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Master Your Mac Workflow: Instantly Switch Contexts

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Transform your workspace game with a free tool that keeps tasks separate and your mind clear

If you're a Mac user with multiple work modes and displays, and you're tired of chasing windows and losing mental context every time you shift tasks, give FlashSpace a shot.

Hi, this is Jannis

So You boot up your Mac, open your developer IDE, browser tabs for research, design software waiting on another screen. Then the next task lands: a meeting, a quick design edit, a side-project tweak.

Immediately you're juggling windows again — moving things around, losing track of which app belongs to which context, getting distracted by leftover tabs or apps from the previous mode. It feels chaotic.

Introducing FlashSpace
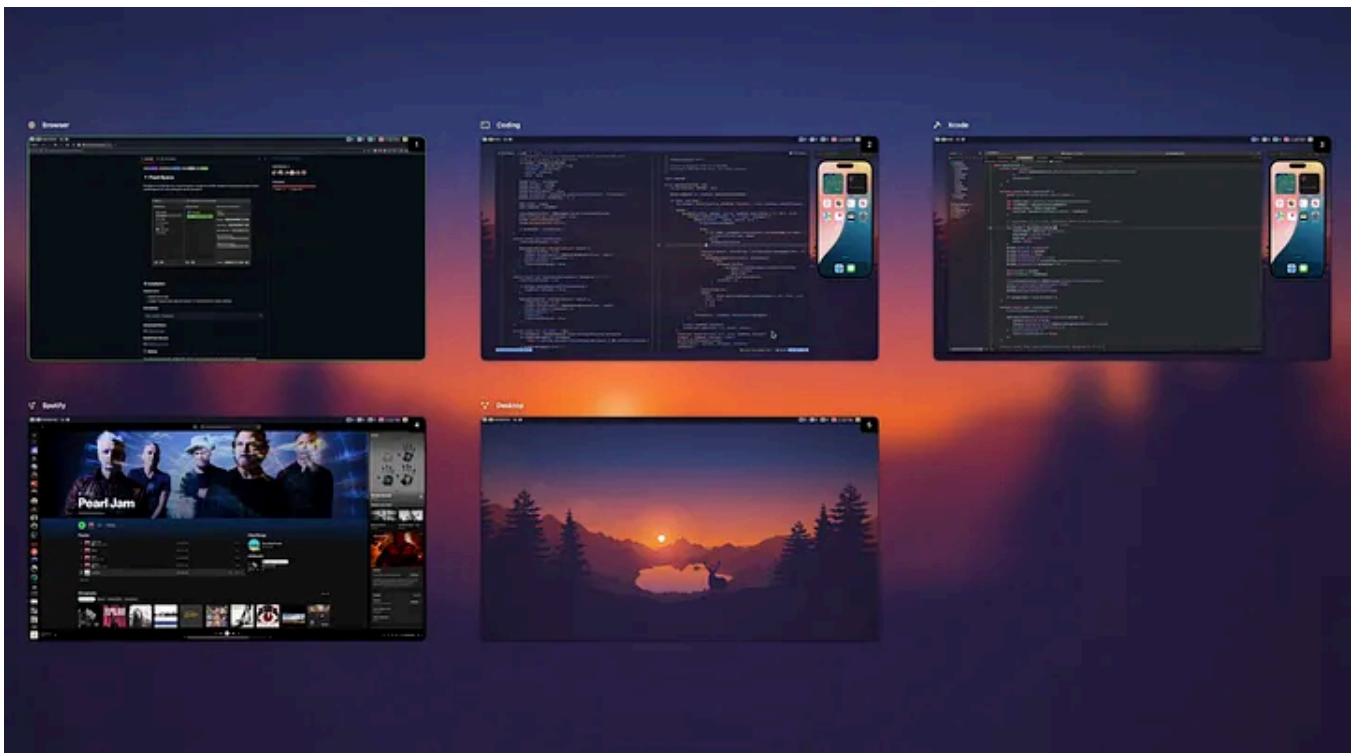
An open-source, free workspace manager for macOS that helps you define clean, isolated work-contexts and jump between them fast. It's not about tiling windows or complex automations; it's about context switching. On its GitHub page it calls itself *"a blazingly-fast virtual workspace manager for macOS … designed to enhance and replace native macOS Spaces."*

But Doesn't MacOS Already do This?"

Technically, yes. Apple's built-in Spaces feature *tries* to give you multiple desktops. The problem is that it was never designed for people who live in multitasking mode all day. Switching Spaces feels sluggish and transitions steal seconds of focus.

It doesn't rely on animations or full-screen gestures. You hit a hotkey and only the apps you assigned to that workspace stay visible, everything else hides.

Distinct Workspaces — Each With its Own Set of Apps

In FlashSpace you define which apps live in which workspace, and optionally assign a display. When you switch, the chosen apps come front and the rest fade away. No more "where did that Slack window go?" or "which browser tabs were for this project?". For someone like you, who thrives on structure, focus, and speed, this can lift a big burden.

> 🚀 *Ready to level up your Mac workspace?*
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After Setup, Switching Becomes a One-Keystroke Move

First, make sure your Mac is on macOS 14 or later. Then install FlashSpace (e.g., via Homebrew: `brew install --cask flashspace`).

Next, enable **"Displays have separate Spaces"** in System Settings → Desktop & Dock. Without this, the multi-monitor logic won't behave as expected. Once that's set, you move all your open apps into a single macOS space per display — clean slate mode.

Then within FlashSpace you create your first workspace: pick a name (say "Coding"), assign apps (Terminal, VS Code, Browser), assign a display (or leave dynamic), set a hotkey (e.g., Ctrl-1).

Follow the same pattern for "Design", "Meetings", "Writing".

Hit the hotkey and you instantly land in that workspace — assigned apps ready, others hidden.

Here's how I implemented it in my workflow

On Display 1 I keep a workspace called "Dev" with Terminal, VS Code and Safari.

On Display 2 I keep "Design" with Affinity and maybe Procreate.

I bound Ctrl-1 to "Dev", Ctrl-2 to "Design".

So when I'm in coding mode I hit Ctrl-1 and everything else hides: no meetings, no creative tools, no Slack.

When it's time to design I hit Ctrl-2 and all those dev apps recede, full creative mode.

I still rely on a window-layout manager to position and size windows — because FlashSpace deliberately doesn't handle layouts. That separation keeps things clean and focused.

What to Keep in mind

FlashSpace does *not* manage window positions or layouts (moving/resizing windows). By design it focuses solely on workspace assignment and switching. It also doesn't support assigning *specific windows* of the same app to different workspaces — if you have multiple Chrome windows, all go with the same workspace or none.

If you frequently dock/undock displays or change monitor arrangements, you may encounter odd behaviour (some windows might appear on the "wrong" display upon wake).

There are tips in the repo to mitigate this.

So if you're after tiny granular control over window-placement or per-window workspaces, this might not cover every case.

For rapid context switching? It hits the mark.

GitHub - wojciech-kulik/FlashSpace: FlashSpace is a blazingly fast virtual workspace manager for...

FlashSpace is a blazingly fast virtual workspace manager for macOS ⚡ - wojciech-kulik/FlashSpace

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Written by Jannis ✪

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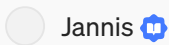
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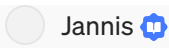
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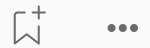
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