Quick Start

- After installation, you should see a Lily menu item in your "Tools" menu. Select "Open" to browse the examples and demo applications included in the zip archive. (You'll recognize Lily application files by their ".json" extension.) A good way to begin learning about Lily is by looking at the samples in the "Examples" folders. General instructions for creating a new patch are below.

- From the Lily menu, select "New" (Tools->Lily->New). A debug window and patch document window will open. Patches are Lily program documents. You can save your patch at anytime by choosing "Save" from the File menu or using the save shortcut (**ctrl/cmd-s**). Patches are saved as .json files. When a new patch window opens, it's "unlocked", meaning it's ready to edit. When you're ready to test your patch, you'll want to switch to "locked" mode by unchecking "edit" under the Lily "Patch" menu or clicking the lock icon in the patch window status bar.

- Double-click anywhere in the patch window to create your first external object (Externals are the modules that add functionality to your program. A Lily program consists of interconnected external objects.). An empty external should appear with a blinking cursor. Pressing the delete key while the external is empty will bring up a list of all available externals.

- Begin typing the name of the external you want to create. (If you're unsure what external you want, try browsing the External Help menu under "Help" in the menu bar. It lists all the external help files by category.) As you type, the name of the external should appear in the auto-complete list. You can select the name using either the mouse or the arrow keys or just continue typing until it becomes selected. Once it's selected in the auto-complete list, just hit enter or return to complete the external name. Once the name is complete, clicking away from the external (deselecting it) creates the external in the patch. To delete an external, select it with your mouse and hit the delete key or choose the clear command in the Lily "Edit" menu. You can also create using the "New" menu under the "External Object" menu.

- Some externals can take typed in arguments after the external's name to specify parameter values. If you're unsure of what arguments an external can take, you can check the external's help patch by option/alt clicking the external to open the help document. It's also possible to browse all help patches via the "External Help" menu under "Help".

- To connect two externals, click on an external's outlet (outlets are located at the bottom of the external) and then move your mouse to the external you want to connect to. You should see the patch cord following your mouse. Click on the inlet (inlets are located at the top of the external) you want to connect to. The cord should segment and the connection will be complete. To delete a connection, select it with your mouse and hit the delete key or choose the clear command in the "Edit" menu.

Windows

There are 3 windows - Patch, Inspector, Debug. The Inspector & Debug windows can toggled open & close in the Lily Window menu.

Menus

Each window has its own menu bar and most menus are on the Patch window. There are "New" & "Open" menu items available in the main browser window under "Tools -> Lily". The menus are documented below:

File

- *New* - Open new patch.
- *Open* - Open an existing patch from disk.
- *Save* - Save the active patch.

- *Close* - Close the active patch.
- *Save as app* - Save the current patch as a xulrunner application.
- *Save as addon* - Save the current patch as a Mozilla/Firefox add-on.

Edit

- *Copy* - Copy selected externals & connections.
- *Cut* - Cut selected externals & connections.
- *Paste* - Paste contents of the clipboard.
- *Clear* - Delete selected externals & connections.
- *Select All* - Select all externals & connections.

Patch

- *Edit* - Toggle patch edit/performance mode.
- *Color* - Change color of the patch.

External Object

- *Get Info* - Open the inspector for the selected external.
- *Font* - Change font size/family of selected external.
- *New* - Create a new external.
- *Color* - Change color of selected externals.
- *Hide in Performance* - Hide selected externals when in performance mode.
- *Show in Performance* - Show selected externals when in performance mode.
- *Bring Forward* - Increment the z-index of the selected externals.
- *Send Back* - Decrement the z-index of the selected externals.

Window

- *Lily Window* - Open/Close the debug window.
- *Inspector* - Open/Close the inspector window.

Help

- ***Help Screen*** – Application shortcuts.
- ***Options*** - Open the preferences dialog.
- ***External Help*** - Browse the external help files sorted by category.

Short Cuts

Press Ctrl/Cmd Shift H to see a help screen with application shortcuts.

Preferences

- Add a folder to the search path.
- Change the default application font.
- Add/Edit API Keys.

API Keys

Most web services (Yahoo, Amazon, Google, etc) require an API key to operate. The keys offer somewhat limited access, usually on the order of 1000-5000 calls/day. To simplify things for beta testing, I've set up API keys that are installed with the app that are shared by all testers. Please keep this mind, when you're testing- if you need greater access to a particular API, please sign up for your own API key. The keys can be edited in the prefs window.