Launchy 2.0 Documentation

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Please Read This First!

When Launchy runs it disappears to the background. You have to press 'alt+space' in order to see Launchy. If Launchy is new for you please read the rest of this short manual.

1   Welcome

Launchy was initially created for personal use but thanks to the encouragement of my friends I decided to distribute it. Launchy is completely free and open software so you should never pay for it and you should feel free to pass it on to your friends. The official homepage for Launchy is http://www.launchy.net/. If you need help using Launchy or would like to leave any comments/suggestions please feel free to post on the forums at http://www.sf.net/projects/launchy/.
     – Josh Karlin

2   Basic Usage

Launchy's primary function is to bring hard to reach objects on your computer quickly within your grasp. It does so by scanning your computer for interesting files (e.g. programs on your computer and bookmarks) and then makes them searchable with queries. For instance, if you would like to run "notepad", you might invoke Launchy and type "note" and then hit enter to launch it. To invoke Launchy, press and hold down the alt key and then press the space key.
     By default, Launchy is able to perform a number of useful tasks:

- *Web searches* - Try typing "google", then hitting tab, and then entering your search

- *Bookmarks* - Try typing the name of one of your bookmarks

- *Calculator* - Try typing "4 + 3"

- *File Browsing* - Try typing "c:\windo" hitting tab, and then typing "system" and hitting tab. This will autocomplete to c:\windows\system\

- *Control Panel* - Try typing "sound"

2.1 Exiting Launchy

Simply right click on Launchy and press the "exit" button.

3 Advanced Usage

All of Launchy's options can be reached by right clicking the mouse on Launchy and pressing the "Options" button. Many of Launchy's options are self-explanatory (changing skins and the hotkey) while some others are not. In this section I discuss the advanced options.

3.1 Scanning additional directories

The directories and file types that Launchy scans are configurable. The following discussion refers to the "Catalog" tab of the options menu.

Let's begin by adding your music files. Press the big "+" button and direct Launchy to your music folder. After pressing okay, enter "*.mp3" into the file types entry box and press the smaller "+" button directly below. You might also want to add "*.aac", "*.wma", and "*.ogg" as well. Now, Launchy will scan all of your music. You can tell Launch to rebuild its index right now by pressing the "Rescan Catalog" button.

3.2 Using Launchy on a USB stick

Please follow this procedure to run Launchy from a USB stick. It will configure Launchy to store its configuration files in the application directory.

1. Install Launchy normally

2. Exit Launchy

3. Copy the Launchy directory to your usb stick

4. Run Launchy from the usb stick

5. Select "portable mode" in the general options tab

6. Exit Launchy

4 Contributors

Launchy would not be where it is today without community support. I would like to add special thanks to the following people:

Graphic Designers

- Tyler Sticka - For Launchy's beautiful new icon and skin

- Sean (=gakuseisean) - For the use of his icons in the plugins

- Peter Wooley - For the web page's current design

- Juan Ignacio Serra - The first artist to offer assistance. He created some of Launchy's first skins, including work on the Mercury skin.

Testers

- Amadawn - The first to contribute significant testing work. I'm sorry that you ever had to see such unusable versions of Launchy!

5 Change log

1.98 (2.0 Alpha)

- Launchy has been completely rewritten, it is now all in QT (was in MFC)

- Options glued together into one cohesive dialog

- Skin selection now shows previews of skins

- No longer have to restart Launchy to use a new plugin or skin

- Plugin options are integrated into the options dialog

- Launchy can automatically hide when it loses focus

- Launchy can now shallow scan a directory (customizable depth)

- Much better plugin customization

Bug fixes

- Unfortunately there are too many to list!

1.2.5

- New control panel plugin (indexes control panel apps)

- Runny plugin (customizable commands)

- Notification of new Launchy Releases (can be turned off)

- Command line argument support (hit tab and type the arguments)

- Can use '.*' as a filetype for directories

- Plugins can be enabled/disabled (right click on launchy, go to plugins)

- Plugins can now have configurable options

- Always on top is now configurable

Bug Fixes:

- Removed startup crash bug

- Fixed Weby bug (it was hard to select Google)

- Fixed mouse disappearance in dropdown menu

- Launchy no longer jumps when you change skins

- Launchy no longer flashes on startup

- Calcy took priority over files with numbers, fixed

- Launchy can now be placed in the corner of the screen

1.0.0

- Launchy now supports plugins! Check out the "Plugins" folder inside your Launchy directory, you can add and remove plugins from there when Launchy is not running. Following are the plugins that come with Launchy by default, I expect many others to be developed by myself and the community.

- Explory Plugin: A file explorer for Launchy! Now you can use launchy to navigate your filesystem. Try typing "c:" then hitting tab, keep on typing and hitting tab!

- Weby Plugin: Supports launching of url's and adds quick launches for "Google" "MSN" "Amazon" and many others, try typing "google" then hit tab then type in a search query

- Foxy Plugin: With foxy your Firefox bookmarks will be added to the Launchy index. Even better, your firefox keywords are added to Launchy and behave like quick launches do for Weby. Not sure what firefox keywords are? Go here: http://www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/smart-keywords.html (Note some firefox quick searches are currently incompatible and will not be indexed)

- Calcy Plugin: Never have a calculator handy? With Calcy, Launchy knows when you're trying to do math and will display the result in the suggestions box. For instance, try typing in "(4 + 3) * 12" and 84 will result in the suggestions box. Support for + - * / ()'s currently exists.

- Now Ctrl+Backspace deletes a word at a time and Alt+Backspace clears the text

- Too many bug fixes to count or remember, good riddance!

- Special thanks to Sean Poon http://gakuseisean.deviantart.com for the use of his wonderful icons for the plugins

1.0.0 Beta

- Launchy displays the full path and icon to files in the dropdown suggestions box.

- Filetypes can now be specifically set for each directory to index

- Always on top mode added

- USB Mode added

- Configurable index scan interval

- Configuration files moved to docs and settings\username\Applications\Launchy\ which is friendlier to users with limited access accounts.

Bug Fixes:

- The Launchy startup on auto-login crash should be gone

- No longer presumes icon index is located in C:\

- Hotkey window now initializes with current hotkey

- Configuration files now less likely to be corrupted due to restart during saving

0.9.6

- Launchy can now index directory names as well as files!

- A utilities folder with useful shortcuts is now included, it adds standard control panel programs, system shutdown / logoff/ reboot, and special folders such as My Documents, and My Music.

- Unicode now fully supported. All character sets should work.

- The old style of matching by association is completely removed, it's now entirely based upon frequency of use

- Now has a "please donate" dialog that appears only once, sorry but I've got to make a living!

Bug Fixes:

- Fixed up/down keys causing a dropdown when there are no matches

- Saves settings to ini directly after changes are made in case of system crash

- Spaces are now ignored in user input, making it possible to search for "Johnny_cash.mp3" with "john cash"

0.9.3

- Once again, Launchy is prettier. The combobox has vanished.

- New skins! Please see the Author.txt file in each skin's directory to give credit where credit is due.

Bug Fixes:

- Sometimes windows shutdown prevented the database from being saved. Now it saves more frequently just in case.

- Arbitrarily long file extensions are now allowed, so you can filter on .mpeg for instance and not just .mpg

- A couple of minor graphical glitches have been fixed

- Development Environment:

- The Boost library is no longer needed to compile Launchy, I've copied the necessary Boost header files for smart pointers into the project.

0.9.2

- Frequency sorting took priority over exact matches, fixed.

0.9.1

- Search results sorted by frequency of use now.

- Configuration files moved to the Users subdirectory of your installation. This means that your configuration file will start fresh.. sorry! It also means that Launchy can be run from a memory stick.

- You can now remove the start menu from the directories you scan if you so desire.

- Bug fixes, hooray!

0.9

- Alpha channel support! Launchy is sexier now.

- New skinning options.

- Lots of skins!

- Minor bug fixes.

- Ability to rescan index on demand.

- This is a feature complete version of Launchy 1.0 From now until then I will only post bug fixes.

0.81

- New installer, after this release upgrades should be much better.

- Added icon support. Now icons are shown as well as the file name. The visual cue of the icon makes for faster launching. (It's also prettier)

- The combobox is now a bit more sane. It won't steal your focus away when it drops down.

- Launchy will rescan directories on startup as opposed to waiting a couple of minutes.

0.8

- Launchy now scans user specified directories and stores the results in a compressed file to make startup faster.

- You can now change the hotkey that activates Launchy

- You can now create/select skins for Launchy

- Launchy searches *much* faster than before, enabling indexing of thousands of files

0.7

- Launchy has memory! It will associate your input with applications.

0.61

- Launchy no longer opens all programs maximized.

0.6

- This is the first C++ release. As I became frustrated with C#'s large .NET framework requirements and users lack of desire to install it, I decided to switch back to the faster language. This release is functionally and visually equivalent to the 0.5 C# release. The C# CVS version had some new features that I will soon add to the C++ branch.

0.5

- This was the first public release.