

Introducing Windows Terminal



Kayla

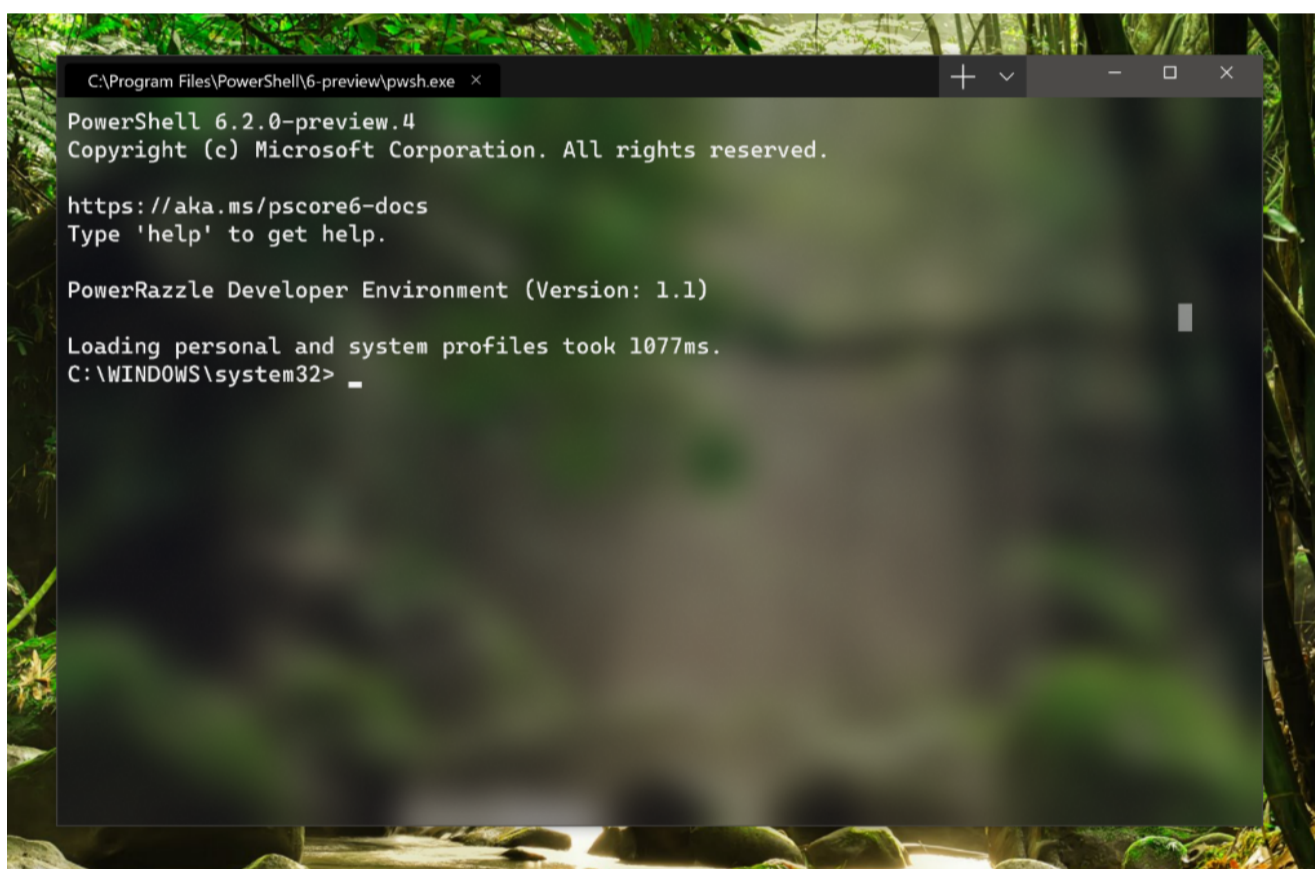
May 6th, 2019



We are beyond excited to announce Windows Terminal! Windows Terminal is a new, modern, fast, efficient, powerful, and productive terminal application for users of command-line tools and shells like Command Prompt, PowerShell, and WSL.

<https://aka.ms/terminal-video>

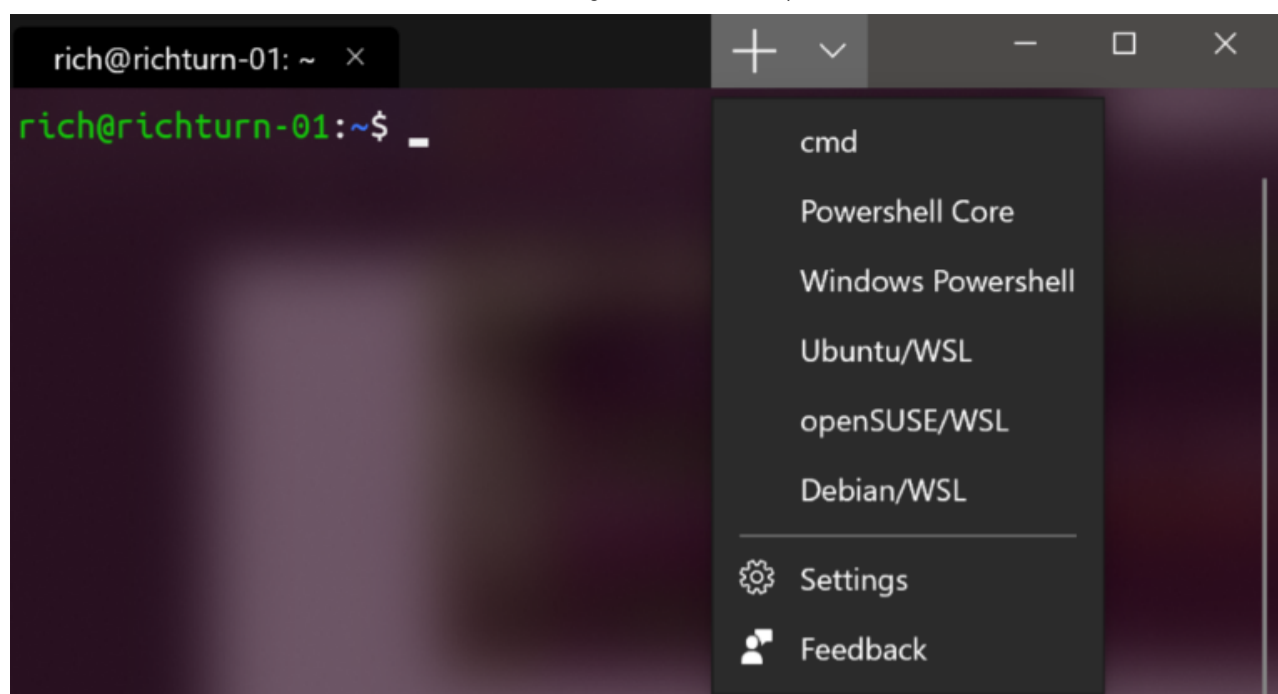
Windows Terminal will be delivered via the Microsoft Store in Windows 10 and will be updated regularly, ensuring you are always up to date and able to enjoy the newest features and latest improvements with minimum effort.



Windows Terminal key features

Multiple tabs

You've asked and we've listened! The most frequently requested feature for the Terminal is multiple tab support and we are SUPER excited to FINALLY be able to deliver this key feature. You will now be able to open any number of tabs, each connected to a command-line shell or app of your choice, e.g. Command Prompt, PowerShell, Ubuntu on WSL, a Raspberry Pi via SSH, etc.



Beautiful text

The Windows Terminal uses a GPU accelerated DirectWrite/DirectX-based text rendering engine. This new text rendering engine will display text characters, glyphs, and symbols present within fonts on your PC, including CJK ideograms, emoji, powerline symbols, icons, programming ligatures, etc. This engine also renders text much faster than the previous Console's GDI engine!

```

C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe - powershell.exe x
PS C:\Users\cinnamon\Downloads> .\runtests.psl
TEA: Test Execution Automator (v1.1)
Suite: Full Test Suite
Running:
  Pre-requisites ..... 3/3 ✓ Pass
  Validate Data ..... 5/5 ✓ Pass
  Process Data ..... 8/8 ✓ Pass
  Generate Results ..... 2/3 ⚠ Partial
  Validate Results ..... 1/3 🔥 Fail
Results:
  3/5 Pass
  1/5 Partial
  1/5 Fail
PS C:\Users\cinnamon\Downloads>
  
```

You will also have the option of using our new font! We wanted to create a fun, new, monospaced font to enhance the modern look and feel of the Terminal. Not only will this font include programming ligatures, but it will also be open sourced and have its own repository. Stay tuned for more information on the new font project!

```

int main(int argc, char** argv, char** envp) {
    if (argc ≤ 2) {
        printf("please enter an argument.\n");
        return 0x1;
    }

    struct stat* statBuf;
    statBuf = calloc(1, sizeof(struct stat));
    stat(argv[1], statBuf);
    printf("%d\n", statBuf->st_ino);
    return statBuf && 1;
}
  
```

Settings and configurability

We have connected with so many command-line users who LOVE to customize their terminals and command-line applications. Windows Terminal provides many settings and configuration options that give you a great deal of control over the Terminal's appearance and each of the shells/profiles that you can open as new tabs. Settings are stored in a structured text file making it easy for users and/or tools to configure.

Using Terminal's configuration mechanism, you will be able to create multiple "profiles" for each shell/app/tool you want to use, whether it be PowerShell, Command Prompt, Ubuntu, or even SSH connections to Azure or IoT devices. These profiles can have their own combination of font styles and sizes, color themes, background blur/transparency levels, etc. You can now create your own custom-styled Terminal that is personalized to your unique taste!

More!

After we've shipped Windows Terminal 1.0, we plan to get started on many of the features already in our backlog, in addition to the many features you as the community are likely to add!

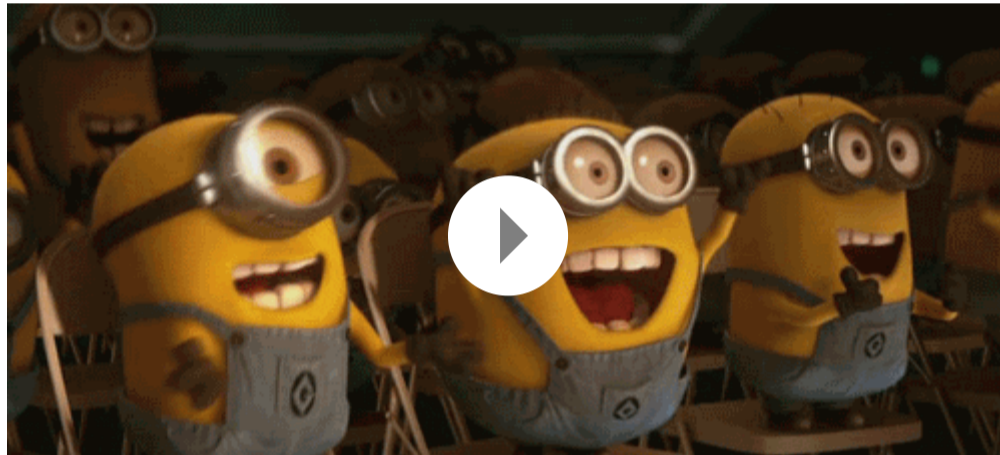
When can I get my hands on it?

As of today, the Windows Terminal and Windows Console have been made open source and you can clone, build, run, and test the code from the repository on GitHub:

<https://github.com/Microsoft/Terminal>

This summer in 2019, Windows Terminal previews will be released to the Microsoft Store for early adopters to use and provide feedback.

This winter in 2019, our goal is to launch Windows Terminal 1.0 and we'll work with the community to ensure it's ready before we release!



[\[Happy Joy Gif – Giphy\]](#)

Wait... did you say open source?

Yes we did! We are excited to announce that we are open sourcing not just Windows Terminal, but also the Windows Console which hosts the command-line infrastructure in Windows and provides the traditional Console UX.

We can't wait to work with you on improving and enhancing the Windows command-line experience!

This sounds awesome, but why couldn't you just improve the existing Windows Console?

The primary goal of the Windows Console is to preserve backward compatibility with existing command-line tools, scripts, etc. While we've managed to introduce many key improvements to the Console's features (e.g. adding VT and 24-bit color support, etc. [see this blog post](#)), we are unable to introduce further meaningful improvements to the Console's UI without "breaking the world."

Therefore, the time has come for a new, fresh approach.

Windows Terminal installs and runs alongside the existing in-box Windows Console application. If you run Cmd/PowerShell/etc. directly, they will start attached to a traditional Console instance in the exact same way they do today. This way, backward compatibility remains intact while providing you the option of experiencing Windows Terminal if/when you wish to do so. Windows Console will continue to ship within Windows for decades to come in order to support existing/legacy applications and systems.

Okay, but what about contributing to an existing open source terminal/app project instead?

We carefully explored this option during planning and determined our involvement in an existing project would require changing the project's requirements and architecture in ways that would be too disruptive.

Instead, by creating a new open-source terminal application, and open-sourcing Windows Console, we can now invite the community to collaborate with us on improving the code and leveraging it in their respective projects.

We believe there is plenty of room in the market for new/different ideas about what a terminal can and should do and we aim to help the ecosystem of terminal (and related) applications flourish and grow through the introduction of new ideas, interesting approaches, and exciting innovations in this space.

I'm sold! How can I get involved?

Visit the repo at <https://github.com/Microsoft/Terminal> to clone, build, test, and run the Terminal! You can file bugs and share feedback with us and the community as well as fix issues and make improvements on GitHub.

Starting this summer, try installing and running Windows Terminal from the Microsoft Store. If you come across any bugs, share feedback either via the Feedback Hub or GitHub issues for detailed issues/discussions.

We are thrilled to be working with you! If you have any questions or feedback, don't hesitate to reach out to Kayla [@cinnamon_msft](#) and/or Rich [@richturn_ms](#) on Twitter. We can't wait to see what exciting improvements and features you make to Windows Terminal and Windows Console.

Authors: [Kayla Cinnamon](#), [Rich Turner](#)



[Kayla Cinnamon](#)

Program Manager, Windows Terminal, Console, Command Line, & Cascadia Code

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[Craig Loewen](#) May 13, 2019

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[Kayla Cinnamon](#) May 20, 2019

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Adyel Ullahil Mamun May 6, 2019 12:41 pm



Now all we need is a proper package manager 😊



Scott Senkeresty May 6, 2019 6:35 pm



I've been mostly liking Scoop, but... so much yes to your comment...



Gabriel Basilio Brito May 6, 2019 7:07 pm



Yes, please.



Jochen Kirstätter May 6, 2019 8:45 pm



Chocolatey works perfectly well.



Haydon Curteis-Lateo May 7, 2019 3:31 am



Yes please!



Saleh Rahimzadeh May 7, 2019 6:37 am



Yes



Alex Spelt May 10, 2019 12:54 am



chocolatey is a pretty good packagemanager for windows <https://chocolatey.org/>



Terrence Young May 31, 2019 4:37 pm



Yesh proper one is needed. Although chocolatey and scoop are great. There's now one for C/C++ projects <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/cpp/build/vcpkg?view=vs-2019>



Tony June 12, 2020 8:19 pm



For any future readers, they're working on a native Windows package manager now. Relevant blog post: <https://devblogs.microsoft.com/commandline/windows-package-manager-preview/>



Charles Robertson May 6, 2019 1:37 pm



I'm really excited to be working with you. How much are you paying us?



Abdelmoumen ED-DAOUDY May 7, 2019 5:28 am



If you are really excited to work with a terminal, you can easily switch to a linux operating, it there since 1980s, do not wait for microsoft to release such a silly unstable terminal based on linux kernel.



Zoey M May 8, 2019 10:52 am



Microsoft isn't basing their terminal on the Linux kernel. Anyhow, why not be happy that Windows folks are happy about this? Why use your time to tear others down?



Jim Hinson May 12, 2019 4:36 am



Very well said, Zoey! Thank you!



Autymn C October 16, 2019 9:41 am



isn't !-> their; 1 != 2; who is a "folk"?; Why -> Wherefore



Autymn C October 16, 2019 9:39 am



learn punctuation and copulæ



Jason Smith June 3, 2020 10:52 pm



I enjoyed how your punctuation was not punctual, the OP will probably never read this as you will probably not read. (PS can you guess which punctuation errors were intentional which unintentional. ?).



JJ May 6, 2019 2:32 pm



I hope this one will become a proper tool akin to cmdr and not just something to shut up Linux fanboys. I understand that ConEmu and cmdr were pretty hacky so you decided to not use them as base but featuresets are absolutely awesome!

You can expect a lot of feedback and complains from me, just like with Edge and Chromium/Edge, first one being: I want to be able to turn ligatures off and to use Consolas and fallback to other font only for unsupported characters



Xucong Zhan May 7, 2019 9:57 am



I want to be able to turn ligatures off and to use Consolas and fallback to other font only for unsupported characters

Second that



Mohamed Meligy May 8, 2019 4:20 am



+1. I'm sure we'll be able to use other fonts, but I also want to be able to use the new font, without ligatures.

I think such a disruptive option like ligatures should be off by default.



Chris Shaffer June 22, 2019 12:03 pm



We already have git-bash, so no, it's probably not for Linux fanboys. Also, there are a lot of "Linux fanboys" who are forced to work under the inhumane conditions of the Windows environment while administrating Linux machines; having a decent terminal is a necessity. Unfortunately, since this doesn't even work on Windows Server it's worthless to us.

Oh, and you can use whatever stupid font you want in git-bash, but then I guess you'd need to be a Linux fanboy.



Michael Csikos May 6, 2019 4:21 pm



What about LTSB deployments?



冬麦 May 6, 2019 4:26 pm



It looks fantastic! Thank your for your hard work!

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