**PWA Launcher Kit: Launch Local Apps from a Web App**

This tool lets you create a **simple web-based launcher** (PWA) that can **open local Windows applications** (like Notepad, Excel, or custom tools) directly from clickable buttons in a browser — even after it's installed like a native app.

It uses:

* A **Progressive Web App (PWA)** UI for easy deployment and installation
* A **custom protocol (mytools://)** to securely trigger local actions
* An **AutoIt script** that receives the protocol command and launches the right executable

No servers or installations required beyond your own PC. Ideal for **internal dashboards, field tools, or quick-launch app portals**.

**🚀 PWA Launcher Kit with AutoIt Integration**

You’ve built a lightweight local **app launcher** using:

* A **PWA frontend** (installable web app)
* A **custom protocol handler** (mytools://)
* A **compiled AutoIt script** to launch local apps

**📦 Folder Structure (Example: pwa\_launcher\_kit)**

java

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pwa\_launcher\_kit/

├── index.html ← App UI (launcher page)

├── manifest.json ← PWA manifest

├── sw.js ← Service worker

├── icon.png ← App icon (192×192)

├── launcher\_helper.au3 ← AutoIt script (edit here)

├── launcher\_helper.exe ← Compiled EXE (from .au3)

├── register\_mytools\_protocol.reg ← Registry installer

**✅ Setup Instructions**

**1. Unzip or place files into a folder**

Create a folder like C:\Users\you\Desktop\pwa\_launcher\_kit

**2. Run a local web server**

From that folder, in terminal or PowerShell:

bash

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python -m http.server 8080

Then open your browser to:

arduino

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http://localhost:8080

**3. Install the PWA**

* Open it in Chrome/Edge
* Use the install button (or "Install App" in browser menu)

**4. Compile launcher\_helper.au3 to .exe**

Use SciTE or AutoItWrapper to compile the script:

text

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launcher\_helper.au3 → launcher\_helper.exe

📌 **This EXE handles custom protocol commands like mytools://open-network-tool**

**5. Register the custom protocol**

Right-click register\_mytools\_protocol.reg → **Merge**

This will associate mytools:// with your AutoIt EXE.

**6. Test the tool!**

In your PWA (or manually), click a link like:

php-template

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<a href="mytools://open-excel-tool">Open Excel Tool</a>

This should launch the app you mapped (e.g., Notepad, Excel, Calculator).

**🧠 Examples in AutoIt Script**

autoit

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Switch $cmd

Case "open-network-tool"

Run("calc.exe")

Case "open-excel-tool"

Run("notepad.exe")

You can update this to launch **any local tool**.

**🛠️ Optional Enhancements**

* Add custom icons in the UI
* Use real app paths (e.g., Excel.exe, internal tools)
* Log tool usage (FileWrite() in AutoIt)
* Use parameters (e.g., mytools://launch?app=xyz)
* Auto-hide the launcher EXE (no window)