

Use zsh as the default shell on your Mac - Apple Support

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By default, your Mac uses either zsh or bash as the command-line interpreter for the login shell and interactive shell:


- **zsh** (Z shell) is the default shell for all newly created user accounts, starting with macOS Catalina.
- **bash** is the default shell in [macOS Mojave and earlier](#).

zsh is highly compatible with the Bourne shell (sh) and mostly compatible with bash, with some differences. For more about zsh and its comprehensive command-line completion system, enter `man zsh` in Terminal.


Whether your user account is configured to use zsh (recommended), bash, or another shell, you can change the default shell from the command line or Users & Groups settings.

In Terminal, enter `$ chsh -s path`, where *path* is one of the shell paths listed in `/etc/shells`, such as `/bin/zsh`, `/bin/bash`, `/bin/csh`, `/bin/dash`, `/bin/ksh`, `/bin/sh`, or `/bin/tcsh`.


In macOS Ventura 13 or later:

1. From the Apple menu , choose System Settings.
2. Click Users & Groups in the sidebar, Control-click your user name or user picture in the list of users on the right, then choose Advanced Options.
3. Enter your user name and password when prompted.
4. Choose a shell from the “Login shell” menu, then click OK to save the changes.

In earlier versions of macOS:

1. From the Apple menu , choose System Preferences.



2. Click Users & Groups, click the lock , then enter your user name and password.
3. Control-click your user name in the list of users on the left, then choose Advanced Options.
4. Choose a shell from the “Login shell” menu, then click OK to save the changes.

If you don't want Terminal to use the default login shell in new Terminal windows and tabs:

1. Open Terminal, then choose Settings (or Preferences) from the Terminal menu.
2. From the General pane, select “Command (complete path).”

3. In the adjacent field, enter one of the shell paths listed in `/etc/shells`, such as `/bin/zsh`, `/bin/bash`, `/bin/csh`, `/bin/dash`, `/bin/ksh`, `/bin/sh`, or `/bin/tcsh`.

If you invoke the bash shell while macOS is configured to use a different shell, you'll see a message that the default interactive shell is now zsh. To silence this warning, you can add this command to `~/.bash_profile` or `~/.profile`:

```
export BASH_SILENCE_DEPRECATION_WARNING=1
```

If you're using a bash profile, such as to set environment variables, aliases, or path variables, you should switch to using a zsh equivalent. For example:

- **.zprofile** is equivalent to **.bash_profile** and runs at login, including over SSH
- **.zshrc** is equivalent to **.bashrc** and runs for each new Terminal session

If you're using **.profile** (a POSIX-compliant profile), you can make zsh automatically read its settings by adding this command to **.zprofile**:

```
[[ -e ~/.profile ]] && emulate sh -c 'source ~/.profile'
```

You can also move some settings from a bash profile to a zsh profile without modification. For example, to set environment variables: `export MY_SETTING=1` .

zsh recognizes a different set of prompt specifiers than bash and has a cleaner syntax for specifying colored output, eliminating the need to use complex ANSI escape sequences. For example, here's the syntax for a default bash prompt from **.bash_profile**:

```
export PS1="\[\e[92;40m\]\h\[\e[m\]:\[\e[93m\]\W\[\e[m\] \ \$ "
```

To convert that bash prompt to a zsh prompt when using **.zprofile** or **.zshrc**:

```
export PS1="%10F%m%f:%11F%1~%f \ $ "
```

See the zsh man page for more details.

To test script compatibility with Bourne-compatible shells in macOS Catalina or later, you can change `/var/select/sh` to `/bin/bash`, `/bin/dash`, or `/bin/zsh`. If you change `/var/select/sh` to a shell other than bash, be aware that scripts that make use of bashisms may not work properly.

zsh can be made to emulate sh by executing the command `zsh --emulate sh` .

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