

# Recent Documents

## Recent Documents

### Overview

Windows and macOS provide access to a list of recent documents opened by the application via JumpList or dock menu, respectively.

### JumpList:

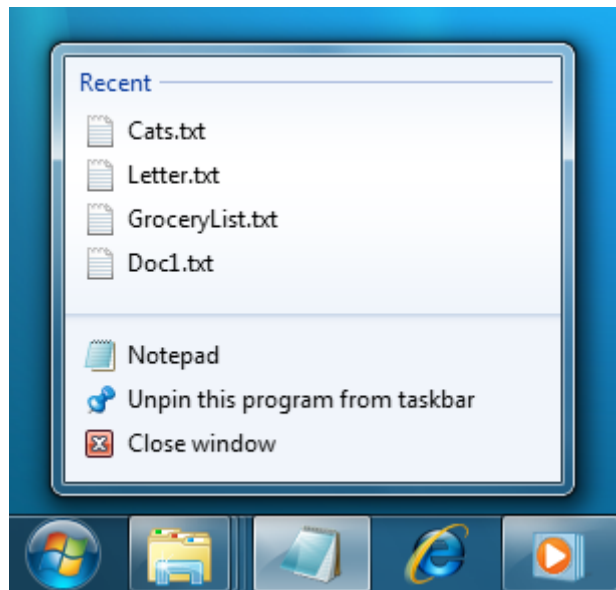


Figure 1: JumpList Recent Files

### Application dock menu:

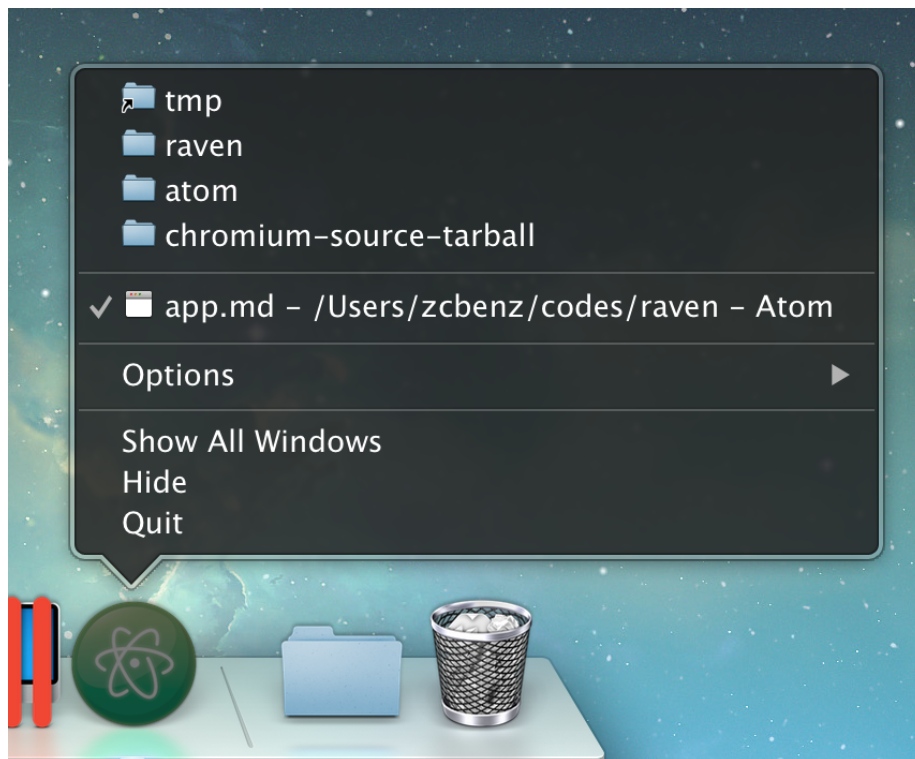


Figure 2: macOS Dock Menu

## Example

### Managing recent documents

```
“‘javascript fiddle=‘docs/fiddles/features/recent-documents’ const { app,
BrowserWindow } = require(‘electron’) const fs = require(‘fs’) const path =
require(‘path’)

const createWindow = () => { const win = new BrowserWindow({ width: 800,
height: 600 })

win.loadFile(‘index.html’) }

const fileName = ‘recently-used.md’ fs.writeFile(fileName, ‘Lorem Ipsum’, () =>
{ app.addRecentDocument(path.join(__dirname, fileName)) })

app.whenReady().then(createWindow)

app.on(‘window-all-closed’, () => { app.clearRecentDocuments() if (process.platform !== ‘darwin’) { app.quit() } })

app.on(‘activate’, () => { if (BrowserWindow.getAllWindows().length === 0)
{ createWindow() } })
```

#### #### Adding a recent document

To add a file to recent documents, use the  
[app.addRecentDocument][addrecentdocument] API.

After launching the Electron application, right click the application icon.  
In this guide, the item is a Markdown file located in the root of the project.  
You should see `recently-used.md` added to the list of recent files:

```
![Recent document](../images/recent-documents.png)
```

#### #### Clearing the list of recent documents

To clear the list of recent documents, use the  
[app.clearRecentDocuments][clearrecentdocuments] API.  
In this guide, the list of documents is cleared once all windows have been  
closed.

#### ## Additional information

#### ### Windows Notes

To use this feature on Windows, your application has to be registered as  
a handler of the file type of the document, otherwise the file won't appear  
in JumpList even after you have added it. You can find everything  
on registering your application in [Application Registration][app-registration].

When a user clicks a file from the `JumpList`, a new instance of your application will be started with the path of the file added as a command line argument.

### macOS Notes

#### Add the Recent Documents list to the application menu

You can add menu items to access and clear recent documents by adding the following code snippet to your menu template:

```
```json
{
  "submenu": [
    {
      "label": "Open Recent",
      "role": "recentdocuments",
      "submenu": [
        {
          "label": "Clear Recent",
          "role": "clearrecentdocuments"
        }
      ]
    }
  ]
}
```

Make sure the application menu is added after the `'ready'` event and not before, or the menu item will be disabled:

```
const { app, Menu } = require('electron')

const template = [
  // Menu template here
]
const menu = Menu.buildFromTemplate(template)

app.whenReady().then(() => {
  Menu.setApplicationMenu(menu)
})
```

When a file is requested from the recent documents menu, the `open-file` event of `app` module will be emitted for it.

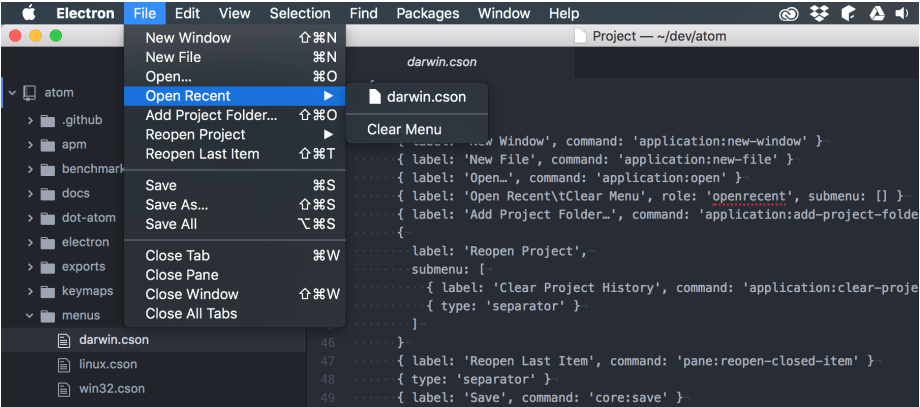


Figure 3: macOS Recent Documents menu item