QuickCursor

User's Guide

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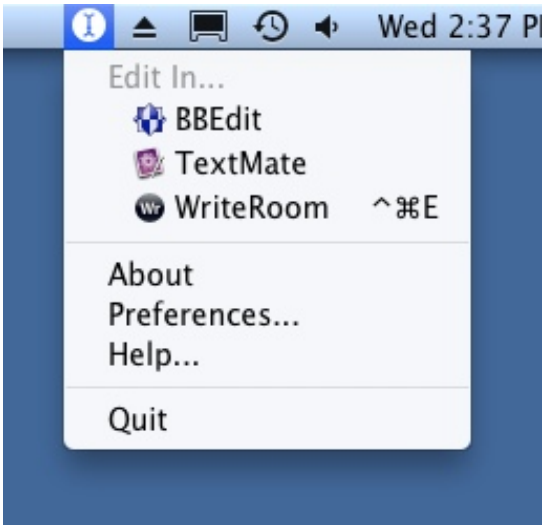
Welcome

QuickCursor brings your favorite text editor[1] to any app[2] with a global keyboard shortcut. Unlike manually copying and pasting between apps, QuickCursor automates the entire process to save you time.

Working with QuickCursor



To edit text in your favorite text editor

- Click in an editable text area in any app and select a range of text that you want to edit, or don't select any text to edit the entire text area.
- Choose the text editor that you want to use from QuickCursor's **Edit In...** menu item group. In QuickCursor's preferences you can define individual global keyboard shortcuts to start your favorite editors.
- Your text editor will be started and the text copied into a new document.

To paste edited text back to the original app

- Choose Save (Command-S) in your editor app and then close (Command-W) the editor's document.
- When QuickCursor sees the document closed it will switch you back to your original app and paste in the updated text.

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[1] Must be an editor that supports the ODB Editor Protocol.

[2] App must expose standard Mac OS X Copy & Paste menu items to Universal Access.

To assign a global keyboard shortcut to an editor

- Click QuickCursor's icon on the OS X menu bar.
- Choose the **Preferences...** menu item.
- Choose an editor from the **Shortcuts** popup menu.
- Click in the **Shortcuts** text field and enter your keyboard shortcut.
- You will now be able to use that shortcut to begin editing text in any app in your chosen editor.

To insert text at the cursor's location

If you just want to insert new text into your document without QuickCursor bringing the entire document along for the ride, enable "Insert at cursor" from the drop-down menu.

To set the temporary file's extension

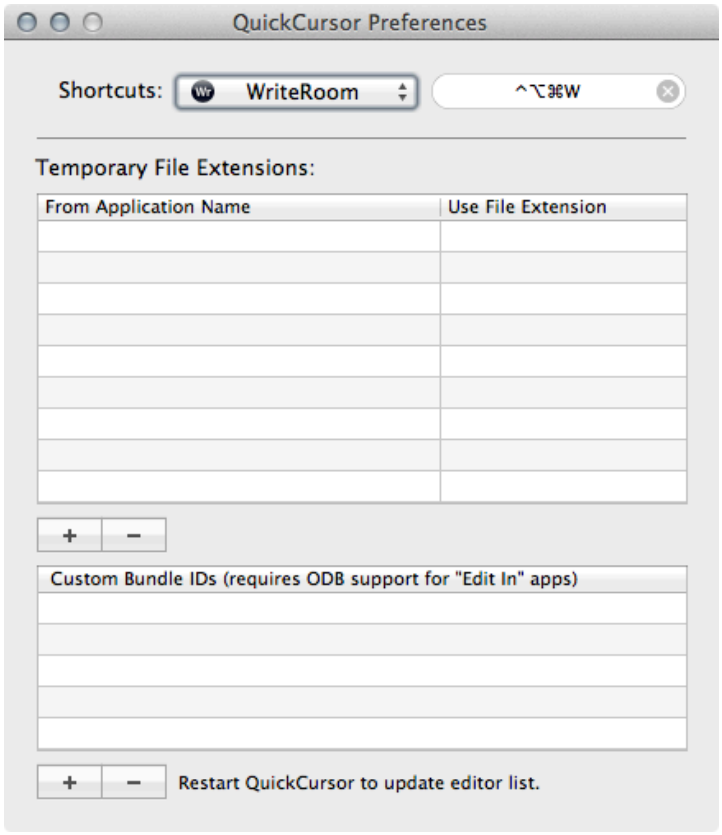
When QuickCursor moves text from a source app into your text editor, it saves that text in a temporary file that your editor then opens. By default that file has a .txt file extension. To use a different extension (to effect syntax highlighting for example):

- Click QuickCursor's icon on the OS X menu bar.
- Choose the **Preferences...** menu item.
- Add a new row to the **Temporary File Extensions** table.
- Type an application name such as "Safari" in the **From Application Name** field.
- Type a file extensions such as "markdown" in the **Use File Extension** field.
- Now when you use QuickCursor to edit text from Safari the temporary file that is used with have the `.markdown` file extension.

To add compatible text editors

You can add compatible “Edit In…” text editors to QuickCursor by adding their bundle IDs. QuickCursor supports all the text editors listed in the next section by default.

- Click QuickCursor’s icon on the OS X menu bar.
- Choose the **Preferences...** menu item.
- Add a new row to the **Custom Bundle IDs** table.
- Type in the app’s bundle ID (for example, WriteRoom’s is ‘com.hogbaysoftware.WriteRoom.mac’).



- Quit and relaunch QuickCursor. The app, if installed and run at least once, should be in the list.
- **Note:** Add other text editors at your own risk. *They are not guaranteed to work.* A compatible app must support the ODB Editor Protocol as a text editor to work with QuickCursor. If you’re unsure about a particular app, contact its developer.

Supported text editors

QuickCursor requires that **Edit In...** text editor apps support the ODB Editor protocol. If the **Edit In...** menu item group isn't displaying any items make sure that you first install at least one of these supported editor apps first.

- Aquamacs For compatible emacs-based editors such as Aquamacs 2.2+, you may need to kill the buffer to send the text back to the original app. See the emacs wiki on this topic: http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/KillingBuffers
  - If you are familiar with EditorClient, you can use QuickCursor with most other Emacs installs too!
- BBEdit If you are using the BBEdit trial QuickCursor won't work unless BBEdit is already running. This happens because the registration screen that shows when BBEdit starts blocks access to the Paste menu item.
- Byword
- CotEditor
- Espresso
- Fraise
- iA Writer
- MacVim
- MultiMarkdown Composer
- Smultron
- SubEthaEdit
- Sublime Text 2
- TextMate When "Editing in…" TextMate, you must Save (cmd+s) and then explicitly Close (cmd+w) the TextMate editor window to have your text sent back to the source app. Normal behavior should be to send the text back with a Save and Quit. Bug has been reported to TextMate.
- TextWrangler
- WriteRoom

QuickCursor Tips & Tricks

- For new users: The Mac App Store will install a QuickCursor Dock item during the download. If you have added QuickCursor your Login Items (System Preferences > Users & Groups) then you can safely remove the app icon from your dock and not worry about it taking up extra space.
- QuickCursor works by automating Copy & Paste operations using Universal Access' "Enable access for assistive devices" option. If something goes wrong and your edited text isn't sent back to the original app you can always manually paste it into another app.
- If you are a programmer and want to modify the way that QuickCursor works for your own personal use, I've made the basic source code available on GitHub. Please don't re-distribute clones or similar apps based on this code. I hope you enjoy hacking away.
- QuickCursor can have trouble finding and working with text inside of some runtime environments. Known issues include text inside of Eclipse and Wunderkit.