OpenTerminal 2.0.3

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 2.0.3 (12/05/2006)?

- There was an incompatibility between the OpenTerminal contextual menu plugin and the "FruitMenu" haxie from Unsanity. The new contextual menu plugin works fine with FruitMenu.
- After Terminal 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.

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 10.3.9. OpenTerminal 1.3.1 for OS X ≥ 10.2 is still available.
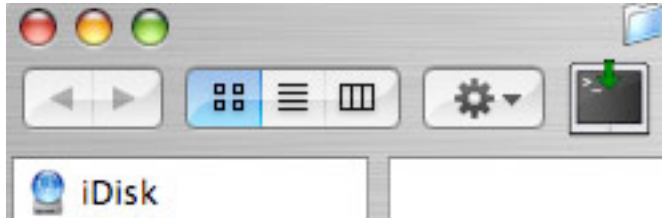iTerm support has been tested with version ≥ 0.9.2.

How do I use it?

First, install the OpenTerminal application somewhere, e.g. by moving it to your Applications/Utilites folder.

OpenTerminal can be used in four ways:

1.) You can drag the application into your Finder toolbar (as shown in the picture) or put it in the Dock and 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.) You can optionally install the contextual menu plugin in "/Users/yourName/ Library/Contextual Menu Items" (or in "/Library/Contextual Menu Items" to make it available to all users) and after the next login, you will be able to right-click or ctrl-click files, folders and Finder windows to open corresponding Terminal windows. **NOTE**: You still have to install the OpenTerminal application somewhere. The contextual menu plugin will not work if the OpenTerminal application is not installed.

4.) David Blache posted a cool 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 great 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 - look at the known bugs) while activating OpenTerminal.
4.) iTerm only: 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 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.
6.) Whether you want OpenTerminal to use "pushd" instead of "cd".
7.) Whether you are using csh/tcsh or not. This is important if you work with non-ASCII folder names.

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. Under OS X 10.4, 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 "." . Under OS X 10.4, you can override this by passing a second parameter to the script, so if you want cdf 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?

There are currently no known bugs left. If you find a new bug, please e-mail me.

However, there is a bug in Terminal.app where it no longer responds to double-clicking saved ".term" files after it receives any AppleScript command. This bug has been reported to Apple a few months ago, but it's still not fixed. If the bug is still unfixed by the time you read this, and you want to use both OpenTerminal and .term files, copy the file "Terminal.scriptSuite" from the "Additions" folder to "/Applications/Utilities/Terminal.app/Contents/Resources/". This will fix the bug. (Make a backup of the old scriptSuite first.) There's another bug in Terminal.app which makes it log errors to the console the first time a script is executed, but that bug does not affect the functionality.

Version history:

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?

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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