Launchy 1.0.0 Beta

PLEASE READ THIS!

When Launchy runs it disappears to the background. You have to press 'alt+space' in order to see Launchy. If Launchy is new for you please read the rest of this short manual.

Welcome

Launchy was first created for my own use, but as my friends and I began to heavily rely upon it and its lack of cost, I decided to distribute it. It is a work in progress but don't let its version number daunt you, it is stable. The official homepage for Launchy is http://www.launchy.net. If you need help using Launchy or would like to leave any comments/suggestions please feel free to post on the forums.

-- Josh Karlin

What is Launchy?

Launchy is the most efficient way to open files, folders, and programs on your computer. Nobody likes to hunt through the start menu to find an application, just to find that the application is hidden under some obscure folder named after a company you have never heard of! Instead, Launchy is a smart search program which tries to guess which program or file you are looking for and will launch it when you hit the enter key. It is only visible when you hit the alt+space key combination; otherwise it hides in the background. Once you have used it for a few days, it becomes an indispensable utility for your computer. And it's free!

How to use Launchy

Launchy installs itself into your Startup folder (it's buried in your start menu) and will automatically run every time you log into your computer. Yet, where is it? Launchy hides in the background until you need it. To bring it to the foreground type alt+space (hold down the alt key and tap the space bar). At this point simply begin typing the name of the program you are looking for. Do not worry about capitalization, punctuation, or even spelling in general.
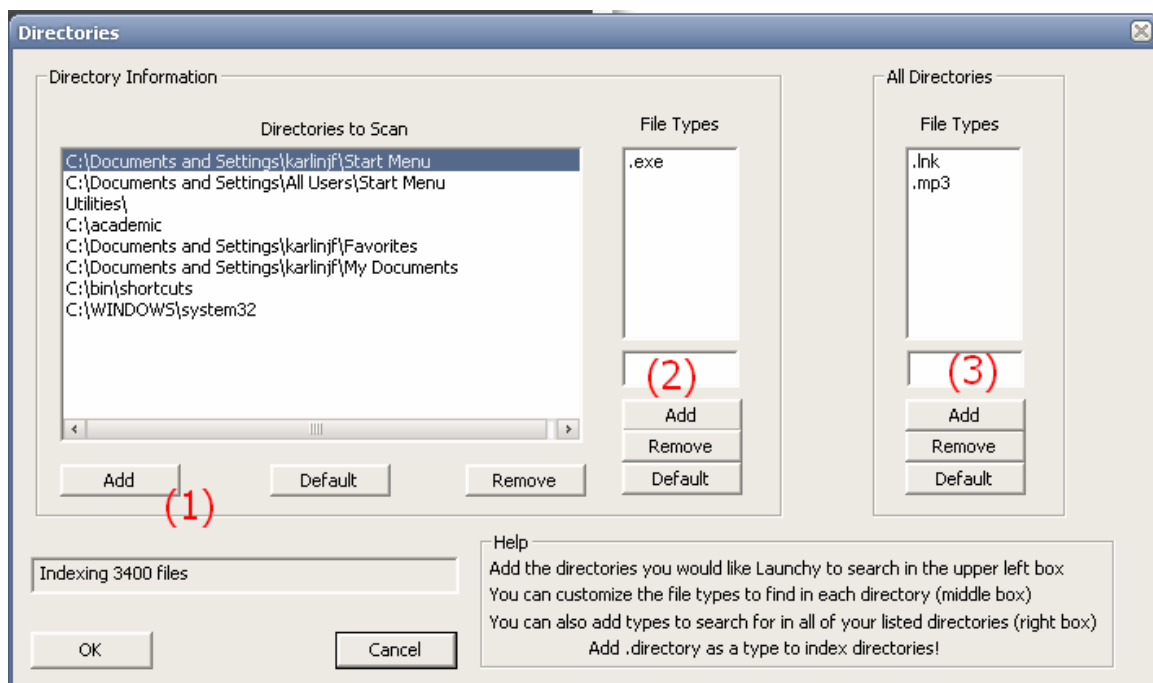
Chances are, Launchy knows what you are looking for. Launchy will show you what it thinks you are looking for in the right hand box, and if it has found what you are looking for, hit enter to launch that program. If it has not found what you are looking for stop typing for a second and Launchy will show you a list of alternative suggestions to choose from. Then hit enter to launch that program.

If you strike the enter key Launchy will launch the requested program and then disappear again until you need it next. If you have changed your mind and do not wish to launch a program, you can hit alt+space to make it disappear again or you can simply hit the escape key.

If you would like to change the skin, add new directories and file types for Launchy to scan, or change the hotkey, right click on Launchy anywhere outside of the text areas.

Adding Directories and Types
If you would like Launchy to index more than the programs in your start menu, such as folders, mp3s, docs, pdfs, avis, etc.. then this option is for you.

Adding Directories
Right click on Launchy and select directories. Add the directories you would like Launchy to scan in the box in the left by hitting the "Add" button under it (1).

Adding Types
You can specify which file types to search for in each directory, such as .mp3 in your music directory and .jpg in your pictures folder. You can also add file types that are searched for in all of the directories you have added.

To add a type to a specific directory, write the file type (such as .mp3) in the box marked (2) in the image and then click the Add button below.

To add a type to all directories, write the file type in the box marked (3) in the image and then click the Add button below.

The types should be of the form '.mp3' and '.exe' and not '*.exe' or anything else. If you would like to open folder windows directly from Launchy, check then add '.directory' to either global or individual directories.

You can rescan your index at any time by right clicking and selecting "Rebuild Index."

How to Change the Hotkey
Right click on Launchy anywhere outside of the text areas and choose Hotkey. From within, choose whichever hotkey suits you. The original is Alt + Space in case you would like to return to it later.

Skins
It is possible to skin launchy. To create a skin, look in the "Skins" directory under your installation directory and copy the "Default" skin into a new directory. Edit the skin.ini file to your liking and replace the images. The ini files have helpful (though limited) documentation. You can also find new skins from the main website: http://www.launchy.net

How to close Launchy
Right click on Launchy anywhere outside of the text areas and select Exit.

Advanced Options
USB Stick: If you would like to run Launchy from a USB stick then follow this procedure:
1. Install Launchy Normally
2. Run Launchy, select advanced options from the right-click menu
3. Check the "Portable Mode" box
4. Exit Launchy
5. Copy the entire Launchy directory onto a USB Stick

Note: Launchy periodically rebuilds the index. If you move from computer to computer the index might not be reflective of the machine it is currently residing on. It would be a good idea to right click and "Rebuild Index" when you plug into a new computer.

Specifying the Number of Suggestions: By default, Launchy suggests 10 alternative files in the dropdown menu after waiting for user input. You can change the number of suggestions here. To disable the suggestion box altogether, set this to 0.

Specifying interval between Index Scans: Launchy periodically scans your computer to update its database. By default, it does so every 20 minutes. You can change the number of minutes between scans here. Set it to 0 if you only want to manually rebuild.

Always on Top: If you would like to have Launchy stick permanently on your desktop, check this option.

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. Brought back in the association code
. Sticky window (always on top) now possible
. Now handles duplicates of filenames
. Dropdown window are much more useful
. USB Mode Option
. Configurable Database Update Rate

BUG FIXES:
. Fixed a no icon bug (looked up icon on c: rather than find the
windows drive)
. Donate screen could come up twice if you rebooted, this is annoying.
I fixed this by forcing a store after the options change.
. Fixed the launchy crash bug?
. Fixed LUA situation
. Now the hotkey window will initialize with your current hotkey
```

Version Information
1.0.0 Beta
- Launchy displays the full path and icon to files in the dropdown suggestions box.
- Filetypes can now be specifically set for each directory to index
- Always on top mode added
- USB Mode added
- Configurable index scan interval
- Configuration files moved to docs and settings\username\Applications\Launchy\ which is friendlier to users with limited access accounts.
- Bug Fixes:
   - o The Launchy startup on auto-login crash should be gone
   - o No longer presumes icon index is located in C:\
   - o Hotkey window now initializes with current hotkey
   - o Configuration files now less likely to be corrupted due to restart during saving

0.9.6
- Launchy can now index directory names as well as files!
- A utilities folder with useful shortcuts is now included, it adds standard control panel programs, system shutdown / logoff/ reboot, and special folders such as My Documents, and My Music.
- Unicode now fully supported. All character sets should work.

- The old style of matching by association is completely removed, it's now entirely based upon frequency of use
- Now has a "please donate" dialog that appears only once, sorry but I've got to make a living!
- Bug Fixes:
  - Fixed up/down keys causing a dropdown when there are no matches
  - Saves settings to ini directly after changes are made in case of system crash
  - Spaces are now ignored in user input, making it possible to search for "Johnny_cash.mp3" with "john cash"

0.9.3
- Once again, Launchy is prettier. The combobox has vanished.
- New skins! Please see the Author.txt file in each skin's directory to give credit where credit is due.
- Bug Fixes:
  - Sometimes windows shutdown prevented the database from being saved. Now it saves more frequently just in case.
  - Arbitrarily long file extensions are now allowed, so you can filter on .mpeg for instance and not just .mpg
  - A couple of minor graphical glitches have been fixed
- Development Environment:
  - The Boost library is no longer needed to compile Launchy, I've copied the necessary Boost header files for smart pointers into the project.

0.9.2
- Frequency sorting took priority over exact matches, fixed.

0.9.1
- Search results sorted by frequency of use now.
- Configuration files moved to the Users subdirectory of your installation. This means that your configuration file will start fresh.. sorry! It also means that Launchy can be run from a memory stick.
- You can now remove the start menu from the directories you scan if you so desire.
- Bug fixes, hooray!

0.9
- Alpha channel support! Launchy is sexier now.
- New skinning options.
- Lots of skins!

- Minor bug fixes.
- Ability to rescan index on demand.
- This is a feature complete version of Launchy 1.0 From now until then I will only post bug fixes.

0.81
- New installer, after this release upgrades should be much better.
- Added icon support. Now icons are shown as well as the file name. The visual cue of the icon makes for faster launching. (It's also prettier)
- The combobox is now a bit more sane. It won't steal your focus away when it drops down.
- Launchy will rescan directories on startup as opposed to waiting a couple of minutes.

0.8
- Launchy now scans user specified directories and stores the results in a compressed file to make startup faster.
- You can now change the hotkey that activates Launchy
- You can now create/select skins for Launchy
- Launchy searches *much* faster than before, enabling indexing of thousands of files

0.7 Launchy has memory! It will associate your input with applications.

0.61 Launchy no longer opens all programs maximized.

0.6 This is the first C++ release. As I became frustrated with C#'s large .NET framework requirements and users lack of desire to install it, I decided to switch back to the faster language. This release is functionally and visually equivalent to the 0.5 C# release. The C# CVS version had some new features that I will soon add to the C++ branch.

0.5 This was the first public release.