

LAYOUTISH

Development Roadmap & Feature Specification

Version 2.0 | Updated: February 5, 2026 | Appish

Executive Summary

Layoutish is a macOS menu bar application that enables users to save and restore window layouts across single or multiple monitors. Unlike competitors that focus on window snapping, Layoutish specializes in complete workspace restoration—remembering which apps were open, their exact positions, and restoring everything with a single click or hotkey.

Key Differentiators

- App Launching: Opens apps that aren't running when restoring layouts
- Smart Monitor Handling: Graceful fallback when displays change (dock/undock)
- Parallel Window Restoration: All windows positioned simultaneously for speed
- Focus Mode Integration: Auto-switch layouts based on macOS Focus (planned)
- Visual Layout Editor: See your layout before applying (planned v1.2)

Market Positioning

Competitor	Price	Layout Saving	Our Advantage
Moom	\$10	Excellent	Simpler UX, better multi-monitor
Rectangle Pro	\$10	Good	App launching, visual editor
Magnet	\$8	None	We have layouts (their gap)
BetterSnapTool	\$3	Basic	More polished, auto-restore
Layoutish	\$12.99	Excellent	—

Version 1.0 — MVP Release

Target: Q1 2026

Layout Saving & Restoration

Feature	Priority
Save current layout: Capture all window positions, sizes, and open apps	Essential
Name layouts: User-friendly names (Coding, Design, Meetings)	Essential
Restore layout: Re-open apps and position windows exactly as saved	Essential
Per-display configuration: Save which monitor each window belongs to	Essential
Menu bar quick access: Click layout name to instantly apply	Essential
Parallel window restoration: Position all windows simultaneously	Essential

Layout Management

Feature	Priority
Unlimited layouts: No artificial cap on saved presets	Essential
Edit layout name: Rename existing layouts	Essential
Delete layout: Remove unwanted presets	Essential
Update layout: Re-save current positions to existing layout	Essential

Hotkey Activation

Feature	Priority
Global hotkeys: Assign keyboard shortcuts to each layout	Essential
Quick switcher: ⌘+Shift+L opens layout picker overlay	High
Customizable shortcuts: User sets their own key combos	High

Infrastructure

Feature	Priority
Accessibility permission flow: Onboarding with clear instructions	Essential
License validation: Lemon Squeezy integration	Essential
Launch at login: SMApService integration	High
Sparkle updates: Auto-update framework	High

Version 1.1 — Enhanced Experience

Target: Q2 2026

Enhanced Features

Feature	Priority
Layout thumbnails: Small preview showing window arrangement	High
iCloud sync: Sync layouts across multiple Macs	High
Monitor profile detection: Auto-detect when displays change	High
Import/Export: Share layouts as JSON files	Medium

Quality of Life

Feature	Priority
Layout search: Quick search in switcher overlay	Medium
Recent layouts: Show recently used at top	Medium
Duplicate layout: Clone existing layout as starting point	Medium

NEW: High-Demand Features (From User Research)

Feature	Priority
Monitor dock/undock triggers: Auto-apply layout when external display connected/disconnected	NEW
Time-based auto-switching: Schedule layouts (9am-5pm = work, evenings = personal)	NEW
App position memory: Remember position per-app (Safari always opens at X)	NEW

Version 1.2 — Power User Features

Target: Q3 2026

Advanced Features

Feature	Priority
Visual layout editor: Drag-and-drop preview of window positions	High
Auto-restore on app launch: Remember positions per-app automatically	High
Workspace contexts: Group layouts by project/mode with colored icons	Medium
Layout triggers: Auto-apply when specific monitors connected	Medium

Multi-Window Handling

Feature	Priority
Per-window identification: Track multiple windows from same app	High
Window title matching: Position specific windows by title	Medium
Tab group support: Safari/Chrome tab group awareness	Medium

NEW: Focus Mode Integration (From User Research)

Feature	Priority
Focus Mode triggers: Auto-apply layout when Focus Mode changes (Work → coding layout)	NEW
Calendar event triggers: Switch layout when meeting starts (Zoom prominent)	NEW
Per-Space layouts: Different layout for each macOS virtual desktop/Space	NEW

Version 2.0 — Intelligence & Community

Target: Q4 2026

Smart Features

Feature	Priority
AI layout suggestions: Learn user patterns and suggest layouts	Medium
Time-based layouts: Auto-switch based on time of day	Medium
App-aware restoration: Smart handling of app-specific quirks	Medium

Community

Feature	Priority
Layout library: Browse and import community layouts	Low
Layout templates: Pre-built layouts for common workflows	Low

NEW: Quality of Life Improvements (From User Research)

Feature	Priority
Window maximize without fullscreen: Green button = fill screen, not fullscreen mode	NEW
Sticky window positions: Lock specific apps to always open at saved position	NEW
Menubar icon customization: Custom icons or layout count badge	NEW

Appendix: Feature Research Sources

Features marked NEW were identified from user research on the following platforms:

- MacRumors Forums - Window management discussions and macOS wishlists
- Reddit r/mac, r/macapps - User feature requests and pain points
- DisplayFusion documentation - Monitor dock/undock automation patterns
- Microsoft PowerToys GitHub - Community feature requests
- Apple Support Forums - Focus Mode automation limitations

Key Insights

1. Monitor dock/undock is the #1 requested feature for laptop users with external displays
2. Focus Mode integration would provide native Apple ecosystem feel
3. Time-based scheduling is easy to implement and highly valued
4. Per-app position memory solves frustration with apps forgetting their positions
5. Calendar triggers are innovative and not offered by competitors