Shortcuts Background Process

Setup Guide

Exiting the Process:

When the process is running, you can exit it at any point by pressing the ALT and Q keys at the same time.

Setting up Shortcuts:

You should have 3 files: this guide, the ShortcutBackgroundProcess.exe, and Shorcuts.txt.

First open the Shortcuts.txt in a text editor. It should be empty. You need to fill this in to get your shortcuts working. **Important:** The text editor you use must use '\n' as a newline character. **Do not use notepad.**

Each line represents a separate shortcut. And each line is split into 3 parts separated by spaces

The first part is the **key modifier**, it is the first key which has to be pressed to activate the shortcut. It can be any of the following:

NONE – Use this if you do not want to have to press 2 keys to activate your shortcut

ALT – Use this if you want to press the Alt key with another key to activate your shortcut

CTRL – Use this if you want to press the Ctrl key with another key to activate your shortcut

 SHIFT – Use this if you want to press the Shift key with another key to activate your shortcut

WINKEY – Use this if you want to press the Windows key with another key to activate your shortcut. **Important**: A lot of shortcuts using this modifier will not work as they will be overridden by the operating system shortcuts.

The second part is the **shortcut key**. This is the key which will activate the shortcut along with the key modifier. It can be any capital letter or number.

Note: Alt + Q will not work as a shortcut. This is because it is used to quit the process.

The final part of the line is the **application path**. This is just the path to the .exe you want to open where each backslash '\' has to be replace with two backslashes '\\'

Example Shortcuts – Separate lines in Shorcuts.txt

```
NONE W C:\\Program Files\\...\\something.exe
```

This will open the something.exe application when the W key is pressed on its own.

```
CTRL F C:\\Program Files\\...\\firefox.exe
```

This will open the firefox.exe application when the Ctrl key and F key are pressed together.

Start the Process:

To start the shortcut process just open the ShortcutBackgroundProcess.exe file. You can open it as many times as you like but this will start multiple applications when each shortcut is activated.

You can also get the process to start automatically when your computer boots up …

Run on Startup:

This is a standard way of getting a application or process to start on startup.

1. Locate the starup folder usually at:
   `C:\Users\`***Username***`\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup`

   You can also do this by pressing Windows key and R and typing `shell:startup`

2. Create a shortcut in the folder by doing the following:

   Right click > New > Shortcut

   Type in the path to the ShortcutBackgroundProcess.exe

   Click next and give it a name

   Click Finish

Next time your computer starts, it should start the process automatically.

There is an easy way to enable and disable it from automatically starting with Task Manager:
Press Ctrl + Alt + Esc to open Task Manager
Press more details to expand it
Go to the Start-up tab and you should see it in the list.
Select it and use the Enable/Disable button to enable or disable it