

Mac OSX uses the CMD + Tab key combination to allow the user to switch between “open apps.” If you are currently in the Chrome browser(5) and would like to switch over to Finder(4) or Sketch(6), you simply press CMD + Tab and the corresponding box will tab through the available software.

The problem with this functionality is that it displays all of the “open” applications but in reality, only those that were opened and were not “minimized” are available for viewing. So if you had opened Sketch(6), then minimized it, then opened Chrome(5), you cannot CMD + Tab back into Sketch(6). You much bring it up from the docking station as if you were navigating to it for the first time.



The main framing of this issue deals with the perceptual priming that takes place. When CMD + Tab is pressed, the above screen is presented with six icons. It is natural to presume that the system is presenting you with these all as options because of your previous experience (Johnson).

I believe there are two major ways to adjust for this issue: one is to only present the icons that are an option or separating those that are open/expandable or open/minimized. However, the most consistent way to address this in true Apple fashion is to provide the user with the option of how they would like the software to behave. Either traditionally or in this new fashion.