Keeping history in sync with turtles and magic
Or: the same shell history, everywhere.

github.com/ellie/atuin
whoami

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The Great A’tuin
(art by Paul Kidby)
What is Atuin?

- Sync shell history between machines
- Replace `.zsh_history/etc` with SQLite
- Import existing history
- Adds extra context
- Plugs into prompt or shell hooks
The UI

- Search TUI on ctrl-r + up
  - Totally remap-able
- Search modes
- Filter modes

github.com/ellie/atuin
Extra context

- Fun stats 😎
- Day, week, month
- Could definitely do way more
Shell search interface

- Very specific search
- Integrate with other tools (eg fzf)
Sync server 🚀

- HTTP API
  - Just stores blobs
  - Originally warp, now axum
  - Warp was fun, but axum is neater + faster to compile
- Self-hostable
  - “atuin server”, docker, k8s
- Sync is not yet truly real-time, but can be close to it
Public deployment

- 11 million+ lines of shell history
- 300+ active users
- One Hetzner box
- Thank you sponsors!
Encryption

- Fully e2e encrypted
- I don’t want to see your history!
- libsodium SecretBox
  - Finding reliable bindings was difficult…
- Key auto generated
- Key required for sync
Why Rust?

- Atuin runs twice for every shell command
- It needs to be fast + low latency
- It needs to be reliable
- Static binary
- Rust is safe!
- Rust is fun (especially vs Go)
- The community is fantastic
- Notice a naming theme?
- Closed source (because it’s gross)
- Quick hack in Python (numpy…)
- Opt-in
I just made it for me, but people like it? 😳

We ended up in a bunch of package repos

People contributing (63!)

Thank you Conrad <3
The future 🚀

- DELETIONS! ❌
- Sort out bash 😞
- More info exposed in TUI
- Improved search
- Better sorting
The even further future

- Dev secrets storage?
- Favourite commands?
- Runbook recording?
Atuin replaces your existing shell history with a SQLite database, and records additional context for your commands. Additionally, it provides optional and fully encrypted synchronisation of your history between machines, via an Atuin server.

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