

Menu Swauncher

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Special thanks to Svein Bjorn and his excellent **Platypus** utility. Without it, there would be no *Menu Swauncher*

Disclaimer

This is free software. No warranties or support of any kind is offered. Install it and use the programs contained herein at your own risk.

System Requirements

This program should run on any Mac running a recent version of macOS (Sierra or newer). I've personally tested it on my personal machines running El Capitan through Mojave but make no guarantee they'll run on every computer due to subtle differences in how they may be set up. On the positive side, it is very resource efficient and should run well on even 3-4 year old Macs.

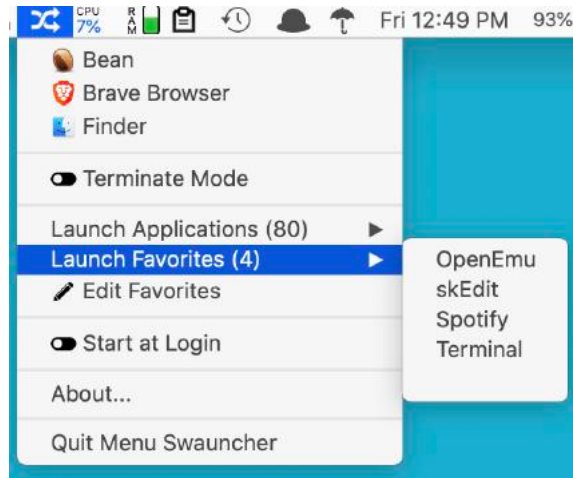
Menu Swauncher Overview

Menu Swauncher (a portmanteau of “Switcher” and “Launcher”) is a simple application switcher and launcher that runs in your menu bar. It was loosely inspired by classic programs such as **aLaunch** or **XMenu** and has the following functionality:

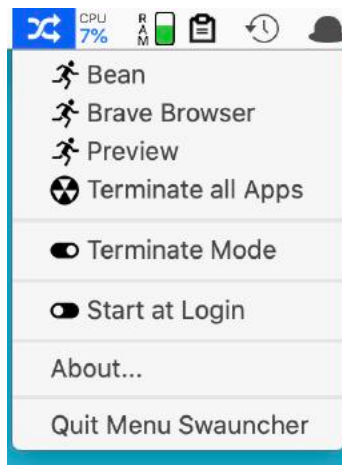
- Quickly switch between currently running applications
- Quickly terminate running applications
- Access all of the programs in your Applications folder and quickly launch any of them
- Define a custom set of your favorite applications to run, which is useful if you tend to run the same applications frequently and want to have them handy
- Works in macOS' Dark mode
- Choose whether or not to run *Menu Swauncher* each time you login to your computer

All activity in *Menu Swauncher* occurs in the drop down menu. The first few lines in the menu are your currently running (active) applications. Clicking on any of the names e.g. “App Store” in the example below will quickly switch to the corresponding application. Underneath the running applications is where you can launch applications.

By default, *Menu Swauncher* displays the “Applications” and “Utilities” options, which when selected reveal a list of installed applications residing in your `/Applications` folder. Selecting any of these programs from the menu will immediately launch it. It is also possible to select one or more curated applications, which will display in the “Favorite Apps” option.



Menu Swauncher in action: viewing the various options



Menu Swauncher in action: Terminate mode

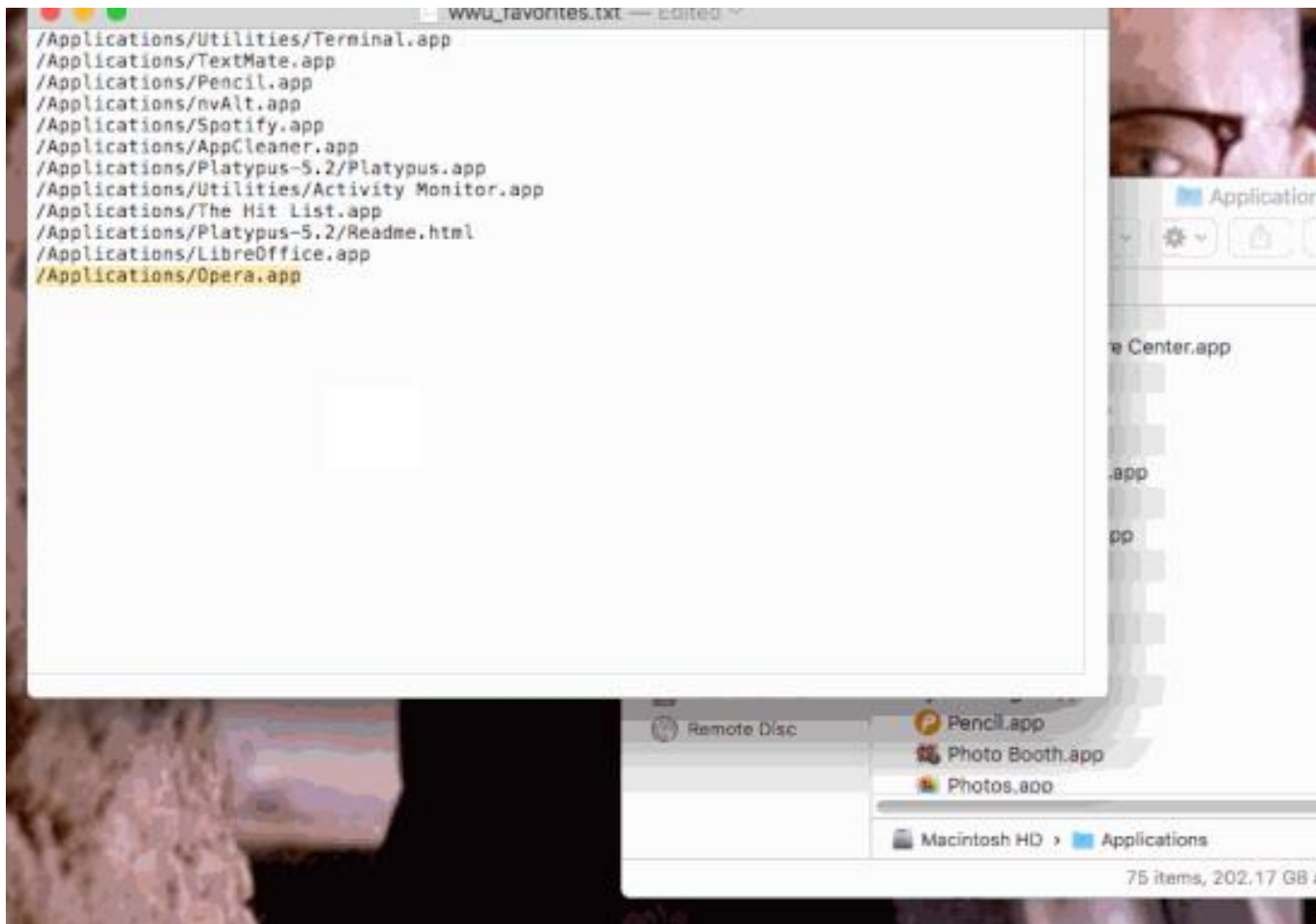
Defining Favorite Apps

You can define a custom list of your favorite applications for fast and easy access from *Menu Swauncher* by completing the following steps:

1. Create a text file called "wwu_favorites.txt" with any text editor.
2. Add the path to the applications for every app want to show up in your Favorites list like shown below:

```
/Applications/Mail.app
/Applications/Google Chrome.app
/Applications/Utilities/Terminal.app
```

NOTE: You can save typing by simply dragging in any application file located in the main “Applications” folder into the text file as this will copy the full path of the application (see below).



Don't worry about the ordering of the applications in the file as *Menu Swauncher* will automatically sort the list for you.

3. Save the file in your “Documents” folder. *Menu Swauncher* will automatically detect the file when it starts and runs.

Editing Favorite Apps

You can make changes and additions to the favorites file while *Menu Swauncher* is running. To do this, simply select the “Edit Favorite” option, make your changes and save.

Terminate Mode

Menu Swauncher now includes the ability to terminate applications when the “Terminate Mode”

is enabled. When in “Terminate Mode”, *Menu Swauncher* will show a list of running apps with a close icon next to each process name. Clicking on any of these will immediately terminate (quit) the application. There will be no warning or confirmation and it will happen immediately.

You can quit all running applications with one click by selecting the “Terminate all Apps” option. Everything will be quit, again with no warning or confirmation so use it with care.

NOTE: *Menu Swauncher* terminates apps “nicely” and will usually prompt the user to save any work before quitting. Along the same lines, there will be some apps that can’t be terminated nicely and you will either need to kill them via the Terminal or a tool like “Activity Monitor.”

Installing *Menu Swauncher*

Installation is as simple as this:

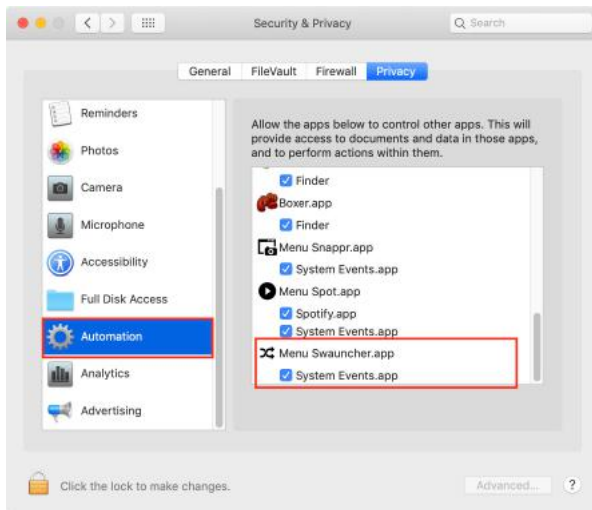
1. Copy the application from the zip file to your Mac’s Applications folder.
2. Click on the program’s icon in the Finder. It will immediately appear in the menu bar.

NOTE: Uninstalling this application is as simple as dragging it into the Trash.

Running *Menu Swauncher* on macOS Mojave and Catalina

Using *Menu Swauncher* requires a little extra work on Mojave and Catalina when first running the program due to its stricter security policies (a good thing, really). This is because *Menu Swauncher* relies on certain AppleScript functions to operate, the use of which is much more restricted than in previous macOS versions. To fix this once and for all, simply do the following:

1. Go to the `Security & Privacy` preference pane
2. Select the “Automation” panel on the left-hand side (you have to scroll)
3. Look for the *Menu Swauncher* entry (you have to scroll) and check the “System Events” box



Program Notes and Known Issues:

- *Menu Swauncher* will show all running applications and those stored in your “Applications” folder or Favorite Apps file in alphabetical order.
- Setting *Menu Swauncher* to start at login requires the app to be placed in the “Applications” folder.
- *Menu Swauncher* will not allow the Finder to be terminated.
- *Menu Swauncher* is not a signed application. As a result, there is no guarantee that it hasn't been tampered with so take the usual precautions and never run the application if it hasn't been downloaded from www.widgetworx.com.

Version History:

- v2.0 - Released 26 August 2020
 - Not a rewrite but a major simplification as several options were removed
 - Fixed a stupid bug that never showed the “Terminate app Apps” option
- v1.9 - Released 2 February 2020
 - Fixes a bug that truncates the display of applications names and displaying incorrectly in your “Favorites”
- v1.8 - Released 4 Jan 2020
 - Fixed a long-standing bug with certain built-in Apple apps like Stocks and News that use Webkit; the apps will no longer break display
- v1.7 - Released 1 Jan 2019
 - Fixed a bug with the list of apps to terminate; will now show app names correctly
- v1.6 - Released 25 Oct 2018
 - Added the ability for running applications to show their native icons
 - Added option to run the default screen saver
 - Added option to run lock the computer display
 - Added the ability to handle really long application / process names by truncating them if longer than 60 characters
 - Removed the “Hide all Applications” option as it never worked consistently
 - Removed the notifications feature as this option wasn't all that useful
- v1.5 - Released 15 Oct 2018
 - Fixed issues with Favorites menu where non-applications could appear in the menu
 - Fixed `wwu_favorites.txt` file parsing to ignore blank lines and non-applications
 - Added new “Show Running Applications” option
 - Fixed issues with dark mode where some icons did not have suitable versions for dark mode

- Updated documentation to reflect running *Menu Swauncher* on macOS Mojave
- v1.4 - Released 18 Aug 2018
 - Added support for macOS' Dark mode
 - Added the ability to hide / minimize running applications
- v1.3 - Released 11 Aug 2018
 - Added an option to show / hide the "Favorite Apps" folder
 - Optimized a few things so it runs slightly faster
- v1.2 - Released 5 Jul 2018
 - Added options to show / hide the "Applications" and "Utilities" folders. Simply check the "Show Apps Menu" and "Show Utilities Menu" options, respectively in the "Settings" menu
 - Added the ability to terminate (quit) any running apps by added a new option called "Terminate Mode"
 - Fixed assorted bugs
- v1.1 - Released 22 Dec 2017
 - Added an experimental setting called "Center App Window" that when selected will center the app switched to or launched. This may not work in all cases or for all applications, however
 - Fixed various cosmetic issues with menus
 - Eliminated the possibility of having duplicate apps appearing in the Favorites area.
 - Added a nifty icon to better highlight running applications
 - Added logic to eliminate an odd error that I observed on a machine running High Sierra
- v1.0 - Released 18 Dec 2017
 - Initial version