and Budspencer Theme on OS X.

Zsh

Install the latest version and set as current users' default shell:

```
brew install zsh && \  
sudo sh -c 'echo $(brew --prefix)/bin/zsh >> /etc/shells' && \  
chsh -s $(brew --prefix)/bin/zsh
```

- [Homepage](#) - Zsh is a shell designed for interactive use, although it is also a powerful scripting language.
- [Oh My Zsh](#) - An open source, community-driven framework for managing your Zsh configuration.
- [Prezto](#) - A speedy Zsh framework. Enriches the command line interface environment with sane defaults, aliases, functions, auto completion, and prompt themes.
- [zgen](#) - Another open source framework for managing your zsh configuration. Zgen will load oh-my-zsh compatible plugins and themes and has the advantage of both being faster and automatically cloning any plugins used in your configuration for you.

Terminal Fonts

- [Anonymous Pro](#) - A family of four fixed-width fonts designed with coding in mind.
- [Codeface](#) - A gallery and repository of monospaced fonts for developers.
- [DejaVu Sans Mono](#) - A font family based on the Vera Fonts.
- [Hack](#) - Hack is hand groomed and optically balanced to be your go-to code face.
- [Inconsolata](#) - A monospace font, designed for code listings and the like.
- [Input](#) - A flexible system of fonts designed specifically for code.
- [Meslo](#) - Customized version of Apple's Menlo font.
- [Operator Mono](#) - A surprisingly usable alternative take on a monospace font (commercial).
- [Powerline Fonts](#) - Repo of patched fonts for the Powerline plugin.
- [Source Code Pro](#) - A monospaced font family for user interfaces and coding environments.

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