

Launchy 1.2.5

PLEASE READ THIS!

When Launchy runs it disappears to the background. You have to press 'alt+space' in order to see Launchy. If Launchy is new for you please read the rest of this short manual.

Welcome

Launchy was first created for my own use, but as my friends and I began to heavily rely upon it and its lack of cost, I decided to distribute it. It is a work in progress but don't let its version number daunt you, it is stable. The official homepage for Launchy is <http://www.launchy.net>. If you need help using Launchy or would like to leave any comments/suggestions please feel free to post on the forums.

-- Josh Karlin

What is Launchy?

Launchy is the most efficient way to open files, folders, websites, and programs on your computer. Nobody likes to hunt through the start menu to find an application, just to find that the application is hidden under some obscure folder named after a company you have never heard of! Instead, Launchy is a smart search program which tries to guess which program or file you are looking for and will launch it when you hit the enter key. It is only visible when you hit the alt+space key combination; otherwise it hides in the background. Once you have used it for a few days, it becomes an indispensable utility for your computer. And it's free!

How to use Launchy

Launchy installs itself into your Startup folder (it's buried in your start menu) and will automatically run every time you log into your computer. Yet, where is it? Launchy hides in the background until you need it. To bring it to the foreground type alt+space (hold down the alt key and tap the space bar). At this point simply begin typing the name of the program you are looking for. Do not worry about capitalization, punctuation, or even spelling in general.

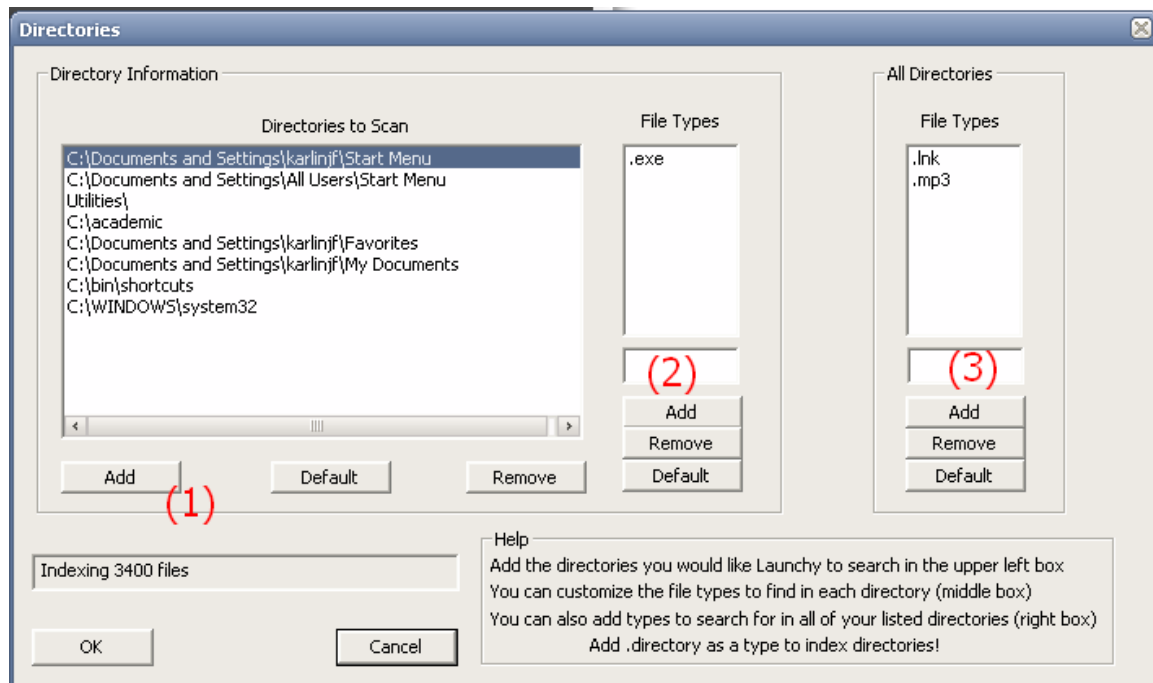
Chances are, Launchy knows what you are looking for. Launchy will show you what it thinks you are looking for in the right hand box, and if it has found what you want, hit enter to launch that program. If it has not found what you are looking for stop typing for a second and Launchy will show you a list of alternative suggestions to choose from. Then hit enter to launch that program.

If you strike the enter key Launchy will launch the requested program and then disappear again until you need it next. If you have changed your mind and do not wish to launch a program, you can hit alt+space to make it disappear again or you can simply hit the escape key.

If you would like to change the skin, add new directories and file types for Launchy to scan, or change the hotkey, right click on Launchy anywhere outside of the text areas.

Adding Directories and Types

If you would like Launchy to index more than the programs in your start menu, such as folders, mp3s, docs, pdfs, avis, etc.. then this option is for you.



Adding Directories

Right click on Launchy and select directories. Add the directories you would like Launchy to scan in the box in the left by hitting the “Add” button under it (1).

Adding Types

You can specify which file types to search for in each directory, such as .mp3 in your music directory and .jpg in your pictures folder. You can also add file types that are searched for in all of the directories you have added.

To add a type to a specific directory, write the file type (such as .mp3) in the box marked (2) in the image and then click the Add button below.

To add a type to all directories, write the file type in the box marked (3) in the image and then click the Add button below.

The types should be of the form '.mp3' and '.exe' and not '*.exe' or anything else. To add all of the files in a directory, add '.' as a type. If you would like to open folder windows directly from Launchy, check then add '.directory' to either global or individual directories.

You can rescan your index at any time by right clicking and selecting "Rebuild Index."

Command Line Flags

Launchy allows you to enter command line options into your queries. Simply hit tab once you have found the application you are interested in and then enter your command line options.

For instance, type in "fire" for Firefox and once Firefox is selected, hit tab and then enter www.launchy.net followed by the enter key.

How to Change the Hotkey

Right click on Launchy anywhere outside of the text areas and choose Hotkey. From within, choose whichever hotkey suits you. The original is Alt + Space in case you would like to return to it later.

Skins

It is possible to skin launchy. To create a skin, look in the "Skins" directory under your installation directory and copy the "Default" skin into a new directory. Edit the skin.ini file to your liking and replace the images. The ini files have helpful (though limited) documentation. You can also find new skins from the main website: <http://www.launchy.net/>

Plugins

Launchy is very extensible due to its plugin architecture. See the *Official Plugins* section to see what plugins are provided with Launchy. If you would like to turn plugins on or off, right click on Launchy and go to the Plugins menu. Simply uncheck each plugin that you would like to disable.

Some plugins have customizable options, such as Runny. To configure a customizable plugin, select the plugin and click on the “Plugin Options” button. If the plugin is not customizable the button will be grayed out.

How to close Launchy

Right click on Launchy anywhere outside of the text areas and select Exit.

Official Plugins

Launchy supports plugins. In “Plugin” directory in your Launchy installation folder you will find plugins. They are dll files that can be added or removed as you like. Please close Launchy while adding or removing plugins.

Runny Plugin (runny.dll)

Run Custom Commands: Create aliases for your favorite commands, even those that require user input. For instance, create the command “mailto: \$1” with the alias of “email” . Then, when you type “email” into Launchy, hit tab, and then type the email address the email address will replace the \$1 and your email client will launch.

Another example might be [http://www.google.com/search?q=\\$1](http://www.google.com/search?q=$1). Or perhaps “c:\bin\mycommand.bat”

Build your own commands: Right click on Launchy, go to Plugins, select Runny, and hit the plugin options button. Here you can add your own commands. For command name enter the alias that you would like to use for your command. In the execute entry place your command line program. You can place \$1,\$2,\$3 etc.. in your path where you would like to have user input.

Controly Plugin (controly.dll)

Index Control Panel Applications: This plugin finds the control panel applications in your system and lists them in Launchy.

Weby Plugin (weby.dll)

Perform Web Searches: Launchy now supports the following search keywords: google, msn, yahoo, live, weather, amazon, wikipedia, dictionary, thesaurus, imdb, netflix, and msdn websearch. Type in any of these keywords, hit tab, type in your search query, and hit enter!

Add custom web searches: Please see the *Runny Plugin*

Launch Webpages: Type in the url such as 'www.launchy.net' or 'http://www.launchy.net' and hit enter

Foxy Plugin (foxy.dll)

Bookmarks: The Foxy plugin will automatically load your FireFox bookmarks into the database. Just search for them as you would applications.

Quick searches: Launchy loads Firefox quick searches and will index the keyword into the database. Use it like you would a web search.

Explory Plugin (explory.dll)

Browse: Type in c: and then hit tab, now type in a couple letters of the next directory, and hit tab. You can press enter at anytime to launch the currently selected file or folder. Notice, you **must** tab after each file/folder.

Browse from shortcut: If you type in "my docu", hit tab, and then type in "my musi" and hit tab, Launchy will switch into browsing mode. Any directory or shortcut to a directory can convert into browsing mode.

Calcy Plugin (calcy.dll)

Calculate: Type in some math.. Launchy will figure out what you want to do. Warning: This calculator is limited to +,/, -, * and parenthesis.

Advanced Options

USB Stick: If you would like to run Launchy from a USB stick then follow this procedure:

1. Install Launchy Normally

2. Copy the Launchy directory to your usb stick
3. Run Launchy from the usb stick
4. Select advanced options from the right-click menu
5. Check the “Portable Mode” box
6. Exit Launchy

Note: Launchy periodically rebuilds the index. If you move from computer to computer the index might not be reflective of the machine it is currently residing on. It would be a good idea to right click and “Rebuild Index” when you plug into a new computer.

Specifying the Number of Suggestions: By default, Launchy suggests 10 alternative files in the dropdown menu after waiting for user input. You can change the number of suggestions here. To disable the suggestion box altogether, set this to 0.

Specifying interval between Index Scans: Launchy periodically scans your computer to update its database. By default, it does so every 20 minutes. You can change the number of minutes between scans here. Set it to 0 if you only want to manually rebuild.

Always Display Launchy Window: If you would like to have Launchy stick permanently on your desktop, check this option.

Always On Top: If you would like to be above all other application windows, enable this.

Check for Updates: Launchy will check to see if a new version is available each time it is initialized.

Version Information

1.2.5

- New control panel plugin (indexes control panel apps)
- Runny plugin (customizable commands)
- Notification of new Launchy Releases (can be turned off)
- Command line argument support (hit tab and type the arguments)
- Can use ‘.*’ as a filetype for directories
- Plugins can be enabled/disabled (right click on launchy, go to plugins)
- Plugins can now have configurable options
- Always on top is now configurable
- Bug Fixes:
 - Removed startup crash bug
 - Fixed Weby bug (it was hard to select Google)

- Fixed mouse disappearance in dropdown menu
- Launchy no longer jumps when you change skins
- Launchy no longer flashes on startup
- Calcy took priority over files with numbers, fixed
- Launchy can now be placed in the corner of the screen

1.0.0

- Launchy now supports plugins! Check out the “Plugins” folder inside your Launchy directory, you can add and remove plugins from there when Launchy is not running. Following are the plugins that come with Launchy by default, I expect many others to be developed by myself and the community.
 - **Explory Plugin:** A file explorer for Launchy! Now you can use launchy to navigate your filesystem. Try typing “c:” then hitting tab, keep on typing and hitting tab!
 - **Weby Plugin:** Supports launching of url’s and adds quick launches for “Google” “MSN” “Amazon” and many others, try typing “google” then hit tab then type in a search query
 - **Foxy Plugin:** With foxy your Firefox bookmarks will be added to the Launchy index. Even better, your firefox keywords are added to Launchy and behave like quick launches do for Weby. Not sure what firefox keywords are? Go here: <http://www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/smart-keywords.html> (Note some firefox quick searches are currently incompatible and will not be indexed)
 - **Calcy Plugin:** Never have a calculator handy? With Calcy, Launchy knows when you’re trying to do math and will display the result in the suggestions box. For instance, try typing in “(4 + 3) * 12” and 84 will result in the suggestions box. Support for + - * / ()’s currently exists.
- Now Ctrl+Backspace deletes a word at a time and Alt+Backspace clears the text
- Too many bug fixes to count or remember, good riddance!
- Special thanks to Sean Poon <http://gakuseisean.deviantart.com> for the use of his wonderful icons for the plugins

1.0.0 Beta

- Launchy displays the full path and icon to files in the dropdown suggestions box.
- Filetypes can now be specifically set for each directory to index
- Always on top mode added
- USB Mode added

- Configurable index scan interval
- Configuration files moved to docs and settings\username\Applications\Launchy\ which is friendlier to users with limited access accounts.
- Bug Fixes:
 - The Launchy startup on auto-login crash should be gone
 - No longer presumes icon index is located in C:\
 - Hotkey window now initializes with current hotkey
 - Configuration files now less likely to be corrupted due to restart during saving

0.9.6

- Launchy can now index directory names as well as files!
- A utilities folder with useful shortcuts is now included, it adds standard control panel programs, system shutdown / logoff/ reboot, and special folders such as My Documents, and My Music.
- Unicode now fully supported. All character sets should work.
- The old style of matching by association is completely removed, it's now entirely based upon frequency of use
- Now has a "please donate" dialog that appears only once, sorry but I've got to make a living!
- Bug Fixes:
 - Fixed up/down keys causing a dropdown when there are no matches
 - Saves settings to ini directly after changes are made in case of system crash
 - Spaces are now ignored in user input, making it possible to search for "Johnny_cash.mp3" with "john cash"

0.9.3

- Once again, Launchy is prettier. The combobox has vanished.
- New skins! Please see the Author.txt file in each skin's directory to give credit where credit is due.
- Bug Fixes:
 - Sometimes windows shutdown prevented the database from being saved. Now it saves more frequently just in case.
 - Arbitrarily long file extensions are now allowed, so you can filter on .mpeg for instance and not just .mpg
 - A couple of minor graphical glitches have been fixed
- Development Environment:
 - The Boost library is no longer needed to compile Launchy, I've copied the necessary Boost header files for smart pointers into the project.

0.9.2

- Frequency sorting took priority over exact matches, fixed.

0.9.1

- Search results sorted by frequency of use now.
- Configuration files moved to the Users subdirectory of your installation. This means that your configuration file will start fresh.. sorry! It also means that Launchy can be run from a memory stick.
- You can now remove the start menu from the directories you scan if you so desire.
- Bug fixes, hooray!

0.9

- Alpha channel support! Launchy is sexier now.
- New skinning options.
- Lots of skins!
- Minor bug fixes.
- Ability to rescan index on demand.
- This is a feature complete version of Launchy 1.0 From now until then I will only post bug fixes.

0.81

- New installer, after this release upgrades should be much better.
- Added icon support. Now icons are shown as well as the file name. The visual cue of the icon makes for faster launching. (It's also prettier)
- The combobox is now a bit more sane. It won't steal your focus away when it drops down.
- Launchy will rescan directories on startup as opposed to waiting a couple of minutes.

0.8

- Launchy now scans user specified directories and stores the results in a compressed file to make startup faster.
- You can now change the hotkey that activates Launchy
- You can now create/select skins for Launchy
- Launchy searches *much* faster than before, enabling indexing of thousands of files

0.7 Launchy has memory! It will associate your input with applications.

0.61 Launchy no longer opens all programs maximized.

0.6 This is the first C++ release. As I became frustrated with C#'s large .NET framework requirements and users lack of desire to install it, I decided to

switch back to the faster language. This release is functionally and visually equivalent to the 0.5 C# release. The C# CVS version had some new features that I will soon add to the C++ branch.

0.5 This was the first public release.