

SELECTED WORKS · 2025 - 2026

Kaku 書 <

A fast, out-of-the-box terminal built for AI coding.

Terminal Emulator · Open Source
macOS · Apple Silicon

hello@kaku.app
github.com/tw93/Kaku

A terminal tuned for the AI-coding era

Kaku is a WezTerm downstream that does less, does it faster, and looks right on macOS from the first launch. No config file required. The built-in AI assistant takes natural-language commands, reads shell errors, and fixes itself.

Origin

Built by a small team that used Alacritty, iTerm2, and Ghostty daily and wanted something between them. Fast like Alacritty, configurable like iTerm2, but readable, AI-aware, and polished on macOS out of the box. Rust core, Lua scripting, WezTerm-compatible config file.

Focus

One opinionated default instead of fifty knobs. If a setting only makes sense to 2% of users, it lives in Lua, not in the UI. Shell bootstrap cut to ~100ms. Binary 40% smaller. Chinese, Japanese, Korean glyphs render correctly on first boot because macOS system font rendering is on by default.

A fast, ready-to-go terminal for AI coding

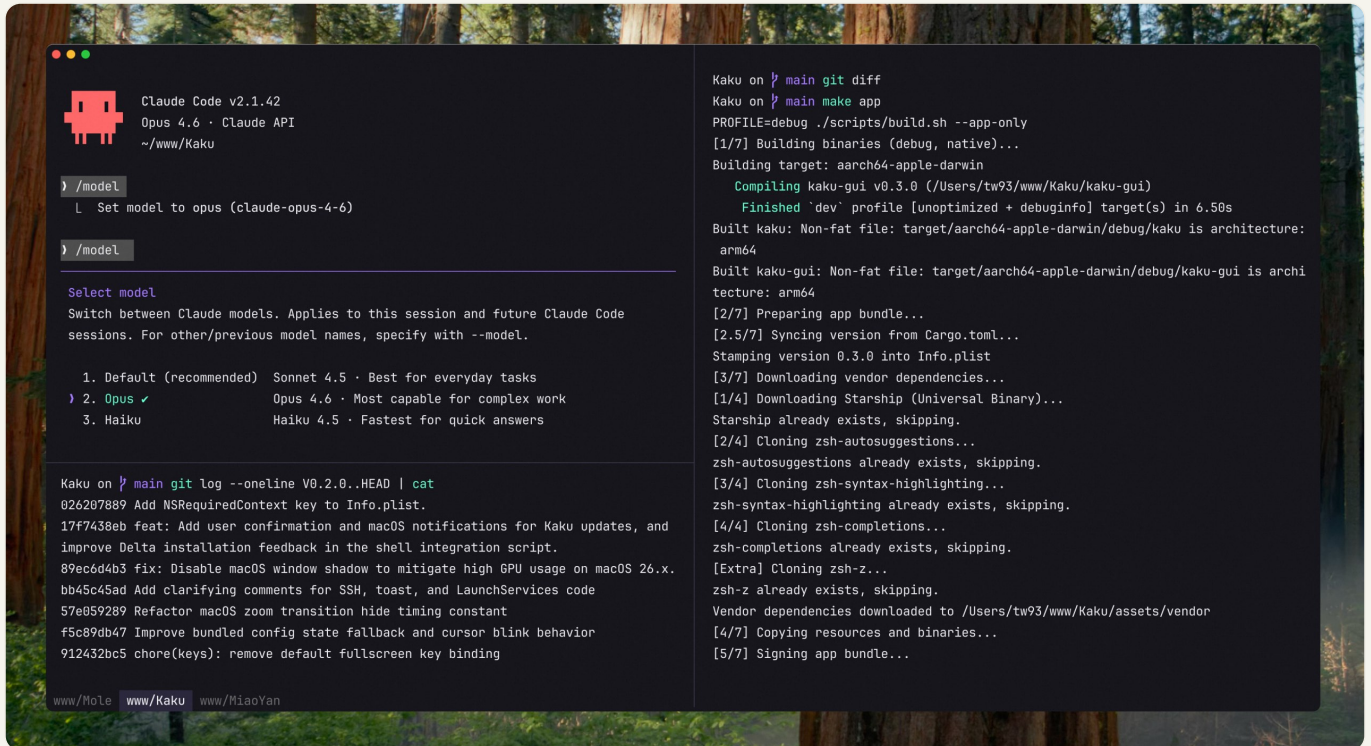
WezTerm downstream, stripped of everything that was not earning its keep, and tuned for macOS + Apple Silicon first.

Rust

Lua

macOS

Open Source



Context

AI coding flipped the terminal from a place you type commands to a place you collaborate with a model. Existing terminals were still tuned for 2015 workflows: configs buried in TOML, bootstrap times that felt fine when humans were the only users, fonts that rendered Chinese as tofu. Kaku is the answer to what a terminal should feel like when half the commands come from an agent.

Approach

Forked WezTerm, cut the surface area in half, replaced the Lua defaults with a curated set that works on first boot. Polished the macOS integration: JetBrains Mono baked in, theme-aware dark/light, clickable paths, copy-on-select. Bundled a built-in AI assistant that can take natural-language commands and fix its own errors.

Outcome

4.2k stars · 216 forks · 1,082 commits. Binary 40% smaller, resources 20% lighter, shell bootstrap from ~200ms to ~100ms versus upstream. The "Talk to it, it configures itself" use-case replaced dotfiles for most users.

4.2k

GitHub stars, 216 forks

-40%

binary size vs upstream WezTerm

~100ms

shell bootstrap, down from ~200ms

A full workflow, no plugins required

Lazygit, Yazi, remote filesystem mounting, pane broadcasting, and a curated shell suite ship in the box. Every shortcut is deliberate.

Lazygit

Yazi

Shell Suite

SSH

Lua Config

Terminal multiplexing

`Cmd+D` splits vertically, `Cmd+Shift+D` horizontally. `Cmd+Shift+Enter` zooms the active pane. Pane input broadcast via `Cmd+Opt+I` (current tab) or `Cmd+Shift+I` (all tabs). Navigate with `Cmd+Opt+Arrows`. Smart `Cmd+W`: closes pane if multiple panes, closes tab if multiple tabs, otherwise hides the app.

Built-in tools

`Cmd+Shift+G` launches lazygit in the current pane. `Cmd+Shift+Y` launches yazi; the `y` shell wrapper syncs the working directory on exit. `Cmd+Shift+R` mounts the current SSH session's remote filesystem via `sshfs` and opens it in yazi — no manual mount commands.

Shell suite + config

`zsh-autosuggestions`, `zsh-syntax-highlighting`, `zsh-completions`, and `z` load automatically inside Kaku sessions. Starship, Delta, and Yazi install via `kaku init`. Config file at `~/.config/kaku/kaku.lua` — open with `kaku config` or `Cmd+.`. Add keybindings by inserting into `config.keys`, never replacing it.

15+

keybindings with no config, all deliberate

4

built-in tools: lazygit, yazi, sshfs, shell suite

Lua

full WezTerm API, insert-only keybinding pattern

The terminal reads errors and fixes itself

Two modes: automatic error recovery after any non-zero exit, and natural-language command generation via the `#` prefix.

[Error Recovery](#)[NL to Command](#)[OpenAI-compatible](#)[Cmd+Shift+E](#)

Error recovery

When a command exits non-zero, Kaku Assistant automatically sends the failed command, exit code, working directory, and git branch to the LLM, and displays a suggested fix inline. Press `Cmd+Shift+E` to paste the suggestion — dangerous commands (`rm -rf` , `git reset --hard`) are pasted but never auto-executed.

Natural language to command

Type `# list files modified in the last 7 days` and press Enter. Kaku intercepts the line before the shell sees it, sends the query with current directory and git branch context, and injects the resulting command into the prompt ready to review and run. Works in both zsh and fish.

Provider + safety

Configured via `kaku ai` or `~/.config/kaku/assistant.toml` . Supports any OpenAI-compatible base URL — self-hosted models, DeepSeek, or corporate API gateways via `custom_headers` . Does not trigger on `Ctrl+C` exits, help flags, or non-shell foreground processes.

#

prefix to generate any shell command in plain English

E

`Cmd+Shift+E` applies the AI fix, one keystroke after any error

O

auto-executed dangerous commands — always pasted for review

Release Cadence

V0.9	Kaku AI: error recovery + natural-language commands Cmd+Shift+E to apply fix. # prefix for NL-to-command. OpenAI-compatible providers.	2026.04
V0.7	Shell bootstrap at ~100ms; lazygit + yazi integration Curated zsh plugin suite. Cmd+Shift+G / Y / R for lazygit, yazi, remote sshfs.	2026.01
V0.5	Theme-aware rendering; pane multiplexing defaults Auto dark/light follows macOS. Broadcast input, zoom pane, smart Cmd+W.	2025.10
V0.3	Lua config system; WezTerm API compatibility kaku config, kaku doctor, kaku init. Full WezTerm keybinding API, insert-only pattern.	2025.08
V0.1	Public launch — WezTerm downstream, macOS-first 40% smaller binary, JetBrains Mono, copy-on-select, clickable paths, CJK rendering.	2025.06

GET KAKU

Kaku is open source.

GITHUB	github.com/tw93/Kaku
WEBSITE	kaku.app
INSTALL	<code>brew install --cask kaku</code>
STARS	4,200+ and counting