

Recent Downloads Extension

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Intro

What is the Recent Downloads extension?

Ever wanted to open or install files directly after you downloaded them?

If it's a normal file you could do that from the browser with a few keystrokes but what if it's a zip file containing an application or when it's a disk image. Then it usually involves the finder and dragging files or apps around. Often you also have to remember the name of the file you downloaded.

That's where the Recent Downloads extension comes in. It enables you to open, list and install files just by entering a keyword into the Alfred main window. No need to remember names or wonder if it's a zip file or not.

For instance, if your most recent downloaded file happens to be a zip file containing an application the extension will ask you if you want to install it or just open it.

Want a list of your most recently downloaded files? The extension can show those as well.

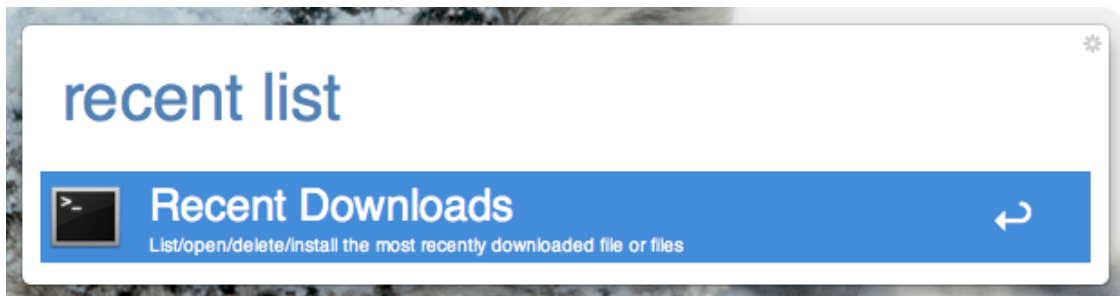
Using the extension

Listing files

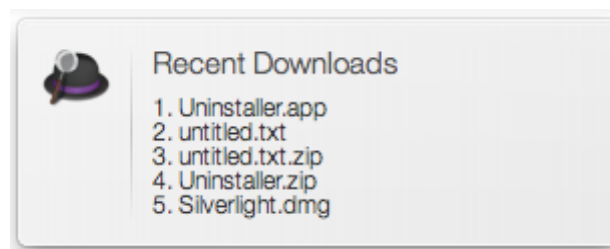
List the default number of most recent downloaded files

Type the **recent list** or **recent l** in the main window of Alfred and **press return**. This shows the default number of most recent downloaded files. The default is normally 5.

You can change the default number of files to display with the [commandline options](#).

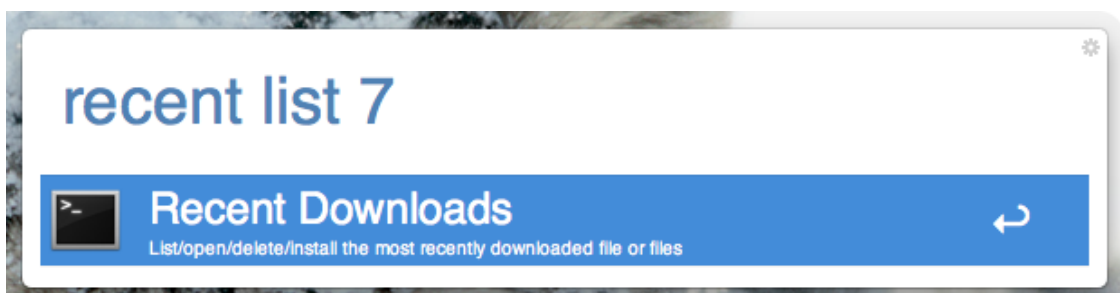


A Growl message will popup with a message listing the most recent downloaded files.

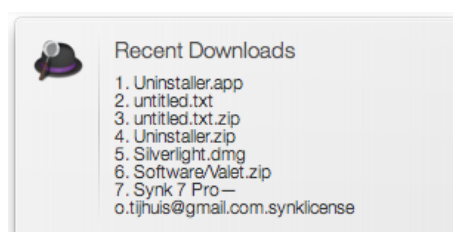


List a certain number of most recent downloaded files

Type the **recent list <number>** or **recent l <number>** in the main window of Alfred and **press return**.



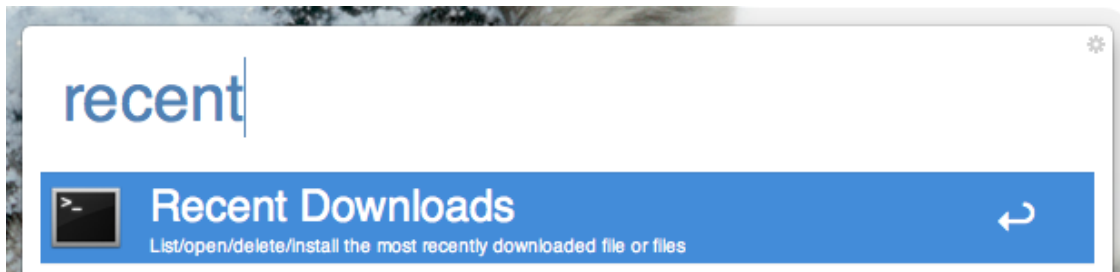
A Growl message will popup with a message listing the most recent downloaded files.



Opening files

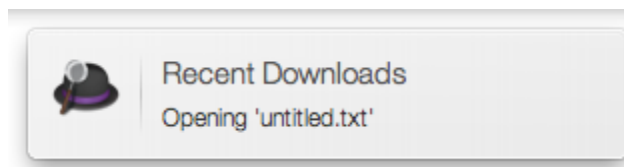
Open the most recent downloaded file

Type the keyword **recent** in the main window of Alfred and **press return**.



The extension will open the file with the specified application (default is Finder). A Growl message will popup with a message showing that the file is being opened.

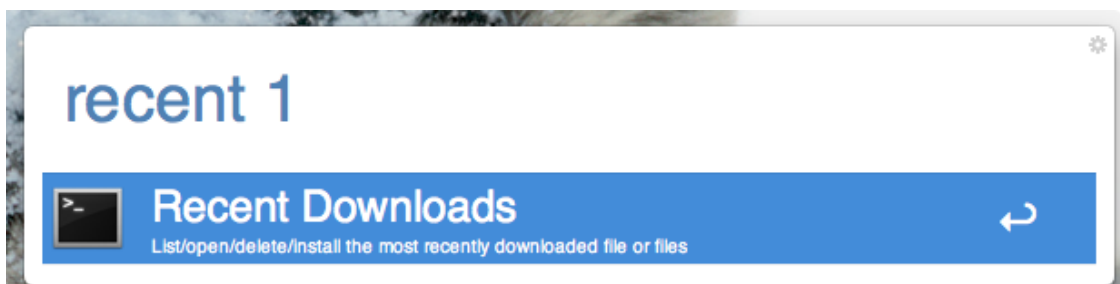
When you open zip (if it contains an application), dmg and app files the extension will ask you if you want to install the file instead of opening it. Check the [commandline options](#) to customize this behaviour (you can always open or always install for instance).



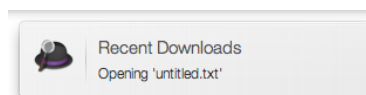
Open a specific file from the recent file list

Type the keyword **recent** in the main window of Alfred, **add the number of the file** you want to open as a parameter and **press return**. (In this example the first item in the list is *1. untitled.txt*)

This behaviour can be changed with the [commandline options](#) so that a certain number of files is listed instead of opening a specific file. If you have changed this so that list is the default you can use **recent o <number>** or **recent open <number>** to open files instead.

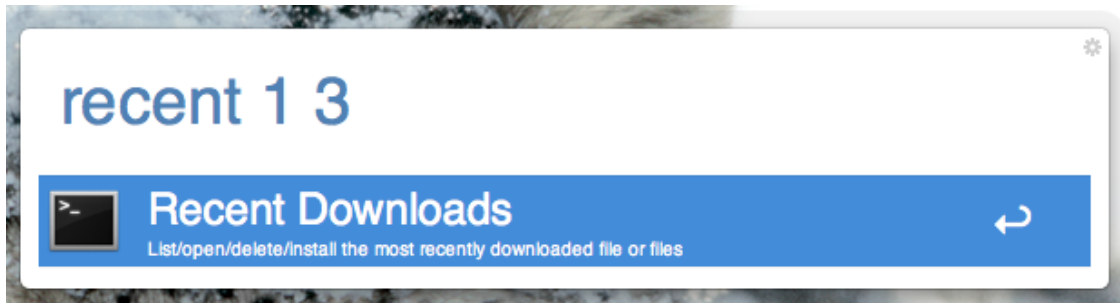


A Growl message will popup with a message showing that the file is being opened.

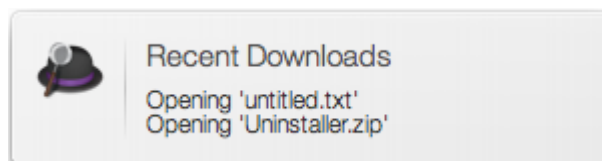


Opening multiple files from the most recent downloaded files list

Use the **recent** keyword with multiple number parameters (or **recent open**) to open multiple files.



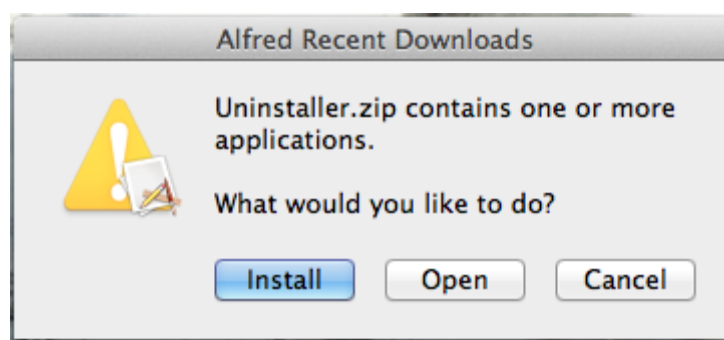
A Growl message will popup with a message showing which files are being opened.



Opening zip files

When opening zip files the extension will check if the zip file contains any applications or packages. If so it will show you a popup asking what you want to do, open the file or install the applications / packages within.

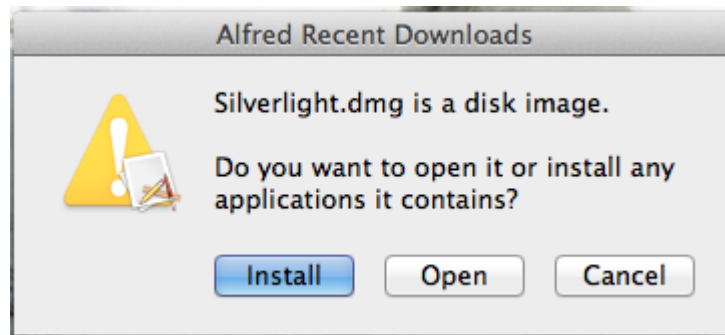
You can avoid the popup by setting the default to Install or Open with the [commandline options](#).



Opening dmg files (disk images)

Dmg files usually contain applications or packages that you want to install. When opening a dmg file the extension will ask what you want to do, only open the dmg or install the contents.

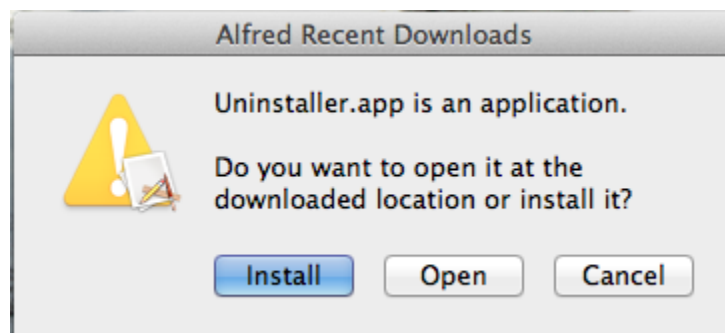
You can avoid the popup by setting the default to Install or Open with the [commandline options](#).



Opening app files

Normally you don't want applications to open in the Downloads folder but install them in the Applications folder. When you open an app from the Downloads folder a popup will show asking if you are sure you want to open the file or want to install it instead.

You can avoid the popup by setting the default to Install or Open with the [commandline options](#).

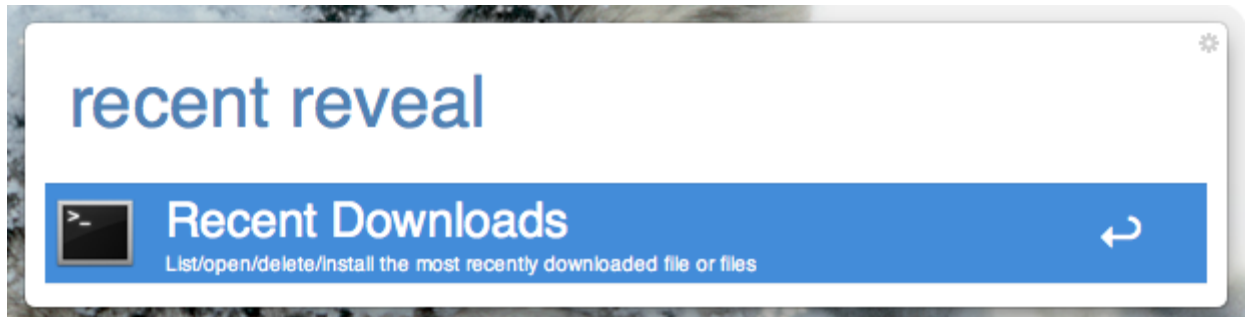


Revealing files

Revealing a file won't open it. It will just open a Finder window with the file selected.

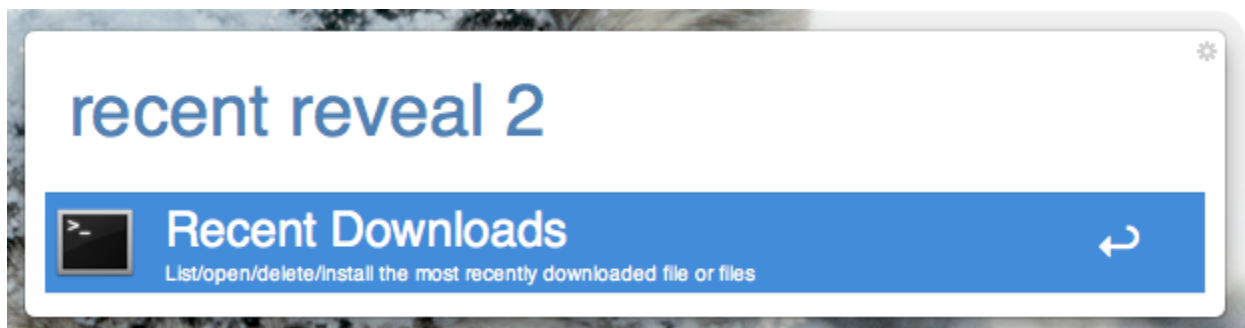
Reveal the most recent downloaded file

Type **recent reveal** or **recent r** in the main window of Alfred and **press return**.



Reveal a specific file from the recent file list

Type **recent reveal** or **recent r** in the main window of Alfred, **followed by the number of the file** you want to open and **press return**.

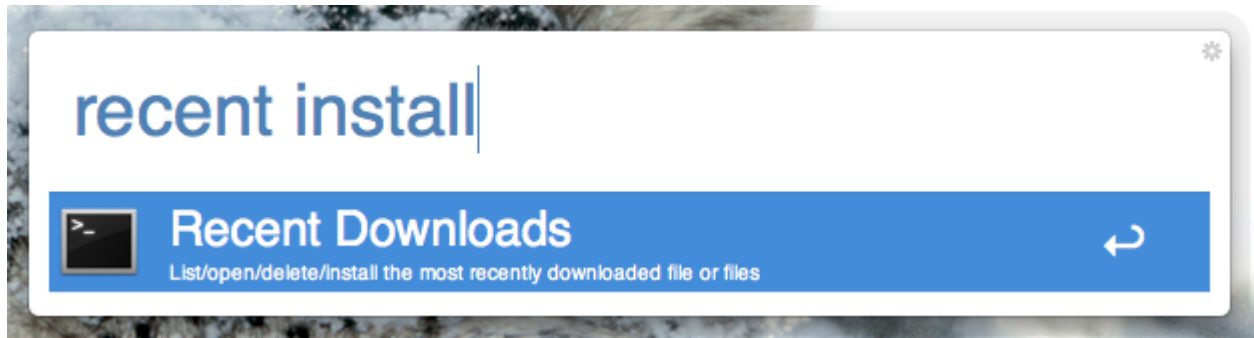


Installing files

Check out the [commandline options](#). If you use the `-i` option you shouldn't need the `install` command anymore.

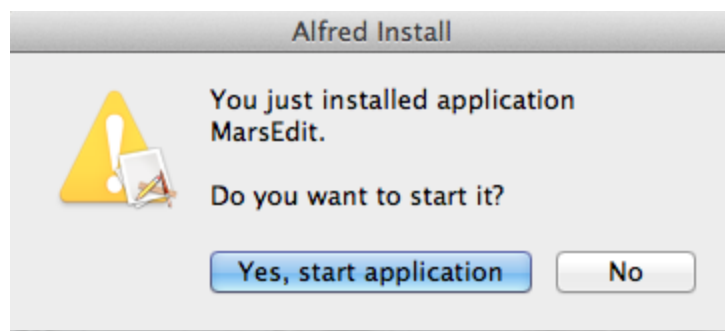
Install the most recent downloaded (installable) file

Type **recent install** or **recent i** in the main window of Alfred and **press return**. This will install the most recent *installable* file (this means app, dmg, pkg, mpkg, zip, alfredextension or prefPane files). Text files for instance will be skipped.

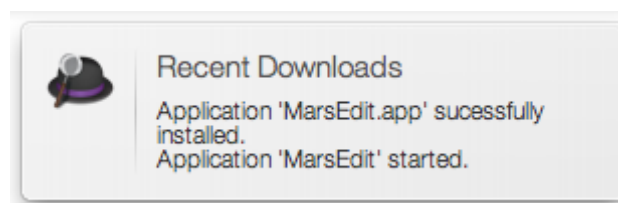


The extension will try to figure out which application was installed and ask if you want to start it. If it can only find 1 application (in a zip/dmg for instance) you'll get a popup like this. In case of multiple applications you'll get a list of applications to choose from.

If you always want to start the application or never want to start it check out the [commandline options](#). It offers an option to set the default value for this popup and the popup won't show up anymore.

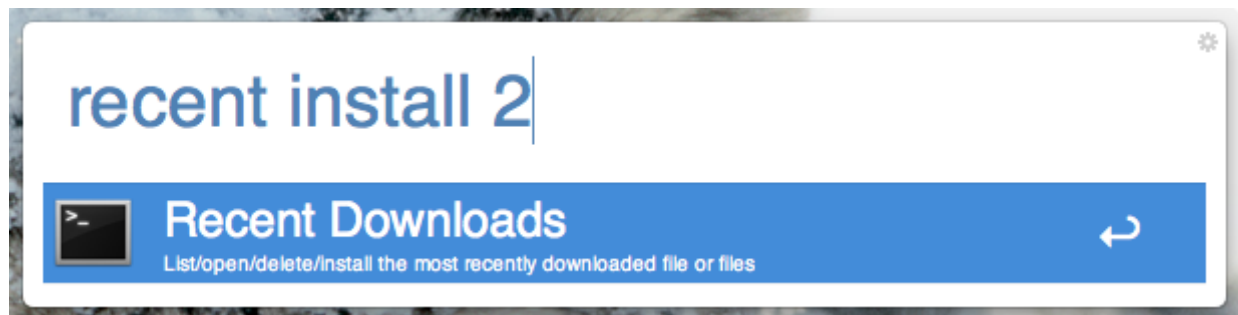


Depending on which option you picked you get a Growl message showing only that an application was installed (or not) and that the application was started.



Install a specific file from the recent file list

Type **recent install** in the main window of Alfred, **add the number of the file** you want to open as a parameter and **press return**. The extension will now try to install the specific file you requested. This means it will also try to install text files! (which won't work because it doesn't recognize that extension). In case of unsupported file types you'll get a Growl message showing that it isn't supported.

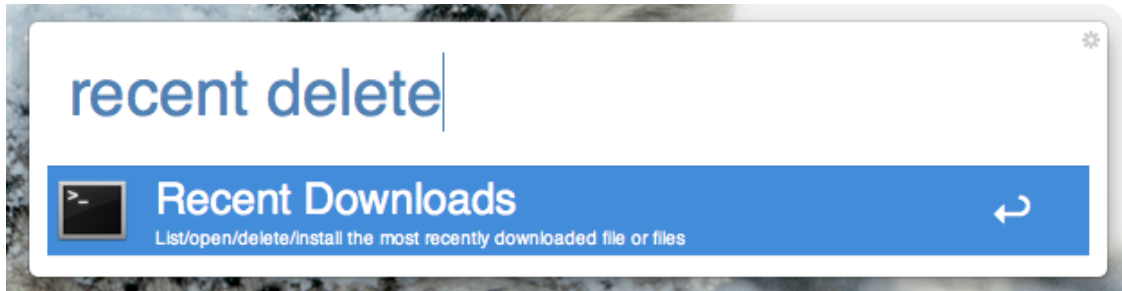


Deleting files

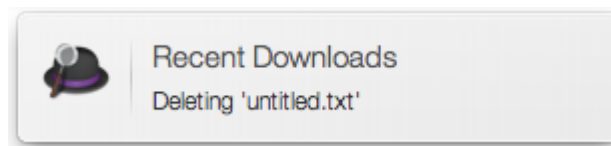
The extension uses the Finder to delete files so the files will be moved to the trash.

Delete the most recent downloaded file

Type **recent delete** or **recent d** (you can also use **recent trash** or **recent t** if you prefer) in the main Alfred window and **press return**.

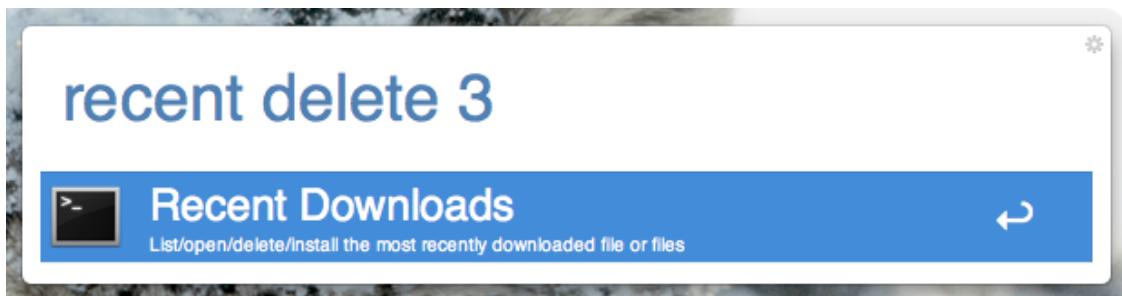


A Growl message will popup showing which file it is deleting.

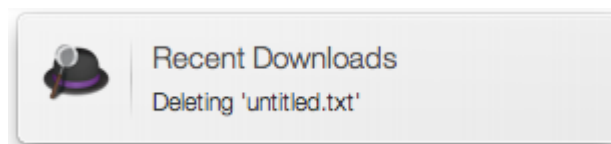


Delete a specific file from the recent downloaded files list

Type **recent delete <number>** or **recent d <number>** (you can also use **recent trash <number>** or **recent t <number>** if you prefer) in the main Alfred window and **press return**.

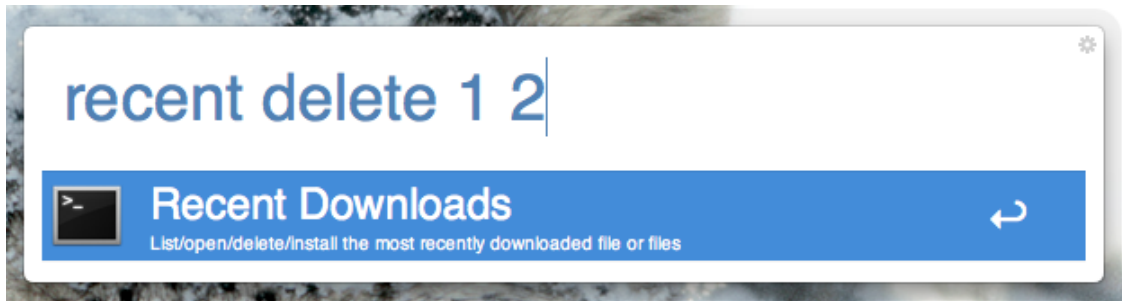


A Growl message will popup showing which file it is deleting.

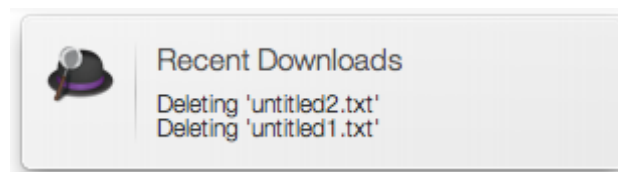


Deleting multiple files from the recent downloaded files list

Use the **recent delete** or **recent d** command with multiple number parameters (you can also use **recent trash <number>** or **recent t <number>** if you prefer) to delete multiple files.



A Growl message will popup showing which files are deleted.

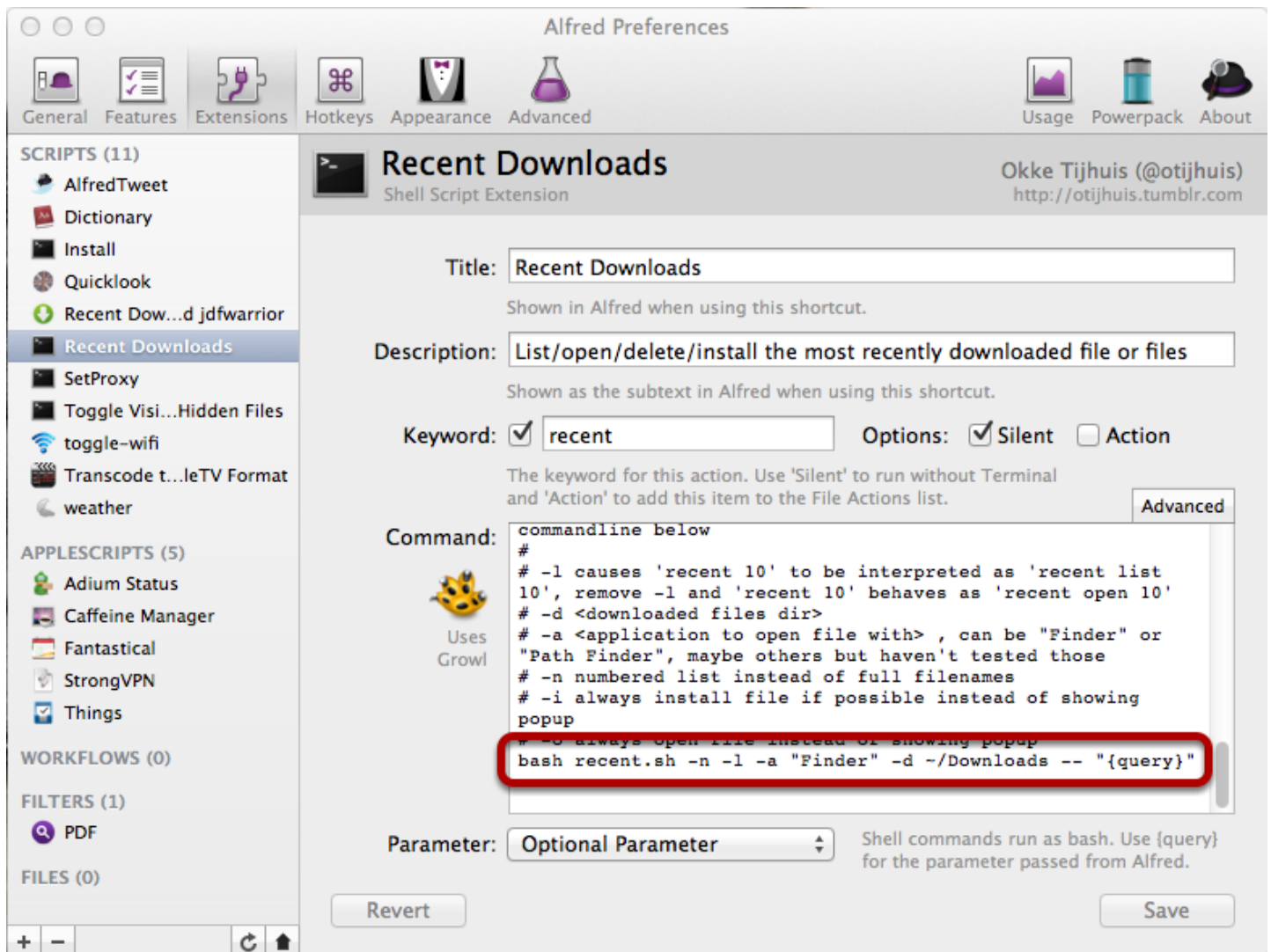


Customizing

Commandline options

There are a few extra options available to users who want to tweak things a little. You can change the default behaviour of several parts of the extension.

Commandline options need to be added in the Command textfield of the extension

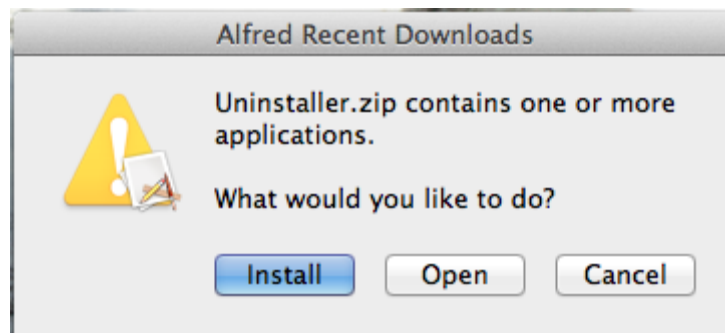


-l (default to listing files instead of opening them)

If a number is the only parameter passed to the **recent** keyword it normally is interpreted as the open command for a specific file. For instance 'recent 10' behaves as 'recent open 10'. The **-l** option allows this to be changed to the list command. When the **-l** option is used 'recent 10' is interpreted as 'recent list 10'.

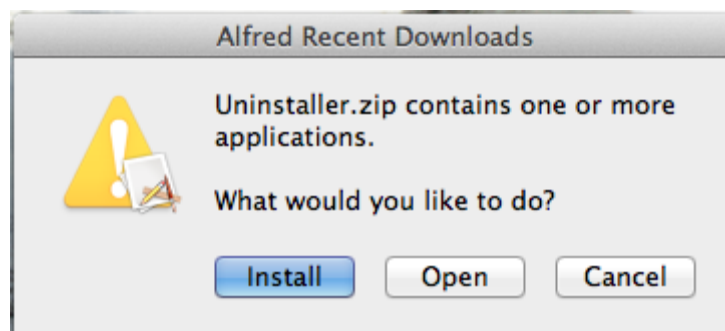
-i (default to installing files)

When a zip file containing an application or a disk image is opened you'll get a popup asking what you want to do, Install or Open then file. When using the **-i** option the extension will always use the install option and won't show a popup.



-o (default to opening files)

When a zip file containing an application or a disk image is opened you'll get a popup asking what you want to do, Install or Open then file. When using the **-o** option the extension will always use the open option and won't show a popup.



-d <folder> (change the download folder)

This option determines where to search for the recent files. The default is the user's Downloads folder.

-a <application> (change the application with which to open the files)

The application to open files with. This is normally set to "Finder". You can also use "Path Finder" if you have that application installed. Other applications might work as well but aren't tested.

-n (show a numbered file list)

With this option the 'recent list' command shows a numbered list. Without this option a list with the full pathnames are shown. The default is to show the numbered list and it's not recommended to change this.

-c <number> (change the default amount of files to show when listing files)

Default 'recent list' shows the 5 most recent downloaded files. With **-c <number>** you can change the default and set it to any number you like.

-s < ask | never | always> (start installed applications)

This option determines what to do after an application is installed. When **ask** is used then the extension will ask what you want to do, start the application or not. The extension will always do nothing when **never** is used, you won't get the popup anymore. If you always want the installed application to start automatically use **start**. The default if not set is **ask**.