



Easy Mac Hacks: Run OS X applications without their Dock icon

Posted 07/14/2014 at 2:54pm | by Cory Bohon

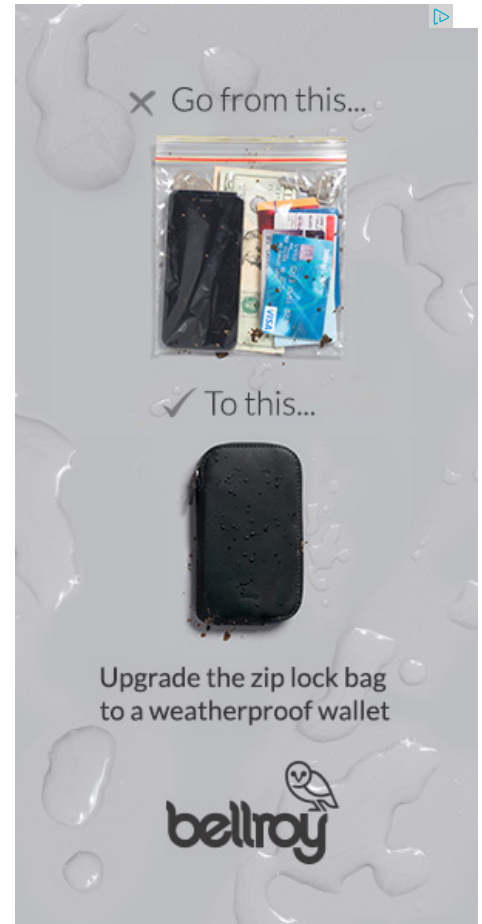
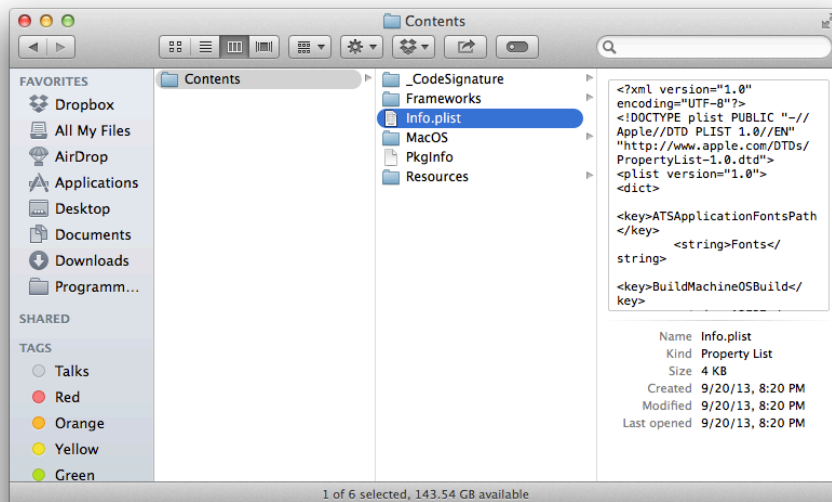
1 Comment

Every Monday we show you how to do something quick and cool using built-in OS X utilities such as Terminal, Apple's command line application. These easy hacks can make life better and simpler, and don't require any knowledge of coding — all you need is a keyboard to type 'em out!

You may have come accross applications that run in the menu bar without cluttering your Dock with an icon, but did you know that any OS X app can be made to work this way? Continue reading and we'll show you how.

Hide the Dock Icon

Start the process by quitting any open apps that you want to perform the trick on. Next, you must locate the app's associated .app package. Find the app itself (it's usually located in your /Applications folder), then right-click the application icon and select "Show Package Contents" from the menu.



RECOMMENDED MAGAZINES



“The ultimate magazine about all things Apple. MacLife is authoritative, ahead of the curve, & entertaining”

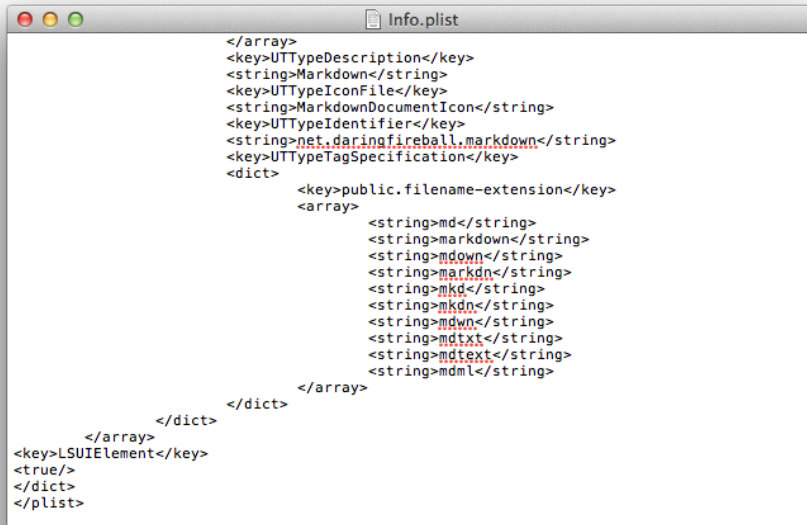
[MORE INFO](#) ►

Locate the Info.plist file in the Contents folder that appears. (To be on the safe side, you may wish to make a backup copy of the file, since altering it incorrectly could make the app inoperable.) Open the Info.plist file with the TextEdit application, then add the following two lines of XML into it:

```
<key>LSUIElement</key>
```

```
<true/>
```

These two lines of code need to go inside the ending "</dict>" that's just before the line ending with "</plist>" for this trick to work. In other words, place these new statements above the last two lines; if you place them anywhere else in the file, then the hack won't work.



Save and quit the file, then open the application that you applied this hack to and you'll notice that the Dock doesn't display the app icon, saving a bit of space.

Codesigned Applications

There's one more step to the process if the developer has signed the application with an Apple Developer Certificate — and that includes all Mac App Store applications. Without this step, you'll likely get a crash when opening the app. To prevent this, you'll need to re-sign the application using the following command in the Terminal:

```
sudo codesign -f -s - /path_to_app/appname.app
```

Replace "/path_to_app/appname.app" with the path and the application name that you just tweaked the Info.plist for. After doing this, press enter, and enter your password. The application will be re-codesigned and you should be able to launch the app without any issues.

Connect with Mac|Life

FRIEND US ON
facebook

FOLLOW US ON
twitter

MACLIFE
Podcast

MACLIFE
RSS

GO MOBILE!
iPhone App

MACLIFE
iPad App

SIGN-UP TO RECEIVE THE MACLIFE NEWSLETTER

Enter Email Submit

☒ Also, send me e-mail announcements and special offers from Mac|Life and trusted partners.

Featured Content



iOS 9: 50 Tips & Tricks



iOS 9 Multitasking: Be More Productive on iPad
Double your pleasure, double your apps



New Apple TV Revealed
The future of TV...is apps!



iPad Goes Pro
Apple takes tablets even further with 12.9-inch iPad Pro



Word for Mac 2016: How to Use the Best New Features
Seven top tips for Word for Mac

```
Cory — bash — 80x24
Corys-Mac-Pro:~ Cory$ sudo codesign -f -s - /Applications/iPhoto.app/
/Applications/iPhoto.app/: replacing existing signature
Corys-Mac-Pro:~ Cory$
```

Re-show the Dock Icon

To undo this change, simply re-open the "Info.plist" file you made the changes to and remove the two lines of XML you added. Restart the application, and the Dock icon will begin appearing again when the app is running.

Some Caveats

As with all hacks, there are a few caveats you should know when using this method to run applications:

Hiding the dock icon also disables the top menu-bar controls for the app, so unless you know the keyboard shortcuts or the app runs in single-window mode or resides in the system tray, you may want to think twice about performing this trick. Additionally, this hack may be overwritten whenever you update the application, and you will be required to perform the steps above again. Also, even though it doesn't look like it, the application is still running, and still taking up system resources. If you do this to enough apps you may notice your computer slow down a bit, and you will need to quit apps to bring the Mac back up to speed.

Cory Bohon is a freelance technology writer, indie Mac and iOS developer, and amateur photographer. Follow this article's author on Twitter.

Tags: Columns dock Easy Mac Hack Easy Mac Hacks hidden Hide How to icons OS X Terminal Terminal 101 Mac How-Tos



Deals

TITAN LOOP MFI-CERTIFIED
LIGHTNING CABLE



33% OFF SHOP >

You May Like

Promoted Links by Taboola



Forget The iPhone 7. Next Apple Sensation Leaked

The Motley Fool



Tips for Getting More Out of Your Apple TV



How to pay down credit card debt at an unbelievable pace

NextAdvisor



11 Unix Commands Every Mac Geek Should Know



iPhone 6 Plus's Being Sold for Next to Nothing

QuiBids



Why the Retina MacBook Pro is the Last Mac I'll Ever Buy

Here's What You'll Get:

- The latest Apple news, reviews and how-tos
- The hottest articles from MacLife.com
- Your recommended daily dose of awesome

- ☒ Also, send me e-mail announcements and special offers from Mac|Life and trusted partners.

1

Comment

[+ Add a Comment](#)**swgerow**

May 11, 2015 at 10:11pm

Interesting

Log in to Mac|Life directly or log in using Facebook

Username: *

Password: *

Forgot your username or password?
[Click here for help.](#)

 [Login with Facebook](#)

Log in using Facebook to share comments and articles easily with your Facebook feed.

Don't have an account? [Join Now.](#)

[Subscribe to the Magazine](#) [Shop](#) [How-Tos](#) [Features](#) [News](#) [Reviews](#) [Videos](#) [Galleries](#) [Games](#)

[Subscribe](#) [About Us](#) [Advertising](#) [Privacy](#) [Terms & Conditions](#) [RSS Feeds](#) [Site Map](#) [Customer Service](#) [Contact Us](#) [Back Issues](#)

Future is AOP & PPA Digital Publisher of the Year and BMA Media Company of the Year.
Mac|Life is part of Future plc, an international media group and leading digital publisher. We produce content across four core areas:

[Top ▲](#)

Technology	Entertainment	Music	Creative
TechRadar	GamesRadar+	MusicRadar	Creative Bloq
Maximum PC	PC Gamer		
T3	Kotaku UK		
Digital Camera World			
Gizmodo UK			
Lifehacker UK			