

Windows Text Replacement

A system-wide text expander for Windows that brings macOS-style text replacement functionality to any Windows application.

Features

- **System-wide text replacement** - Works across all Windows applications (Word, browsers, email clients, IDEs, etc.)
- **User-friendly GUI** - Intuitive interface for managing text shortcuts
- **System tray integration** - Runs quietly in the background
- **Dynamic replacements** - Special shortcuts like "today" and "time" that update automatically
- **Multi-line support** - Handle complex text snippets, signatures, and formatted content
- **Real-time control** - Start and stop the service as needed
- **Import/Export** - JSON-based storage for easy backup and sharing
- **No internet required** - Everything runs locally on your machine

Use Cases

- **Email signatures** - Type `sig` → Full professional signature
- **Common addresses** - Type `addr` → Your full address
- **Frequent phrases** - Type `tgif` → "Thank God It's Friday!"
- **Developer shortcuts** - Type `@@` → `your@email.com`
- **Date/Time stamps** - Type `today` → Current date
- **Business templates** - Store frequently used text blocks

Requirements

- Windows 7/8/10/11
- Python 3.7 or higher
- Required Python packages
 - `pynput==1.7.6`
 - `pyperclip==1.8.2`
 - `pywin32==306`
 - `pystray==0.19.4`
 - `Pillow==10.0.0`

Installation

Method 1

1. **Install Python** from python.org (ensure "Add Python to PATH" is checked)
2. **Clone this repository:**

<https://github.com/sderviniotis/textreplacement>

3. **Install dependencies:**

```
pip install -r requirements.txt
```

4. **Run the application:**

```
python text_replacer.py
```

Method 2

1. **Download the latest release**
2. **Run `TextReplacer.exe`**

No Python installation required!



Quick Start

1. **Launch the application**
2. **Click "Start"** to begin monitoring
3. **Type any default shortcut** (e.g., @@) in any application
4. **Watch it expand automatically!**

Default Shortcuts

Shortcut	Replacement
@@	your@email.com
myname	Your Name
addr	Your Address
today	Current date (YYYY-MM-DD)
time	Current time (HH:MM:SS)
sig	Professional email signature



Configuration

Adding Custom Replacements

1. Click **"Add"** in the main window
2. Enter your **shortcut** (e.g., "mycompany")
3. Enter **replacement text** (supports multiple lines)
4. Click **"OK"**

Managing Existing Replacements

- **Double-click** any replacement to edit
- **Select and click "Delete"** to remove
- **Changes are saved automatically**

System Tray Usage

- **Close window** → Minimizes to system tray
- **Right-click tray icon** → Access menu
- **"Show Window"** → Restore main interface
- **"Toggle Service"** → Start/stop text replacement
- **"Quit"** → Completely exit application

Building from Source

Create Standalone Executable

```
# Install PyInstaller
pip install pyinstaller
```

```
# Create executable
pyinstaller --onefile --windowed --name="TextReplacer" text_replacer.py
```

```
# Find executable in dist/ folder
```

Development Setup

```
# Clone repository
git clone https://github.com/yourusername/windows-text-replacement.git
cd windows-text-replacement
```

```
# Create virtual environment
python -m venv venv
venv\Scripts\activate
```

```
# Install dependencies
pip install -r requirements.txt
```

```
# Run in development mode
```

python text_replacer.py



Privacy & Security

- **No internet connection required** - Everything runs locally
- **No data collection** - Your text replacements stay on your computer
- **Minimal system impact** - Only monitors keystrokes when active
- **Open source** - Full transparency of code functionality

Windows Security Notes

Windows Defender may flag the application due to keyboard monitoring capabilities. This is normal for text replacement software. You may need to:

1. **Add to Windows Defender exclusions**
2. **Click "More info" → "Run anyway"** when prompted
3. **Run as administrator** if permission issues occur



File Structure

windows-text-replacement/

— text_replacer.py	# Main application
— requirements.txt	# Python dependencies
— README.md	# This file
— LICENSE	# MIT License
— dist/	# Compiled executables (after build)



Contributing

Contributions are welcome! Here's how you can help:

1. **Fork the repository**
2. **Create a feature branch** (`git checkout -b feature/amazing-feature`)
3. **Commit your changes** (`git commit -m 'Add amazing feature'`)
4. **Push to the branch** (`git push origin feature/amazing-feature`)
5. **Open a Pull Request**

Areas for Contribution

- ☐ **Cross-platform support** (macOS/Linux)
- ☐ **Advanced regex patterns** for replacements
- ☐ **Cloud sync** functionality
- ☐ **Import from other text expanders**
- ☐ **Better system tray icons**

- [] **Hotkey customization**
- [] **Statistics and usage tracking**



Known Issues

- **Some UWP apps** may not support text replacement
- **Administrator privileges** may be required for certain applications
- **Antivirus software** might require exclusions
- **Not recognising spaces** is an issue which requires debugging
-



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Acknowledgments

- **pynput** - Cross-platform keyboard monitoring
- **tkinter** - GUI framework
- **pystray** - System tray integration
- **pyperclip** - Clipboard functionality
- **Claude 4** - Vibe coding support



Show Your Support

If this project helped you, please consider:

- **Starring the repository** 
- **Sharing with others** who might find it useful
- **Contributing** to make it even better

Made with  for Windows users who miss macOS text replacement