Quicksilver User Manual

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Table of contents

1. Quicksilver Manual

Quicksilver is a powerful interface for your Mac, letting you perform countless actions entirely with the keyboard.

1.1 How To Read this Manual

Quicksilver's strength is that it integrates with so many different aspects of macOS, but that also makes it difficult to explain in an order that works for every user while avoiding duplication. The table below describes how this manual is organized and how new and experienced users should use it to learn about Quicksilver.

The first section is an introduction and introduces concepts and terminology used throughout the rest of the manual.

The next section covers the preferences in detail. New users should skip over things that don't interest them.

The third section is the bulk of this manual and covers all the plugins. Rather than cover each of the dozens of plugins in alphabetical or some other arbitrary order, it is organized around topics such as working with files, contacts, e-mail, or web browsers (roughly the Plugin Preferences categories). Grouping similar plugin information together avoids duplication and makes it easier to compare features (e.g., how Quicksilver supports different web browsers).

Each section includes general usage and configuration instructions, as well as troubleshooting hints and tips for using advanced Quicksilver features. New users

should be able to start using the features quickly, and experienced users will probably find something new about many features.

Section	Topics	New Users	Experienced Users
Introduction	Introduction, installation, basic usage	Read thoroughly	Skim
Preferences	Preferences and configuration	Skim, refer back to when needed	Read thoroughly
Features	Features, grouped by category	Read sections of interest. Look up unfamiliar things in the introduction and preferences sections	Read sections of interest
Plugins	Individual plugin documentation	Discover plugins, learn about their functionality	Read as needed
Appendix	Troubleshooting and extending	Read as needed	Read as needed

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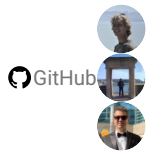
2. Getting Started

2.1 Why Quicksilver

While Quicksilver is easy to use and very powerful, it's not obvious how to use it and it takes a little while to realize its power. As a result it's difficult to explain why Quicksilver is so great.

It took me about a week before I really "got" Quicksilver, and I think that's pretty common. And then it took months of writing the manual to understand all the nooks and crannies. You can start off small and add to your knowledge slowly. The real power (and difference from Spotlight) is that there are multiple actions you can choose from, not just "open".

The part that's hard to describe is this: On a Mac today you do a lot of different things and go to different programs to do them (e.g., Safari for browsing, Mail for e-mail, Messages for IM, Contacts for contacts, etc). Even though the Mac is pretty consistent, these are all different applications and depending on what you want to do, you do different things, click in different places, use different shortcuts, etc.

Now imagine using Spotlight a lot. You would activate Spotlight, type the name of the thing you wanted to work with and hit return to open it in its app. Maybe it's a bookmark that opens in Safari or a contact that opens in Contacts or a mail message that opens in Mail or a song that plays in iTunes. Once you do this, you use that app to do stuff.

With Quicksilver you have a consistent interface as with Spotlight, but with Quicksilver's actions you can get to the next step and often that's enough for the whole task. I can send a file to someone from Quicksilver alone. It will use Mail and Finder and Contacts to do the work in the background, but I just used Quicksilver. I can control Contacts with keystrokes to paste a friend's address, from Quicksilver, without leaving the task I'm working on. I can move or copy files without having to manipulate Finder windows or dragging and dropping. I can do a Google search (or IMDb or Wikipedia) from within Quicksilver and have the results show in my browser.

All this (and more) makes Quicksilver a consistent interface for my Mac and that has some psychological effect that makes things seem even easier than Quicksilver is making them. Quicksilver is my Mac to me, and that's hard to describe to someone who hasn't played with it.

Nick Santilli summed it up well:

> It's Quicksilver. Don't ask questions, just download it if you haven't. Food will taste better, colors will be more vibrant, your computer will become something new and wonderful you never imagined.
>
> You probably think I'm joking.

If you've been using Quicksilver for a while, you understand that he was completely serious.

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2.2 Installation

2.2.1 Requirements

The latest version runs on macOS 10.14 or later. Previous versions are available for older versions of macOS.

2.2.2 Installing Quicksilver

From the Disc Image (.dmg) file:

1. Download Quicksilver.

2. Open the `.dmg` file and drag Quicksilver to your Applications folder.

3. Unmount the Quicksilver volume and delete the `.dmg` file.

Using Homebrew:

Homebrew is a package manager for OS X for installs, updates and uninstalls of most OS X software:

Open Terminal, type `brew install --cask quicksilver`. You can `uninstall` just as easily.

2.2.3 First Launch

On first launch, Quicksilver presents some setup options (it can be rerun later with the Run Setup button in the Application Preferences). Choose a shortcut that activates the Quicksilver command window, or just accept the default, `^` `Space`. Quicksilver will recommend plugins based on applications you have installed and other criteria.

Initially, Quicksilver shows no windows when it is running. Activate Quicksilver using the shortcut `^` `Space` (if you accepted the default).

When Quicksilver starts it contacts `qs0.qsapp.com` to check for new versions. A security program like Little Snitch that monitors outgoing network connections might warn about this. It's perfectly normal and benign.

2.2.4 Support Files

Quicksilver is usually installed in `/Applications/` or `~/Applications/`.

Like most macOS applications, Quicksilver stores its configuration information in the user's `~/Library` folder. As of 10.8, macOS hides this folder from the Finder by default. The Quicksilver action **Make Visible** from the File Attributes Plugin can be used to let the Finder show it. When first used, the following per user files and folders are created:

- `~/Library/Application Support/Quicksilver/`
  - `Actions.plist` - list of installed actions
  - `Catalog.plist` - the configured catalog sources
  - `Mnemonics.plist` - learned inputs, defaults and abbreviations
  - `PlugIns.plist` - the list of available plugins and how they are configured
  - `Triggers.plist` - the configured triggers
  - `PlugIns/` - installed plugins
  - `Shelves/` - where items on the Shelf and clipboards are stored
  - `Actions/` - add scripts here that implement actions
  - `Templates/` - not installed but create this folder to use with the **Make New…** action
- `~/Library/Preferences/com.blacktree.Quicksilver.plist` - various preferences and internal state
- `~/Library/Caches/Quicksilver/` - various state including indexes in binary files
- `~/Library/Caches/com.blacktree.Quicksilver/` - various state in binary files

It can also be useful to move or rename these while troubleshooting a problem. If plugins are not installing sometimes the permissions of `~/Library/Application Support/`

`Quicksilver/` and the `PlugIns` folder inside it are wrong. If the owner is System, change it to your user account and restart Quicksilver.

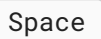## 2.2.5 Uninstalling Quicksilver

Move the application file to the trash. This leaves the configuration files. If you reinstall Quicksilver, your configuration will be restored. To remove all remnants of Quicksilver, use the Uninstall Quicksilver button in the Quicksilver's preferences.

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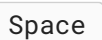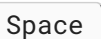
2.3 Getting Started

When I want to do something on my Mac, my first reaction is to use Quicksilver. Whether I want to send an e-mail, search for something on the web, open a bookmark, file, or an application, revisit a web page I looked at yesterday, pause iTunes, find a song, or virtually anything else, I type `^` `Space` and activate Quicksilver to do it. That makes Quicksilver very powerful, but also a little difficult to explain. I'll use an example of sending e-mail to my friend Ashish.

First, I could open Mail, type `⌘` `N` to open a new message, type enough of Ashish's name to have her address appear in the `To:` field, and then `⇥` to the Subject and continue writing the message. I could instead open Contacts, search for Ashish's card, and `^`-click (or right-click) on the e-mail address and choose Send E-mail.

This is how I do it using Quicksilver. I type `^` `Space` `A` `↵`. That's it.

Let's walk through that. `^` `Space`, at any time, in any application, activates Quicksilver bringing up the two pane window shown here:

When I type ⌨A , Ashish appears in the first pane because I often send her e-mail. Her picture appears because I have her picture in her Contacts entry (mostly because Quicksilver makes such good use of it). Also, another window appears below the main interface with other choices. If I kept typing, those would change to be some other choice, but since Ashish is what I want, I'm done. The second pane shows the **Compose E-mail** action which is what I want to do. This appears because it's the most common thing I do with contacts. Typing ⌨↵ performs the selected action so I see a new Compose Message window appear from Mail with Ashish's address filled in.

Maybe using Quicksilver doesn't seem that much easier than the other methods described, but the Quicksilver method is done entirely via keystrokes. There's no mousing to the Dock to open a particular icon or having to select a specific field. *Just type 3 keystrokes*. Maybe the comparison seems unfair because I said some of the choices appeared so easily since I do this often, but that's one of the advantages of Quicksilver. It learns what you do and makes your most frequent tasks easier. The other methods don't learn and don't get any shorter.

Now, let's say I wanted to send a document to Ashish. Instead of choosing the default **Compose E-mail** action, I can tab to the second pane, type `E` `M` `I` to choose **E-mail Item... (Compose)**. This opens a third pane which I tab to and type `~` `/` `Q` to choose a document in my home directory that has "Q" in its name. Now the message window is opened with the attachment all set up. I can edit the message as needed and send it.

Now, say Ashish was expecting this document and I didn't need to include any text in the message, just the attachment. I could choose the action **E-mail Item... (Send)** and then the message is sent in the background without opening Mail and without disturbing what I was doing before. The subject is set to the name of the attachment, and the body includes a short (customizable) sentence saying that the file is attached to the message.

The above works if I'm thinking, "I want to send Ashish this document". Say instead I thought "I need to send this document to Ashish". I can do this as well. Select the document in the first pane, choose the **E-mail To... (Compose)** action and then choose Ashish. I find these options to be the real strength of Quicksilver. It lets me easily do what I want, however I think of it at the time. I don't need to change my thinking to how Quicksilver wants me to do things, and it learns from me and gets easier to use over time.

The amazing thing about Quicksilver is how flexible it is. Via a wide variety of plugins, Quicksilver can select just about anything on your Mac as an object and do potentially hundreds of different things to it. Of course, it can also do a lot more, get used to reading that.

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2.4 Concepts and Terminology
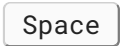
Quicksilver is a modular application. This manual is organized around the things that Quicksilver can manipulate such as files, text, music, etc. Various Quicksilver concepts and facilities are introduced here so that the explanations in each following section can make use of them. A term introduced and defined is written like ***this***.

These are the modifier key abbreviations used:

- ⌘ Command
- ⌥ Option
- ^ Control
- ⇧ Shift

Combinations are achieved by holding down one or more modifier keys and typing another key, such as a letter, number, or punctuation character. E.g., ⌘ ; , ⌥ ⌘ S , etc. The arrow keys are shown as → , ← , ↑ , and ↓ .

The Quicksilver application runs in the background. By default there is a Dock icon, but no menu, menu bar icon, or other indication of Quicksilver on screen until it is ***activated*** with the shortcut ^ Space . Though there are preferences to control the presence of Quicksilver in the Dock and menu bar. Preferences are available by typing ⌘ , when Quicksilver has focus. (This is the Mac standard shortcut for opening Preferences).

2.4.1 The Interface
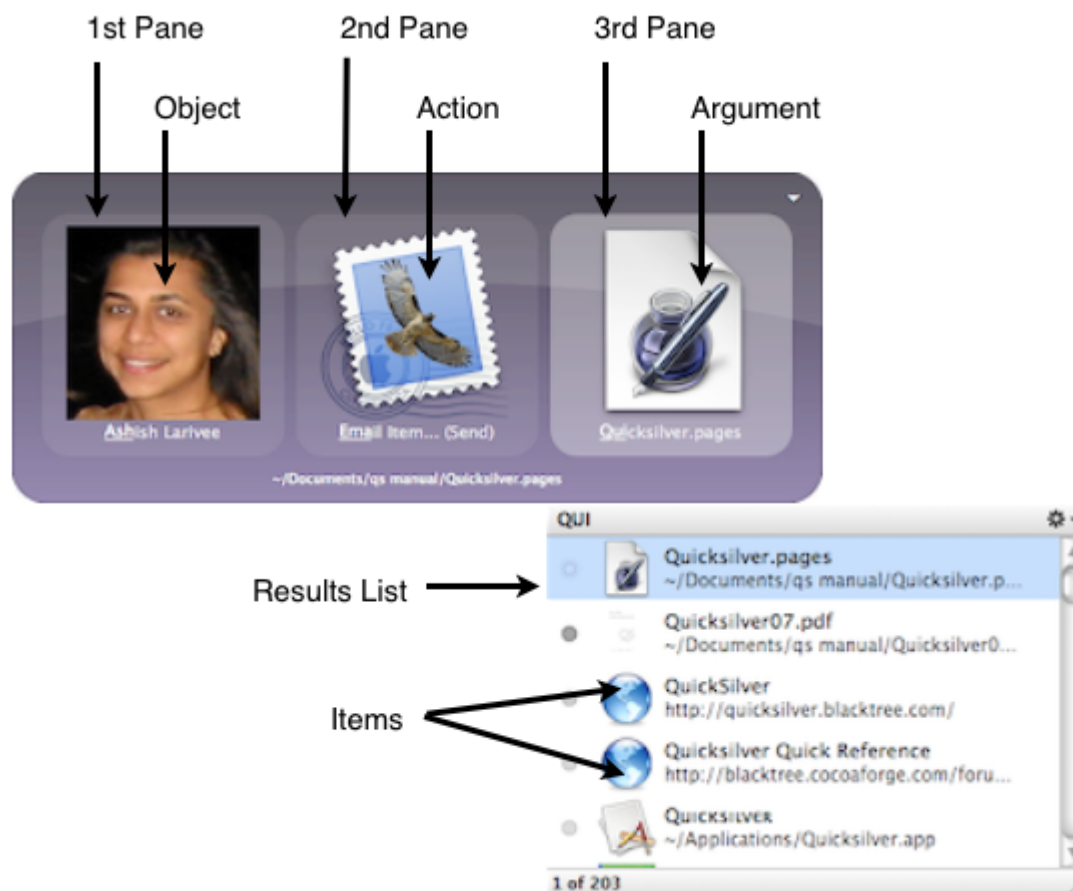
Quicksilver commands are entered via two or three panes containing respectively an *object*, an *action*, and if a third pane is needed, an *argument*. These are the terms used in this manual, but unfortunately other terms are used in some places in Quicksilver and in discussions online. The Primer Interface labels the panes Subject, Action, and Object. Some forum posts use Subject, Verb, and Object; and others use Direct Object, Verb, and Indirect Object. Much of the built-in plugin documentation refers to objects in the first and third panes as "items". This manual uses the terms in the diagram above.

When typing in one of the panes, Quicksilver determines what items *match*, puts the top choice in the pane, and additional lower ranked matching items are shown in the *results list*. This happens for each pane, so the results list will contain objects, actions, or arguments depending on which pane is selected. The results list above is showing the possible arguments that match the entered text `Q` `U` `I`. The term *item* is used for

something appearing in the results list, regardless of whether they are objects, actions or arguments.

2.4.2 Plugins

Plugins are optional modules that are installed which can add objects, actions, or other capabilities to Quicksilver. Plugins are managed entirely from within Quicksilver's Preferences including finding, installing, updating, enabling, configuring and removing them.

Plugins can be viewed and downloaded from qsapp.com, but the in-app system is recommended. The website will always show the latest version of the plugin, while the in-app preferences will take into account your version of Quicksilver and macOS and only show you plugins that will actually work.

2.4.3 The Catalog

The *Catalog* is the collection of objects that can be selected in Quicksilver's first pane. Quicksilver populates the catalog by scanning *catalog entries* that are configured in the Catalog Preferences.

For example, there is a source for Safari which indexes bookmarks and history into the catalog. Each bookmark is an object in Quicksilver. So are files and folders in the home directory, contacts in Contacts, all the apps in the Applications directory, the playlists in iTunes, and many other things (provided the appropriate plugins are installed). Note that some plugins (such as Remember the Milk) allow Quicksilver to index things stored on web servers and not merely things on the hard drive.

Scanning to keep the Catalog up-to-date is done in the background at regular intervals (every 10 minutes by default).

!!! note "Relax" Many new users worry about a performance hit from frequent scanning. *Don't.* The first part of the scanning process for any catalog entry is to ask "Has anything changed?" and the answer is almost always "No". In general, only things that have been touched since that last scan will get scanned again.

2.4.4 Actions

A Preference pane shows all of the available *actions*. All actions work on objects, and actions are available based on the *type* of object selected. E.g., the **Open URL** action is only available for objects that are URLs. Actions that require an argument typically end in "…" and arguments are expected to be of a certain type. E.g., the **E-mail To…** actions expect the argument to be an e-mail address or contact. Actions with optional arguments usually end in "[…]".

Some actions have a complementary action that reverse the object and argument ordering. Consider these two commands:

> file, **E-mail To… (Compose)**, address

> address, **E-mail Item… (Compose)**, file

Notice the names of the actions are slightly different (**To** vs **Item**). Many (but not all) action names hint at the type of argument they take. **E-mail To…** wants an address to follow. **E-mail Item…** wants some kind of item to send (like text, or a file). These e-mail actions are similarly named and many people don't notice they are two different actions. In other cases actions are so differently named people might not notice they are related. For example, to perform a web search on a site like Google the two possible commands are:

> site, **Search For…**, query

> query, **Find With…**, site

There are also unfortunately some actions like **Make New…** which have no complement and don't hint at what their argument type is. Explaining these actions is one of the reasons this manual exists.

2.4.5 Interfaces

Interfaces are configurable themes that change the appearance of the command window. They are installed as plugins and can be configured from the Appearance

Preference pane. There are two built-in interfaces: Primer and Bezel. Primer (the default) is meant for new users as it labels a few things explicitly. Bezel is what has been shown so far and is used predominantly in this manual.

2.4.6 Matching

Objects, actions, and arguments are selected by typing. As each letter is typed the choices are filtered down from all possible choices to only those that match the input, and those objects are shown in the results list. You won't see a typical "Search" input box that displays what you type. (If you're doing it right, what you type will probably be unreadable garbage anyway.) Instead, you will see the characters you typed underlined in the top match.

The matching method is one of the strengths of Quicksilver. Matches can be by the beginning of the name (e.g., `D` `E` `S` `K` for "Desktop"), or by initials (e.g., `B` `A` for "Browse Artists" which is an iTunes object), or some combination of those. As long as the letters you type appear *somewhere* in an object's name in the order you type them, **not necessarily next to each other**, the object will match.

The more items (objects and actions) are used, the higher they appear in the list of results. After typing `D` `E` `S` a few times, Quicksilver will start guessing "Desktop", and if done often enough, it will start matching after just `D`.

!!! note "Always think in terms of abbreviations!" Much of the value of using Quicksilver is that, unlike other systems, you don't need to type `Q` `U` `I` `C` `K` `T` `I` `M` `E` `Space` `P` `L` `A`, etc. to find QuickTime Player. Just type `Q` `T` `P` `L` or even just `Q` `T`. Quicksilver will quickly learn which abbreviations refer to which things in your head.

2.4.7 Children
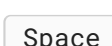
Some items have ***Children***, e.g., folders have files, contacts have phone numbers and addresses, musical artists have albums, etc. When an item has children there is a > to the right of the item in the results list. View the children (e.g., go into a folder) by typing

`→` or `/` . The selected object then changes to the top child, and the results list shows the other children. Navigate these by using the `↑` and `↓` arrows, or better yet, by typing to match against this list. This is an easy way to navigate folder hierarchies, or any other hierarchies.

2.4.8 Triggers

Quicksilver's matching algorithm makes finding something specific very efficient, and its ability to perform many different actions on objects makes it powerful. The main interface is efficient, but there are even faster ways to perform commands.

Triggers can be invoked at anytime, without having to first activate Quicksilver with `^` `Space` . There are a few built-in triggers, and plugins sometimes add more, but you can add your own for common tasks.

Triggers can be configured to start or complete a frequently used command. Quicksilver comes with the ability to assign triggers to shortcut keys, but plugins are available to run triggers based on mouse events, gestures (drawing shapes on screen), and system events (like "Switched to Battery Power").

Learn more about triggers on the Triggers page

2.4.9 Proxy Objects

Proxy objects work especially well with triggers. These are special objects which represent something on the system such as the currently selected text (which may be sent to a search engine) or the last downloaded file (which may be opened or moved) or the URL of the current page in Safari (which may be pasted into an e-mail message).

2.4.10 Collections

Collections are groups of objects built up either by using the comma trick, selecting all results with `⌘` `A` , or grabbing multiple selected items from another application. You
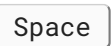
can use a collection to act on multiple objects at once. (e.g., copy multiple files, send an e-mail to multiple contacts, add multiple tags to a file, etc.)

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2.5 Invoking Quicksilver

macOS uses the term "activate" to mean switching to an application (starting it if necessary). In fact there's a Quicksilver action called Activate that does just that. The menu bar shows the menus of the active application. But if you hide its Dock icon (as most users do) Quicksilver runs in the background and unless it's Preferences are open, it's not the active application. Invoking Quicksilver, that is calling it forward and making it ready to use, is typically done by using the keyboard shortcut (by default `^` `Space`) to bring up the command window. The first pane is selected and ready to find something in the Catalog via typing.

2.5.1 Selecting Items

With Quicksilver activated and the first pane selected, type some characters and an object will appear. To bring up a Contacts entry for Abraham Lincoln (doesn't everyone have him in their address book?), type `A` `B` `R` `A` `H` `A` `M` , `A` `B` `R` `A` `H` , `A` `B` , or maybe just `A` `L` to select it. The trick is to keep typing the name of item until it appears in the first pane (and at the top of the results list).

If it doesn't quite make to the top of the results list, scroll through the list and find the item and click it to select it. This can happen if there are several objects with the same name, for example a Contacts entry for Abraham Lincoln and a Finder folder named the same thing.

Quicksilver remembers what's been typed and what's been selected and learns to guess better as its used. If I type `A` and pick Abraham Lincoln's Contacts entry, Quicksilver will start to guess it more often instead of the folder of the same name or "AirPort Utility" or "Adium" or other things that begin with "A".

The matching algorithm that Quicksilver uses for selecting objects and how you can help it learn more efficiently are discussed below.

By default Quicksilver shows the results list after a short delay. This behavior can be changed to Immediately or Manually in the Command Preferences under "Show other matches". There is also a choice to configure the spacebar to behave like `↓` or `→`.

2.5.2 Navigation

Quicksilver includes a lot of things in its Catalog, but to keep things fast, it doesn't include everything on the system and (unlike Spotlight) it doesn't index the contents of objects, just their names. Lincoln's Contact entry may have his phone number and e-mail address, but typing them in the first pane won't match the Contact. Quicksilver can navigate an iTunes music collection, but doesn't include all songs and artists in the Catalog.

That's not to say Quicksilver can't use and manipulate these things. Once a parent object (in these examples, a contact or the iTunes app) is selected, typing `→` will move into the object and the results list will show its children (the contact fields or music collection). The results list displays items with children by showing a > at the far right. Navigating like this is often referred to as "right-arrowing into an object". Similarly `←` will go "up" and select the parent object. Quicksilver can navigate files and folders this way too. So while every file might not be indexed in the Catalog, the entire filesystem can be navigated using the arrow keys in Quicksilver. Since right-arrowing into folders is so common, the `/` key does the same thing as `→`, while `⇧` `/` is equivalent to `←`. (That key was chosen because `/` is used as the separator between folders and files in a path. It's also easier to reach on most keyboards.)

2.5.3 Alternate Keystrokes

A mouse or trackpad can be used to navigate the results list, but Quicksilver can do virtually anything from the keyboard. The `↓` and `↑` keys will move the selection in the results list down and up one item. For touch typists, the keystrokes `^` `N` (next) and `^` `P` (previous) will do the same thing and `^` `V` and `⌥` `V` will scroll the results list down or up one whole screen.

For Vim users, `^` `H`, `^` `J`, `^` `K`, and `^` `L` can also be used in place of the arrow keys.

2.5.4 Dealing with Typos

By default as of Quicksilver 1.5.1, the `⌫` key will remove a single character from your search string. If the search string is empty, typing will begin a new search (even if the previous selection is still shown), while hitting `⌫` again will clear the current selection.

New users should find the ability to remove a single character more intuitive, but for many years (prior to 1.5.1), there was no way to delete just a letter or two. The delete key `⌫` would clear the entire search, allowing you to immediately start a new one.

As you become more experienced, you may realize that simply starting over is much faster than correcting a mistake in the current search. For example, if you've built up years of muscle memory typing `G` `R` `L` `I` to find your grocery list, but you accidentally type `G` `R` `I` `L` one day, wiping the search with a single press of `⌫` and letting your fingers do what they're used to is much easier than trying to figure out what you did wrong, how many characters you need to erase, what you need to then type to fix it, etc. The old behavior can be restored under Preferences → General → Extras.

The interface can be cleared entirely by pressing `⌫` with an empty search string, or by pressing `^` `U` or `⌘` `X` at any time. (The latter will copy the object to the clipboard.) If a Quicksilver pane is in text mode these behave slightly differently, as shown below.

Shortcut	Regular Mode	Text Mode
`⌫`	removes one character from the search, or clears the selection	deletes one character
`⎋`	closes results list if open, or dismisses Quicksilver	leaves text mode
`^` `U`	empties window, dismisses results list, back to top	nothing
`⌘` `X`	empties window, dismisses results list, back to top, copies object to clipboard	deletes selection, copies selection to clipboard

The Command Preferences has an option, "Reset search after" time. This is how long between keystrokes Quicksilver waits before reseting the search. So if it's set to .85

seconds and it's been 1 second since a key has been typed, typing another one will start a new search in the current context.

2.5.5 Combining Activation and Selection

There are faster ways to use Quicksilver too. You can activate it and put something in one or more panes at the same time. Triggers let you define key sequences, mouse clicks, and mouse gestures that will activate Quicksilver and fill in some panes and even execute commands immediately. These are discussed in more detail later but it's worth describing two triggers now.

In the Triggers Preferences under Quicksilver are two predefined triggers: **Command Window with Selection** and **Command Window in Text Mode**. The first opens a command window with the current application's selection in the first pane. This is typically text, though for the Finder this is one or more selected files or folders. Some other applications like iTunes also allow their non-text selection to be brought into Quicksilver. The second trigger will bring the selection into the first pane but will put that pane into text-mode so you can edit it.

Quicksilver installs a service available in other applications (look in the application's menu under Services and you'll see Quicksilver). The service is called **Get Current Selection**. It activates Quicksilver and puts the application's current selection (typically text) into the first pane.

You can use this service from anywhere by selecting something and hitting ⌘ ⍉ . You can change this shortcut in Preferences → Triggers → Quicksilver. If ⌘ ⍉ isn't working for you, check in the Catalog under Quicksilver that Internal Commands is enabled.

Yet another way to put the selection into the object pane is to activate Quicksilver and then type ⌘ G (for "grab"). This is slower than the other methods since you have to activate Quicksilver first, but since I learned it first, it's in my fingers, so I use it a lot.

If Quicksilver is already running, clicking on its Dock icon will bring up the command window. If you drag and drop something onto the icon it will be selected in the first pane. This is convenient if Quicksilver is in your Dock, but people also put it in the Finder's

sidebar or toolbar. This is particularly useful if you hide your Dock and use Finder windows often. (I find the more I use Quicksilver, the less I use the Finder).

There are other, less obvious ways to select something in a Quicksilver command window pane. As discussed above you can type `⌘` `G` to grab the selection of the frontmost application. You can also paste something into the pane with the standard key binding `⌘` `V`, and you can drag and drop something into a pane as well.

2.5.6 History

The Catalog has two built-in presets for Recent Objects and Recent Commands. If Recent Objects is enabled, you can quickly navigate and act on your history.

Shortcut	Purpose
`⌘` `[`	go back in history
`⌘` `]`	go forward in history
`^` `⌘` `[`	show history in the results list

Showing the history in the results list allows you to search for something using Quicksilver's matching algorithm.

Recent commands can be searched for by name in the main Catalog, or if the Quicksilver Catalog Entries preset is enabled, you can search for and right-arrow into "Recent Commands (Catalog)".

History is discarded when Quicksilver quits. To clear history without restarting, search for "Clear Quicksilver History" in the Catalog and run it.

2.5.7 Immediate Execution

You can create triggers that perform an entire command, like open an application or file. Triggers are great but they require you to pre-configure them. You can also perform a command by holding down the key you use to select a subject or action. For example, if you type `A` `D` to select Adium.app and hold down the `D` then Quicksilver will execute the default action which should be **Open**. As described above, for me typing `A`

will default to the Contacts contact for my friend Ashish. I can activate Quicksilver and hold down `A` to open an e-mail message (the default action for a contact) addressed to her.

This trick also works for actions. If you hold down the last key you type to select an action it will execute it. So I can select Ashish in the first pane, tab to the second and hold down `E` to use the **Edit Contact** action. This method is a little risky if you don't know what the action will be, but if you do it's a little faster and there's no trigger configuration needed.

To make it faster you can type the letter that matches an action with the `⇧` `⌘` modifiers while still in the first pane. So to edit Ashish's contact entry I would activate Quicksilver, type `A` to bring up her entry and then type `⇧` `⌘` `E` to have Quicksilver execute the command. This only allows you to use one letter to identify the action and has the same risk that you have to know what action will be run, but if you do, it can be convenient.

Holding down `⇥` for a while will execute the command, if for some reason you'd rather do that than hit `↵`.

2.5.8 The Comma Trick

A non-obvious feature is known as the ***comma trick***. The `,` key allows multiple items to be selected in first or third pane, and then a single action can operate on all of them with one command. This can move several files to the same place or address an e-mail to multiple people.

Activate Quicksilver, select an item, type `,` and then select another item. A collection of smaller icons accumulate at the bottom or left of the object pane depending on the interface used (the menu interface does not support the comma trick). Any number of items can be selected, after which `⇥` to the action pane and continue as normal.

Another way to select multiple items is with `⌘` `A`. It will select all the items in the results list as if the comma trick had been used individually for all of them. If the results

list is long this can take a long time. It's most useful to operate on all the items in a small folder (e.g., deleting, moving, or tagging them all).

Collections can be browsed using `^` `[` and `^` `]` . The currently selected object can be removed from the collection with the `⌫` key. `⌥` `,` will remove the most recent item added to the collection, no matter what you have selected.

2.5.9 Filtering the Results List

The default behavior of Quicksilver is to **filter** the results list when searching. As keys are entered, things that don't match are removed from the results and the remaining items are sorted based on how well they match what was entered.

There's an often overlooked gear menu at the top right of the results list. It can change the search mode of the results list. Instead of filtering the results list can be set to snap to a match. The items remain sorted and as keys are typed the selected item is changed (and the list scrolled) but non-matching items aren't removed from the list.

Sometimes these behaviors are known as **narrowing** (filtering) and **selection** (snapping).

- **Filter Results** - Filters the current results list.

- **Filter Catalog** - Filters, but also includes the entire contents of the top-level catalog. Lasts until you type `⌫` or activate Quicksilver again.

- **Snap to Best** - scrolls the results list to the best match but doesn't remove non-matching items.

2.5.10 Helping the Matching Algorithm

Quicksilver learns what you do (and makes that easier to do) because of its matching algorithm. It remembers what commands you execute and what you did to call them up. Do them a few times and they get easier to call up because those objects and actions appear higher in the results. However if you do things that are similarly named it confuses Quicksilver and it won't guess as quickly as it could. Fortunately you can teach it. Triggers, described above, are the fastest way to do things in Quicksilver, but there are

only so many keystrokes you can remember. Here are some other techniques you can use.

If you activate Quicksilver and start typing into the object pane you'll see a results list appear of items that match what you've typed. The order of the items is known as their *rank*. The first item is ranked 1 the second is ranked 2, etc. For objects, the rank is determined based on the score of the items. **Score** is computed based on how well an item matches what you typed.

Theoretically, items move to second place rank the first time they are used to match some input. The second time they are used they get ranked first. The circle to the left of the item indicates how well the item matches the typed input. The darker the circle, the stronger the match (i.e., the higher the score).

You can manually adjust the score of an item by `^`-clicking on it to bring up a menu of choices. If you choose "Set as Default for…" then the selected item will match if you type the same abbreviation again. You can undo an abbreviation by choosing Decrease Score in the menu.

Setting a default works for what you've typed, but say you want to set as a default something that is mid-way in a very long list that you don't want to scroll through. As an example say you want "Z" to bring up your Amazon bookmark and that if you type `z`, Amazon is further down the list than you want to look. In that case, use the **Assign Abbreviation** action. Bring up the object you want in the first pane (www.amazon.com), choose **Assign Abbreviation** as the action, and in the third pane enter the abbreviation you want via text mode (`z`). Now if you type that abbreviation in either the first or third pane, your choice will be ranked first. This happens because exactly matching an abbreviation causes the item to have a very high score.

!!! note Abbreviations will only work if they match the input string in some way. You can't set `I` `R` `C` to be an abbreviation for `Colloquy.app` because if you typed `I` `R` `C`, Colloquy would not appear in the results list. Say you don't use Activity Monitor often and when you want it you can never remember its name but you think of the word "processes". Searching for "proc" won't work since those letters don't appear in "Activity Monitor". Synonyms were created for situations like this.

Actions in the second pane work a little differently. When they initially appear, their rank is statically determined by their order in the Actions Preferences. You can manually change the order in Preferences by dragging and dropping them. You can save time by making sure the action you use most often is automatically selected. Once you start typing in the second pane though, the order of actions is determined by the matching algorithm.

2.5.11 Synonyms

Continuing with the example above, where you naturally think of "processes" when looking for Activity Monitor, you can use *synonyms* to create an identical copy of something with a different name. In this case, you could create a synonym called "Processes" that refers to Activity Monitor. From then on, you can find it by searching for "proc".

Details on setting up synonyms can be found in the Preferences section.

2.5.12 TextStart Ranker

A slightly different matching algorithm can be installed using the TextStart Ranker plugin and selecting it as the String Ranker handler in Preferences. In general it works better matching acronyms over continuous letters in the name of something. Specifically, it makes two changes to the algorithm.

The first is that it favors letters at the beginning of words more. E.g., if the input is `A` `M` it will match "Activity Monitor" over "Amazon" since two beginning of word letters are matched instead of just one. The second difference is that it favors input that matches a higher percentage of the words. So the input `A` `M` will favor "Activity Monitor" over "Audio MIDI Setup" since all the words are matched (2 out of 2) instead of two thirds of them (2 out of 3).

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3. Features

3.1 Features

Quicksilver comes with many powerful features built right in. This section covers the core functionality available out of the box, organized by the types of objects and tasks Quicksilver can work with.

From managing files and folders, to controlling applications, working with contacts and mail, browsing the web, manipulating text, and much more—Quicksilver provides a unified interface for interacting with your Mac.

Many of these features can be extended and enhanced through plugins. For detailed information about specific plugins and how to install them, see the Plugins section.

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3.2 Files and Folders

The most commonly used items on your computer are files and folders. Any file or folder can be selected as an object in Quicksilver. If you were working on a file called `Résumé.pages` in your Documents folder, since `~/Documents` is in the catalog, you can select the file in the first pane by just typing its name. As you type `R` `E` `S`, it appears with the default action of **Open**. If you type `↵`, Pages will open the file. You can select the Documents folder itself by typing "documents" (or as much of it as you need to match it) and since it's really a folder, the default action is **Open**.

Quicksilver isn't limited to only what's in the catalog. If a folder is in the object pane, use `→` to show its contents. Since it's common to separate folders with `/`, typing `/` is equivalent to `→` when navigating. Pressing `⌥` `→` or `⌥` `/` when navigating will include hidden files in the results list. This also enables browsing into packages (like the Finder's Show Package Contents command).

Quicksilver also understands the tilde (`~`) as the Unix shortcut for the home directory. Since the Desktop is just a folder in the home directory, I could navigate to this manual's file (at `~/Desktop/Quicksilver.md`) by typing `~` `/` `D` `E` `/` `Q` `S`. Quicksilver also interprets a backquote (`` ` ``) as a tilde. (On US keyboards the tilde is a shifted backquote.) Back up a folder hierarchy by typing `←` or `?` (a shifted slash on a US keyboard). This can backup all the way to the root directory. Type `/` and hold it down for a second to select the root directory immediately. Disks are also included in the catalog so type their name to select them.

Several common folders are included in the the catalog by default. Under the User set are catalog entries for the Home, Documents, and Desktop folders. Under Dock are entries for Dock Files & Folders and under Recent Items is an entry for Recent Documents, Favorites, and Recent Folders (Open & Save).

Since there are a lot of files on your machine, to avoid using a lot of memory and CPU, Quicksilver doesn't scan them all into the catalog. Instead, folders are only scanned to a configured depth. The default Home entry is only indexed one level down and the default

Documents entry only 2 levels. These entries are not configurable themselves, but an editable copy can be made. See the Catalog section for instructions on doing this.

Do not just create copies of the sources that scan to infinite depth. This will cause Quicksilver to use a lot of memory, slow down all of your searches, and waste a large percentage of the CPU to scan the entire drive every few minutes. Instead, only scan the folders that are really used. Don't scan the Home folder more than one level down. `~/ Library/` will probably just clog the Catalog with many unused items, and `~/Music/` and `~/Pictures/` are better scanned with the iTunes and iPhoto plugins.

3.2.1 Basic File Actions

The default file action **Open**, opens a file in its default application; the same as double-clicking on the file's icon. The default action for a folder is also **Open**, and just like double-clicking on its icon, it opens the folder in a Finder window. There are also other actions available. Use **Open With…** to open the file with a different application specified in the third pane. The third pane will have a results list of applications to choose from. If the desired application is not there, navigate to it starting with `/` or `~` or by selecting the application in the Finder and using `⌘` `G`. If the third pane is in text-mode, exit text mode by typing `⌫` and navigate to the desired application.

Another way to use **Open With…** is to select the file (or files) in the Finder, then activate Quicksilver and select the application to use in the first pane. Then, instead of tabbing to the action pane, just type `⌥` `⌘` `G`. The command window will change so that the Finder selection is in the first pane, the action is **Open With…**, and the application is in the third pane. It's a little convoluted but it's quick.

The default action for a file object is **Open**. For scripts however this could be unclear. Should they be opened in an editor or executed? Quicksilver solves this by having the **Open** action open them in an editor and having several **Run** actions. More about them in the section on the Terminal, but as an example, the Extra Scripts plugin includes an Empty Trash script (in the Catalog under Plugins → Scripts) to be used with the **Run** action.

It might be more common to use with an application, but the **Open at Login** action can also set a file to open automatically at login time. The item is added to the list in the Account System Preferences under the Login Items tab. All items listed in that pane are started at login, the checkbox only indicates if they are hidden when started. The **Do Not Open at Login** action removes something from the list. (Both of these actions are disabled by default.)

The **Reveal** action opens the containing folder and selects the item. This is a very easy way to find what folder an item is in, particularly when finding the item directly via the catalog instead of navigating down to it. I do this often to find applications (which are in my catalog) and might be in `/Applications` or `~/Applications` or a couple of levels down. In fact, it's so useful Quicksilver uses this as the [alternate](#) for **Open**. (With a file in the first pane and the action set to **Open**, typing ⌘ ↵ performs the **Reveal** action.)

Quicksilver includes several methods that take a file and return a form of the file's path.

Action	Behavior
Get Path	Returns a unix-style path using `~` to represent your home directory (if applicable)
Get Absolute Path	Returns a unix-style absolute path
Get File URL	Returns a `file://` URL to the file
Get File Location	Returns an HFS+ path (with colons)

All of the actions show the path in Quicksilver's command window. From there, you can copy and paste a file's path somewhere. The Terminal section describes using the **Go To Directory in Terminal** and **Go To Directory in iTerm** actions to open a terminal shell in the folder specified in the first pane as the current working directory.

The actions **Rename…**, **Copy to…**, and **Move to…** are very commonly used. For all of them, the third pane opens so you can select the new name or location.

The ⌥ ⌘ G trick also works with the **Move to…** action. In the Finder, select the file(s) to move, activate Quicksilver, and bring up the destination folder in the first pane. Then instead of tabbing to the action pane, just type ⌥ ⌘ G. The command window will change so that the files are in the first pane, the action is **Move to…** and the destination

folder is the argument. Type ⟨↵⟩ to execute the command. Mouse users might prefer to just drag the file from the Finder to the folder when it's in the first pane.

!!! warning The **Move to...** action can be confusing. The name assumes the destination folder is on the same volume. If the destination is on another volume, the file is *copied* instead. In other words, it behaves exactly like dragging a file in Finder without holding any modifier keys.

Since moving something to the trash is so common, there's an action called **Move to Trash**. There's also a **Delete (Erase)** action which skips the Trash and actually removes the file. Since that action can't be undone, it's disabled by default.

The **Make Alias in...** action creates a macOS alias for a file in the folder specified in the third pane. The **Make Link in...** and **Make Hard Link in...** actions do the same for unix-style links for those that know the difference. (Since many don't, they are disabled by default.)

The **Make New...** action requires a little configuration. Create the folder `~/Library/ Application Support/Quicksilver/Templates/`. Now put some template files in there. E.g., an empty `untitled.txt` file or a `Letter.doc` with a return address filled in or a `Letter.pages` with the return address created by Pages cleaned up (e.g., removing URLs and phone numbers). Now activate Quicksilver, select a folder as the object, the **Make New...** action, and in the third pane choose a template. Executing the command copies the template to the object folder and a new Quicksilver command window appears with the new file in the first pane and a default action (probably **Open**) which can be changed. It's a bit like the Finder's Stationery Pad functionality integrated into Quicksilver. Place folder hierarchies in the Templates folder and the **Make New...** action will create them; this is useful for creating new projects.

The **Get Info** action shows the Finder's info panel for the object, just like selecting a file in the Finder and choosing the Get Info from the File menu or typing ⟨⌘⟩⟨I⟩. The File Attributes Actions plugin adds several actions that will modify information in the info panel. **Set Icon...** changes the file's icon to one specified in the third pane. Spotlight users can add metadata to files with the **Set Comment...** action. This opens a third pane to enter text which will become the Spotlight comment (visible in the Get Info panel of the
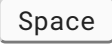
Finder). It doesn't add to the comment but replaces whatever the current comment is with the new text.

The **Set Label...** action opens a third pane to choose a color label. The **Lock File** and **Unlock File** actions do the obvious. The **Make Invisible (hide)** and **Make Visible (Show)** actions change the visibility attribute of files. To find invisible files use the Finder's Find command (⌘ F) and from the search attributes pop-up menu choose Other and then Visibility, then pick the desired value (Visible, Invisible, or either). The **Always Open Type With...** action will tell macOS to always open files of that type with the specified application, same as the "Change All..." button in the info panel.

There are many file and folder actions, but realize they work with Quicksilver's other capabilities. By using the comma trick an action can be used on multiple files at once. E.g., move several files to the Trash or a folder, upload them to a server, add a label or tag to several files, send multiple attachments to multiple recipients in a single e-mail message, etc.

See the Text Files section for actions that modify the contents of a text files.

3.2.2 Previewing A File With QuickLook

To preview a file using QuickLook, type ⌘ Y . To preview full-screen, use ⌥ ⌘ Y (these are the same shortcuts as in the Finder). QuickLook is also the default behavior of Space for some file types if "Spacebar behavior" is set to "Smart" or "QuickLook" in the Command section of the General preferences pane.

3.2.3 File Tagging

The File Attributes plugin allows Quicksilver to tag files and search for files based on one or more tags.

Three of the tag actions are used to modify tags on files: **Set Tags...**, **Add Tags...**, and **Remove Tags...**. All three actions take files or folders as objects and use the third pane to select existing tags or create new ones via text mode. **Set Tags...** replaces any existing tags and **Add Tags...** will append more tags leaving the current ones in place.

To see the tags assigned to just one file, bring up that file in the first pane and use the **Show Tags** action. This brings up a new command window with a results list of tags.

With a tag in the first pane, just type `→` to see a list of all files with that tag. All additional tags for the matching files will appear at the bottom of the list. Selecting one of those tags and hitting `→` again will reveal all files that match *both* tags. You can repeat this for as many tags as you see to quickly narrow the list of files.

3.2.4 File Compression

The File Compression Module plugin installs three additional file actions: **Decompress**, **Compress (Create Archive)**, and **Compress Using…**. The first works on an archive object (`zip` , `cpio` , or `cpgz`) and decompresses it (or you can use the **Open** action which will also decompress the archive). The **Compress (Create Archive)** action will zip the object, creating a new ZIP archive in the same folder (the original item remains), and a new command window appears with the new ZIP archive as the object allowing additional actions such as **Move to…**, **E-mail To…** or whatever. The **Compress Using…** action opens a third pane to select a compression format to use such as TGZ, CPIO, CPGZ, ZIP, or TBZ. Executing the **Compress Using…** action in the ZIP format when using the comma trick or dragging multiple files into the first pane will result in an error and a ding sound.

3.2.5 Sending Files

The E-mail Support plugin adds the three varieties of the **E-mail To…** action. They all send files specified in the first pane as an e-mail attachment to a contact or address specified in the third pane. For details on the differences between the **Compose**, **Send** and **Send Directly** varieties see the the [Mail](#) section below.

Send a file to a printer with the **Open With…** action and then choose a printer as the argument in the third pane. The third pane is pre-populated with applications and printers.

3.2.6 Path Finder

Path Finder is a popular Finder alternative from Cocoatech. The Path Finder plugin allows Quicksilver to use it when appropriate. After installing the plugin, go to the Handler's preference pane and under File System Browser choose Path Finder. This causes the **Open**, **Reveal**, and **Get Info** actions to use Path Finder. ⌘ G will bring the Path Finder selection into the first or third pane. The plugin also installs under Plugins → Path Finder two catalog objects called Path Finder Recent Files and Path Finder Recent Folders. There is also a Path Finder Selection proxy object that can be used instead of the Finder Selection proxy object.

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3.3 Applications and Processes

Quicksilver is usually referred to as a launcher. It does a lot more than applications in that category but it's also good at launching applications; and of course, more. The Catalog includes four sources in the Applications set:

- Applications - Looks 3 levels deep for system-wide applications in /Applications/

- Applications (User) - Looks 3 levels deep for user applications in ~/Applications/

- Running Applications & Processes - finds all running apps; the Source Options tab has an option to include background processes

- Find All Applications - scans the whole system to find all things that end in .app or .service and scripts saved as applications. Use with caution, it scans the whole drive and all external drives looking for applications.

There are other sources for applications in the other catalog sets. Under User, Dock is a Dock Applications source, under User, Recent Items is a source for Recent Applications. Even if an application is found by multiple sources (e.g., where it's installed, the Dock and recently used), it only has one entry in the Catalog. As a result, selecting any kind of application is easy. The default action is **Open** so basic launching functions are covered.

With some applications, bringing them up in the first pane and typing ⎢ → ⎥ shows a results list of recent files opened by that application. Typing ⎢ ⌥ ⎥ ⎢ → ⎥ shows application's contents just like Show Package Contents in the Finder. Some plugins change the behavior of ⎢ → ⎥ to show application specific items. E.g., typing ⎢ → ⎥ into iTunes allows browsing the music library by genre, artists, albums, etc. Typing ⎢ → ⎥ into Mail shows the different mailboxes and folders. Safari shows bookmarks, Adium and iChat show buddies, Contacts shows contacts, iPhoto shows photo libraries and albums, Cyberduck and Transmit show favorites, etc. Some require the application to be running for ⎢ → ⎥ to work, others don't.

3.3.1 Basic Application Actions

The **Open** action works on Dashboard widgets as well. To add widgets to the catalog add a custom catalog source for /Library/Widgets/ and another for ~/Library/Widgets/. Using the **Open** action on one (or more with the comma trick) will activate the Dashboard and open the widget. Use this for widgets that aren't important enough to have open on the Dashboard all the time. Put the two catalog sources in a group called Widgets and use the **Show Contents** action on it to search just widgets. Create a trigger for this or to open a specific widget to make this easier.

Since applications are really just files on this disk (actually a special type of folder called a package), all the file and folder actions described above work on applications. To find out which folder an application is in or to make it appear in a Finder window (for example to use Show Package Contents) use the **Reveal** action.

A file action that's probably more useful for applications is **Open at Login**. Use this to set some program (like an IM client) to open automatically at login time without having to open the Accounts Systems Preference pane and navigate to the Login Items tab there. The **Do Not Open at Login** action removes an application from the list.

The **Quit** action stops running applications. There's also a **Quit Others** action which is disabled by default to prevent accidental use (enable it in the Action preferences). **Relaunch** quits and then starts the application. Quicksilver has a shortcut to make relaunching it easier; just activate Quicksilver and type ⌃ ⌘ Q to restart it. To Force Quit an application use the **Kill Process** action from the Process Manipulation Actions plugin described below.

The **Hide** and **Hide Others** actions behave as the commands in an application's menu. These actions are disabled by default, enabled them in the Action preferences. macOS includes the ⌘ H and ⌥ ⌘ H shortcuts in most applications so they're probably easier to use. Use Quicksilver to perform these commands on the non-active application. Current Application (**Hide**) is a good mouse trigger, since there's no easy macOS native way to hide an application using the mouse. To unhide an application use the **Activate** action.

Activate makes a running application active (like choosing it with ⌘ →). It is disabled by default, enabled it in the Action preferences. It will not start an application if it's not running. If an application's windows are open or hidden, **Activate** makes them all appear in front of other application windows. If all of the application's windows are closed (with ⌘ W or by clicking on the red button on the top left of the window), **Activate** makes the menu for the application appear but not a window. There isn't a standard mac shortcut to bring all the windows to the front like there is for Hide or Minimize so Current Application (**Activate**) might make a useful trigger. By default, using the **Open** action on an application that's already running performs the **Activate** action, though this can be changed in the Extras Preferences under the Application reopen behavior option.

It's common to create triggers to start commonly used applications. Some people bind them to function keys and others use mnemonics for the application name. E.g., ^ ⌘ S for Safari (**Open**). Some people add modifiers to the shortcut to do related actions. E.g., ⇧ ^ ⌘ S for Safari (**Hide**) or Safari (**Quit**). A better choice might be to use the **Toggle Application** action. It starts the application if it isn't running, hides the application if it's active, and shows the application when hidden. Following the above examples, consider setting the shortcut ^ ⌘ S to Safari (**Toggle Application**).

The actions above, **Open**, **Hide**, **Activate**, and **Toggle Application** work on the whole application, including all of its windows. There's no way with Quicksilver to show or hide specific (i.e., document) windows of an application. The closest is that the Application reopen behavior option in the Extras Preferences allows **Open** to show the front window or show all windows instead of doing **Activate**.

3.3.2 Advanced Process Actions

The Process Manipulation Actions plugin installs actions for using advanced operating system features to control running applications. Be sure the catalog source Running Applications & Processes under Applications is enabled for these actions to appear. Mostly programmers will be interested in these features.

The scheduling priority of a process can be changed with the **Raise Priority**, **Lower Priority** and **Set Priority …** actions. **Set Priority …** takes a text argument which is a

number for the new priority in the third pane. It also requires administrator privileges and will prompt for a password. As of B51 **Raise Priority** and **Lower Priority** seem to be in increments of 5 and **Set Priority …** seems unreliable, since checking the priority with ps after a change shows a different value.

The **Send Signal…** action sends an arbitrary signal to a running process; select the signal name in the third pane. Three actions send commonly used signals. **Kill Process** sends SIGKILL; the same as Force Quit. There are also **Resume Application (SIGCONT)** and **Pause Application (SIGTSTP)** actions.

The command line utility `lsof` is a useful debugging tool that shows the files a process has open. The **List Open Files** action does the same thing but displays the files in a results list in Quicksilver. Another useful debugging tool is sampling a process to see what code is being executed. Activity Monitor has a command to do this and the Process Manipulation Actions plugin installs the **Sample Process** action to display the stack traces in a pop up text window.

In macOS, double-clicking an already running application just activates it. While that's probably more useful than starting a second copy, in some situations, like when testing a new build of an application, that's useful too. The **Launch a Copy** action starts a second copy of an application running as the user. The **Launch as Root** action starts a second copy running as root; it prompts for an administrator's password.

3.3.3 Dynamically Accessing a Menu

macOS has facilities built in to help users modify how they see, hear and control the computer. These features can be set in the Universal Access System Preferences. The option "Enable access for assistive devices" gives programs access to the user interface of running applications, i.e., the menu, buttons, other controls, etc. Enable this option and install the User Interface Access plugin to give Quicksilver access to these facilities.

With a running application in the first pane, the **Menu Bar…** action will show a list of the top level menus of the application in the third pane. In this example, choosing the File menu of Mail will make Mail the active application if it isn't and will open the File menu.

In addition, typing $\boxed{\rightarrow}$ into the File menu item in the third pane will show the contents of the File menu and its submenus. So it's possible to execute any command in the menu such as New Message, Close, or Print. Navigating down the menu structure can be a little tedious. Quicksilver also has the **Menu Bar Items...** action which flattens the menu structure in the third pane and makes available all the command in the application in one results list to choose from.

If **Menu Bar Items...** gives quick access to every menu command why ever use **Menu Bar...**? First, in some applications, menu commands aren't always unique. For example, in the popular multiple protocol IM client application Adium, the Status menu contains different "Available" and "Away" commands for each configured IM account. If they were in just one long list, there would be no way to tell which account status was changed. Second, some applications have very large menus and populating them can take a while. Using **Menu Bar...** to get to Print in the File menu may be faster then waiting for **Menu Bar Items...** to populate hundreds or thousands of bookmarks in a browser.

These actions basically let Quicksilver do anything any application can do. There is a delay when using them because Quicksilver has to ask the application what menu items it has. People sometimes forget that an application's menus do change, for example, the bookmarks and history in a web browser change all the time. Unfortunately, these dynamically generated items cannot be saved in triggers since they might not be around later. Triggers with empty third panes will work, it's just commands with third pane items that won't save. The following triggers are possible: Current Application (**Menu Bar...**) and Current Application (**Menu Bar Items...**) and allow the Quicksilver matching algorithm to be used to find commands easily. To add a shortcut for a menu command that doesn't have one, use the Keyboard Shortcuts tab in the Keyboard & Mouse System Preferences. It will only work in the application and not globally but it's similar to what Quicksilver could do.

The **Show Menu Items** action is similar but it opens a new command window with a results list of all items from all menus in the first pane (it's not similar to the **Show Menu** action). Use the **Press** action to execute the command or one of the text actions such as **Copy to Clipboard** or **Paste**.

The plugin adds others actions: **Get UI Element**, **Select**, and **Perform Action…**. But as of B51 they are buggy.

2017-11-12

GitHub

3.4 Contacts

3.4.1 Contacts

The Contacts plugin provides access to contacts in the Apple's Contacts. The plugin adds three actions, a catalog source under modules called Contacts and has no configuration options. Normally all contacts are included in the catalog, if there is a group named "Quicksilver" then only its contents will be included in the catalog.

With the Contacts catalog source enabled, a contact can be brought up in the first pane by typing the contact's name. Quicksilver will match against the first name, last name, initials, or nickname; but not the company name, e-mail address, maiden name or other fields. If the contact has a picture in Contacts it will appear in the pane. I find the pictures help me to differentiate people with similar names (like various Johns) ensuring I choose the one I want. The ability to select on nicknames also helps particularly since Mail.app before 10.5 didn't recognize nicknames in header fields.

To see a results list of just contacts, bring up the Contacts application in the first pane and type $\boxed{\rightarrow}$. If the contacts' order seems arbitrary, use the results list gear menu to change the sorting preferences. I usually just access contacts from the global catalog, but a trigger of Contacts (**Show Contents**) can be useful to search just contacts.

The contact specific actions are **Show Contact**, **Edit Contact**, and **Add Note...** The first two open the contact's entry in Contacts in view and edit mode respectively. The **Add Note...** action takes a text argument in the third pane which is appended to the note of the contact.

With a contact in the first pane, typing $\boxed{\rightarrow}$ will show a results list with fields of the contact including phone numbers, e-mail addresses, IM accounts, URLs, addresses, and the note. Both labels and values are shown providing quick access to this info. Typing will match just the label.

Text actions work with all of these items. Using a phone number as an example: **Large Type** shows the number in a giant font, easy to see to dial; **Paste** will insert it in an IM or

e-mail message; and **Spotlight in Window** (from the Spotlight Module plugin) will find all documents containing the number. The same works for e-mail addresses and other items. By treating these fields as text, Quicksilver can integrate contacts with many other programs.

Here's an example of the power of letting all the text actions work on these fields. First I have a custom web search configured for Google Maps with an abbreviation called "map". See Web Searches for how to configure this. Select a contact in the object pane, `→` to their contact info, select a postal address. tab to the action field and choose **Find With...** (usually `fw` works). tab to the third field and select map and type `↵`. The browser appears showing a Google Map of the address. The reverse works too. Select the map search in the object pane, choose the **Search For...** action and in the third pane select the contact and then type `→` to select the postal address.

In some cases it's useful to edit the text before doing the search. E.g., edit the address down to just a zip code and then do a weather search. In some cases newlines have to be removed from an address to be used in a web search. Enter text mode by typing `.` and then delete the newlines (macOS's emacs keybindings makes this easy: `^` `E` goes to the end of the line, `^` `D` deletes the next character, insert a space and repeat for each line).

The Note value also acts as text. The **Append to...** and **Prepend to...** actions both open a third pane to enter text to add. The **Add Note...** action on a contact is probably easier to use than **Append to...** as it avoids the `→` and selection of the note field. The **Change to...** action is available for text lines and not plain text, so it's not available for a note value.

URL values work as text, but the default action is (usefully) **Open URL**. While it's useful to treat the fields as text, Quicksilver is more powerful knowing the types of these fields and having specific actions for them. The Phone Actions plugin adds a **Dial With...** action to phone numbers (and contacts with phone numbers). It opens a third pane with two choices: Modem and Speaker. The first has the computer's modem dial the number, the second has the computer's speaker play the touch tones of the phone number which might be enough to dial a phone held up to the speaker. Unfortunately there's a bug in B51 so it will only dial by speaker once, to dial another number restart Quicksilver. With

the Bluetooth Module Plugin the **Dial With...** action has a third choice, Bluetooth. This should allow a bluetooth connected phone to be dialed from Quicksilver. There's a Phone Preferences pane with options for dialing area codes prefixes, etc. As of B51 it doesn't seem to do much (like strip the local area from the number to be dialed).

E-mail addresses in contacts work not only as text but also as the type E-mail Address (as seen in the Action Preferences), so the e-mail actions work on them. This includes the **Compose E-mail** action which will open a new message in the default e-mail program addressed to the contact and the 3 different **E-mail Item...** actions (**Compose**, **Send** and **Send Directly**). With a contact in the first pane these actions will use the default e-mail address. To send to another e-mail address, type $\boxed{\rightarrow}$ to go into the contact and select the address (home, work, etc.) to use. Consider a trigger for commonly used e-mail addresses with **Compose E-mail** action.

I know several people named Michael. For Mail.app to match their e-mail address with an Contacts contact, their e-mail address as well as their first and last name must match exactly with what they put in the From header when they send e-mail. If they use use Michael, I have to have that in Contacts too (this has been relaxed a little in 10.5). So I have to type a lot to match the Michael I want. I have similar problems with several Davids and Johns. Contacts has a nickname field and I use that, but before 10,5 Mail.app had an annoying deficiency, the To: field didn't recognize Contacts nicknames. Quicksilver solved the problem since it indexes nicknames; just activate Quicksilver and start typing a nickname until the contact object appears and use the **Compose E-mail** action.

Unfortunately, Quicksilver doesn't index groups in Contacts, so they can't be used with the e-mail actions. However, to send a message to several people, use the comma trick. Select the first person in the object pane, type $\boxed{,}$ (comma) then type to select the second person. Repeat for each addressee. A small icon appears below the object pane for each of the previous addresses. Choose the **Compose E-mail** action (or one of the other e-mail actions) and a message opens addressed to all the listed people. A trigger can be saved with several addresses and an e-mail action, though it would duplicate the membership of an Contacts group and have to be maintained separately.

In addition to the **Compose E-mail** action, Quicksilver has **E-mail Item…** actions to send a text message or a file to the contact in the first pane. It's the reverse of the **E-mail To…** actions described in the Files and Folders section above, it takes a contact or e-mail address in the first pane and text or a file in the third. It also comes in three variants: **Compose**, **Send** and **Send Directly** described in the Mail section below.

A text argument in the third pane will be sent as both the subject and body of the message. If the text includes >> then the subject will be what's before the >> and the body will be what's after the >>. Specify a file in the third pane to send it to the contact as an attachment with a short preamble specified in the E-mail Options preferences. See the Mail section for details. Use the comma trick to send more than one file.

Instant Message addresses function like e-mail addresses. All the text actions work but there are also two IM Account actions. **IM** opens an IM chat window in the IM program. **IM Item…** takes text or a file in the third pane to be sent via the IM program. The IM program to use is specified in the Handlers Preference pane based on plugins installed. Currently there are plugins for iChat, and Adium.

Quicksilver chooses default actions based on the type of object in the first pane. Described above is how useful this is for contact fields to be treated as text so those actions are available. Quicksilver also treats contacts as other field types (E-mail Addresses, IM Accounts, but not URLs) if and only if they are set in the Contacts. So if a contact has an e-mail address sent, **Compose E-mail** might be the default action if it's ranked higher than **Show Contact** in the Actions Preferences. But if the contact selected in the first pane doesn't have an e-mail address set the action might be **Show Contact** (assuming it's the default).

3.4.2 Entourage

The Entourage 2004 Module Plugin provides support for contacts and e-mail actions. The contact support is more limited than the Apple Contacts plugin provides. See the e-mail section for details about sending e-mail from Quicksilver using Entourage. See below for using Entourage 2008 with Quicksilver.

Install the Entourage 2004 Module plugin, start Entourage and bring up the preferences. Under General Preferences, Security make sure "Warn before allowing an external application to access the address book" is unchecked. Open the Quicksilver Catalog and under Modules make sure Entourage Contacts is checked and selected and click the (Rescan Source) button at the bottom. The Entourage contacts should now be in the catalog, though in B51 it does seem to be a bit buggy. If the contacts don't appear, rescan the catalog.

Activate Quicksilver and start typing the name of a contact to bring it up in the first pane. There is a Show Contact action that will bring it up in Entourage. At least in B51 typing `→` will not show the details of the contact. There is no Edit Contact action for Entourage. Other actions that do E-mail and IM should work for contacts as well. See the e-mail section for details about sending e-mail from Quicksilver using Entourage.

Entourage 2008 changed some things and Quicksilver is no longer able to catalog contacts stored in it. However, Entourage 2008 now has the ability to sync with the Address Book and Quicksilver's Apple Address Book Module can be used to find contacts in it. In Entourage 2008 Preferences under General Preferences in Sync Services, check the option to "Synchronize contacts with Address Book and .Mac" and select Address Book (On My Computer) from the drop down.

3.4.3 Now Contact

The Now Contact Module plugin allows Quicksilver to scan for contacts from the Now Contact address book. Contacts found can be used as described above, in fact the Now Contact Module adds no actions of its own. Now Contact must be running for Quicksilver to index it. As of B51 there have been reports that this plugin doesn't work very well or forgets about contacts it has scanned. Check the Quicksilver forums for help with any problems.

3.4.4 BuddyPop

The BuddyPop Module plugin to add the **Show in BuddyPop** action for contacts. This action will bring up the contact in BuddyPop 2.0 or greater.

2017-11-12

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3.5 Mail

Quicksilver has several common e-mail actions (**Compose E-mail**, **E-mail To…**, **E-mail Item…**) that are described in detail in this section and also mentioned in Files and Folders and Contacts. They are defined in the E-mail Support plugin which is normally hidden but can be seen by ⌥ -clicking on the All Plugins set in the Plugin preferences.

Quicksilver supports specific e-mail applications via the Apple Mail Module, Gmail Module, Entourage 2004 Module and Mailsmith Module plugins. These plugins should all install the E-mail Support plugin if needed. If the e-mail actions don't appear in the action pane, check that they are enabled in the Actions preferences. If they aren't listed at all or the E-mail handler described below doesn't appear in the Handlers Preferenece, install the Apple Mail Module plugin which will certainly install it.

After installing the plugin for the desired application, set the E-mail handler in Quicksilver's Handler preferences to the application (e.g., Mail or Entourage).

For basic Quicksilver support of other mail programs, choose "Default". This uses the system default mail application set in Mail.app Preferences in the General tab under Default E-mail Reader. This refers to what application handles mailto: URLs.

If a mail message is already being composed and the mail application allows file attachments to be dragged into the message, use Quicksilver to bring up the file quickly and **Paste** or drag directly from Quicksilver's first pane into the mail message.

Bring up a contact or e-mail address in the first pane and use the **Compose E-mail** action to open a new blank e-mail message with the To: field filled out in the mail application specified as the E-mail handler. If the contact has more than one e-mail address, the first one is used. To select a different address, bring up the Contacts contact, type → to see a results list of the contact's information and select the desired e-mail address. This may not work with contact plugins other than the Apple Contacts Module.

The **Compose E-mail** action opens a new blank message to be filled out, but Quicksilver also has the **E-mail Item…** and **E-mail To…** actions which send text and file attachments

directly from the command window. Both of these actions have three variants. They are: **E-mail Item… (Compose)**, **E-mail Item… (Send)**, and **E-mail Item… (Send Directly)**, and there are similar ones for **E-mail To…**. The **Compose** variant uses the default e-mail client (specified in the E-mail Handler) and opens a message compose window to be filled out. The **Send** variant also uses the default e-mail client but doesn't open a window; it sends the mail automatically. Both the **Compose** and **Send** variants will start the default e-mail client if it's not running. The **Send Directly** variant doesn't use the default e-mail client to send the message but does so directly from Quicksilver. As a result it's primary benefit is that the default e-mail client does not need to be running. Note that if the default e-mail client keeps a Sent folder (like Mail.app does) the outgoing message is not stored there. The **Send Directly** variant does get the SMTP configuration from the first mail account listed in Mail.app, so make sure that is setup correctly.

The **E-mail Item…** actions use a contact or e-mail address in the first pane and a file attachment or text to send in third pane. The **E-mail To…** actions are the same but entered in reverse; a file or text in the first pane, and a contact or e-mail address in the third. The e-mail address can be selected by typing `→` into a contact or by entering text mode and typing or pasting an address.

If text is being sent it's used as both the Subject and body of the message. To use a different subject use `>` `>` to separate the subject and body using the form "subject>>message body". If files are being sent, the subject and body are set according to the E-mail Options Preference pane. Use the characters `%` `@` in the template to have them replaced with the name of the file. If more than one file is sent using the comma trick they are replaced with some variation of "# Files in Folder" such as "2 Files on Desktop" or "2 [PDF Document] in Documents".

The icons for the E-mail actions change based on what mail program is used to send the message. In the previous image, Mail.app is configured as the E-mail handler so it's icon is displayed for the **E-mail To…(Send)** action. In this image, the Quicksilver icon for the **E-mail To… (Send Directly)** action indicates Quicksilver is sending the mail, not Mail.app (because that's what **Send Directly** does). However there's a bug in B51, if there is only one mail handler installed, all the mail actions show a generic gear icon. I generated the screenshots in this section by having the Apple Mail Module plugin installed and

selected as the handler and by also having the Gmail Module plugin installed, though even this doesn't always display correctly for me.

3.5.1 Mail.app

The Apple Mail Module plugin installs actions to manipulate Apple Mail mailboxes and messages; including browsing through mailboxes in a results list. It installs a handler to select Apple Mail as the program to handle some mail actions. Note that the actions to send files and text as e-mail are part of another plugin called E-mail Support which is installed automatically when the Apple Mail Module plugin is installed. For the various **E-mail To...** and **E-mail Item...** actions to work, make sure that the first mail account listed in the Maill.app account preferences has its Outgoing Mail Server (SMTP) configured correctly to send mail.

Activate Quicksilver and select Mail.app. Since it's an application the default action is to open it. Notice there is a > in the results list next to Mail.app. Type $\boxed{\rightarrow}$ and the object pane changes to Inbox and the results list shows all local mailboxes, e.g., Inbox, Sent, and Trash as well as all custom mailboxes. IMAP mailboxes will not appear. To use them in Quicksilver drag them from Mail.app into the Catalog (e.g., under Custom). They won't appear after typing $\boxed{\rightarrow}$ into Mail.app but they are selectable in the object pane.

Even though there is no > next to the mailboxes, typing $\boxed{\rightarrow}$ will move into the mailbox and show a results list of all the messages in that mailbox. The messages are listed in reverse chronological order, i.e., newest messages on top, for easy browsing.

The Apple Mail Module plugin installs three actions for messages: **Open**, **Delete**, and **Move to Mailbox...**. **Open** shows the message in a it's own window, **Delete** moves the message to Mail's Trash and **Move to Mailbox...** takes an argument in the third pane to specify the destination mailbox. For a mailbox object, the only Mail action available is **Open**.

Using the **Open** action on Mail.app will open the last mailbox that was open. To easily get to the Inbox, create a trigger, in the first pane select Mail and then type $\boxed{\rightarrow}$ to select the Inbox, then choose *Open* as the action and bind this to a shortcut. I have $\boxed{\wedge}$ $\boxed{\mathcal{H}}$ $\boxed{I}$ set to this to open my inbox.

There are two actions that are only available if Mail.app is in the object pane. One is **Get New Mail** which will get new mail in all accounts. If Mail is not running it will be started. If it is hidden it will still get new mail, but Mail will remain hidden. If there is no new mail, Mail will beep, even if hidden. The other action available on Mail.app is **Open New Mail**. It doesn't get new mail but if there are unread messages it will open a new window to show the message. If there is no new mail it will just beep. As of B51 triggers using these actions can't be saved.

Mail.app keeps a list of e-mail addresses that have been sent to. The list is viewable by choosing Previous Recipients from the Window menu. Quicksilver's Apple Mail Module plugin also adds a catalog source under Modules called Recent Mail Addresses that accesses this list. It's useful to get to e-mail addresses that aren't in the Contacts or other contact manager.

3.5.2 Entourage

Quicksilver can't navigate e-mail in Microsoft's Entourage but it can send e-mail using the standard e-mail actions: **Compose E-mail**, **E-mail Item…**, and **E-mail To…**.

Install the Entourage 2004 Module plugin. In Quicksilver's Preferences under Handlers choose Microsoft Entourage for E-mail. You may also want to set the default Mail application for the system and in macOS this is counterintuitively set in the General tab of the Mail.app preferences. At least one person has the e-mail actions working with Entourage 2008 using the Entourage 2004 Module plugin.

To use contacts stored in Entourage see the Entourage section under Contacts.

3.5.3 Gmail

The only mail support Quicksilver has for Gmail is to use it to send e-mail via the **Compose E-mail**, **E-mail Item…**, and **E-mail To…** actions. To configure this, first install the Apple Mail Module plugin and then install the Gmail Module plugin. As of B51, the Gmail plugin doesn't install the E-mail Support Module on its own, so that's why I suggest installing the Apple Mail plugin first. Then in Quicksilver's Preferences under Handlers

choose Gmail Module. Note that the Gmail Module has nothing to do with Google Notifier.

Quicksilver will open the browser on a Gmail compose mail page, with the addresses filled in the To: field and the text "Hi" as both the subject and body of the message. As of version B51 there is no way to send an attachment with Gmail via Quicksilver. There is also no way to read mail via Gmail or browse mailboxes as there is with Mail.app.

3.5.4 MailSmith

The only mail support Quicksilver has for MailSmith is to use it to send e-mail via the **Compose E-mail**, **E-mail Item…**, and **E-mail To…** actions. To configure this, install the MailSmith Module plugin then in Quicksilver's Preferences under Handlers choose MailSmith.

3.5.5 Other Mail Applications

In Quicksilver's Preferences under Handlers there is an option "Default". This refers to the system default mail program which can be set in the Mail.app Preferences in the General tab under Default E-mail Reader. This sets the **Compose E-mail** action to use whatever application handles mailto: URLs. TODO: do the **E-mail To…** and **E-mail Item…** actions work? Does the comma trick work?

3.5.6 Teleflip

Teleflip is an online service that forwards e-mail messages to United States cell phones as SMS messages. Currently the service is free up to 100 messages a month. Send e-mail to an address of the form ###-###-####@teleflip.com filling in the cell phone number. The subject and body are sent, there is a 160 character limit. The Teleflip Module plugin makes it easy to send such messages from Quicksilver by constructing the address from a contact's phone number. It installs two actions. With a phone number selected as an object use the **SMS Text via Teleflip…** action to send the text entered in

the third pane via Teleflip. The reverse action is **SMS via Teleflip…**, use it to send text in the first pane to a phone number selected in the third pane.

Note that a phone number object can also treated as text, so the **SMS via Teleflip…** action appears for phone numbers too. It will send the number as a message which can be convenient if that's what's desired. Bring up a phone number, type `.` to enter text mode and add more text if desired. Since this is probably less common, make sure **SMS Text via Teleflip…** is above (i.e., ranked higher than) **SMS via Teleflip…** in the action preferences.

🕘2017-11-12

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3.6 Chat

The basic actions, **IM**, **IM Item...**, and **IM to Account...** are all part of the Chat Support default plugin. There is a Handler called Instant Messaging which defines which application to use for the basic actions. Currently there is support for iChat and Adium, each via their own plugins. Install one or both of these plugins and then in Quicksilver Preferences under Handlers set the Instant Messaging handler to one of them.

The **IM** and **IM Item...** actions work on an IM address or a contact (if at least one IM address is entered, the first one is used). **IM** opens a new chat window connected to the contact. Send text or a file directly from Quicksilver by using the **IM Item...** action. In the third pane specify a file to transfer or enter text mode by typing `.` or `'` and then text to send as a message. **IM to Account...** is the reverse of this, select a file or text in the first pane and the IM account or contact in the third. This is convenient if using `⌘` `⊘` to bring selected items into Quicksilver's first pane.

The IM actions work with contacts from the Contacts (or other contacts plugin) that have IM addresses entered from the global catalog. Both the iChat and Adium plugins allow Quicksilver to show a results list of just online buddies by typing `→` into the iChat or Adium applications in the first pane. Quicksilver's matching algorithm is a great way to quickly find a buddy in a large buddy list.

Some people hide the client list window of their IM application and just use Quicksilver when they want to start a chat session. Personally I keep a small buddy list of just the people I chat with often and care if they are online. For other people I keep their IM addresses in Contacts and if I want to IM them I can bring up their contact or one of their IM accounts and use the IM action.

3.6.1 iChat

The iChat Module plugin allows the IM actions to work with iChat. Bring up iChat in the first pane and notice the > in the results list. If iChat is running, typing `→` into it will show a results list of all online (including idle) buddies. Quicksilver will not start iChat as

a result of typing $\boxed{\rightarrow}$. Begin a chat by using the **IM** or **IM Item...** actions as described above. The **IM to Account...** action also works.

The iChat module plugin also supports the **Audio Chat** and **Video Chat** actions. These will start an audio or video chat as if the Invite to Audio Chat or Invite to Video Chat commands were selected from iChat's Buddies menu.

The iChat module plugin has one action specific to it, **Set iChat Status** which uses the text of the object pane as the away message (although in version 0.5.0 of the plugin this seems buggy).

3.6.2 Adium

The original Adium plugin for Quicksilver only worked with Adium up to version 0.89.1. Now that Adium is past version 1.0, that plugin has been removed. No Adium plugin appears in the plugin list, but a new plugin that works with Adium 1.0 is under development and is available from this forum thread: http://blacktree.cocoaforge.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=6395. Version 30b2 is described here. Download the plugin, double-click it to install it in Quicksilver and in Quicksilver's Preferences under Handler, set Instant Messenger to be Adium.

The Adium Module plugin allows the IM actions to work with Adium. Bring up Adium in the first pane and notice the > in the results list. If Adium is running, typing $\boxed{\rightarrow}$ into it will show a results list of all buddies including offline buddies and entries representing groups. The first item listed is Online Contacts, type $\boxed{\rightarrow}$ into that to see just the online (including idle) buddies. Similarly $\boxed{\rightarrow}$ will work in other groups to show their members but only the online ones. Quicksilver will not start Adium as a result of typing $\boxed{\rightarrow}$.

Begin a chat by using the **IM** or **IM Item...** actions as described above. The **IM to Account...** action also works. Using these actions on a group will open separate chats with each of the members. The **Audio Chat** and **Video Chat** actions are not supported because Adium 1.x does not support these features.

The Adium plugin also provides the ability to set the status from Quicksilver. Enter text in the first pane and then use either the **Set Available Status** or **Set Away Status** actions.

The text becomes the status and depending on the action the status is set to available (green) or away (red). Consider using triggers for commonly set statuses.

2017-11-11

GitHub

3.7 Calendar

Quicksilver has some limited support for creating calendar events and to-do's in iCal and Google Calendar. As of B51 the Entourage Module plugin only supports contacts and e-mail but not calendars. Entourage 2008 can be configured to sync with iCal, see the Entourage section in Contacts, the option is in the same place as the option to sync with Address Book. Another option is to manage a text file of todos. See the Text section for the description of the Text Manipulation Actions plugin for some tips.

3.7.1 iCal

The iCal Module plugin installs two actions: **Create iCal Event** and **Create iCal To-Do**. Using either of these actions will open iCal if it's not already running though won't open the window if it's hidden or closed. As of B51 the features enabled by the plugin are limited. There's no way to see or interact with existing events and to-dos, typing `→` to move into iCal, does nothing.

To create a new to-do, activate Quicksilver, enter text-mode by typing `.` or `'` and enter the to-do text. Tab to the second pane and choose the **Create iCal To-Do** action, tab to the third pane and choose the calendar for the to-do.

A specially formatted to-do text allows a priority and a due date to be entered. Precede the text with zero to three exclamation marks to set the priority in iCal. Zero !'s sets a priority of None, ! is Not important, !! is Important, and !!! is Very important. A due date is set by preceding the text (and any priority !'s) with a date and two hyphens. The date is somewhat flexible, allowing `8/1`, `8/1/2006`, `tue`, and `next wed`. In the example image I use the text: `8/1--!Upload User Manual`. As of B51 it seems it always uses a US-centric date format, *month*/*date*, even if the system is set to a European convention of *date*/*month*. The only work around for this is to use month names such as `Feb`.

Events are similar to to-dos but have no priority and can have a time as well as a date. Creating a new event is similar to creating a to-do; put text in the first pane, use the **Create iCal Event** action and specify a calendar in the third pane. The format of the text

string is: datetime--text, that is a date time string separated from the description of the event by two hyphens. If no date or time is specified the event is created now. If just a date is entered, the event is created at noon on the specified day. Times are entered as `1pm` (`1p` is not valid), `1:00` (which is am), or `1:05pm`, or `22:30`. All created events are 1 hour long and Quicksilver provides no way to set a different duration. The created events use the whole string as the event name, so if `wed 6pm--dinner` is entered, that's also the name of the event.

The above is the supported syntax but it seems that by not using `--` the date and time can be put anywhere in the string and it will still work. E.g., `dinner - wed 6pm` or `wed dinner 6pm`, and the event is created at the right time and with the string at the front which is a little friendlier if it gets cropped in the iCal display.

With this plugin there's no way to specify attendees, repeats, alarms or other iCal fields. There are a few scripts on the Quicksilver site that can be installed that will prompt for more info, but they are under-documented and a little complicated to get setup. Rather than enter event info into an AppleScript dialog I think it's easier to just enter the info into iCal.

If entering information directly into iCal seems easier than remembering a text syntax that supports only some of the fields, then try these commands which require the User Interface Access plugin be installed and iCal already be running:

• iCal (**Menu Bar Items...**) New Event

• iCal (**Menu Bar Items...**) New To Do

They will make iCal be the active application, opening the window and bringing it to the front if hidden or minimized. The new event or to-do is created and selected, ready to have the name changed and other information entered. Making triggers for the above would be very convenient but as of B51 triggers using the **Menu Bar Items...** action and the third pane filled in don't save. Hopefully this will be fixed in a future version.

For a little more flexibility with creating events, some people like the free macOS service Calendar Creator. This installs two Services, Add Calendar Event and Add To Do. See

Calendar Creator's documentation for what it can parse. With the Quicksilver Services Menu Module plugin installed any text can be sent to these services via Quicksilver.

3.7.2 Google Calendar Module

For those that eschew iCal and prefer Google's Calendar, there's the Google Calendar Module plugin. It adds one action **Google Calendar Event** that takes text as the object in the first pane and sends it to Google Calendar which can parse text like `Dinner with Michael 7pm tomorrow`.

If needed, Quicksilver prompts for Google Calendar login info. In the event of login problems, use Keychain Access to check the keychain entry for calendar.google.com.

As of B51, people have reported various problems with this plugin. The plugin does not use Google Calendar's Quick Add function so the parsing of information isn't always correct. Some people report the wrong date being entered. Also the entire string entered is used as the text of the event and newly created events don't inherit the default reminder setting.

2017-11-21

GitHub

3.8 Web

The simplest way to use Quicksilver with the web is to use text mode to enter a URL in the first pane and use the **Open URL** action to open the page in the default browser. It should be the default action for URLs (if not raise its rank in the Action preferences).

There is also an **Open URL With...** action which allows another browser (or any application) to be selected in the third pane. This action is disabled by default, enable it in the Actions preferences by checking its box.

Since URLs are just text, there are several easier ways to get one into the first pane. Copy one from some application and paste it into the first pane with ⌘ V . With ⌘ ⌥ configured correctly (see Combining Activation and Selection), just select text in a Cocoa application and type ⌘ ⌥ to activate Quicksilver and automatically paste the URL into the first pane. The comma trick also works, so multiple URLs can be entered separated by commas and opened with just one command.

URLs opened from Quicksilver will appear in a new browser tab or window depending on how the browser is configured. Safari will use a new window by default. To change it to use tabs open Safari's preferences and in the General tab for "Open links from applications" choose "in a new tab in the current window". In Firefox go to preferences, Tab Browsing and for "Load external links in" choose "New Tab". In Camino open preferences, Tabs, and for "Link from other application" choose "Opens in a new tab in the frontmost window".

Those are the basics but Quicksilver integrates with the web in several more ways. Browser plugins make bookmarks available to the catalog for easy opening and some provide more features. The Web Search Module plugin lets web searches be entered directly into Quicksilver with the results shown in the browser. Several online services have plugins of their own making their data accessible to Quicksilver instead of using a web form. Combine these with triggers and proxy objets and Quicksilver blurs the line between native and web applications.

3.8.1 Web Browsers

There are plugins for four web browsers: Safari, Firefox, Camino and OmniWeb. These all provide access to bookmarks stored in the browser and some number of other features. Install the plugins only for frequently used browsers. It's fine to install more than one, but be cautious of the catalog getting too large if there are a lot of bookmarks in each (perhaps duplicated). Consider using a social bookmarking site (like del.icio.us) to store bookmarks and see the next section for how to use one with Quicksilver. The image below shows all the browser bookmarks enabled merely for demonstration purposes.

Note that the Firefox plugin was written for Firefox 2 and looks for bookmarks in the html file `~/Library/Application Support/Firefox/Profiles/bookmarks.html`. Firefox 2 allows this file to be in different locations (which allowed multiple profiles) and if someplace else, Quicksilver can't find it. To solve this create a copy of the catalog source as described in the Catalog section and select the correct location in Source Options. Firefox 3 stores bookmarks and history in a SQLite database and not in a file, so the plugin can't find them at all. However, Firefox 3 can periodically save the bookmarks (not history) to a bookmarks.html file. In the Firefox location bar enter `about:config` and hit `↵`. In the Filter field that appears type `autoexport` and `browser.bookmarks.autoExportHTML` should appear. Double-click it so the value column changes to true (or right-click it and select Toggle). Finally restart Firefox and Quicksilver and there should be a `bookmarks.html` file and Quicksilver should be able to index the bookmarks. Firefox 3 will write out the `bookmarks.html` file whenever it is quit. Note that several other browsers are based on Firefox and if they use the same `bookmarks.html` file or `autoExportHTML` option the Firefox plugin should work with them provided the correct path to the file is given.

With a browser plugin installed, a catalog source is added to the modules set putting bookmarks into the catalog. Make sure the box is checked and a number appears to the left of it (if not click the ↻ button at the bottom of the window to rescan the source.

The Firefox, OmniWeb and Safari plugins also enable catalog sources for the browser's history (the Camino one does not). Accessing the browser history via Quicksilver can be a remarkably convenient way to find a recently visited web site by just typing in part of its

name. If the browser allows configuration of the size of the history, this can allow visiting sites from several days ago, but be cautious of letting the catalog get too large and slowing down Quicksilver.

With URLs from either bookmarks or history the **Open URL** and **Open URL With…** actions work as described above. None of browser plugins provide their own actions, so there are no actions to add bookmarks to a browser (maybe AppleScripts could be written to do this if the browser supports it). Unfortunately e-mail actions are not available for URLs. However, URLs in the first pane can be changed into text by typing . or '. Now that the URL is plain text, tab to the second pane and the **E-mail To…** actions are available. Some browsers like Camino and Opera install system services such as **Open URL in Camino** and **Open URL in Opera**. The Service Menu Module plugin will turn these into Quicksilver actions which may be faster to use than **Open URL With…**.

Safari organizes bookmarks into various collections. These can be seen by choosing the Show All Bookmarks command in the Bookmarks menu or using the shortcut ⌘ B . In Quicksilver, with the Safari application selected in the first pane, typing → will show a results list with all these collections. Navigate through them with → . This works if Safari is running or not, but does not work for any of the other browsers (it used to work for Camino but it doesn't seem to with Camino 1.6.1).

Safari's Contacts collection is useful if the URL fields in contacts are used. Quicksilver doesn't index these directly in the catalog, instead, bring up the contact and → into it to select an URL. For faster access to these URLs, create a trigger with Safari's Contacts collection and the **Show Contents** action, a results list appears with all the URLs in Contacts, ready to be selected.

This table summarizes Quicksilver's support for web browsers. Safari is clearly the best supported and this is one of the reasons I use it as my browser instead of the alternatives.

	Safari	Firefox	Camino	OmniWeb
Bookmarks	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
History	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
`→` into `.app`	Yes, collections	No	No (used to be Yes, but flat)	No
Proxy Object for Current URL	Current Web Page	None	None	OmniWeb Active Page
Other			Open URL in Camino action via Services Menu Module	Enables web searches from OmniWeb shortcuts.
Current Selection Proxy Object Supported	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

3.8.2 Online Services

The Social Bookmarks plugin (which replaced the del.icio.us Bookmarks plugin) makes del.icio.us and/or ma.gnolia bookmarks available in the Catalog. There is no catalog entries instealled in the Catalog under Modules, instead in the Catalog under Custom create sources for del.icio.us and ma.gnolia accounts. In the Catalog, click the + button at the bottom and choose Social Bookmarks from the menu that appears. Select the newly created entry and click on the button to open the drawer. In the Source Options tab choose the service and enter the Name and Password of the account. Note the plugin only works with passwords that are 8 characters or less and people have reported problems with non-alphanumeric (e.g., # and ^) characters in the password. Click the ↻ (Rescan Source) button and the bookmarks should appear. Unfortunately as of B54, this plugin is broken for del.icio.us accounts since their switch to delicious.com. The option to Include Tags puts the tags in the catalog as well. Typing `→` into one shows a results list of all bookmarks with that tag. Quicksilver has no actions to add a bookmark to to a del.icio.us or ma.gnolia account, instead use the standard mechanisms for that. A trigger for a post to del.icio.us bookmarklet and the **Run Javascript** action could be convenient.

Social bookmarks services provide an Internet-based service to centralize bookmarks so that different browsers (on different machines) have the same bookmarks. However, in the single machine case, Quicksilver can be used to centralize bookmarks used by

several web browers (and perhaps a social bookmark account as well). Create a custom catalog folder and put all the related catalog sources together (for safari bookmarks create a copy of the preset - go to the attributes tab of the info drawer for the button). Now browse into the catalog entry for the Bookmarks folder (it will have a "(Catalog)" after its name, make sure Quicksilver Catalog Entries are enabled in the catalog under the Quicksilver set) and with the **Show Contents** action search all the bookmarks at once.

> I removed the Backpack and Stikkit sections as those services have shut down.

cl1p.net is a free online service for temporarily posting any text to their web pages. One use is uploading error messages and posting just the URL to a forum or irc channel instead of the full text. The Cl1p Upload plugin adds a Post to Cl1p... action that makes this easy. Select a file or enter text into the first pane and choose the **Post to Cl1p...** action. Type return to upload it to an anonymous cl1p page or ⇥ to the third pane to enter a page name in text-mode. After the command executes, the default browser will open to the newly created page. To save the page, click the Save button.

3.8.3 Web Pages

Here's another hidden feature in Quicksilver. Bring up a web page in the first pane, that is a bookmark, URL or HTML page from the filesystem, and type → to see a results list of all the links on that web page. Quicksilver actually gets the page (over the network if necessary), parses through it to find the links and presents them in a results list.

It can be a little slow if it has to get the page from a remote machine, particularly if the page is large. While this is happening, some interfaces present a "working" indication such as a spinning gear, others do not. Typing ⌘ . (thats a period), will supposedly stop a lookup that's in progress but in B51 it doesn't seem to work.

For each link in the page there are two lines shown. The first is the text of the link and the second is the URL. If the link is on an image, there is no title but instead a very scaled down version of the image is shown. Favicons (aka website icons) are not shown.

This seems like a very cool feature in search of a good use case. In the example here I'm browsing the Quicksilver online documentation. I can get to links marked Tutorials and Overview, but there is a lot of other stuff in there and it's a little awkward to browse. Still if I know I'm looking for Tutorials I can just type it in and Quicksilver's matching algorithm will find it. A good use case is searching documentation such as for Python, for example, right-arrow into https://docs.python.org/2/library/index.html and search for "regex".

I have a bookmark for the root of the Quicksilver Google Group. If I want to send someone the URL of the FAQ I know is on that page, I could bring up the bookmark in the first pane, type → to see the links, type faq to bring up that link and use the **Paste** or one of the **E-mail To…** actions. While it's a contrived example it is almost convenient enough to use.

TODO: what plugin enables this? is it safari? is it browser specific?

3.8.4 Web Searches

With the Web Search Module plugin, Quicksilver can send search terms to search engines and have the results shown in the default browser. This is probably my favorite Quicksilver plugin. I use it to search Google, the Internet Movie Database, Wikipedia, Amazon and many other sites. Rather visiting the sites first (even via a bookmark and Quicksilver) and clicking in a field and typing , it's easier to just bring up Quicksilver, type the string and type ↵ . With triggers and proxy objects this can be much faster.

Quicksilver uses specially formated URLs that include the web site to search and a placeholder where the search terms are substituted. It refers to these special URLs as Web Searches and can store them in the catalog. They are shown as a regular URL icon with a magnifying glass. I'll explain how to use, find and creates these Web Searches below.

The Web Search Module plugin adds three actions to Quicksilver: **Search For…**, **Find With…** and **Show Results for Search…**. The plugin has no configuration options. It adds one catalog source under modules, "Web Searches (from docs.blacktree.com)". Check the box to add all the listed web searches to the catalog from the blacktree site, there are currently over 600 of them, so it may take a while (and an Internet connection is

required). That list of web searches can be found at this web page. Also the Add Custom Source drop down (the + button at the bottom of the catalog) gets an option to add a custom Web Search List to the catalog (Quicksilver must be restarted after the Web Searches Module plugin is installed for this choice to appear).

I assume the Web Searches (from docs.blacktree.com) catalog source is checked or there are some manually configured custom web searches (described below). To perform a Web Search select the search by name (e.g., "Google" or "Amazon") in the first pane. The action should default to **Search For…**, so type ⏎ (or ⇥ twice) to get to the third pane (it will already be in text mode) and type the search terms. Type ⏎ to perform the search; the results are displayed in the default web browser.

While not well known, this is a standard, system-wide alternative clipboard that many applications automatically populate with text entered in search fields. In those applications that support it, selecting text and typing ⌘ E (or sometimes ⇧ ⌘ E) will explicitly copy text into this Shared Find Clipboard instead of the regular clipboard done with ⌘ C . When using Quicksilver's **Search For…** action, the third pane defaults to whatever is in the Shared Find Clipboard. The result is that Quicksilver sometimes just knows what it is you want to search for. In B54 this only sometimes works, sometimes the field is blank.

If **Search For…** isn't the default action for a web search URL, make it so by finding it in the results list (while in the second pane) and ⌃ -clicking (or right-clicking) and choosing "Make Default"; or change the ranking in the Action Preferences. The Actions Preferences pane doesn't differentiate between regular URLs and web search URLs (those with * **or %s or beginning with** `qss-` **or** `qssp-`) **however Quicksilver does. I have** Search For… **ranked 11 and** Open URL **ranked 12. If I bring up a regular URL the default action is appropriately** Open URL **and if I bring up a web search URL the default action is appropriately** Search For…**.

The **Find With…** action is the reverse of **Search For…**, the search terms go in the first pane and the web search site in the third, This is convenient when using ⌘ ⌦ (see Combining Activation and Selection) to bring the selection into the first pane.

The third action, **Show Results for Search…** is similar to **Search For…** but instead of the results showing in the default browser, they are shown in a results list in a new Quicksilver command window (as described above in Web Pages). Unfortunately in B51, **Show Results for Search…** seems to be broken, it hangs when run and it is disabled by default in the Actions preferences.

I found I used some searches ("Google", "Wikipedia", "Amazon", and "IMDB") very often and some other searches frequently but not as often and some other ones rarely. I used different Quicksilver techniques to appropriately speed up using them.

The rarely used ones I just keep in the catalog and when I want to use one I just activate Quicksilver and type to select it in the first pane and use **Search For…** (or correspondingly in the third pane when using **Find With…**). For those I use a little more frequently I use techniques described above in Helping the Matching Algorithm. E.g., activate Quicksilver, type the letter to use for the web search site (e.g., `G` for Google), find the web search site in the results list, `^`-click (or right-click) and choose "Set as Default for <letter>". In some cases the list is too long and I'm not willing to scroll far enough to find what I want. E.g., I use `z` to perform an amazon search and since it's not the first letter, it's not high up in the results list. This is what the the **Assign Abbreviation** action is for. Bring up the web search site in the first pane (in this case amazon), choose the **Assign Abbreviation** action in the second pane, and enter the desired letter in the third pane (in this example `z`). This only works if the item does appear somewhere in the results list when the abbreviation is typed. It won't work to assign book to an amazon search. To do that see Adding Web Searches Manually below and create a new search called book with the amazon URL.

Triggers are used to provide really fast access to searches and I use these for my most frequently used searches. I have two triggers for each; the first is the web search site, the **Search For…** action and a blank third pane. E.g., on `^` `⌘` `W` I have a Wikipedia search and the **Search For…** action. It's important to have a blank third pane in the trigger definition so that Quicksilver will open a command window so the search terms can be entered. If there's something in the third pane, Quicksilver will just search for it. To assure the third pane is blank when configuring the trigger, `⇥` to the third pane and type `⌘`

⌨️ X ⌨️), this literally cuts out anything that's there. With this configured, I type ⌨️ ^ ⌨️ ⌘ ⌨️ W at any time, enter text and hit ⌨️ ↵ ⌨️ and the Wikipedia page pops up.

Of course instead of typing into the third pane, paste with ⌨️ ⌘ ⌨️ V works just well and and is a little faster if the search terms have been copied from some place. In that case it's just three key strokes to do the search, ⌨️ ^ ⌨️ ⌘ ⌨️ W , ⌨️ ⌘ ⌨️ V and return. But we can get it down to just one using proxy objects and another trigger.

The Current Selection proxy object represents the highlighted text in the current application; in other words, the current selection. I have Current Selection, **Find With…**, Wikipedia web search configured on ⌨️ ^ ⌨️ ⇧ ⌨️ ⌘ ⌨️ W . I highlight text in any cocoa application (like Mail or Safari but unfortunately not Word), type ⌨️ ^ ⌨️ ⇧ ⌨️ W ⌨️ ⌘ and the Wikipedia page for that search term appears in the default browser. This is amazingly convenient to use, but there's a trick to create it.

If the first pane has the Current Selection proxy object, the **Find With…** action won't appear in the second pane (because the selection might not be text). To get around this, first activate Quicksilver (using ⌨️ ^ ⌨️ Space ⌨️), type ⌨️ . ⌨️ to go into text mode, type some text, ⌨️ ⇥ ⌨️ to the second pane and select **Find With…** and while the second pane is active type ⌨️ ⌘ ⌨️ C ⌨️ to copy the **Find With…** action (yes that works!). Now go into some application and select some text (do not copy it, just select it!). This prevents the Current Selection proxy object from going into a beeping loop when it's used (if that happens, just wait for 8 beeps and hopefully Quicksilver doesn't crash). Now create the trigger, open the trigger pane, create a new trigger, select the Current Selection proxy object in the first pane, ⌨️ ⇥ ⌨️ to the second pane and type ⌨️ ⌘ ⌨️ V to paste the **Find With…** action, ⌨️ ⇥ ⌨️ to the third pane and choose the web search site. Click Save and assign a shortcut. As of B51 it doesn't seem possible to create this trigger using the **Search For…** action because the third pane only wants text and won't accept the Current Selection proxy object (even by pasting it).

I use the above two triggers frequently. ⌨️ ^ ⌨️ ⌘ ⌨️ W to enter search terms for Wikipedia and by adding a ⌨️ ⇧ ⌨️ to that I search for some highlighted text. I have similar pairs of triggers for the others listed on the right (all have a corresponding version with ⌨️ ⇧ ⌨️ using the current selection for the search). The maps one with a ⌨️ ⇧ ⌨️ included is great for highlighting an address on a web page or in an e-mail message and hitting one key (⌨️ ^ ⌨️

⇧ ⌘ E) to get a map of the address. If it's multiple lines it might work or Google might ask to narrow the search; either way it's faster than cutting and pasting or retyping the address.

For less frequently used searches I use ⌘ ⌀ and **Find With...** action (it's my default action for text) and then → to the third field and select a web search site. For many I've configured a single key abbreviation using **Assign Abbreviation...** to make this fast. If someone sends me a movie recommendation I'll select the title of the film, ⌘ ⌀ , → , to the third pane and type N to bring up a Netflix search. I hit ↵ and the browser opens showing me the film and letting me add it to my rental queue with one click.

The important thing is to configure the searches that you do most often, regardless of what they are. If you search for weather info, air port codes, videos, genes, politicians, laws, astronomical objects, or whatever, setup web searches with similar triggers and you'll be working faster than ever.

With web searches, the standard Quicksilver features of ⌘ ⌀ , triggers, and proxy objects are really useful. Another Quicksilver feature is also useful, the comma trick. With it Quicksilver can search for the same terms on several web sites at the same time. Activate Quicksilver and in the first pane select a search (e.g., Google), type , , select another search (e.g., Wikipedia) and continue for all the desired web search types. Then → to the second pane and select the **Search For...** action and then → to the third pane and enter the search terms. Type ↵ to have all the searches open at once in the default browser (in different tabs or windows depending on how it's configured). The comma trick also works in the third pane when using the **Find With...** action.

Quicksilver isn't the only application to try to make web searching easier. Most browsers now have a search box in the toolbar that can be configured to search different sites, usually by clicking on a button to drop down a menu of sites. Some browsers support keywords on bookmarks that can can do searches from the address bar by entering a keyword (like G for google or W for wikipedia) followed by the search terms. This is easy to use though Quicksilver has some advantages since it works when in any application, not just in the browser.

Safari does not support keyword searches natively but several add-ons exist to do it. There are Quicksilver plugins for three of these: Acid Search, SafariStand, and Sogudi that allow these keyword searches to be used with the **Search For…** and **Find With…** actions. Some of these plugins haven't kept up with changes in the Safari extensions. If they aren't working, see the Quicksilver forums for help. As of B51 the Acid Search plugin is known to be broken.

TODO: The OmniWeb plugin also enables web searches based on OmniWeb shortcuts.

An advantage of using Quicksilver web searches for this is that the web search list is independent of the browser. For those that change browsers often, there's no need to keep the keyword searches unique across several browsers. It doesn't work across multiple machines, so in that case find another means to keep keyword searches in sync (e.g., a social bookmark site).

3.8.5 Adding Web Searches Manually

The built-in web search list is pretty large, but it can be extended if needed. The list is at this web pageQuicksilver reads this web page when it updates the catalog. There is a link at the top of that page to add a web search to that list by editing the wiki page. Unfortunately due to vandalism that list is now read-only and can't be edited (though check if this changes).

In addition to or instead of that list, a custom catalog source of web searches can be configured. I use one instead of the default web list of 600 items to keep my catalog smaller. Another advantage is that it will still work even if the Quicksilver site is down or without internet access, which can be useful if the searches are for a local (e.g., corporate) network

To understand how to add custom web searches, it's necessary to understand how search forms and URLs work on the web. When search terms are entered in a form, the browser sends a request to the search engine usually as a specially formed URL which appears in the browser's address bar on the search results page. Here are two examples

of searching for "Salma Hayek", the first is for the Internet Movie Database and the second is for Google News.

```
http://www.imdb.com/find?tt=on;nm=on;mx=20;q=Salma+Hayek

http://news.google.com/news?hl=en&edition=us&q=Salma+Hayek&btnG=Search+News
```

They're different, but the search term "Salma+Hayek" in both of them. Notice also that the space in the search terms was converted to a +. Quicksilver web searches work by changing the URL to include a special indicator for where Quicksilver should substitute the search terms (and do conversions like space into +). This indicator is three asterisks (%s works too). Here are the above URLs suitable for use as a Quicksilver web search:

```
http://www.imdb.com/find?tt=on;nm=on;mx=20;q=***

http://news.google.com/news?hl=en&edition=us&q=***&btnG=Search+News
```

An easy way to generate these is to go the web page of interest and search for * **and then look in the address bar of the results page and copy the URL. Some search pages hide this info, but if the URL looks similar to the above it's usable. To add it to Quicksilver, open the Catalog, choose Custom and click the + button at the bottom. From the drop down list that appears, select a new Web Search List (it might say the ugly text "QSWebSearchSource" instead). A new catalog source called Web Search List appears. Select it and if the info drawer is not open, click the ⓘ button on the bottom to open it. In the Source Options tab click + to add a new item and then enter a name for the web search in the first column and the specially formatted URL in the second column. For the above two examples I use the names "imdb" and "news". Finally, click the ↻ (Rescan source) button and make sure a number appears to the right of the new web search source in the catalog. The web search should now be usable with the** Find With… **and** Search For…** actions.

In addition, Quicksilver registers itself to handle URLs that begin with `qss-http:` and `qssp-http:`. If the URL begins with one of these they will open in Quicksilver instead of the browser. If it has three asterisks in it, it will be treated as a web search. The second variety (with the p) does the search using the HTTP POST method instead of the default GET method; some web sites require this. It's best to convert all manually added web

search to use one of the `qss-` style URLs but not required. Note that any valid URL scheme should work in a web search.

Here's another example. Google has the ability to limit a search to a specific site.

```
qss-http://www.google.com/search?q=site%3A***&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8
```

Using the above web search, enter as a search term the site to search (e.g., abc.com) followed by a space and the term to search for (e.g., Salma Hayek). Of course, this works with either the **Search For...** or **Find With...** action.

There's also another way to keep track of URLs and web searches in Quicksilver. Add a custom Catalog source that uses the File & Folder scanner and select an `.html` file as the source. For the Include Contents popup choose HTML Links. Quicksilver will scan the `.html` file and find all the links and include them in the catalog. For the cost of having to edit an HTML file, this method keeps all the links (instead of in Quicksilver's preferences) in a simple file that's easy to backup or sync between multiple machines.

3.8.6 NetNewsWire

The NetNewsWire Module (β) plugin works with the NetNewsWire newsreader (not the Lite edition). It adds a new catalog source under Modules called QSPresetNNWSubscriptions which has one item called New Headlines. Bring it up in the first pane and then type → (or use the **Show Contents** action) to see a results list of the new headlines and use the **Open URL** action on them. Typing → on the NetNewsWire.app itself brings up the New Headlines item too. Unfortunately as of B51 I find this unstable and it always crashes Quicksilver when I type → . As of B54 Quicksilver doesn't crash but headlines don't show up either.

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3.9 Text

Most of the time typing in Quicksilver's first or third pane selects an object such as a file, contact, song, etc. Some actions like **Search For...** or **Rename...** take an argument in the third pane which is arbitrary text. This section is about entering arbitrary text in the first pane. Type `.` or `'` to enter text mode. In B51, some people with non-US or Qwerty keyboards report problems using one of these, but often the other works. This is a regular Cocoa text field so all the text editing key bindings work. E.g., `^` `D` deletes a character, `^` `F` moves forward a character and `^` `B` moves back a character.

Formatting also works; pasting formatted text into the first pane preserves the formatting (fonts, colors, alignment) of the source. Furthermore, this stays in effect in future text panes until differently formatted text is pasted in or it's explicitly changed. The standard editing keys work though some only work if the Quicksilver menu is visible, which usually only happens when the Preferences window is open. Change fonts from the Font palette available via `⌘` `T` when the menu is visible. Change colors with the color palette but this only comes up via the menu since the `⇧` `⌘` `C` key binding is interpreted as the action associated with C, probably **Copy to Clipboard**. Changing alignment works even if the menu isn't visible; use `⌘` `{` to make the text aligned on the left side.

A common way to bring text into Quicksilver is to use the Send to Quicksilver Service or the predefined triggers Command Window in Text Mode or Command Window with Selection, commonly bound to `⌘` `↺`. Unfortunately Front Row started using that key binding and now Quicksilver doesn't assign a shortcut by default. See Combining Activation and Selection for more information. These mechanisms work with Cocoa applications, but note that Microsoft Office and Firefox are currently not Cocoa applications.

3.9.1 Basic Text Actions

When dealing with text the two actions that come to mind first are **Copy to Clipboard** and **Paste**. However since ⌘ c and ⌘ v perform these actions in just about every application, I rarely use them in Quicksilver. The exception is when I look up something in Quicksilver like an address, phone number or filename and then Paste it somewhere. After finding the item in the first pane, just type . to change the selected item to text mode, then use the **Paste** action or any other text action. E.g., look up a friend's contact info, tab and select their home address. Then type . and edit the address to just the zip code. Now **Paste** it into a weather web site, or better yet, use the **Find With…** action to call up a weather search on the zip code.

For commonly pasted text, like a signature for a Mail message or a long phrase, consider a trigger with the text and the **Paste** action. The Shelf as described in Clipboard & Shelf is also a good way to do this.

The **Type Text** action is similar to the Paste action, but will not put a copy on the clipboard. Also, more than just pasting the text, the application will treat the text as if the user had actually typed it, meaning it might perform commands based on the text. Use ⌥ ↵ and ⌥ ⇥ enter those special characters as text. E.g., the text Boston→MA→02134 (those are tab characters) with the **Type Text** action completes three different fields in a web form all at once. Using the **Paste** action would put the whole thing, including the tab characters, into the first field.

Most copy and paste commands on the mac preserve the formatting of the source, but this isn't always wanted. A clever way around this is to use the command line tools `pbpaste` and `pbcopy` to take what's already on the clipboard and copy it again but without the formatting. These are used from a Terminal shell but the Terminal Module's **Run Command in Shell** action can be used instead; which means a trigger can be created for it. Create a trigger with `pbpaste | pbcopy` in the first pane and **Run Command in Shell** as the action. I have this bound to ^ ⇧ ⌘ c . I also renamed the trigger to be Remove Copy Formatting.

In addition to **Run Command in Shell**, small scripts can be entered in the first pane and run in a new Terminal window with the **Run a Text Command in Terminal** action. This is

an easy way to run the top command and if used often makes a good trigger. Enter multiple commands to run by separating them with a new newline entered with ⌥ ↵ . For AppleScripts instead of shell scripts use the **Run as AppleScript** action. Use these with ⌘ ⏎ to easily run scripts from e-mail messages or posted on forums (but of course, use with caution).

The **Large Type** action will show the text in a giant window visible from across the room. Click anywhere to close it. It's great when looking up a phone number. The more text there is to display, the smaller it gets. Some use it to view lyrics highlighted on a web page.

The **Display Dialog** action is similar to the **Large Type** action but it uses a standard dialog box with an OK button. The advantage is that it can be moved around and it will say visible until the OK button is clicked. It is disabled by default, enabled it in the Action preferences.

The **Speak Text (Say)** action uses macOS's speech synthesizer to speak the text out loud. It is disabled by default, enable it in the Action preferences. The voice used is set in the Speech System Preferences in the Text to Speech tab. Try it with the **Run after Delay…** action to create a voice alarm. See the Command Objects and Droplets section for more details. I thought it might be useful for pronouncing foreign words but my attempts at Japanese and French with B51 didn't work very well.

System Services are some of the more underutilized features of macOS. Applications register features that are available system-wide in every application's menu. Many services are only enabled while text is selected. The Services Menu Module plugin makes all the system Services available in Quicksilver. E.g., Sticky Notes users will like the **Make New Sticky Note** action.

The Web Searches section describes using the Web Search Module plugin. With text in the first pane, use the **Find With…** action and choose a saved web search in the third pane. The search results appear in the default browser. See the Web Searches section for configuration details and how to make a trigger with the Current Selection proxy object.

The Mail section describes various e-mail actions from the Mail Support plugin. The three **E-mail To...** actions (in **Compose**, **Send** and **Send Directly** variations) send text in the first pane to a contact or e-mail address in the third pane. See the Mail section for details on configuration and the differences in the three variations.

The Chat section describes the instant messager actions. **IM to Account...** sends the text in the first pane as an instant message to a contact or IM account in the third pane. The iChat plugin supports setting the away message to text in the first pane with the **Set iChat Status** action.

The Calendar section describes creating calendar events and to-dos in iCal and Google Calendar. These use specially formatted text to not only name the event or to-do but to set dates, times and priorities. **Create iCal Event** and **Create iCal To-Do** take a calendar as an argument in the third pane.

3.9.2 String Sniffing

TODO

3.9.3 Dictionary

The Dictionary Module plugin provides access to the macOS built-in dictionary. Enter a word in the object pane and use either the **Dictionary** or **Thesaurus** actions to access macOS's dictionary. Regardless of how the Dictionary preferences are configured, the **Dictionary** action shows the definition in a smaller panel (shown here).

The Services Menu Module plugin makes **Look Up in Dictionary** available and is another way to do the above. **Look Up in Dictionary** opens the Dictionary application with the full window. Unfortunately there is a bug in 10.4 so that if the Dictionary application isn't already running, it's opened but the word to lookup is not entered automatically. It works fine if the Dictionary is already running and the Dictionary action seems unaffected by this bug. I have a trigger for the proxy object Current Selection with the **Look Up in Dictionary** action bound to ⇧ ^ ⌘ D for those applications (e.g., Preview) that don't support the Cocoa key binding of ^ ⌘ D .

The Dictionary Module also adds the **Define with dict.org** action which is similar but aggregates definitions from several web sites and displays them in a simple HTML viewer built-in to Quicksilver. It usually provides the most complete definition but the formatting isn't as nice.

3.9.4 Spotlight

When OS X 10.4 shipped with Spotlight there was a lot of confusion as to what it would mean for Quicksilver. As is probably clear by now the two are quite different. Quicksilver can't search inside files but can do much more than just open things. One of the biggest criticisms of Spotlight is that it starts searching immediately as the query is typed. Quicksilver solves that problem. The Spotlight Module plugin installs three actions for text objects. **Spotlight in Window** runs the search in a Spotlight window. **Spotlight in Finder** runs it in a Finder window, like when editing a Finder smart folder. **Spotlight in Command** returns the results in an object pane results list in a new command window. None of these searches start until the command is executed. Spotlight saved searches, can be brought into the first pane and executed with the **Run Search with Spotlight** action.

3.9.5 Text Files

The **Create File…** action makes a new text file with the object text as the contents (not the name). It prompts for the new filename (and location) with a standard apple save dialog, saves the file, and then shows a new command window with the new file as the object.

The Text Manipulation Actions plugin installs actions to manipulate the contents of plain text files (which must end in a .txt extension). These are great for managing a to-do.txt file. With text in the first pane, use the **Append To…** action and specify a file in the third pane to add the text to the of the file. The **Prepend To…** action works the same way but adds the line to the beginning of the file.

The reverse commands are **Append Text…** and **Prepend Text…** which take the file in the first pane and the text in the third pane. Use these to create triggers to easily add things to a to-do.txt file.

I have a trigger defined for NextAction.txt (**Append Text…**). Whenever I think of stuff to do, I type ⌃ ⌘ A and type the idea into the third pane and continue with what I was doing. Then I review the file regularly in my text editor. I have another trigger on ⌃ ⇧ ⌘ A using the Current Selection proxy object that lets me select text in any Cocoa application and append it to my NextAction.txt file. It's defined as: Current Selection (**Append To…**) NextAction.txt. To use it for several files, leave the third pane blank and enter the file after invoking the trigger.

The Text Manipulation Actions plugin also allows Quicksilver to access the individual lines of a text file by typing → into one. With a text file in the first pane, even though there is no > next to it in the results list, typing → or / will open a new results list with the lines of the file. Even though the lines have a > next to them, typing → won't do anything. With the command preference Show children split view enabled, the right-hand results list pane acts as a (slow) preview window showing the contents of a text file. Note that for .html files instead of each line being shown, instead each link is shown. See the Web Pages section for more details of .html files.

With text lines selected in the first pane, all the text actions are available and a few more. The ominously named **Delete Line (UNSTABLE)** will remove the line from the file. Yes, be careful about using it and it doesn't always work. Less risky is **Change To…** which takes new text in the third pane and will replace the text in the file with it. In addition, the **Prepend Text…** and **Append Text…** actions can work on text line references. Their argument is added as a new line before or after the line respectively. I had a problem with line-endings when using **Prepend Text…** on the first line in a file.

The BBEdit Module plugin adds one action which works on text lines. Use **Select in BBEdit** to open the file in BBEdit on that line. It also adds a catalog source under Modules called BBEdit Recent Documents but as of B51 it doesn't seem to work.

3.9.6 Specially Formatted Text

The above actions work for all text, but Quicksilver recognizes some text forms and provides more actions for them and often chooses a special default action. E.g., if the text in the first pane looks like an e-mail address (i.e., `text@text.text`, with at least one @ and one period) then the **E-mail Item…** actions are available. If the text looks like an URL, then the **Open URL** action is available. Depending on how the actions are ranked in the Actions Preferences these might become the default actions. In these cases the background of the pane changes to include a faint version of the e-mail or URL icons. These are the only two special forms that Quicksilver recognizes that I know of, but see below for how to perform math calculations.

3.9.7 Math Calculations

The Calculator Module plugin adds two actions called **CalculatorCalculateAction** and a preference pane called Calculator. It allows math expressions to be entered as text in the object pane and Quicksilver will compute the result. By default it uses the unix utility `bc` to compute the expressions but this can be changed in the Calculator Preference pane to `dc` for an RPN calculator. `bc` understands the basic math expression including addition with +, subtraction with -, multiplication with *, and division with /. Parentheses specify the order the operations. There's much more it can do, to get the details look in the documentation (which for unix commands is a `man` page). In the Calculator Preference pane there is a button to bring up the man page in a Terminal window.

To perform a calculation, activate Quicksilver, type `=` to enter text mode, followed by an expression, e.g., `3` `+` `5`. Type `↵` and the command window is replaced with a new one, with the result (in this case `8`) in the first pane. Using `=` to enter text mode isn't required, but it tells Quicksilver to default the action to **CalculatorCalculateAction**.

The Calculator Preference pane allows configuration of the behavior when the result is computed. By opening a new command window with the result it's easy to choose an action like **Copy** or **Paste** to do with the result. But the default can be configured to display with the **Large Type** action or in a notification window like the iTunes module uses (or with Growl if it's configured).

The **Run as AppleScript** action can also perform basic math calculations with +, -, *, and /. In fact, since text mode is a Cocoa field, the Services menu in available. Script Editor has a service called Get Result of Apple Script and it's bound to `⌘` — by default. So another way to evaluate simple expressions is to activate Quicksilver, type . to enter text mode, type some simple expression, type `⌘` `A` to select it all and then type `⌘` `\` — to have the expression replaced with the result.

The Unit Conversion Module plugin installs the action **Convert to Units...** which does conversions using the unix `units` program. In the first pane enter a number and in the third pane enter the units to convert to. E.g., `10 m` **Convert to Units...** `ft` . The result is shown in a new command window. The syntax is a little tricky so see the plugin's documentation in the info pane or the `units(1)` man page for more details. In particular there must be a space between the number and the units.

For more advanced calculations and conversions use Google's calculator. It can do temperature conversions, understands scientific notation and many many constants. Enter the expression in the first pane and use the **Search With Google** action (from the Services Menu Module plugin and the Safari service) or create a trigger for Google Search (**Search For...**). Compared to the other methods above, this one requires a network connection and shows the results in a browser but can do a lot more. Syntax details are described at http://www.google.com/help/calculator.html.

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3.10 Triggers

3.10.1 Triggers

Triggers allow you to execute Quicksilver commands without having to use the command window. Quicksilver supports executing triggers based on

- Keyboard shortcuts (built-in)

- Mouse position and/or buttons (Mouse Triggers plugin)

- System Events (Event Triggers plugin)

- Gestures (Abracadabra Triggers plugin)

Triggers are available whenever Quicksilver is running and you do not have to invoke Quicksilver to use them. Triggers make it easier to control iTunes, launch applications, perform web searches, or do anything else Quicksilver can do. You can create as many as you want but you probably want them only for the operations you do frequently.

Setting Up Triggers

To learn how to create and configure triggers in the Triggers Preference pane, see the Triggers Preferences section.

Trigger Types

Each type of trigger has different strengths and use cases:

- **Keyboard Triggers** - The most common type, activated by keyboard shortcuts

- **Mouse Triggers** - Activated by mouse clicks, positions, or dragging files to screen edges/corners

- **Event Triggers** - Automatically run in response to system events like waking from sleep or network changes

- **Gesture Triggers** - Draw shapes with your mouse to activate commands

For examples of useful triggers, see the Example Triggers section.

2026-02-08

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3.10.2 Types of Triggers

Keyboard Triggers

Keyboard triggers are the most common type of trigger in Quicksilver. They let you execute any Quicksilver command with a simple keyboard shortcut, without having to activate Quicksilver first.

HOW KEYBOARD TRIGGERS WORK

If you enter a complete command into the trigger, like choosing an application and the **Open** action, it will be run when you execute the trigger. If you choose just a partial command, like a web-search and the **Search For...** action, when you execute the trigger a command window will appear with as much filled in as your trigger defines. You can't have gaps (e.g., you can't leave the first pane blank and use the **Get Info** action).

Triggers are given a default name based on the command they represent. When the action is **Open**, the default name is "Open" followed by the application. Usually the default name is the object followed by the action in parenthesis. **Open** is special, probably because it's so common.

KEYBOARD TRIGGER SETTINGS

The Settings tab in the drawer lets you set various options for a keyboard trigger:

- **Shortcut** - The key combination that activates this trigger

- **Activate** - Whether the trigger activates when the key is pressed or released, and whether it repeats if the key is held down (useful for something like "skip forward" or "volume down")

- **Delay** - The trigger won't activate until the key has been held down for the specified number of seconds

- **Show Window** - Shows a small window that quickly zooms out of the center of the screen, providing visual feedback that the trigger was executed

A delay can be useful for dangerous commands that you don't want to execute accidentally. If you had a shortcut to run the Quit All Visible Applications script from the Extra Scripts plugin, you might configure it to only execute if you hold the key down for 2 seconds.

CHOOSING SHORTCUTS

If you create a lot of keyboard triggers, it's best to use some system to remember them. Some people put applications on their function keys, others use mnemonic keys like `^` `⌘` `s` for Safari. You could use `^` `⌘` `w` for a Wikipedia search and add a `⇧` to the shortcut to do the same thing with the current selection.

The nice thing about keyboard triggers is that you can fire them off from any context, but a major downside is that you need to choose a key combination that doesn't conflict with anything else (you care about) in any context, and never will for any application you ever install. Not an easy task. Limit the scope to applications where the trigger makes sense whenever possible, and keep in mind that doing things "the hard way" by just calling up Quicksilver and typing a few keys is often preferable to the stress of coming up with a keystroke you'll never use anywhere else, ever again.

MULTIPLE ACTIVATION METHODS

One thing might not be obvious: You can configure the same trigger to activate by multiple means. For example, if you have an Open Safari trigger assigned to the shortcut `^` `⌘` `s`, you can also assign it to a mouse gesture or mouse position, and both will work. You do this by clicking the icon of the type of trigger in the `⌘` column of the Triggers preference pane. A pop-up menu appears of the other choices and you can select another one and configure it. This can be useful to have two ways to invoke a trigger: one when your hands are on the keyboard, and another when one hand is on the mouse.

There isn't a way to remove one method from a trigger without deleting the entire trigger. The `–` button at the bottom of the screen deletes the whole trigger. For a keyboard trigger, you can always change it to not be bound to a specific key by clicking the Edit button and then the delete key. To avoid this issue, you can also just create entirely separate triggers that do the same thing with different activations.

SEE ALSO

For examples of useful keyboard triggers, see the Example Triggers section.

2026-02-08

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Mouse Triggers

With the Mouse Triggers plugin installed, triggers can also be assigned to the Mouse. The Settings tab of the drawer for the trigger is different for a mouse trigger. You can assign triggers to a number of mouse clicks, with or without modifier keys. Note that the Anywhere button in the desktop drawing is actually a button. If you want a trigger to work if you ⌘ -right-click anywhere in the window, you have to click the Anywhere button for it to work.

You can also activate a trigger when the mouse enters or exits an edge or corner of the screen, or if you drag something to an edge or corner of the screen. Maybe you'd like to hide the current application when you move the mouse pointer to the lower-left corner. If you have multiple monitors connected to your Mac you can choose if the trigger will work on all displays or on a particular one.

Dragging triggers work well with the Mouse Trigger Dragged Object proxy object. Configure these for a commonly used application or folder when dragging to a corner or edge:

• Mouse Trigger Dragged Object ⇥ *Open With…* ⇥ [Application]

• Mouse Trigger Dragged Object ⇥ *Move to…* ⇥ [Folder]

Here are some more advanced ones that might require additional plugins:

• Mouse Trigger Dragged Object ⇥ **E-mail To… (Compose)**

• Mouse Trigger Dragged Object ⇥ **Compress (Create Archive)**

• Mouse Trigger Dragged Object ⇥ **Set Desktop Picture**

• Mouse Trigger Dragged Object ⇥ **Add Tags…** ⇥ [Tag 1, Tag 2]

• Mouse Trigger Dragged Object ⇥ **Upload to Site…**** ⇥ [Transmit Favorite]

Note that if you configure a trigger to activate when mousing or dragging to an edge, it might interfere with the shelf or clipboard windows if you have them docked to that edge. In such a case, the trigger will win and you'll need to use some other means like a keystroke to open the shelf or clipboard windows.

One thing might not be obvious: You can configure the same trigger to activate by multiple means. E.g., if you have an Open Safari trigger assigned to the shortcut `^` `⌘` `s`, you can also assign it to having the mouse enter the left edge of the screen, and both will work. You do this by clicking the icon of the type of trigger in the `⌘` column of the Triggers preference pane. A pop-up menu appears of the other choices and you can select another one and configure it. Now both work. This can be useful to have two ways to invoke a trigger: one when your hands are on the keyboard, and another when one hand is on the mouse. There isn't a way to remove one method from a trigger. The `–` button at the bottom of the screen deletes the whole trigger. For a keyboard trigger, you can always change it to not be bound to a specific key by clicking the Edit button and then the delete key. For a mouse trigger, you can achieve the same effect by choosing Mouse Entered and selecting no edge or corner. To avoid this sort of thing, you can also just create entirely separate triggers that do the same thing with different activations.

Most useful on mouse triggers are the **Show Menu**, **Show Contents Menu**, and **Show Action Menu** actions. These bring up a context menu for the object. **Show Contents Menu** creates a menu for the items that would appear if you typed `→` to go into the object. It's like **Show Contents** but in menu form. Items have sub-menus showing the actions you can perform on them and any children they have. **Show Action Menu** shows a menu of the actions you can perform on an object. **Show Menu** shows a menu that combines the contents and actions you can perform. Mouse triggers for Shelf ⇥ **Show Contents Menu** or Clipboard History ⇥ **Show Contents Menu** are very useful.

2026-02-08

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Event Triggers

While keyboard triggers let you do something with a single keystroke, event triggers allow you to do something with *no keystrokes* (or clicks).

Like all triggers in Quicksilver, event triggers can run any command Quicksilver is capable of running, but instead of running in response to keyboard and mouse activity from the user, they run automatically in response to things happening on your computer. The list of events you can assign triggers to will depend on which Quicksilver plugins are installed, but there are quite a few simply built into the Event Triggers Plugin. As of this writing, there are 38 events you can potentially hook into.

Some examples will probably explain it better at this point. The plugin's documentation lists the following:

 • When the screen saver activates, pause iTunes.

 • When the computer wakes from sleep, open Mail.

 • When the network changes, run a shell script.

 • When a disk named "Backup" is mounted, compress a specific folder and copy it to the disk.

 • When switching to the internal speakers (headphones disconnected), pause iTunes.

Here are some other ideas:

 • Turn off AirPlay (by switching to the "Computer" device) when headphones are plugged in

 • Switch to the appropriate equalizer preset in iTunes when an optical cable is plugged in

 • When Pages launches, quit Twitter

 • After compressing files or folders, move the archive to the desktop

 • When taking a screen shot, ask me who to e-mail it to

 • Append a message to a file when you lose Internet connectivity

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Abracadabra Mouse Gestures

For this section, install the Abracadabra Triggers plugin. This enables a new trigger type known as a Gesture to go along with Keyboard and Mouse triggers. It also installs an Abracadabra preference pane.

Abracadabra lets you invoke a trigger by drawing a shape with the mouse. E.g., you can configure Quicksilver to activate the Open Safari trigger by drawing an S on the screen. You configure your shape by drawing with the mouse button down in the pane in the Settings tab of the trigger's drawer. The "Show zooming trigger window" will show a bezel window that enlarges when a gesture trigger is recognized and executed (like the Display: Show Window option of a keyboard trigger).

In the Abracadabra Preference pane you configure how you invoke all gestures. That is, what mouse button you hold down and/or what modifier key you hold down while drawing any gesture. If you have a mouse with extra buttons it's probably most convenient to use one of them for this as you'll only need one hand to invoke the gesture. You can also choose the colors used to draw the shape on the screen as you draw and after you finish for a recognized gesture and an unrecognized gesture, as well as sounds to play.

There's also an option to Enable LaserKey Support which is a virtual keyboard device made by Cellulon. With it you can make gestures with your finger. Wherever I say mouse gestures here, LaserKey gestures is implied if you're one of the lucky few to have one of these devices.

Simple gestures are best as you'll have an easier time remembering them and Quicksilver will have an easier time recognizing them. You can create a gesture for any Quicksilver command (that is trigger). E.g., skipping to the next track in iTunes by drawing a line from left to right. Try a gesture for the **Quit** or **Hide** actions using the Current Application proxy object.

Gestures also go well with limiting the scope of a trigger and using the **Menu Bar Items...** action. This way you can make a trigger to invoke Safari's Back command or Mail's Reply command. This usually works best for things that don't need the keyboard, e.g.,

navigating in Safari. Using a gesture to bring up a Find dialog probably doesn't make much sense since you'll need to type the text to find.

An interesting idea is using the Current Application proxy object and the **Menu Bar Items…** action to invoke an action common in all applications, e.g., Undo or Close. The problem is that many applications dynamically update their menus (e.g., "Undo Typing") or slightly rename these commands (e.g., Close Window and Close Tab) so the trigger won't work in all applications. Also there's no way to select a menu command that is generic and not specific to an application, so this isn't possible.

2026-02-08

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3.10.3 Examples

Example Triggers

Open Safari

The most common simple trigger created is to open an application. Shown here is a trigger to open Safari, it's just the Safari application in the first pane and the **Open** action in the second. The argument is blank. Notice that when the action is **Open** the default name for the trigger is Open followed by the application. Usually the default name is the object followed by the action in parenthesis. **Open** is special, probably because it's so common. If in the Extras Preferences you have Reopening the current application set to "activates the application", then using this trigger when Safari is already running will make it the active application.

You can obviously make similar triggers to open your favorite applications. Some people create other triggers like Safari (**Quit**) or Safari (**Hide Others**) and put them on the same keys but with different modifiers (e.g., ⌥ or ⇧). Others just use the standard macOS shortcuts of ⌘ Q and ⌥ ⌘ H to run these on the current application.

Show Shelf/Clipboard Contents

The Shelf and Clipboard History are enabled with the Shelf plugin and the Clipboard plugin respectively. Each enables a window that you typically access with the mouse (see Clipboard and Shelf for details). To get keyboard access to these, first enable the objects in the Catalog under Quicksilver and Shelf & Clipboard (check the box and click the rescan button). If you select these objects in the first pane, you can type → or / to open a new results list with their contents. The **Show Contents** action is the equivalent of this, and since it's an action, you can use it in a trigger.

So this trigger will open the shelf in a results list, with the first item selected, and let you type to select any item on the shelf (or the Clipboard History if you use that object). You can also use the **Search Contents** action which is very similar but won't select the first time and won't show a results list at first.

You can create triggers using **Show Contents** or **Search Contents** for anything you can right-arrow into, such as Contacts, iTunes, your Documents folder, etc.

Search Wikipedia

Some actions take an argument in the third pane and triggers can use these too. The **Search For…** action will search some web site for the text entered as an argument. See the Web Searches section for the details of using this action.

A trigger for a commonly used web search, such as Wikipedia, is very useful. If you specified the argument in the trigger it would search for the same text each time it's run. However, if you leave the third pane blank, then when the trigger is run, Quicksilver will open a command window with the first two panes filled in (in this case with Wikipedia and **Search For…**), and the third pane selected, ready for you to type the query.

Quicksilver is also smart enough to realize that the **Search For…** action wants a text argument and puts the third pane in text mode for you. It even fills in the default text from the macOS Shared Find Clipboard (which you can set in many Cocoa applications with ⌘ E). Note, if the third pane isn't empty when you create the trigger and you want it to be, type ⌘ X to clear the selection.

If you have this trigger configured on the shortcut ^ ⌘ W , you type ^ ⌘ W , the query, and hit ↵ then the browser opens with the search results. If you want to search for some text in a document, you can select the text, copy it with ⌘ C , type ^ ⌘ W and then paste the text with ⌘ V and type return.

That's pretty easy, but believe it or not, this is the hard way. In the next section, you'll see how proxy objects reduce this to one step.

Paste the Current URL

This example lets you paste the URL of the page Safari is displaying into any other application without switching applications multiple times, and without having to select or copy anything. You can use this trigger to paste a URL into mail messages, chats, documents, Calendar events, etc. The magic is because of the Current Web Page proxy object used in the first pane. It acts like a placeholder for the URL Safari will be

displaying when you use this command. When the command is run, this proxy object asks Safari what it's currently displaying and uses that in the command.

If you aren't using Safari or use more than one browser, every browser plugin currently available also provides a "Current Web Page" proxy object.

Search Wikipedia for Selected Text

The Current Selection proxy object gets the selection from the frontmost application.

If your current selection is text, it should be possible to use this proxy object as the argument in the Wikipedia search trigger above, so that you could select text in some Cocoa application, invoke the trigger, and have the search run. The **Search For...** action has a complementary action called **Find With...** that takes the query text as the object, and the search site as the argument. You can set up a trigger of the Current Selection proxy object with the **Find With...** action and the Wikipedia argument.

It's useful to assign triggers to shortcuts in some pattern so they are easier to remember. For example, you could use `^` `⌘` `W` to search Wikipedia for text you enter, and add `⇧` to the sequence to search for selected text. Pairs of triggers for other quick searches might look like this: Google (`^` `⌘` `G`), IMdB (`^` `⌘` `F`), and Amazon (`^` `⌘` `Z`).

Sometimes when creating triggers with proxy objects, the action you want doesn't appear in the list. As you've probably noticed, Quicksilver normally narrows down the action list to only those that are relevant. Sometimes proxy objects confuse it because they represent something else. If this happens you can work around it with copy and paste. It's not obvious but if you bring up a regular command window (with `^` `Space`), when you tab to the action pane you can type `⌘` `C` to copy the action. You can then paste it into the second pane of the trigger definition window with `⌘` `V`. You can also cut an item out with `⌘` `X`. This is useful when creating commands that do a web search with the **Search For...** action and you want a blank third pane. There are many other proxy objects giving you access to interesting things to use in triggers such as Track Now Playing (in iTunes), Current Application, Previous Application, Finder Selection, etc. Experiment to see what you find useful.

Quicksilver Selection

The Quicksilver Selection proxy object represents what is in the first pane. This allows you to assign triggers to particular actions (or actions and arguments). For example, create the trigger Quicksilver Selection (**Get Info**) and assign it to ⌃ ⌘ I . Now you can activate Quicksilver, select a file object in the catalog or navigate to one in the filesystem and type ⌃ ⌘ I to bring up the Finder's Info pane of that file. You don't even have to tab to the action pane.

You could also create a trigger to open files in an application you frequently use that might not be the default when you run **Open** by using the **Open With…** action. For example, you could bind ⌥ ⌘ T to Quicksilver Selection ⇥ Open With… ⇥ TextMate.

You might want to scope these triggers to only work in Quicksilver. They aren't really useful in other contexts and you don't want to tie up those shortcuts in other applications that might do something useful with them.

🕐 2026-02-08

More Trigger Ideas

The possibilities for triggers seem endless. Here are some triggers people have posted on the Quicksilver forums as their favorites:

• Documents ➞ **Open**

• Finder Selection ➞ **Go To Directory in Terminal**

• Finder Selection ➞ **Rename...**

• Finder Selection ➞ **Scale Image...** ➞ 400

• Finder Selection ➞ **Open With...** ➞ TextMate

• Current Application ➞ **Menu Bar...**

• Current Application ➞ **Menu Bar Items...**

• Current Application ➞ **Show Menu Items**

• Current Application ➞ **Relaunch**

• Current Application ➞ **Hide Others** (though ⌥ ⌘ H already works in most every application)

• Previous Application ➞ **Open** (go back to what you were doing last, toggle between two apps, or restore focus if Quicksilver steals it)

• Artist Now Playing ➞ **Show Contents**

• Browse Albums ➞ **Search Contents**

• killall Dock ➞ **Run Command in Shell** (or any other frequent shell command)

• `pbpaste | pbcopy` ➞ **Run Command in Shell** (re-copies the clipboard contents without formatting)

• `date` ➞ **Run Command in Shell** (acts like a clock)

• Current Web Page ➞ **Open With...** ➞ [Some Web Browser]

• Removable Disks ➞ **Eject** (great to clean up mounted disk images)

• Network Disks ➞ **Eject**

There are some limits to triggers that you can create. You can't save a trigger for something that isn't in your catalog. So the Current Application � **Menu Bar...** trigger above works, but you can't do Current Application ➙ **Menu Bar...** ➙ Help because the "Help" item is created on demand. Also, actions that appear only for particular applications can't be saved as triggers, so you can't do Mail (**Get New Mail**). For most of these, you can physically create the trigger, but the objects involved will disappear when Quicksilver restarts, making it impossible to set up the trigger again.

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GitHub

3.11 Clipboard and Shelf

3.11.1 Clipboard History

For this section you'll need the Clipboard Module plugin installed. It doesn't install any actions but does add several catalog objects in the Quicksilver set. Inside Shelf & Clipboard you'll find two items, Shelf, and Clipboard History. Make sure the latter is enabled for this section. (You may need to install the Shelf Module plugin to see the Shelf & Clipboard catalog source and click refresh after checking it.) Under Internal Commands you'll find several related objects, some of which behave like actions but are scripts (such as Clip Store Copy 2) that you use with the **Run** action. Also under Proxy Objects there's a Clipboard Contents proxy object.

One limitation of copy and paste on the Mac is that the clipboard only remembers the last thing you copied. With Quicksilver's Clipboard Module you can extend this to remember the last several items you've copied. In the Clipboard Preference pane you can configure the number of items to be saved in the clipboard.

A large number like 100 is useful to be able to remember things you copied several days ago but it uses more memory. If you put large images on the clipboard consider a number a like 10.

You can bring up a window showing the Clipboard History by activating Quicksilver and typing the built-in shortcut ⌘ L . You can also choose the Clipboard History object and the Show action. This action is actually a toggle and will close it if it's visible. If you use it often you can create a trigger. Note that some have reported that having the TextExtras Input Manager installed breaks the ⌘ L shortcut.

If a clipboard item is text, the first few words are included in the list to help you identify the correct item. If the item is an image, the icon (usually) shows a thumbnail of it. Personally I use Clipboard History with the **Show Contents** action as a trigger on ^ ⌘ C so that I get a new results list that I can use the matching algorithm to search

through. However this doesn't work too well for image items, you have to scroll to see them.

⌘ L is a toggle, so typing it again will make the window disappear. In the Clipboard preference pane you can enable the "Hide after pasting" option. If you position the window with one side on an edge of the screen then it will always disappear when idle (even if "Hide after pasting" is unchecked). You can then bring it back by moving the mouse to that same edge of the screen and it will appear again. This is similar to using the screen corners in the Dashboard & Expose System Preference.

For the first 10 items in the history you can paste them into the current application by typing the number of the item while the Clipboard History window is open. For other items you'll need to double-click on them to paste them.

Items remain in the Clipboard History until it fills up, in which case the oldest items are removed when new items are added (i.e., FIFO). The Clipboard History survives Quicksilver restarts and system reboots. The clear button at the bottom of the Clipboard History window will remove all but the most recent item from the history. You can remove a single item from the history by selecting it with single click and then typing the delete key. You can't delete the first (number 0) item. Instead copy something else onto the history to move it down and then delete it.

The Clipboard Contents proxy object represents the 0'th or most recent item in the history. Using it with the **Paste** action is the same as using Paste in whatever application you are using. It will include the formating of the text, use the **Type Text** action to paste without the original formating, matching the style of the destination. However you can use it with other actions such as **Open URL...**, **Look Up in Dictionary...**, **E-mail To...**, etc. I find it easier to use ⌘ ⌫ to bring the selection into the object pane but if your item is already on the clipboard this could be useful.

There have been some reports of pasting from the clipboard not working or crashing Quicksilver B51 when a non-US keyboard is in use. To solve this, you don't have to switch to a US keyboard, but you do have to enable the "U.S." keyboard in the Input Menu tab of the International System Preferences. That is, the U.S. keyboard doesn't need to be in use, just enabled.

TODO: Show Clipboard Cache (pNew) and Show Clipboard Cache (pOld)

3.11.2 Clipboard Storage

Since cut and copy are such common operations on your Mac, items in the Clipboard History change frequently. If you want to save something for longer you can use an alternate clipboard called Clipboard Storage. The contents only last as long as Quicksilver is running. If you restart Quicksilver (or obviously if you logout or reboot) the Clipboard Storage will be lost. The Clipboard Storage is also installed with the Clipboard Module plugin and is accessed via the same window. You can toggle the window between showing the Clipboard Storage and the Clipboard History by using the drop down in the top of the window. You can also show the Clipboard Storage by using the Show Clipboard Storage object with the **Run** action. That's something you may want to create a trigger for.

Unfortunately showing the Clipboard Storage seems to toggle the state of the window but there's no way to toggle it back to showing the Clipboard History without using the mouse to choose it from the drop down in the top right of the window. The command Show Clipboard, Run will just bring up the window in its last state. The command Clipboard History, **Show** behaves the same way. However the trigger I use, Clipboard History (**Show Contents**), continues to show the history in the results list regardless of what the window is showing.

You use the Clipboard Storage the same way you use the Clipboard History. Double-clicking or typing a digit will paste that item into the current application. The Storage always has 10 numbered slots regardless of the number of history items you have configured. The only way to put an item into the Clipboard Storage is to drag it into a slot. You can use any slot regardless if higher slots are filled or not. Dragging an item into an already filled slot will replace the item in that slot. You can remove an item by selecting it and typing ⌫ . The clear button will remove all items from the Storage, it doesn't leave the latest item as it does in History. There are objects of the form Clip Store Copy # and Clip Store Paste # which would seem very useful for frequent access to non-temporary items but they don't seem to work in B51.

3.11.3 Shelf

For this section you'll need the Shelf Module plugin installed. The Shelf is in the catalog under Quicksilver under Shelf & Clipboard. Make sure it's enabled (in B51 it's not by default) by selecting Shelf & Clipboard, hitting the ⎵ button to open the drawer, going to the Contents tab and checking the Shelf object. You might need to run the command Shelf & Clipboard (Catalog), **Rescan Catalog Entry**, after the first time you add something to shelf to have it scanned by Quicksilver. The plugin installs two actions **Put on Shelf** and **Show**. The **Put on Shelf** action is not enabled by default, so find it in the Actions Preferences and check it.

The shelf is a place for long term storage frequently used items. It's like the Clipboard Storage described above but it lasts across Quicksilver sessions. People use it for: e-mail addresses, images, code fragments and templates, favorite hex colors, lorem ipsum text, passwords (though this isn't secure), etc.. You can also put documents, folders and, applications on it and treat it like an alternate Dock.

When Quicksilver is activated, you can use the built-in shortcut ⌥ ⌘ S to toggle the shelf. The Shelf object with the **Show** action will also toggle the shelf. If you use it frequently consider creating a trigger for this, it will work faster than ⌥ ⌘ S since you won't first have to activate Quicksilver. Just like with the Clipboard, if you position the shelf window with one side on an edge of the screen then it will disappear when idle. You can then bring it back by moving the mouse to that same edge of the screen and it will appear again. This is similar to using the screen corners in the Dashboard & Expose System Preference.

The typical way to add something to the shelf is using the **Put on Shelf** action. It adds items to the top of the shelf as if it were a stack. You can also drag items to the shelf, into any contiguous location. The Current Selection proxy object with the **Put on Shelf** action makes a good trigger. You can also use ⌘ V to paste things onto the shelf. If nothing in the shelf is selected the item will be pasted to the top, otherwise it's added above the selected shelf object.

You can bring up the shelf in the object pane and then type → to bring its contents into a results list. You can also drag and drop from the shelf with the mouse. Unlike the

Clipboard, there are no numbers to select items with. While the shelf otherwise behaves as a stack, there's no easy way (such as a Pop From action or an analog for the Clipboard Contents proxy object) to get the first item into the object pane.

You can delete an item by selecting it with the mouse and then typing ⌫ . Like on a stack, the lower items move up. There's no clear button to empty the shelf, but just select the top item and type ⌫ repeatedly for each item on the shelf.

I use the shelf as follows. I have it on the edge of the screen so if I am using a mouse I can conveniently drag things to or from it. I have a trigger for the Shelf with the **Show Contents** action so I can quickly call up items using just the keyboard.

TODO: Right click shelf items to show a menu.

3.11.4 Comparing Clipboard History, Storage and Shelf

	History	Storage	Shelf
Window	Shared with Storage	Shared with History	Separate
Max Items	Configurable in Preferences	Unlimited?	Unlimited
Items Added	On top with every Cut or Copy	Anywhere	On top or above selected item with ⌘ V
Items Accessed	Number keys, Results list, mouse	Number keys, mouse	Results list, mouse
Persistence	Survives system restarts but oldest items removed when full	Empties when Quicksilver restarts	Permanent until removed, survives restarts
Right Click Menu	No	No	Yes

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3.12 Note Taking Applications

3.12.1 VoodooPad

For this section you'll need the VoodooPad Module plugin installed. It adds three actions to Quicksilver: **Open Page**, **Append to VP Page…**, **Prepend to VP Page…**. It also adds a Catalog source called VoodooPad Documents under Modules which is *not* enabled by default. You'll want to enable it by checking the box in the Catalog. It also adds a document scanner so if you add to the catalog a custom File & Folder Scanner source, you can choose VoodooPad Pages under Include Contents in the Source Options tab of the source. Unfortunately for B51 with VoodooPad 3.1.2 this didn't work for me.

VoodooPad comes in three editions: VoodooPad Lite, VoodooPad, and VoodooPad Pro. Unfortunately the Quicksilver plugin will not work with VoodooPad Lite which is free. The plugin needs AppleScript support and that's one of the features missing from the Lite edition. The plugin as downloaded will work with VoodooPad Pro which is the most expensive and full-featured edition. The plugin can be made to work with the plain VoodooPad edition by editing the script inside. Find the `VoodooPad Module.qsplugin` in the `~/Library/Application Support/Quicksilver/PlugIns/` directory in the Finder. Control-click on it and choose Show Package Contents to bring up a new Finder window, open the Contents folder and then the Resources folder. Open the `QSVoodooPadPluginAS.scpt` in Script Editor (you'll need Voodoopad Pro.app for Script Editor to be able to open it) or your favorite text editor and change all the occurrences of "VoodooPad Pro" to "VoodooPad". Save it and then it should work.

You can bring up VoodooPad.app (or the Pro edition) and type $\boxed{\rightarrow}$ and you'll see a list of VoodooPad documents (`.vdoc` files), but you can't $\boxed{\rightarrow}$ into them. You can just type the name of VoodooPad page in one of those documents into Quicksilver's first pane because of the catalog source. With a page in the first pane, you can use the **Open Page** action to bring up the page in VoodooPad. You can also add text in the first pane to the end of a page with the **Append to VP Page…** action and a page in the third pane. The **Prepend to VP Page…** action is similar but adds the text to the top of the page. You might want to configure a trigger for something like Current Selection (**Append to VP**

Page…) To-Do to easily add selected text (via the proxy object) to a To-Do page in VoodooPad.

VoodooPad adds two services: **Append to Services Drop Page** and **Make New Page**, both of which become actions you can use on any text with the Services Menu Module plugin.

3.12.2 Yojimbo

For this section you'll need to install the Yojimbo Module Plugin. It adds four actions to Quicksilver, **Add to Yojimbo**, **Archive to Yojimbo**, **Show in Yojimbo**, and **Append Text (Makes Plaintext)**. The first three are enabled by default, but the last one is disabled. To use it, you'll need to enable it in the Action Preferences. It also adds a Catalog source under Modules called Yojimbo Items, which finds entries in your Yojimbo database.

Since the Yojimbo Items catalog source is enabled by default, you should be able to bring up any Yojimbo item by just activating Quicksilver and typing its name until it appears. You can also bring up the Yojimbo.app and type `→` to see a results list of all your Yojimbo items. Given a Yojimbo item in the first pane, you can use the **Show in Yojimbo** action to open Yojimbo to that item. If you enable the action, you can also add to a Yojimbo item by using the **Append Text (Makes Plaintext)** action with a text argument in the third pane.

You can add text notes to Yojimbo by using the **Add to Yojimbo** action with a text object in the first pane. You can add URLs to Yojimbo in two ways. With an URL in the first pane, the **Add to Yojimbo** action will add it to Yojimbo's Bookmarks and the **Archive to Yojimbo** action will add it to Yojimbo's Archives.

3.12.3 WikityWidget

WikityWidget is a Dashboard widget that behaves a like a small wiki. Think of Sticky Notes on steroids. If you use this you'll want to install the WikitWidget Module plugin. Be sure to install WikityWidget before you install the plugin, or else you might have problems

with the QSWikitPlugin catalog source that is installed in Modules. The plugin also adds four actions: **search Wikit**, **delete Wikit**, **append to Wikit**, and **prepend To Wikit**.

WikityWidget uses the word Wikit to mean a page. With text in the first pane, you can add it to the beginning or end of a wikit page with the **prepend to Wikit**, and **append To Wikit** actions respectively. Both take a wikit page as the argument in the third pane. You can also search for a wikit with some text using the **search Wikit** action with the text to find in the first pane. It returns a results list of wikits matching the search string.

Unfortunately there's no action to open a wikit specified in the first pane (e.g., as the result of the **search Wikit** action) in the widget. There are three actions that you can use with a wikit in the first pane. You can delete the page with the **delete Wikit** action. You can also use the **prepend to Wikit**, and **append To Wikit** actions with text in the third pane. Yes these actions work with their arguments reversed.

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3.13 Images

3.13.1 iPhoto

The iPhoto Module plugin adds two actions and enables you to $\boxed{\rightarrow}$ into iPhoto.app to see everything in iPhoto's left pane: the library, rolls, folders, albums, smart albums and slideshows. The **Show Album** action will open the selected item in iPhoto. The **iPhoto Slideshow** action will use iPhoto to play the slideshow (as opposed to the Finder's slideshow ability). If you use it on an album or other non-slideshow object, it will create a new slideshow but not save it. It's the equivalent of using the Play button in iPhoto as opposed to the +Slideshow button. Both actions will start iPhoto if it's not running, but note that you can navigate through your iPhoto collection without starting iPhoto.

You can also use $\boxed{\rightarrow}$ to navigate down to an individual image. You can use actions such as **E-mail To...** or **Set Desktop Picture** actions among others. Note that the **Set Comment...** action (from the File Attribute Action plugin) can be used to set the Spotlight comment of images, but this is different than the comment you can set for a image in iPhoto.

There are also two proxy objects, Current iPhoto Selection and Selected iPhoto Album which are useful for creating triggers.

3.13.2 Slideshow

For this section you'll need the Slideshow Action plugin. It installs two different actions called **Slideshow** that make use of the new slideshow feature added to the Finder in 10.4. One takes an image file or folder as the object, the other works on iPhoto albums and photos (which you'll need the iPhoto Module plugin to access). As in any Finder slideshow typing $\boxed{\oslash}$ will cancel the slideshow and moving the mouse will bring up some controls. Note this is different than the **iPhoto Slideshow** action which uses iPhoto slideshow capabilities (notably music and the now ubiquitous Ken Burns effect).

3.13.3 Desktop Picture Action

The Desktop Picture Action plugin adds a **Set Desktop Picture** action that can act on folders or individual image files (GIF, JPEG, PICT, PNG, or TIFF). For folders, the desktop picture will be chosen from images in that folder and rotated. The time interval for updating and whether the images will be chosen sequentially or randomly are taken from the last-used settings in the Desktop & Screen Saver Preference Pane. If you have multiple displays connected to the computer, the action takes an optional argument which lets you select a display from a list. By default, this action applies to the main display.

I think it would be great if **Set Desktop Picture** could work on a URL to an image, but it can't. But if it could, then I could have a trigger of Current Web Page proxy object, **Set Desktop Picture** when viewing a nice image.

3.13.4 Screen Capture

The Screen Capture Module plugin installs three Internal Commands that use Grab.app for screen captures. You'll find them in the Catalog, under Quicksilver, under Internal Commands (make sure this source is enabled). They are called Capture Screen, Capture Region, and Capture Window and you use them with the **Run** action. You could just use the standard macOS key bindings for these. ⇧ ⌘ 3 for Capture Screen, ⇧ ⌘ 4 for Capture Region and ⇧ ⌘ 4 followed by Space for Capture Window. The one advantage to the Quicksilver commands is that after they run, a new command window appears with the newly generated image selected as the object, ready for you to rename it or move it or do whatever you want.

You could also get at these functions with the Services Module plugin which makes things in the application's Services menu into actions. This creates the actions **Grab/Screen**, **Grab/Selection**, and **Grab/Timed Screen** which seem to work with any object. These also open a new command window but in B51 it doesn't seem to work correctly. The object is listed as Unknown Clipboard Object and trying to **Paste** it didn't work.

3.13.5 Image Manipulation

For this section you'll need the Image Manipulation Actions plugin installed. It only adds two actions but if you work with images you'll really enjoy them. Both work with an object that is an image file and create a new image in the same folder as the original. Note the new image does not include metadata information such as aperture and camera model of the original. Also both actions when finished open a new command window with the new image in the object pane ready to specify a new action, like **Open** to see the new image.

The first action **Save Image in Format…** changes the format of the image. You specify the desired format as an argument in the third pane via text mode. You can specify "jpg", "png", "gif" or "tiff". Quicksilver is forgiving with these allowing you to say "jpeg" or "tif" as well. In addition you can give resolution levels as "low", "med", or "hi" and either "progressive" or "interlaced". Not all of these work with all formats, you'll have to experiment. So, for example, you can specify jpg high progressive, or png low, or tif.

The second action **Scale Image…** changes the size of the image. You specify the scaling factor in the third pane via text mode. You can give a percentage of the original's size (e.g., `50%` or `200%`) or dimensions in pixels for the new image as *width* x *height*. White space is optional as is either number (the other dimension will be computed maintaining the original's aspect ratio). If you want to specify just the height, precede it with an x. E.g., `300 x 400`, `150, or x500`. You can also specify a new format for the image by ending the specifier with the word `as` and then using any argument valid for **Save Image in Format…**. E.g., `640x480 as jpg high progressive`. If you often convert images to some standard size or format (like to post a blog or include in a manual), consider a trigger such as File Selection (**Scale Image…**) `400`.

This isn't going to replace iPhoto or Photoshop but for some quick changes (e.g., when formatting screenshots for a User Manual) these actions work very well. They work even better when you realize the comma trick works and you can operate on more than on image at a time.

3.13.6 Flickr Upload

Now that you have your images in the size and format you want, maybe you want to upload them to your flickr account. Install the Flickr Upload plugin to get the **Upload to flickr (with Tags)...** action. Select the image you want as the object. If you want you can tab to the third pane to enter flickr tags for the image in text mode. Type return to start the upload. Quicksilver will connect to your flickr account either making use of your browser's cookies or opening the browser to the flickr login page. And yes, you can upload more than one file with just one command using the comma trick.

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3.14 System

Quicksilver deals not just with your data, but with your computer too. Here are the ways it can interact with your hardware and its configuration.

3.14.1 Devices

In the catalog under System and Devices you'll find Disks and Printers. If you install the Displays Module plugin you'll also see Displays. If you install the AirPort Module plugin you'll also see AirPort Networks.

Installed Disks can be called up in the object pane by name. You can also hold down the `/` (slash) key to select the root drive. In addition there is an object called Network in the catalog for `/Network` on your system which without Quicksilver is typically opened from the top of the Finder's sidebar. If you mount network volumes (typically using the Finder's Connect to Server command) they will also appear, as well as two items for the automounter: Servers for `/automount/Servers` and static for `/automount/static`. There are also three proxy objects related to disks: Network Disks, Mounted Disks, and Removable Disks There are no special actions for these objects, you merely navigate through them as you do any other folder. There doesn't seem to be a way to mount network drives but you can **Eject** them, in fact Network Disks (**Eject**) makes a nice trigger.

With the Displays Module installed the Catalog also includes all displays connected to the computer. It is a little flaky though. I have a PowerBook running in an English locale and yet in version 48 of the plugin my display appears in the catalog as "Écran à cristaux liquides couleur" which is French for "LCD Screen". Still I can select it and then use one of the actions: **Set Refresh Rate…**, **Set Color Depth…**, or **Set Resolution…**. All three let you choose an argument from a list of available options and also have some very pretty icons.

The Displays Module also installs a **Find With…** action but it doesn't do anything and shouldn't be used.

Quicksilver scans the folder `~/Library/Printers/` to find all installed printers (they end with `.app`) and add them to the catalog. You can print a file by selecting it as the object, using the **Open With…** action and then choosing a printer as the argument. You can't choose the printer directly in the third pane, you have to navigate to `~/Library/Printers/` to select it. A little easier is the reverse action **Open File…**. Choose the printer as the object, which you can do just by typing it and use the **Open File…** action and then choose the file as the argument. Since the first two panes are fixed, this form is better as a trigger. Select your primary printer, the **Open File…** action and leave the third pane blank, to be filled in when you use the trigger, perhaps by using ⌘ G to choose the Finder's selection. Note that selecting a file and using **Move To…** or **Copy To…** a printer will not print the file but will put it inside the printer's .app package.

3.14.2 Networking

With the AirPort Module plugin installed you'll see any available wireless networks as objects. There is one action installed with the plugin. For a wireless network object you can choose **Select Network** to join that network (provided the configuration allows). If you need to switch to another network, this is a very convenient way. If you manual switch networks often, a useful trigger is AirPort Networks (Catalog) with the **Show Contents** action. You can then choose the network and use the **Select Network** action.

In the Catalog under Quicksilver, Internal Commands are the Turn AirPort On and Turn AirPort Off objects. Use the **Run** action with them.

With the Network Location Module plugin the locations you've configured in the Network System Preference pane are available in the Catalog (under System, Configuration, Network Locations). If you select one in the object pane you can use the **Switch to Location** action to use it. If you select the Network Locations (Catalog) object you can type → to get a results list of all configured network locations.

There are several macOS utilities that come in handy when dealing with networking that are easily accessed with Quicksilver. The Applications catalog source includes indexing in `/Applications` down 3 levels so by default you can get to AirPort Admin Utility, AirPort Setup Assistant and Internet Connect. The default action for any of these

applications should be **Open**. The Network Preference Pane is available in the catalog under System, Configuration, Preference Panes, System Preferences (System).

3.14.3 Configuration

Quicksilver includes the macOS System Preferences in the Catalog under System, Configuration. It will find preference panes in `/System/Library/PreferencePanes/`, `/Library/PreferencePanes/` and `~/Library/PreferencePanes/` and you can include or exclude these in the Catalog as groups if you want. The individual preferences panes are in the catalog, so you can bring them up directly. You can also select the Preference Panes (Catalog) object or the System Preferences.app as the object and type `→` to see a list of all preference panes in a results list. With a preference pane as the object, you'll most likely want to use the **Open** action to bring up the preference pane, but they are treated like files and many other actions are available.

With the User Accounts Module plugin installed the user accounts on your system are in the Catalog (under System, Configuration, User Accounts) and there is a **Switch to User** action. This invokes macOS's fast user switching technology. If you select User Accounts(Catalog) object and type `→` you get a results list of all user accounts on the system. There's also a Fast Logout.sh object installed with the Extra Scripts plugin. If you use the **Run [...]** action from the Terminal Module plugin with it you will use fast user logout which basically just locks the screen but leaves everything in your session running as if you had done fast user switching. If you do this often create a trigger for it.

With the Keychain Module plugin installed your Keychains are available in the Catalog. They appear in the Catalog under Modules, Keychains. If you select one of your keychains as the object, you can type `→` to see the individual items in a results list. With a keychain item as the object you have three primary actions you'll want to use: **Copy Password**, **Paste Password**, and **Get Password**. All three will open a Confirm Access to Keychain prompt, I always choose Allow Once. The first will copy the password to the clipboard, the second will paste it directly into the current application and the third will open a new command window with the password as the text object so you can choose any action you want. Accessing passwords using these actions should be more secure than keeping them as text in triggers, the shelf or clipboard, though if you use **Copy**

Password you're copying them to the clipboard anyway. **Paste Password** (unlike **Paste**) does not put a copy on the clipboard. If you use **Get Password** and then **Type Text** (instead of **Paste**) you will also avoid making copies on the clipboard.

3.14.4 Exposé

The System Hotkey Commands plugin creates Catalog entries for Dashboard and Exposé commands. For those commands configured on function keys (F1 - F13 with or without modifiers) in the Dashboard and Exposé System Preference pane, you'll find Catalog entries in Modules, Exposé Commands as shown in the following table.

Exposé Command	Quicksilver Catalog Item
All windows	Exposé All Windows
Application Windows	Exposé Application Windows
Desktop	Exposé Desktop
Dashboard	Show Dashboard

While there are other actions available I can't imagine wanting to use anything other than **Run**. If you are annoyed that macOS doesn't allow you to bind these to more keys, configure a trigger to access these any way you want.

3.14.5 Extra Scripts

The Extra Scripts plugin is really just a catch-all of various scripts, but most have to do with controlling the computer so they are described here. Depending on the script you'll use these with the Run action for applescripts or one of the **Run** actions from the Terminal module, The default action should be correct. If you use these often, they all make good candidates for triggers. For some of them like Shut Down, if you make a

keyboard trigger for them, you might want to set a Delay on the trigger so you can't accidentally type it.

- System

    - Sleep - same as ⌥ ⌘ ⏏

    - Restart - same as ^ ⌘ ⏏

    - Force Restart - same as ^ ⌘ -power, warning: doesn't offer to save files

    - Shut Down - same as ^ ⌥ ⌘ ⏏

    - Force Shutdown

    - Empty Trash

    - Eject

    - Close Disk Tray

- System Volume:

    - Mute Volume - sets volume to 0, not a toggle, don't confuse with iTunes Module "Mute" script

    - Min Volume (20%) - sets volume to 1

    - Mid Volume (40%) - sets volume to 4

    - Max Volume (60%) - sets volume to 7

    - Toggle Audio Input - toggles between input devices in the Sound System Preference

    - Toggle Audio Output - toggles between output devices in the Sound System Preference

- Networking:

    - Get IP - shows the result in Large Type

    - Get External IP - shows the result in Large Type

- Processes:

    - Hide Others - most macOS applications have this as a shortcut on ⌥ ⌘ H

    - Show All

    - Quit Visible Apps

    - LockScreen - runs the screen saver and makes you type a password to get back

    - Logout - same as ⇧ ⌘ Q (or is it ⌥ ⇧ ⌘ Q ?)

    - Fast Logout - leaves you logged in, but goes to a login window (macOS's Fast User Switching)

    - Switch To Root

    - Classic Shutdown

    - top 10 - use Run in Terminal… as it outputs 10 lines of text for the 10 busiest applications

- Miscellaneous:

    - Show Character Palette - Often ⌥ ⌘ T but not in all applications

    - Show Keyboard Viewer

    - Sync Now - runs synchronize in iSync

    - Type Clipboard

    - Zoom Front Window - This is like clicking the green button in the top left of a window

🕐2017-11-21

GitHub

3.15 Development

3.15.1 Automator

Install the Automator Module plugin. It adds the **Execute Workflow** action, to use it, navigate to a saved Automator .workflow file and the **Execute Workflow** action should be the default.

3.15.2 Services

The Services Menu Module plugin makes all your Services available in Quicksilver as actions. Services are in the application's menu and many are only enabled when you have selected text. Depending on the applications you use, some services can be really useful as actions. E.g., if you use Sticky Notes then you'll love the **Make New Sticky Note** action.

3.15.3 Terminal

For this section you'll need the Terminal Module plugin installed. There's a Command Line Interface Handler that should be set to Terminal. The plugin creates two catalog sources under Modules. Terminal Files looks in `~/Library/Application Support/Terminal/` for any .term (containing Terminal settings) or .command files (containing Terminal commands). Bash Command History parses the `~/.bash_history` file making each line available as an object in the catalog. Note that bash keeps duplicate lines in the history and they appear in Quicksilver's list as well.

The **Run [...]** action will run a command or shell script selected in the first pane with optional arguments entered in text-mode in the third pane. The result of the command (i.e., stdout) is displayed in a new command window. The **Run in Terminal [...]** is similar but opens a new window in Terminal to run the command and display the results.

As an aside, Applescripts can be run by choosing the script in the first pane, using the **Process Text...** action and entering text in the third pane. This can be thought of as a

reverse action for any script actions added to the `~/Library/Application Support/` `Quicksilver/Actions/` folder (see Extending Quicksilver).

If you want to type a command directly into Quicksilver and run it you can use the **Run Command in Shell** action or the **Run a Text command in Terminal** action. The first runs the command in a shell from Quicksilver and displays the result in a new Quicksilver command window, the second does so in a new Terminal window. You can also use these actions with a command from the Bash Command History catalog source. If you look through your history often you might want a trigger for Bash Command History (Catalog) (**Show Contents**). These commands can be handy when the Dock gets confused. E.g., you can do `killall Dock` with the **Run Command in Shell** action to kill the Dock and have it automatically restarted.

The **Go To Directory in Terminal** action will open a Terminal window with the current working directory set to the directory specified in the first pane. You can use text mode to type the name of any directory, e.g., `/System/Library/Fonts`, though if you use `~` the **Go To Directory in Terminal** action doesn't appear. You can also navigate to a folder in Quicksilver and use the action. If the folder is in the Catalog it should be easy to bring up quickly. If you have a project with a lot of directories you can add them to the catalog. To keep the number of items small you might want to specify just folders and no the files (e.g., this might be useful with a large software project) by putting `'fold'` in the Types box in the Source Options for the catalog source.

The **Show Man Page** action will show the man page of a command in a Terminal window. You don't enter the desired man page in text-mode or navigate inside `/usr/share/man/` to a page. Instead it only works on commands (without an extension) which are in the catalog. To set this up open the catalog and select Custom. In the + menu choose a new File & Folder Scanner and select `/usr/bin/` as the directory. A depth of 1 is fine. Now all those command line utilities are directly accessible from Quicksilver and the **Show Man Page** action will work with them.

An alternative is to make use of the url scheme `x-man-path`. Opening an URL such as `x-man-page://units` will show the man page in a terminal window. It can also show different sections using this form: `x-man-page://3/printf`. You can create a web-search for `x-man-page://***` to make this more convenient.

A common issue seems to be that Terminal automatically runs the same command at startup. This a Terminal configuration issue not a Quicksilver one. It happens if you invoke Terminal for a specific command and then open the Window Settings… panel and click Use Settings As Defaults. The command used to invoke Terminal gets saved in `~/Library/Preferences/com.apple.Terminal.plist`. To remove it, run this command: `defaults write com.apple.Terminal ExecutionString`. If you can't access Terminal try another program like iTerm or running it from Quicksilver with **Run Command in Shell**, or edit the plist file directly.

If you prefer iTerm to Terminal, install the iTerm Module plugin and set the Command Line Interface handler to iTerm. The **Run […]** and **Run Command in Shell** actions don't change, they still run the commands in Quicksilver. By changing the handler the *Run in Terminal […]*, **Run a Text command in Terminal**, and **Go To Directory in Terminal** actions change to use iTerm. There are also three new explicit actions called **Run in iTerm […]**, **Run a Text Command in iTerm**, and **Go To Directory in iTerm**. So if you even if you have the handler set to one, you can run commands using the other easily.

The **Show Man Page** action is a little different. Setting the handler doesn't specify which terminal program is used. Instead both the Terminal and iTerm modules define their own versions of this action. Since the name of the terminal used isn't in the name you have to tell them apart from their icons. If you prefer one to the other but still have both plugins installed, just drag and trop the actions in the actions preferences so that your preferred one has priority. There's also a small difference between the two versions of this action. The Terminal one exits the terminal when you quit viewing the man page, the iTerm one does not.

3.15.4 CLIX

If you use CLIX from Rixstep to perform command line operations, you'll want the Quicksilver CLIX Module plugin. It lets you configure a custom catalog source for a .clix file and converts all the commands inside it into text objects that you can run using **Run Command in Shell** or **Run a Text Command in Terminal** actions. To configure it, open the Catalog and choose the Custom set. Click on the + button at the bottom to add a new custom source. Choose File & Folder Scanner from the pop-up menu. Enter the path to

the .clix file, you must have a separate source for each .clix file. The trick to make this work is to go to the Source Options tab and for Include Contents choose QSCLiXPlugin. At the bottom you probably want to check Omit source item. Rescan the source and you should see the CLIX commands in the Catalog. Activate Quicksilver, select one of the commands and choose one of the available **Run** actions such as **Run Command in Shell**.

3.15.5 Command Line Tool

If you use the command line you may find that you'll want it to be able to interact with Quicksilver. Install the Command Line Tool plugin and a Quicksilver preference pane is installed under General called Command Line Tool. It contains an install button to install a `qs` program in `/usr/bin/`.

Invoke `qs` with one or more files as arguments and Quicksilver will be activated with those files selected in the object pane. With an argument of `-` it will read from stdin though piping in filenames results in the file names being in the object pane as text, which is not the the same as having the files selected. If you use the `-s` or `--shelf` option the files or text will be put on the shelf.

If you are an Emacs user, here's an Emacs command to pass the current file (of a buffer, in dired, or buffer-menu mode) to Quicksilver using ``qs. You could bind it to "C-c q" using something like: `(global-set-key "\C-cq" 'buffer-file-to-quicksilver)`

```
(defun buffer-file-to-quicksilver ()
  "Opens the current file in Quicksilver"
  (interactive)
  (cond ((and buffer-file-name (file-exists-p buffer-file-name))
         (call-process-shell-command (concat "qs \"" buffer-file-name "\"")))
        ;; dired handling
        ((eq major-mode 'dired-mode)
         (dired-do-shell-command "qs * "
                                 current-prefix-arg
                                 (dired-get-marked-files t current-prefix-arg)))
        ;; buffer-menu mode
        ((and (eq major-mode 'Buffer-menu-mode)
              (file-exists-p (buffer-file-name (Buffer-menu-buffer nil))))
         (call-process-shell-command
          (concat "qs \"" (buffer-file-name (Buffer-menu-buffer nil)) "\"")))
        (t
         (error "Not visiting a file or file doesn't exist"))))
```

Here's another function. It will send the contents of the Emacs region to Quicksilver as text. With the text in the first pane you can do whatever Quicksilver can do with it, e.g., the **Find With…** action or the **E-mail To…** actions. I bind it to "C-c w" using: `(global-set-key "\C-cw" 'region-to-quicksilver)`

```
(defun region-to-quicksilver (start end)
  "Opens the contents of the region in Quicksilver as text."
  (interactive "r")
  (call-process-region start end "qs" nil 0 nil "-"))
```

3.15.6 Developer Documentation

If you've installed the macOS Developer Tools then you probably want to install Quicksilver's Developer Module plugin. This adds to the catalog under Modules, Developer:

- applications under `/Developer/Applications`

- documents under `/Developer/ADC Reference Library/documentation/`

- frameworks under `/System/Library/Frameworks` and `/System/Library/PrivateFrameworks`

- headers for AppKit, Foundation and CoreFoundation frameworks.

3.15.7 Subversion

The Subversion Module plugin adds the following actions. For all of them you give the directory or file you want to work on as the object in the first pane. You can use the comma trick to have one command operate on multiple files. If you add your project to

the catalog, it will make it easier to bring up the files to operate on. Those that take an argument in the third pane are noted.

- **SVN Add All Directory Contents**

- **SVN Add Item**

- **SVN Check Out To Directory** - enter the subversion URL in the third pane

- **SVN Commit** - enter comment for log in the third pane

- **SVN Delete Item**

- **SVN Log**

- **SVN Status**

- **SVN Update**

The **SVN Add All Directory Contents** action takes a directory as the object and adds all the files and directories in the directory to the subversion repository. It can take a while to run but progress displays in the Quicksilver Task Viewer.

The subversion plugin calls the `svn` command to perform the actions, so obviously you must have subversion installed on the system. The plugin expects the `svn` command to be in `/usr/local/bin/svn` if it's some place else you can run the following command in a terminal shell to tell Quicksilver where to find it, just replace path with the full path of the svn command:

```
defaults write com.blacktree.Quicksilver QSSVNPluginSVNPATH path
```

By default you will not be shown a list of changed files on commit. If you would like to see such a list use the following command in a terminal shell:

```
defaults write com.blacktree.Quicksilver QSSVNShowChangedFiles 1
```

Change the 1 to a 0 to revert back to the default behavior. To always show a text window with the results of the command issue the following command in a terminal shell (change the 1 to 0 to resume the default behavior).

```
defaults write com.blacktree.Quicksilver QSSVNAllWaysShowTextWindow 1
```

3.15.8 Eclipse

The beta Eclipse plugin indexes workspaces and logs into the catalog. Use the **Open** action with them. Note, installing this plugin causes a very slow search of the user's entire directory looking for Eclipse workspaces. See documentation at: http://code.google.com/p/qseclipse/w/list

3.15.9 Remote Desktop

2017-11-12

GitHub

4. Plugins

4.1 1Password

Quickly find and use 1Password items.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.1.1 1Password Plugin

This plugin gives you the ability to quickly find 1Password items using Quicksilver.

With any item from 1Password selected, you can:

• View the item in 1Password

• Quick Look the item

Login Items

Login items have some special features. By default, opening a Login item will trigger the "Open & Fill" behavior using the first URL associated with the item. To view the item in 1Password instead, hold the Shift key while opening it. (This behavior is part of 1Password, not Quicksilver.)

All of the URLs associated with a Login are accesible by selecting the item and hitting →
or / . Use this feature when you want to Open & Fill one of its other URLs.

Requirements

For Quicksilver to index items from 1Password, you will need to enable integration with 3rd party apps in the "Advanced" section of 1Password's preferences.

Catalog

The 1Password catalog presets allow Quicksilver to index your 1Password items. (Only basic information like title and URL is available. 1Password does not expose sensitive data to 3rd party applications.)

Go to Preferences → Catalog → Plugins and look for the 1Password group. By expanding this group, you can select which categories from 1Password you would like indexed by Quicksilver.

You can access all these items by right arrowing (→) into the 1Password application in Quicksilver's first pane.

Actions

Open & Fill

The Open & Fill action is available for individual website URLs associated with Login items. When run, 1Password opens the URL in your browser and fills the login form.

This plugin has taken a lot of development time. If you enjoy using it, please consider donating.

2018-06-03

4.2 Abracadabra Triggers

Trigger commands with mouse/trackpad gestures.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.3 Abracadabra Triggers

This plug-in allows you to trigger actions in Quicksilver by drawing a gesture on screen using a mouse or trackpad.

Gestures are initiated by holding either a modifier key (Shift, Control, etc.) or a mouse button.

Colors and sounds are customizable in the preferences under Abracadabra.

4.3.1 Creating a Trigger

1. In the Triggers… preferences, add a new trigger using the + button and choose "Gesture".

2. Click somewhere in the info panel's box and hold the button down.

3. Draw the desired gesture, then release the button.

4. Optionally, define the applications where the trigger should be active under the Scope tab.

Tips

• It helps to practice the gesture a few times before setting it.

• You can replace an existing gesture at any time by simply drawing a new one.

- When defining a gesture, only the initial click needs to be inside the box. You can go outside of it when drawing, so draw the gesture at the size that feels natural for real-world use.

2018-06-03

4.4 Apple Mail

Enables browsing and email actions for Apple Mail.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.4.1 Apple Mail Plugin

This plugin lets you browse your mailboxes and messages contained in Apple Mail.

Just call up Mail.app in the first pane and hit → or /. It will reveal all mailboxes and folders for each account. Arrowing into a mailbox reveals all messages in that folder. The selected message can be viewed with Quick Look or "opened" to reveal it in Mail.

This plugin also allows actions for composing messages or sending messages directly (via the E-mail Support plugin) to function based on settings in Apple Mail.

Actions

- Open Mailbox - When a mailbox is selected in the first pane, this actions opens it in Mail.app.

- Open Message - When a message is selected in the first pane, this actions opens it in its own window in Mail.app

- Get New Mail - Recieves new mails for all accounts.

- Open New Messages - Opens all unread messages.

NOTE: FOR GMAIL USERS

Apple Mail only partially supports Gmail folders. That means trying to browse Gmail folders using → will only work for the most basic folders (Inbox, Bin etc.) and won't work for any custom folders you have created.

2018-06-03

4.5 Audio

Adjust macOS audio devices.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.6 Audio Plugin

4.6.1 Overview

This plugin adds your audio devices (input and output) to Quicksilver's catalog and allows you to set which is active. You can also adjust the sample rate of any discovered device, which saves you from having to do it manually in the Audio MIDI Setup utility.

Using this plugin along with the iTunes and Event Triggers plugins, you can automatically adjust the sample rate of your output device to match the currently playing track.

4.6.2 Actions

Select Input Device

Change the active input to the device in the first pane

Select Output Device

Change the active output to the device in the first pane

Set Sample Rate to ??? kHz

With an audio device selected in the first pane, the sample rate can be set to a specific value. The available sample rate actions will vary, depending on the rates supported by the device.

Set Output Sample Rate to Match

Set the sample rate of the current output device to match the audio track selected in the first pane.

This is mainly intended to be used in a trigger with the "Currently Playing Track" proxy object. If the target sample rate is not supported by the device, nothing happens.

4.6.3 Automatically Adjusting Sample Rate

To make sure the sample rate of your output device always matches the sample rate of the music you're listening to:

1. Install the iTunes plugin

2. Install the Event Triggers plugin

3. In Quicksilver's Triggers preferences, create a new Event Trigger

4. Select "Event Trigger Object" in the first pane

5. Select the "Set Output Sample Rate to Match" action in the second pane

6. Save the trigger

7. In the trigger's settings, choose the "iTunes Track Changed" event

This plug-in uses icons from the Open Icon Library.

2026-02-08

4.7 Automator

Support For Workflows and Automator Actions.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.7.1 Automator Plugin

The Automator plugin adds a single 'Execute Workflow' action for running Automator workflows.

Actions

Execute Workflow

With an Automator workflow selected in Quicksilver's first pane, the 'Execute Workflow' action runs the workflow.

🕓 2018-06-03

4.8 Calculator

Allows calculation of mathematical expressions with the Calculate action.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.9 Calculator Plugin

4.9.1 What is it?

This plugin provides a built-in calculator for Quicksilver

4.9.2 Overview

The Calculator plugin allows you to calculate mathematical expressions entered into Quicksilver with the 'Calculate' action. To calculate expressions you can run the 'Calculate' action on a text string, or put Quicksilver into 'Math' mode by typing '='.

Entering Expressions

Expressions are entered using the same syntax as Spotlight, for example:

- =(sin(30))^2
- =e^4 + sqrt(50)

Displaying Results

Results from the 'Calculate' action can be displayed in one of 3 ways, and/or copied to the clipboard. See 'Calculator' preferences.

Calculator Mode

In the Calculator preferences you can also choose what calculator engine you wish to use. Currently only `bc` and `dc` are provided.

Go to the Calculator Preferences pane for more information and options on displaying results.

🕐 2018-06-03

4.10 Calendar & Reminders

Adds support for creating Calendar Events and Reminders for the Calendars and Reminders apps on your Mac.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.10.1 Calendar & Reminders Plugin

This plugin adds actions for creating Calendar Events (Calendar.app) and Reminders (Reminders.app) from within Quicksilver

Permissions

This plugin requires access to your Calendar and Reminders. Make sure you have granted Quicksilver permissions by adding it to the Calendars list and Reminders list in the System Preferences.

Actions

Create Calendar Event

This action takes text from Quicksilver's 1st pane, and adds it as an event to your selected Calendar in Quicksilver's 3rd pane.
Examples of text could be `Dinner with Tom next Tuesday` or `Visit mum at 3pm`.

You can improve how an event displays in your Calendar by separating the name of the event and the time it takes place with two dashes `--`
Using `Next Tuesday -- Dinner with Tom` will create an event called just `Dinner with Tom` in your calendar. Supported languages include English, Japanese,

French, Dutch, Russian, English (UK) with partial support for German, Portuguese and Chinese, thanks to the Chrono project

Create Reminder

This action takes text from Quicksilver's 1st pane, and adds it as a Reminder to your selected Reminders List in Quicksilver's 3rd pane.

Examples of text could be `Do the shopping` or `Pick up the kids from school`.

You can set the priority of an event by prefixing your event with any number of exclamation marks `!`
One exclamantion mark gives the Reminder a *low* priority, *two* give the Reminder a *medium* priority and *three* gives it a *high* priority.

```
!! This is a medium priority reminder
This reminder has no priority set
```

Next Online Meeting Object

This plugin adds a 'Next online meeting' object to your catalog. Use it to find an upcoming meeting (within the next 30 minutes) on your calendar. It will automatically retrieve the URL from the calendar information for you to open.

Default Calendars for Events/Reminders

You can select the default calendar for Events/Reminders by going to Preferences > Calendars in the Quicksilver preferences

Open Source Licenses

This project uses code from: * Chrono Project * Meeting Bar Project

2018-06-03

4.11 Clipboard

Allows clipboard recording and adds a clipboard history window.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

Clipboard Plugin

The clipboard plugin gives Quicksilver the ability to keep a record of the Clipboard history (disabled by default), storing it in the 'Clipboard History' item in Quicksilver (type 'Clipboard History' into Quicksilver).
In addition to viewing the clipboard history in Quicksilver, the plugin adds a floating panel which displays all your history. To open the panel, open Quicksilver and press ⌘L.

Preferences

The Clipboard preferences allow you to alter the behaviour of how Quicksilver stores your clipboard contents. The following options are available:

Capture History

Turn on the history capture option, so Quicksilver will keep a record of your history items. Enter the number of items you would like Quicksilver to store in the box alongside. 20 items is a good starting point.

Keep history when restarting

Enable this to preserve clipboard history when Quicksilver or your computer are restarted. This will save your clipboard data to the disk, so you should consider any security issues before enabling the option.

Hide after pasting

Enabling this option causes the Clipboard window to hide when you paste an item.

Ignore Applications

Sometimes you may copy sensitive information for certain applications, if you want Quicksilver to ignore all clipboard entries from a given application, then enter its name in the box.

Clipboard Window

POSITIONING THE WINDOW

The Clipboard Window is a floating panel specific to Quicksilver, giving it several useful features for positioning. Positioning the window on the side of the screen will cause it to become 'docked' on the screen edge. It will then slide into the screen edge. Hover over the edge of the screen to make the window reappear.

The position of windows is remembered across restarts of Quicksilver, and you can have the window disappear after pasting by enabling the 'Hide after pasting' option in the preferences (see above).
Tip: You can quickly open and close the Clipboard Window by creating a trigger with the following options:
'Clipboard History ⇥ Show' If you would like to display the contents of your Clipboard history in Quicksilver (so that they are searchable) then set up the following trigger:
'Clipboard History ⇥ Show Contents'

PASTING ITEMS

The Clipboard Window (activated by pressing ⌘L when Quicksilver is activated) displays a list of your Clipboard history. You can browse the history using the ↑ ↓ arrows, and paste text by pressing the Enter key (↵). A quicker way to paste an item is by pressing its corresponding number (from 1 to 9), displayed next to the item in the preference window.

Finally, it is possible to drag an item from the Clipboard window to wherever you would like to place it (e.g. on your Desktop) or double click an item to paste it.

Tip To paste items form the Clipboard Window as plain text, hold the ⌥ (option) key whilst either double clicking an item or pressing a keyboard key (numbers 1 to 9 or ↵)

Proxy Objects

CLIPBOARD CONTENTS

The 'Clipboard Contents' proxy object returns whatever you have currently copied to your clipboard. It is useful for setting up with triggers. An example could be:
'Clipboard Contents ⇥ Find With… ⇥ Google'

CURRENT FIND CLIPBOARD

This returns the text you last searched for in a standard Cocoa application or "copied" with ⌘E. For example, if you just searched for some words in TextEdit, then decide you want to repeat that search on the web, you can run 'Current Find Clipboard ⇥ Find With… ⇥ DuckDuckGo'.

Action Objects

By default, the Clipboard plugin adds a serious of 'action objects' which can be run from Quicksilver's 1st pane, or more usefully, as triggers. These are:

- **Clip store paste `<number>`**
- **Clip store copy `<number>`**

`Clip store paste` can be used to paste the clipboard's contents corresponding to `<number>`. For example, `Clip store paste 9` will paste the 9th item from the pasteboard. `Clip store copy` works in a similar way, except instead of pasting the item directly, it copies it to the clipboard.

2018-06-03

4.12 Command Line Tool

Allows data to be piped into Quicksilver from the command line.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

The `qs` command allows you to select files or text in Quicksilver (or send them to the Shelf) from the command line.

Select a file:

```
qs MyFile.jpg
qs ~/Documents
```

Select multiple files:

```
qs file1.txt file2.txt
qs *.pdf
```

Select text:

```
echo example | qs
echo "example with multiple words" | qs
whoami | qs
pbpaste | qs
```

Note that when you pipe text to `qs`, the same smarts apply that you would get when typing text by hand. URLs, file paths, etc. are automatically recognized and the appropriate action will be displayed in Quicksilver's interface.

To send an item to the Shelf instead of selecting it, use the `-s` option.

```
qs -s ~/Documents/MyMainProject
```

2018-06-03

4.13 Contacts

Provides access to contact information.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.13.1 Overview

The Apple Contacts plugin allows interaction with the contacts stored on your Mac or other sources (Exchange, CardDav). Contacts are added to your catalog, but can also be found by right arrowing → into the Contacts app.

4.13.2 Catalog

The plugin adds a single catalog source called 'Contacts', available under the 'Modules' tab in the Catalog preferences that adds all your contacts to Quicksilver's catalog. If you do not wish to populate your catalog with your contacts, you can disable this entry and obtain a list of all your contacts by right arrowing → into the Contacts app instead.

Contacts in Quicksilver

Quicksilver obtains all the available information about a contact, including their email addresses, postal addresses, phone numbers and websites. This information can be viewed by right arrowing → into a selected contact. Contact details are either searchable by the detail itself (e.g. the phone number) or the name of the detail (e.g. work phone).

The contact's information is available for use with any valid action in Quicksilver. For example you can find a contact's postal address with Google Maps, email a file to one email address or open the contact's website.

4.13.3 Actions

Show Contact

Show the selected contact in Contacts

Edit Contact

Edit the selected contact in Contacts

Add Note…

Add a text note to a selected contact. This does not open Contacts.

2018-06-03

4.14 Cyberduck

Cyberduck Quicksilver Plugin.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.14.1 Cyberduck

This plug-in adds your Cyberduck bookmarks to the catalog.

You can also access your bookmarks by selecting Cyberduck in the first pane and using → or / to go into it.

🕐 2018-06-03

4.15 Dash

Allows quick access to Dash DocSets.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.16 Dash Plug-in

4.16.1 Overview

This plug-in adds DocSets from Dash to the catalog to allow quick searches on specific topics.

4.16.2 Actions

Search in Dash

Search Dash for the text in the first pane. Use this for generic searches, like "regular expression" or to specify a more specific search by hand, like "nginx:listen ipv6".

Search DocSet for...

With one or more DocSets selected in the first pane, you can enter a search query in the third pane. The search will be limited to the selected DocSet(s).

Find in DocSet...

With text entered in the first pane, you can use this action to select one or more DocSets in the third pane and search them for the text. The search will be limited to the selected DocSet(s).

View in Dash

Select a DocSet in Dash and show its index page.

🕐 2018-06-03

4.17 DeMinimizer

Restore and minimize windows.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

DeMinimizer Plugin

Adds actions and triggers to minimize and restore windows

SETUP

- Ensure 'Enable access for assistive devices' is enabled in the Universal Access preference pane

- Customize the provided triggers appropriately

USAGE

Try the bundled triggers -- three of them are for restoring minimized windows and one of them should minimize all windows.

There is also a 'Minimized Windows' proxy object which can be used to observe a list of minimized windows. The proxy object and individual minimized windows which it resolves to may also be used with the 'Restore Minimized Window' action.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- icon work - musti

- testing and ideas - Howard Melman

2018-06-03

4.18 Developer

Developer Documentation Access.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.19 Developer Plugin

This Plugin adds developer applications like `Icon Composer.app` to the catalog. This works for Xcode versions up to 4.2, when Xcode was still installed in `/Developer` as well as newr Xcode versions (>= 4.3), when Xcode is installed in `/Applications/Xcode.app`.

2018-06-03

4.20 Displays

Allows modification of desktop picture, resolution and depth of displays.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

Displays Plugin

The displays plugin allows Quicksilver to index the displays currently attached to your Mac, in order to set the Desktop picture and their resolution, colour depth and refresh rate.

Catalog

A single 'Displays' catalog item is added to the 'Plugins' section in the Catalog preferences which indexes all the displays that are currently attached to your Mac.

Actions

SET DESKTOP PICTURE

This action takes a file or a URL pointing to an image file (types include .jpg, .gif, .pdf etc.) in order to set the currently focused display.
In order to set the Desktop picture for a different display, tab (⇥) to the 3rd pane in Quicksilver, and select an alternate display. In order for the list of displays to correctly populate in Quicksilver's 3rd pane, you **must** enable the 'Displays' catalog item. see above.

SET COLOUR DEPTH

This action allows you to alter the colour depth of a given screen, selected in Quicksilver's 1st pane. By tabbing to the 3rd pane (⇥) you can see the available options.

SET REFRESH RATE

Similar to the 'Set Colour Depth' action, this allows you to alter the refresh rate of a given screen.

SET RESOLUTION

Similar to the 'Set Colour Depth' and 'Set Refresh Rate' actions.

2018-06-03

4.21 E-mail Support

Works with your mail client to enable e-mail based actions.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.21.1 E-mail Support

This plug-in enables you to send mail (including attachments) directly from Quicksilver. You must have a mail client (such as Apple Mail) configured, and its plugin must be loaded.

Sending

You can send one or more files using the comma-trick or you can enter the text of your message into Quicksilver. When entering text, you can specify a subject by separating it from the rest of your message with ">>". For example

```
Tomorrow night>>Are you busy? That new movie is coming out.
```

will be sent as

```
Subject: Tomorrow night

Are you busy? That new movie is coming out.
```

You can't enter text when sending files, but you can set a message to accompany attachments by default in the preferences.

As a general rule, you can do either "Contact(s) ➻ E-mail Item… ➻ Text/Files" or "Text/Files ➻ E-mail To… ➻ Contact(s)".

Compose vs. Send vs. Direct

The actions have either "Compose", "Send", or "Direct" in their name somewhere.

Compose

Send the text or file(s) using your e-mail client. A new message will open for further editing.

Send

Send the text or file(s) using your e-mail client. The message will be sent immediately.

Direct

Send the text or file(s) immedately without opening an e-mail client. Though the client doesn't need to run, this action still requires that your e-mail client be configured with the details for at least one SMTP server.

2018-06-03

4.22 Emojis

Search for emojis and copy/paste right within Quicksilver".

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.23 Emojis Plugin

Search for emojis right from within Quicksilver

4.23.1 Searching Emojis 🔍

This plugin allows you to search for emojis by text. You have two options for finding emojis:

Search for the 'emojis' item in Quicksilver, then → to see a list of all emojis and filter Enable the 'All Emojis' catalog item in the Catalog Preferences, and then you'll be able to search for emojis directly from within Quicksilver.

4.23.2 Using Emojis ⛏️

Emojis are text, so you can use them just like you would any text in Quicksilver: copy/paste, large type, search the web etc. etc.

4.23.3 Supercharging Your Emojis 🚀🚀

To really super-charge your emoji searching, try setting up a keyboard trigger for 'Emojis' → 'Show Contents'. Assign the trigger to a shortcut (e.g. ⌃E) and then tap it to get straight to your emojis, anytime, anywhere 💃🕺

Credits 👏

The list of emojis used in this plugin were taken from emojilib 🎉🎉

🕐2026-02-08

4.24 Event Triggers

Run triggers automatically based on system events.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.25 Event Triggers

With this plug-in, Quicksilver can run actions automatically as things happen on your system. For example:

- When the screen saver activates, pause iTunes.

- When the computer wakes from sleep, open Mail.

- When the network changes, run a shell script.

- When a disk named "Backup" is mounted, compress a specific folder and copy it to the disk.

- When switching to the internal speakers (headphones disconnected), pause iTunes.

(Some examples require other plug-ins.)

4.25.1 Quickstart

In order to create an example event trigger for experimentation:

1. Open Quicksilver settings

2. Install you have the `Event Triggers` plugin installed

3. Go to the `Triggers` preference pane

4. Use the `+` button (bottom left) and select `Event`

5. In the pop-up interface, create the *action* you want to run

   - For example, `Quicksilver is awesome!` ⇥ **Large Type**

6. Find your action in the list of triggers, e.g. `Show "Quicksilver is awesome!" in large type`

7. Use `⌘``I` (or the `i` icon bottom right) to open the sidebar

8. In the sidebar, choose an easy to trigger event such as `Switched to A/C Power` (assuming you're on a laptop)

9. Test it out: if on a laptop, unplug and replug your power cable and expect to see a text popup from Quicksilver appear automatically

4.25.2 Built-in Events

You can assign triggers for the following events:

• Application Launched

• Application Quit

• Quicksilver Launched

• Quicksilver Launched (at Login)

• Quicksilver Will Quit

• Active Space Changed

• Computer Will Shut Down

• Computer Will Sleep

• Computer Woke Up

• External Display Changed

• Fast Login

• Fast Logout

• Ethernet Changed

• Disk Mounted

• Disk Ejected

• Disk Will Eject

• Screen Saver Started

• Screen Saver Stopped

• Switched to A/C Power

• Switched to Battery Power

• Switched to UPS Power

• Switched to Headphones

• Switched to Internal Speakers

• Switched to S/PDIF

• Internet Became Available

• Internet Became Unavailable

4.25.3 Plug-in Events

Other plug-ins may define additional events. These are generally things that happen when running an action in Quicksilver, rather than on the system in general.

Events generated by Quicksilver should be marked with ☿ .

4.25.4 Trigger Settings

Event

Choose the event you want Quicksilver to watch for.

Delay

When the event happens, wait a certain number of seconds before running the trigger. It doesn't need to be a whole number. For instance, 0.1 and 2.5 are valid values.

Ignore Repeats

Match & Ignore Items

By default, an event trigger will run for **every occurrence** of the event.

For certain types of events, you can control whether or not the trigger runs depending on the object the event was related to. (See below for more on the Event Trigger Object.) For example, you might want to run a backup script when a particular disk is mounted, but not every time *any* disk is mounted. These restrictions can be set up by adding objects to the match/ignore lists.

Select objects in the main Quicksilver interface and drag them to either the Match Items or Ignore Items list. Multiple items can be added at once using the comma trick.

4.25.5 Event Trigger Object

This plug-in adds a proxy object called "Event Trigger Object" to the catalog. It's only useful within the context of an event trigger.

When an event happens, it can pass something along. You can then use an event trigger to run an action on that thing. For example, the iTunes plug-in defines an "iTunes Track Changed" event. When this happens, the Event Trigger Object will refer to the track that just started playing. So, for example, you could create a trigger like

```
Event Trigger Object ↦ Add to Playlist… ↦ Just Played
```

To see what the Event Trigger Object refers to for a particular event, check the documentation in the plug-in that defines the event. For events that don't explicitly provide an object, the Event Trigger Object will just be text containing the event's name.

Known Event Trigger Objects

For the events defined by this plug-in, the following objects will be available.

Event	Event Trigger Object
Application Launched	The application that launched
Application Quit	The application that quit
Disk Mounted	The disk that was mounted
Disk Ejected	The disk that was ejected
Disk Will Eject	The disk that will eject

This plug-in uses icons from the Open Icon Library.

2018-06-03

4.26 Extra Scripts

AppleScripts for commonly used system tasks.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

This plugin adds a catalog entry titled "Scripts (Extra Scripts Plugin)" to your catalog which includes Shell/AppleScripts that emulate some OS functions like restarting and process actions.

The plugins includes scripts for:

- System Volume control

- Showing the Keyboard Viewer and Character Palette

- Managing the user session: Logout, Lock Screen etc.

- System Controls such as Restart, Shutdown, Sleep, Eject

For a full list of scripts, see the plugin's catalog entry (titles "Scripts (Extra Scripts Plugin)")

2018-06-03

4.27 FaceTime

Initiate FaceTime with Contacts.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.27.1 FaceTime

This plug-in adds FaceTime and FaceTime Audio actions.

With a phone number, e-mail address, or contact1 selected, choose a FaceTime action in the second pane.

The FaceTime application will ask you to confirm before actually contacting the person.

---

1. For contacts, the first listed e-mail address will be used. This may or may not be what you want. You should generally select a specific phone number or e-mail address. ↩

🕓2018-06-03

4.28 File Attribute

File tagging, locking, and visibility.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.29 File Attribute Plugin

The File Attribute Actions plugin adds actions to Quicksilver that enable you to alter the attributes of system files on your computer. This includes tagging, altering the visibility of files and folders, locking files and folders, and setting icons of files.

The tagging features provide an interface for adding and removing tags on files, as well as browsing tags and finding all files with a certain tag or tags.

4.29.1 Actions

Add Tags…

Add tags to the selected file(s).

Add to File…

Apply the selected tag to one or more files in the third pane.

Set Tags…

Apply tags to the selected file(s), replacing any existing tags.

Remove Tags…

Remove specific tags from the selected file(s).

Show Tags

Show a list of tags currently assigned to the selected file(s).

Clear Tags

Remove all tags from the selected file(s).

Lock/Unlock File

These actions lock or unlock the file(s) in Quicksilver's 1st pane. Locking a file is equivalent to ticking the 'Lock' checkbox in the 'Get Info' panel of a file, and makes the file or folder read only.

Make Visible (show) & Make Invisible (hide)

These actions alter the display of files or folders within Finder. Making an item invisible means it does not display in Finder. An example of an invisible folder is the

Set Icon...

Allows you to alter the icon that is displayed by Finder for the file or folder. To un-set an icon, open the file in Finder and select 'Get Info' (⌘I). From here you can 'delete' the icon.

Clear Custom Icon

Clears the custom icon set for the selected file(s).

4.29.2 Catalog

The plugin adds all of the user's tags to Quicksilver's catalog. A tag in Quicksilver is treated like a folder: its children are its contents, accessed by drilling down into the tag with → or /. A tag's contents consist of all files tagged with it, plus every other tag belonging to these files.

Custom Entries

You can add files to the catalog if they match one or more tags.

1. Add a new custom catalog entry using the + at the bottom of the Catalog preferences.

2. Select "Tagged Files" from the pop-up menu.

3. Enter one or more tags in the token field.

4. Optionally, change the name of the entry in the list.

Files matching all listed tags will be included in the global catalog.

4.29.3 Search

Use Quicksilver to search for files by tag. Drill down into a tag (with → or /) to see an alphabetical listing of all files so tagged. At the end of this list is a list of the other tags for these files. Refine your search by drilling down into one of these tags and filter even further. With this mechanism you can arbitrarily extend a query to involve any number of tags.

For example, to see all files tagged with the tag "foo," bring up the "foo" tag and drill down into it. Say some of these files are also tagged with "bar," and still others, "baz"; these two will be listed at the bottom, after the list of files. Drilling down into one will further filter the results to only show files with *both* tags (files tagged with "foo" and "bar" or files tagged with "foo" and "baz"). Drilling up out of these results reverts to showing all files tagged with just "foo".

When performing such a compound tag query, you can keep track of the current search by looking at a possible tag's value: filtering files tagged with "foo" and then "bar" will show the second tag as "foo + bar" in the command window. (Note: If your Quicksilver catalog contains Recent Objects, these compound tag lists will be included, and this may not be the browsing behavior you desire.)

4.29.4 Working with Tags

All of the expected tagging actions are made available by the plugin. Users can add tags to files, remove tags from files, set the tags of files to a different set, clear all tags from files, and show the tags of files. These actions can be performed on a single file or multiple files, thanks to Quicksilver's multiple selection support using the comma key. Tags can be added to or removed from multiple files at a time, and the user can show all the tags that a group of files has in common. Showing the tags for a file or files will bring up a list of the tags in the Quicksilver's direct object pane, ready to be explored. A similar interface is used for removing tags from files, presenting a list of that file's current tags (or shared tags for multiple files).

In addition to operating on multiple files, you can use multiple tags in an operation. A list of appropriate tags should appear in the third pane. You can enter a new tag by switching to text-entry mode. Multiple tags can be selected with the comma trick or entered in text-entry mode by separating them with commas.

Tags can contain almost anything other than comma.

4.29.5 Event Triggers

If the Event Triggers plug-in is installed, you can configure actions to run when tags are modified or cleared via Quicksilver. The Event Trigger Object proxy will refer to the file(s) affected.

🕒 2018-06-03

4.30 File Compression

File Compress/Decompress Actions.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.30.1 Overview

The File Compression Plugin allows compression and decompression of files using Apple's Archive Utility application. In addition, it supports `7z` files using p7zip.

4.30.2 Actions

Compress

Compresses the object(s) in the first pane using the default compression type (see 'Preferences' section below)

Compress Using...

Allows the object(s) in the first pane to be compressed using one of:

Decompress

Decompress files using Archive Utility or

4.30.3 Preferences

The plugin adds a preference pane to Quicksilver, allowing you to:

- Choose whether to compress files to a temporary location first
- Choose whether to ignore macOS special files (__MACOSX, ._ files) when compressing
- Choose the default compression type to use for the 'Compress' action

4.30.4 Trigger Events

Event Triggers can be run based on two events in this plugin: Compress and Decompress. For both actions, the "Event Trigger Object" will refer to the archive file.

4.30.5 Decompressing Multiple Times

If you decompress multiple times into the same folder, Archive Utility will rename files at the top-level to avoid a conflict. By contrast, `p7zip` will rename files *within nested folders* , so do not be surprised if decompressing multiple times does not produce separate copies of a decompressed folder.

---

1. The `tbz2` extension is used as opposed to `tbz` , since this is the OS-preferred extension. ↩

2018-06-03

4.31 Firefox

Bookmarks & History for Firefox.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

Firefox Plugin

This plugin allows you to search your Firefox bookmarks and history directly from Quicksilver. It also provides a "Current Web Page (Firefox)" proxy object - allowing you to easily manipulate the current Firefox Web Page.

CATALOG ENTRIES

Under the **Firefox** entry, you will find the following two subentries:

Firefox Bookmarks includes all the URLs you bookmarked, without any folder structure or tags you might have applied.

Firefox History contains the last 200 URLs you visited (disabled by default).

Tip: if you want to increase or decrease the number of History items in Quicksilver, you can: 1. Go to `~/Library/Application Support/Quicksilver/PlugIns/` 2. find `com.blacktree.quicksilver.QSFirefoxPlugin.*.qsplugin` 3. right-click -> "Show Package Contents" 4. then open `Contents/Info.plist` 5. In there, find the entry `QSPresetAdditions -> Item 0 -> children -> Item 1 -> settings -> historySize` 6. Change the number to something different. 7. Restart Quicksilver and rescan the catalog

PROXY OBJECTS

Current Web Page (Firefox)

The **Current Web Page (Firefox)** proxy object contains the title and URL of the webpage currently open in Firefox.

Tip: Firefox updates the 'current webpage' information about every 15 seconds. If you encounter delays between getting the latest webpage information, you can shorten the delayby changing a hidden preference in Firefox:

1. Type `about:config` in Firefox's address bar.

2. Type `sessionstore.interval` in the filter-field.

3. The `browser.sessionstore.interval` value is in milliseconds. Change it to something smaller, like 10000 or 5000

2018-06-03

4.32 Gmail

Allows Quicksilver to send emails via Gmail.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.32.1 Gmail Plugin

The Gmail plugin allows you to use Quicksilver to send email via the Compose Email, Email Item..., and Email To... actions, through Gmail.

To enable Quicksilver to send email using the Gmail plugin, go to Quicksilver's Preferences, and within the 'Handlers' tab, choose 'Gmail Plugin' as the Mail Handler from the dropdown list.

Once set, open the Gmail preferences and enter your username and password. This information is stored securely in the Apple OS X Keychain.

2018-06-03

4.33 Google Chrome

Access to information and functionality in the Google Chrome web browser.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.33.1 Quicksilver Google Chrome plugin

This plugin adds functionality for accessing different aspects of Google Chrome in Quicksilver. If you have Google Chrome Canary, all of the listed functionality has Canary equivalents.

This plugin contains adapted code from the Safari plugin.

Catalog

The following additions are made to the catalog:

- **Open web pages** - A container for the current open web pages in Chrome, access the actual web pages by right arrowing into the container. Also available when right arrowing into the Chrome application.

- **Bookmarks** - The top level bookmarks and bookmark folders from Chrome. Also available when right arrowing into the Chrome application

- **History** - The 300 latest history entries in Chrome, disabled by default. The number in the catalog is limited to 300 for performance reasons. The history entries are also available when right arrowing into the Chrome application, and it includes all of the history, no limits.

- **Search engines** - All search engines registered in Chrome, disabled by default. They are searchable both by their names and their keywords, and are also available when right arrowing into the Chrome application.

Actions

The following actions are available:

- **Reveal tab** - Activates the tab in Chrome that contains the selected web page. This is only available for Chrome Tab types, i.e. the listing under "Open web pages", or "Current Web Page".

- **Reload tab** - Reloads the tab in Chrome that contains the selected web page. This is only available for Chrome Tab types, i.e. the listing under "Open web pages", or "Current Web Page".

- **Open URL in Source Browser** - Opens the URL in the browser from whence it came. This is only available for URLs from Chrome (see Types below), typically as a bookmark or a history entry. This can be used to open bookmarks from a browser in that browser and is useful if your main browser is not Chrome or Chrome Canary.

Proxies

The following proxies are available:

- **Current Web Page** - The web page currently displayed in the frontmost tab of the frontmost window in Chrome.

- **Current Web Site** - A web search on the site displayed in the frontmost tab of the frontmost window in Chrome.

Types

The following new types are defined:

- **Chrome Tab** - A currently open tab in Chrome. Used as secondary type on URLs coming from Chrome tabs.

- **URLs from Chrome** - An URL coming from Chrome, either as a history entry or a bookmark or a bookmark folder. A secondary type for keeping track of the source of the URL.

Additional information

The icon used for the bookmarks folder is created by Ernesto Monasterio, and can be found Here. The icon is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 License.

2018-06-03

4.34 Image Manipulation

Actions to scale and change format of images.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.34.1 Overview

Actions to scale, change the format of images. Both actions take an argument in Quicksilver's 3rd pane. Examples can be seen below.

4.34.2 Actions

Scale Image…

This method allows you to scale an image selected in Quicksilver's 1st pane. Various scaling and format options are available, and are listed below.

Save Image in Format…

Saves the image in the format specified. Valid formats include:

Scaling Syntax

The basic format for the string is (terms in square brackets are optional):

```
SCALING_INFORMATION [as FORMATTING_INFORMATION]
```

where `SCALING_INFORMATION` has the format:

```
[fit] WIDTH [x HEIGHT]
```

with `WIDTH` and `HEIGHT` defined as whole numbers in terms of pixels. For example, "210" means "210px", but it is also possible to type "210px".

`FORMATTING_INFORMATION` has the format:

```
JPG/PNG/GIF/TIFF [low/med/hi] [prog(ressive)] [inter(laced)]
```

which allows you to set the file type, quality of the image and various further options (progressive for `.jpg` files and interlaced for `.png` files).

Examples:

80%

Scales an image to 80% of the original image, keeping the same file format as the input image.

500px x 50px

Scales the image to be 500px in width by 50px in height. The format is kept the same as the original.

x200 as gif

Scales the image to be 200px in height, maintaining the width so as to scale the image. Saves the result as a GIF file.

fit 640x480 as jpg high progressive

Creates a JPEG image that will fit within a 640x480 rectangle and is of high quality with progressive enabled.

50% as interlaced png

Creates a PNG with dimensions half of the original.

4.34.3 Trigger Events

Event Triggers can be run when images are resized or reformatted by this plug- in. For both actions, the "Event Trigger Object" will refer to the new image file(s).

2018-06-03

4.35 iPhoto

Adds Albums to the catalog.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.35.1 iPhoto Plugin

The iPhoto plugin for Quicksilver adds iPhoto's albums and events to the Quicksilver catalog. These items are also available by entering into iPhoto.app (using → or /). iPhoto albums and events within Quicksilver contain all the pictures available within iPhoto; useful for copying or moving photos.
The plugin also adds several actions for manipulating albums, and proxy objects for dealing with selected items in iPhoto.

4.35.2 Catalog

iPhoto Albums

Adds your iPhoto albums and events to Quicksilver's catalogs. The same items are available by entering into iPhoto.app (using → or /)

4.35.3 Actions

Start Slideshow

Available for iPhoto albums only. (**Note: Not available for iPhoto events due to a limitation by Apple**)

This action starts a slideshow for the selected album.

Show

Available for iPhoto albums only. (**Note: Not available for iPhoto events due to a limitation by Apple**)

This action shows the selected album in iPhoto, and activates the application.

Empty iPhoto Trash

This action is available when iPhoto.app is selected in Quicksilver's 1st pane. Executing the action launches iPhoto and empties the iPhoto trash.

4.35.4 Proxy Objects

Current iPhoto Selection

Returns a list of the currently selected photos in iPhoto. If no photos are selected, then the currently active album is returned.

Current iPhoto Album

Returns the currently selected iPhoto album. Behaves in the same way as the 'Current iPhoto Selection' proxy object, except the current active album is always return, even when photos are selected.

2018-06-03

4.36 iTerm2

Provider for using iTerm2 with the Terminal plugin.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.36.1 Quicksilver iTerm2 plugin

This plugin provides functionality for having commands from the Terminal plugin work in iTerm2. It does so by registering iTerm2 as a Command line interface.

When the iTerm2 plugin is installed, iTerm2 becomes available as a choice under Command Line Interface in the Handlers section of the Quicksilver preferences.

In addition, this plugin provides iTerm2-specific functionality.

This plugin contains adapted code from the Terminal plugin.

Types

- **iTerm Session** - A representation of an iTerm session. Access all sessions by right-arrowing into iTerm2.

Actions

This plugin supplies the following actions:

- **Open New Window** - Opens a new iTerm window. This action is available directly on the iTerm2 application in QS.

- **Run a Text Command in iTerm** - Runs a text command entered in Quicksilver's text mode in iTerm.

The action opens a new terminal. The alternate action is **Run a Text Command in iTerm Tab**.

> • **Run a Text Command in iTerm Tab** - Runs a text command entered in Quicksilver's text mode in iTerm.

The action opens a new tab in the current terminal. The alternate action is **Run a Text Command in iTerm**.

Disabled by default.

> • **Run a Text Command in Current iTerm** - Runs a text command entered in Quicksilver's text mode in iTerm.

The action runs the command in the frontmost tab in the frontmost iTerm window.

Disabled by default.

> • **Run in iTerm [...]** - Runs the selected shell script/binary in iTerm.

The target either has to be an executable or a shell script with a #! declaration.

The action opens a new terminal. The alternate action is **Run in iTerm Tab [...]**.

> • **Run in iTerm Tab [...]** - Runs the selected shell script/binary in iTerm.

The target either has to be an executable or a shell script with a #! declaration.

The action opens a new tab in the current terminal. The alternate action is **Run in iTerm [...]**.

Disabled by default.

> • **Run in Current iTerm [...]** - Runs the selected shell script/binary in iTerm.

The target either has to be an executable or a shell script with a #! declaration.

The action runs the command in the frontmost tab in the frontmost iTerm window.

Disabled by default.

- **Open Parent Directory in iTerm** - Opens the selected directory's parent in iTerm.

This action is only provided for targets that are neither directories nor runnables (Terminal plugin compatibility).

The action opens a new terminal. The alternate action is **Open Parent Directory in iTerm Tab**.

- **Open Parent Directory in iTerm tab** - Opens the selected directory's parent in iTerm.

This action is only provided for targets that are neither directories nor runnables (Terminal plugin compatibility).

The action opens a new tab in the current terminal. The alternate action is **Open Parent Directory in iTerm**.

Disabled by default.

- **Open Parent Directory in Current iTerm** - Opens the selected directory's parent in iTerm.

This action is only provided for targets that are neither directories nor runnables (Terminal plugin compatibility).

The action opens the directory in the frontmost tab in the frontmost iTerm window.

Disabled by default.

- **Open Directory in iTerm** - Opens the selected directory in iTerm.

The action opens a new terminal. The alternate action is **Open Directory in iTerm Tab**.

- **Open Directory in iTerm Tab** - Opens the selected directory in a new tab in iTerm.

The action opens a new tab in the current terminal. The alternate action is **Open Directory in iTerm**.

- **Open Directory in Current iTerm** - Opens the selected directory's parent in iTerm.

The action opens the directory in the frontmost tab in the frontmost iTerm window.

Disabled by default.

When configured as the Command Line Interface for Quicksilver, this plugin also supports the following actions:

- **Run a Text Command in Terminal** - Runs a text command entered in Quicksilver's text mode in the terminal.
- **Run in Terminal [...]** - Runs the selected shell script/binary in the terminal.
- **Open Parent Directory in Terminal** - Opens the selected directory's parent in the terminal.
- **Open Directory in Terminal** - Opens the selected directory in the terminal.

The following actions are available for iTerm sessions:

- **Open in New Window** - Opens a new terminal window with the selected session
- **Open in New Tab** - Opens a new tab with the selected session in the current terminal

2018-06-03

4.37 iTunes

Allows you to control iTunes and browse the iTunes library.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.37.1 Preferences

SHOW ARTWORK AND PREVIEWS

With this enabled, Quicksilver will show the album cover (for albums and tracks) or the poster frame (for videos). If disabled, a generic icon will be shown instead.

WITHOUT GLOSS AND SHADOWS

Artwork and previews are taken from the Quick Look system. By default, Quick Look adds some gloss over the image and a drop-shadow behind it. The image needs to be reduced in size to accommodate the shadow, and the gloss can obscure details in some cases. Enable this setting to see artwork and previews in their original form.

GROUP COMPILATIONS

With this enabled, tracks from different artists will be shown under a single album (if part of a compilation).

MONITOR RECENT TRACKS

With this enabled, Quicksilver can store the last 25 tracks played by iTunes. It only includes tracks that have played since Quicksilver last started, and only while the preference was enabled.

DISPLAY TRACK NOTIFICATIONS

If **Monitor Recent Tracks** is enabled, you can optionally have Quicksilver display a notification every time a new track starts. The type of notification (built-in or Growl) can be controlled via Quicksilver's various preferences related to notifications.

INCLUDE VIDEOS WHEN PLAYING ALBUMS

Some albums might have videos associated with them, but you probably don't want them to play when listening to an album. This allows you to control that behavior. The name is a bit misleading, as it will also apply if you select an artist and play them (which will play everything by that artist).

If your selection contains *only* videos, they will play regardless of this setting.

DISABLE EQ WHEN SELECTING AIRPLAY DEVICE

With this setting enabled, when you use Quicksilver to select one or more AirPlay devices for output, it will also disable the equalizer. This is probably what you want, as almost every AirPlay device has its own equalizer effects and you don't want to double them up.

If you select the "Computer" device only (effectively turning off AirPlay), the equalizer will be enabled.

NOTE: The equalizer is only disabled/enabled if you select an AirPlay device using Quicksilver. Selecting a device through the iTunes UI, etc. will not change EQ settings.

4.37.2 Catalog

There are three catalog presets to choose from.

iTunes Playlists

This will add the following to your main catalog:

- All of your playlists

- Entry points for browsing the library (Browse Artists, Browse Albums, etc.)

- A "Recent Tracks" entry. (Select it and hit → or / to see them. Only tracks that have played since Quicksilver was launched will be available.)

These items can also be accessed by selecting iTunes in Quicksilver and hitting → or /.

Individual tracks are not added to the catalog as they're rarely sought out, and would really just slow Quicksilver down. Artists, Albums, Tracks, etc. can still be accessed quickly (see **Browsing** below).

iTunes Controls

These are the same controls you can add triggers for (to control playback, adjust volume, and adjust rating). You can add them to the catalog in addition to (or instead of) assigning triggers to them.

Scripts (iTunes)

This will add any AppleScripts you have in `~/Library/iTunes/Scripts/` . (There are none by default.)

Equalizer Presets

This entry adds all of your equalizer settings to the catalog.

AirPlay Devices

This entry adds available AirPlay devices to the catalog.

Proxy Objects

The following proxy objects will be available. Most only work when iTunes is running, and some only when a track is playing.

Proxy Name	Running	Playing
Currently Playing Track	Yes	Yes
Currently Playing Artist	Yes	Yes
Currently Playing Album	Yes	Yes
Current Playlist	Yes	Yes
Selected Playlist	Yes	No
Current iTunes Selection	Yes	No
Random Track	No	No

4.37.3 Browsing

You can quickly locate and play anything in your iTunes library (including Apple Music and iTunes Match), even if it's not stored in Quicksilver's catalog. You can do this by assigning triggers to search a certain criteria (like Artist or Genre) or by selecting "Browse [Criteria]" in Quicksilver.

4.37.4 Actions

PLAY

You can play any of the following:

- Playlists

- Tracks (individually or with the comma trick)

- Albums (individually or with the comma trick)

- Artists (all tracks by the artist, individually or with the comma trick)

- Genres (all tracks in a genre, individually or with the comma trick)

- Composers (all tracks by the composer, individually or with the comma trick)

ADD TO PLAYLIST…

Add artists, albums, tracks, etc. to an existing playlist by selecting it in the third pane.

REVEAL IN ITUNES

Show the selected track or playlist in iTunes. This is the alternate action for Play.

LOVE

Mark the selected tracks as ones you love. This is the alternate action for Dislike.

DISLIKE

Mark the selected tracks as ones you dislike. This is the alternate action for Love.

DOWNLOAD TRACK(S)

Download one or more tracks from Apple Music or iTunes Match to your computer for faster, more efficient access.

OPEN BOOKLET(S)

With album(s) or artist(s) in the first pane, you can display the PDF artwork that accompanies some albums purchased from the iTunes store. Nothing will happen for albums that don't include artwork.

ENABLE/DISABLE TRACK(S)

Toggle track(s) between "checked" and "unchecked" in iTunes. You can apply this to individual tracks, multiple tracks, albums, entire artists, or even entire genres.

SHUFFLE ON/OFF

Toggle the shuffle setting for the selected playlist(s).

GET LYRICS

Get the lyrics for the selected track.

SET EQ PRESET

Make the selected equalizer preset active in iTunes.

SELECT AIRPLAY DEVICE(S)

Send output from iTunes to the selected devices.

To turn off remote AirPlay, run this action on the device named "Computer" alone.

4.37.5 Be Aware

The most accurate information comes from iTunes itself, but that only works if iTunes is running. In order to get information without requiring iTunes to be running at all times, we read it from disk (from `~/Music/iTunes/iTunes Music Library.xml`).

The information you see when browsing through your library comes from this XML file, but when you take an action like Play or Add to Playlist, the affected tracks are pulled from iTunes itself. This can lead to occasional inconsistencies in what you would see browsing in Quicksilver vs. what actually happens in iTunes.

🕒 2018-06-03

4.38 Keychain

Access to Keychain entries.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.39 Keychain plugin

This plugin gives Quicksilver the ability to access data stored in Keychains -- Safari passwords as well as any other data added by applications -- and allows login names and associated passwords to be directly manipulated or retrieved directly by copy/pasting.

4.39.1 Catalog

Keychains

This will add "login" and "System" keychains to your catalog as well as any others you have defined. You can also access keychains by selecting Keychain Access and hitting → or /. With a keychain selected, hit → or / to access individual items.

4.39.2 Actions

With a keychain selected, the following actions will be available:

- Lock
- Unlock

With a keychain item selected, the following actions will be available:

- Copy Account

- Paste Account

- Get Account

- Copy Password

- Paste Password

- Get Password

Terminology

Account

The value from the "Account" field in Keychain Access. This is usually the username.

Password

The password stored with this item. You will be prompted to allow Quicksilver access to an item if it hasn't been granted before.

Get

Display the account or password as text in Quicksilver's first pane for further action.

Copy

Copy the account or password to the clipboard.

Paste

Paste the account or password to the active application.

2018-06-03

4.40 MailMate

Send messages using MailMate.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.40.1 MailMate

This plug-in allows you to compose and send messages using MailMate. See the E-mail Support plug-in's help for details.

Be sure to choose MailMate under Preferences → Handlers.

🕐2018-06-03

4.41 Microsoft Office

Recent documents from the Microsoft Office Suite.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

Microsoft Office Plugin

Enables moving down (using → or /) into Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint to locate recently opened documents.

Works with Microsoft Office 2016, 2011 and 2008

🕐2018-06-03

4.42 Mouse Triggers

Allows triggering with hot corners and edges of the main screen.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.42.1 Mouse Triggers Plugin

The mouse triggers plugin gives Quicksilver the ability to create triggers which are activated using mouse movements, clicks and dragging/dropping. Triggers are created in the same way as HotKey triggers, only their activation differs.

4.42.2 Creating Triggers

Creating the Trigger

To create a trigger, open the Quicksilver triggers preferences, click the '+' button and select 'Mouse' from the dropdown list.
Set up the command as you would when creating a normal trigger. If you would like to create a drag/drop trigger, which enables you to drop items onto the mouse trigger points, see the 'Mouse Trigger Dragged Object' proxy object section below.

Adjusting the Activation

To alter how the trigger is activated, open the trigger sidebar (by either clicking the 'i' button or pressing ⌘I) and open the 'Settings' pane. From this window, you can alter which mouse click (left, right, middle etc.) activates the trigger, how many clicks are required, and how long the associated mouse movement must be held for the trigger to activate.
Below the 'Type' and 'Delay' options are options to select which screen the trigger can be activated on, and which side or corner of the screen.

Modifiers and the 'Anywhere' button

The modifiers section of the settings allow you to add modifier keys to the mouse activation method. With modifiers enabled, a further 'Anywhere' button appears in the 'Corners & Edges' screen. Clicking this allows the trigger to be activated if the correct modifiers and mouse movements are made anywhere on the screen. an example could be:

- Type: Right Click **x 2** (click the right mouse button twice)

- Delay: 1s (hold the last right click for 1s)

- Screen: All Displays (trigger works on all displays)

- Corners & Edges: Anywhere

- Modifiers: ⌘⌥ (hold the ⌘ and ⌥ keys down whilst right clicking with the mouse)

4.42.3 Proxy Objects

Mouse Trigger Dragged Object

The 'Mouse Trigger Dragged Object' proxy object allows you to create triggers for items that you drag onto or drop onto the screen edges or corners. An example could be to move the dragged file into a specific folder on your hard drive. It is best to set up triggers that use the 'Mouse Trigger Dragged Object' proxy object to work with the Drag Entered, Drag Exited and Drag and Drop 'Types' in the trigger settings pane.

🕐 2018-06-03

4.43 Networking

Manage wireless connections, locations, and get information.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.43.1 Quicksilver Networking

Catalog

PRESETS

• Network Locations - Adds any netowrk locations you've configured in System Preferences to the catalog. (Disabled by default)

• Wireless Interface - A virtual entry that represents your Wi-Fi connection. Use this to turn the interface on and off, or to view available networks by hitting → or /. (For 10.6 users, this will appear in the catalog under the name "AirPort".)

PROXY OBJECTS

• IP Address - The IP address(es) currently assigned to your computer.

• External IP Address - The IP address remote sites will see when you connect to them.

Actions

• Switch to Location - when a network location is selected in the first pane, this will allow you to set it as the active location.

• Turn Wi-Fi On - Enable power for the wireless interface. This action is only available when power is off. (The action is named "Turn AirPort On" for 10.6 users.)

• Turn Wi-Fi Off - Disable power for the wireless interface. This action is only available when power is on. (The action is named "Turn AirPort Off" for 10.6 users.)

- Toggle Wi-Fi Power - Toggle power for the wireless interface. Useful for creating triggers. (The action is named "Toggle AirPort Off" for 10.6 users.)

- Disconnect Current Network - Disassociate from the current wireless network, but keep power for the interface on.

- Connect to Network - Connect to the selected wireless network. This is only available for unsecured networks and secured networks for which you have credentials stored in your keychain.

- Connect to Network (via Menubar) - For secured networks that can't be automatically joined, this action will attempt to click through the menu bar to select the network for you, which should result in you being prompted for credentials.

2018-06-03

4.44 Nostromo Interface

Provides a wide interface.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.44.1 Nostromo

This provides a wide interface, suited to displaying longer names and/or details for items in your catalog.

Colors

The "Customize" panel in the Appearance preferences allows you to set colors from several "themes". This interface uses and respects Quicksilver's bezel colors (also configurable in the Appearance prefs). As such, the themes are not persistent, but the individual colors are. This allows you to use one of the built-in options as a starting point, but tweak individual colors to your liking if needed.

To put it another way, the "Customize" panel is only used to **set** colors. Do not expect to see the last theme you used selected the next time you open the panel.

Position

The interface can be moved if it's obscuring something, but the new position will not be remembered. It will be centered the next time you invoke it.

About

"Nostromo" is the name of the ship in *Alien* (1979).

Report bugs on GitHub.

2018-06-03

4.45 Notification Hub

Provides a way to use several notifiers at once.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.45.1 What is it?

This plugin adds a new Notify Mediator that can be used to use different Notify mediators based on the notification type

4.45.2 Usage

In the Handlers preference pane, select Notification Hub as the Notify mediator. Then in the Notifiication Hub preference pane you can customize it further.

The Default popup is what Notify Mediator to use if the given notification has no type or isn't in the table.

Hit the add button to add an entry to the table. The first column is the notification type. Double-click to edit to put in a custom type, or click the popup at the right side of the column to select a known type. The second column is the Notify Mediator to use for that notification type.

You can add several entries for a given notification type - each Notify Mediator will be called for that notification.

2018-06-03

4.46 OmniWeb

Bookmarks, History, Search Queries, and Proxy Object.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.46.1 OmniWeb Module

This plug-in allows you to add your Bookmarks, Favorites and History from OmniWeb into Quicksilver's catalog. It also provides a proxy object and access to web searches.

Proxy Object

If proxy objects are enabled, you can access the URL of the page currently open in OmniWeb by searching for "Current Web Page". Several browsers provide a Current Web Page proxy object, so look for the one with OmniWeb's icon.

Web Searches

Searches defined in OmniWeb's Shortcut Preferences can be added to the catalog automatically and used from within Quicksilver. For example, if you define a shortcut with a keyword of `google@`, you can do either of the following from within Quicksilver:

1. google → Search For… → [search terms]

2. [search terms] → Find With… → google

This functionality requires the Web Search Module for Quicksilver.

🕐 2018-06-03

4.47 OpenMeta File Tagging

Support for file tagging with OpenMeta.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.48 OpenMeta File Tagging Plugin

The OpenMeta File Tagging Plugin for Quicksilver provides an interface for adding and removing OpenMeta tags to files, as well as browsing tags and finding all files with a certain tag or tags.

4.48.1 Catalog

The plugin adds all of the user's OpenMeta tags to Quicksilver's catalog. An OpenMeta tag in Quicksilver is treated like a folder: its children are its contents, accessed by drilling down into the tag with → or /. A tag's contents consist of all files tagged with it, plus every other tag belonging to these files.

Custom Entries

You can add files to the catalog if they match one or more tags.

1. Add a new custom catalog entry using the `+` at the bottom of the Catalog preferences.

2. Select "OpenMeta Tags" from the pop-up menu.

3. Enter one or more tags in the token field.

4. Optionally, change the name of the entry in the list.

Files matching all listed tags will be included in the global catalog.

4.48.2 Search

Use the OpenMeta File Tagging Plugin to search for files by tag. Drill down into a tag to see an alphabetical listing of all files so tagged. At the end of this list is a list of the other tags for these files. Refine your search by drilling down into one of these tags and filter even further. With this mechanism you can arbitrarily extend a query to involve any number of tags.

For example, to see all files tagged with the tag "foo," bring up the "foo" tag object and drill down into it. Say some of these files are also tagged with "bar," and still others, "baz"; these two will be listed at the bottom, after the list of files. Drilling down into one will further filter the results to only show files with *both* tags (files tagged with "foo" and "bar" or files tagged with "foo" and "baz"). Drilling up out of these results reverts to showing all files tagged with just "foo."

When performing such a compound tag query, you can keep track of the current search by looking at a possible tag's value: filtering files tagged with "foo" and then "bar" will show the second tag as "foo, bar" in the command window. (Note: If your Quicksilver catalog contains Recent Objects, these compound tag lists will be included, and this may not be the browsing behavior you desire.)

4.48.3 Working with Tags

All of the expected tagging actions are made available by the plugin. Users can add tags to files, remove tags from files, set the tags of files to a different set, clear all tags from files, and show the tags of files. These actions can be performed on a single file or multiple files, thanks to Quicksilver's multiple selection support using the comma key. Tags can be added to or removed from multiple files at a time, and the user can show all the tags that a group of files has in common. Showing the tags for a file or files will bring up a list of the tags in the Quicksilver's direct object pane, ready to be explored. A similar interface is used for removing tags from files, presenting a list of that file's current tags (or shared tags for multiple files).

In addition to operating on multiple files, you can use multiple tags in an operation. A list of appropriate tags should appear in the third pane. You can enter a new tag by switching to text-entry mode. Multiple tags can be selected with the comma trick or entered in text-entry mode by separating them with commas.

Tags can contain almost anything other than comma.

4.48.4 Implementation

The plugin hooks into the extended file attributes (with `xattr`) and Spotlight search capabilities (using `MDQuery`) of the Mac OS X filesystem directly; it does not require the OpenMeta command-line tool to be installed. As such, it should work right out of the box, allowing users to start tagging and finding files with OpenMeta even if they have never used the system before. This also allows performance to benefit from all actions being carried out directly at the `xattr` or `MDQuery` level, with no intermediary tools. There is no noticeable lag in searching or tagging, regardless of the complexity or size of the query or file list.

4.48.5 Further Work

As a part of Quicksilver the OpenMeta File Tagging plugin provides a foundation for most functionality of a tagging system, all available directly in the interface. Extending beyond Quicksilver might be a possibility worth exploring, perhaps showing files with certain tags in a new Finder window, or in a tagging-focused application like Leap.

2018-06-03

4.49 Opera

Plugin for connecting Quicksilver and the Opera browser.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

Plugin for connecting Quicksilver and Opera.

- Adds a catalog with the bookmarks and searches of Opera

- Adds a "Operas current web page" proxy object

- Adds an "Open with Opera" action

- Adds a couple of scripts for switching between Opera and Safari

- Browse into Opera to get current open tabs

2018-06-03

4.50 Process Manipulation

Actions for monitoring and modifying application processes on your machine.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.50.1 Overview

This plugin interacts with applications and the "Running Applications & Processes" catalog entries. Most actions can be run directly on an application (i.e. search for an application as usual, then tab and select an action).

Make sure to enable the actions you want, under Preferences > Actions > by Plugin > Process Manipulation.

If you want to be able to control background/hidden applications, go to Catalog > Applications > Running Applications & Processes > Info ("i" button in the lower right) > Source Options > Check "Include background applications". Then make sure "Running Applications & Processes" is selected. Now, you can search for "Running Applications Processes" in the Quicksilver command window and right-arrow to get a full list of processes.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Some applications have a lot of helper process. For example, iTunes has an "iTunes Helper" process, and Google Chrome has a process for each tab. If you're getting unexpected results, try opening `Activity Monitor.app` and making sure you're not missing something.

4.50.2 A list of 'All Processes'

To get a list of all currently running processes easily, without enabling the "Running Applications & Processes" catalog entry, you can do so by right arrowing (→ or /) into Activity Monitor.app

4.50.3 Actions

Lauching/Terminating

Force Quit (Kill)

Immediately terminate the application/process (SIGQUIT).

Launch a Copy

Open a second copy. OSX usually only allows one copy of an application to be running, so be careful.

Launch as Root

Launch an application with root permissions. Again, be careful.

Quicksilver also has the following actions, even if you don't install this plugin:

- Open
- Relaunch
- Open at Login
- Do Not Open at Login

Information

Sample Process

Sample the process for 5 seconds and return the result in the first pane.

List Open Files

Search the open files of the process in the first pane.

Get Process Identifier (PID)

Note that if an application has helper processes, the returned PID may not always be what you want. For example, iTunes.app will return the PID of

Signals

The operating system can interact with a process by sending it a signal.

See `man signal` or https://developer.apple.com/library/mac/#documentation/Darwin/Reference/ManPages/man3/signal.3.html for a full list of signals in OSX.

Pause Application (SIGSTOP)

is useful because it completely halts the operation of a process (without quitting it) and can be resumed later. It is similar to

Resume Application (SIGCONT)

Resumes an application halted with

Send Signal...

Specify an arbitrary signal in the third pane.

Priority

What this plugin calls priority corresponds more to "niceness". This ranges from -20 (least nice, highest priority) to 20 (nicest, lowest priority). Nicer processes will more easily give up CPU time. See `man nice` and `man setpriority`.

Note: You may need to enter your system password to change the priority of a process. This generally happens when you increase the priority.

It can be useful to lower the priority of a process to make sure the operating system stays responsive. Increasing priority isn't very useful unless you have multiple programs vying for cycles.

Lower Priority

Increase niceness (change by +5).

Raise Priority

Decrease niceness (change by -5).

Minimize Priority

Set niceness to 20.

Maximize Priority

Set niceness to -20.

Get Priority (Niceness)

Return the priority (niceness) of the application in the first pane.

Set Priority...

Specify a priority in the third pane.

2018-06-03

4.51 QSQRCode

Creates QRCodes from text, URLs and other objects.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

Description

Displays objects as QR Code 2D barcodes

Credits

Most of the difficult code is written by:

- libqrencode 3.1 by FUKUCHI Kentaro (http://megaui.net/...)

- Quicksilver plugin Xcode template by Ankur Kothari http://lipidity.com/...

- UI code heavily inspired from QuickSilvers Large Type by Alcor

- A tiny function copied from Adam Maxwell - TeX Live Manager

Image conversion, cocoa "ui", and blending the above resources by Eric Doughty-Papassideris

Licence

IDC v2.0 ("I Dont Care")

Disclaimer

Carefull: I don't want to know about what happened (or not) because of this code. You are running it "as-is", and it "is not my problem".

2018-06-03

4.52 Remember The Milk

Provides an interface to quickly add Remember the Milk todo items.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.52.1 Remember The Milk Plugin

The Remember The Milk plugin allows you to easily add tasks to your Remember the Milk account.

Setup

Before you can add tasks, you must authenticate Quicksilver with your Remember The Milk account. Go to the Remember the Milk preferences within Quicksilver to do this.

Actions

There are two actions that are added by this plugin **Create Task in...** and **Add Task...**. Both actions perform the same thing: add a task to your RTM account, but the first takes text in Quicksilver's 1st pane and a RTM list in the 3rd pane, whilst the latter takes a RTM list in the 1st pane and text in the 3rd pane (that is - a reverse of the 1st action)

Catalog

By default, the plugin adds your RTM lists to Quicksilver's catalog. You can view the catalog Entries in Preferences → Catalog → Plugins → Remember the Milk Lists

2018-06-03

4.53 Remote Hosts

Provides actions that can be taken on computers.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.54 Remote Hosts

4.54.1 A Quicksilver plug-in for dealing with a large number of computers

Given a text file with a list of machines in it (either hostname, Fully Qualified Domain Name, or IP address), this plug-in indexes them as "remote host" objects and provides the following actions:

- SSH

- SSH as root

- SSH as… [username in 3rd pane]

- Telnet

- Telnet to port… [port number in 3rd pane]

- FTP

- SFTP

- SFTP Starting at Path…

- HTTP

- HTTPS

- Screen Sharing (VNC)

- Browse with CIFS

- Mount share with CIFS… [share name in 3rd pane]

- Browse with AFP

- Mount share with AFP… [share name in 3rd pane]

- MS Remote Desktop [requires the CoRD application]

- Get Host Info

There is also a "Use as Remote Host" action that applies to text. If you type a hostname by hand, paste it, or pull it from an application using ⌘⍺ or ⌘G, this action will "convert" it to a remote host in Quicksilver so you can connect to it, etc.

Some of the above actions also provide "alternate" actions. Hit ⌘↩ instead of ↩ to run the alternate.

Action	Alternate
SSH	SSH as root
FTP	Get FTP URL
HTTP	Get HTTP URL
HTTPS	Get HTTPS URL

The "Get XYZ URL" actions are useful in situations where you need to paste the URL to a remote machine, or want to open it in something other than the default application.

Selecting a host in Quicksilver and hitting → or / will provide the following information (if available):

• IP Addresses and aliases

Quicksilver treats these as strings, so you can use "Large Type", paste them into the current application, send them via IM or e-mail, etc.

• Lights-Out Management

The LOM address is itself another "remote host" in Quicksilver. With it selected, you can use one of the above actions to connect to it.

• Host Info URL

If you've defined a URL in the preferences that provides info for hosts, it will appear here.

4.54.2 Catalog Sources

The plug-in will scan `~/.hosts` for a list of machines by default. (You can use any file. See below.) The file is treated as UTF-8. It should contain one host per line. The

hostname or FQDN should be the first thing on each line, but other metadata is allowed (separated by a single space). A port can also be specified. An example might look like this:

```
server1.example.com
server2
server3.example.com ostype:linux
server4.example.com ostype:linux lom:10.1.2.3 label:test
server5.example.com:8080
appleserver.example.com icon:com.apple.xserve ostype:macosx
windows.example.com ostype:windows
somehost ostype:solaris
webhost1 groups:Web
webhost2 groups:Web
```

You may already have a file like this for completion in your shell. If you have existing metadata in this file, it shouldn't break anything, but it won't necessarily be useful in Quicksilver.

The plug-in scans for items on each host's line that look like this: `key:value` . All such data will be stored along with the host in Quicksilver's catalog, but there are currently only a few that will affect its behavior.

- `ostype` : OS type should be a short, generic word, like "solaris", "linux", "windows", etc. Currently, the only behavioral distinction is between "windows" and everything else. The other purpose served by `ostype` is to determine an icon for the host. Icons are included for the following OS types:

  - bsd

  - debian

  - fedora

  - gentoo

  - linux

  - netbsd

  - opensuse

  - redhat

  - solaris

  - suse

  - ubuntu

  - unix

  - windows

- `icon` : You can specify an icon to use for a host if you don't like its default. This can be a bundle identifier, like "com.apple.Terminal", the name of an icon in the CoreTypes bundle like "com.apple.mac", or the path to an icon or image file. The usual types of images are supported, but they will most likely get squished into a square (depending on which Quicksilver interface you use).

- `lom` : The Lights-Out Management address will only apply to fancy, rack-mounted servers that provide some sort of network-based LOM. If you don't know what this means, you probably don't need to worry about it. The information itself should be an IP address, hostname, or FQDN for the system's LOM interface.

- `label` : By default, all hosts in your catalog will be labeled with their hostname, FQDN, or IP address (as it appears in your file). Setting a label in the file will append to the

default, not replace it. Quicksilver searches the text in the label as you type to search for things. If you have many hosts with similar names, they can be hard to get to quickly. Using this item to append to the label can be useful to group or "tag" systems for faster searching.

- `groups` : A comma separated list of groups you want the host to belong to. Names can't contain spaces at this time. More information on using groups can be found under Tips.

You can optionally pull hosts from `~/.ssh/known_hosts` . There is a preset (disabled by default) under "Remote Hosts" in the Plugins section of the Catalog. If you want to get hosts from an arbitrary file, add a new custom catalog entry and choose "Remote Hosts" from the drop-down, then choose the file for the new entry.

There is also a preset named "SSH Config Hosts" that will read hosts from `~/.ssh/config` . These hosts will be ignored if they were found in one of the other files (to preserve any metadata).

4.54.3 Preferences

Display Hostnames

Host Info URL

Use hostname in URL

Tips

After installation, you may want to check the precedence of the actions and make sure they're to your liking. The actions only apply to "remote hosts" in the catalog, so moving them up rather high on the list shouldn't interfere with other tasks. You may also want to disable some of the ones you never think you'll use.

For more than a few machines, you should use a script to generate a `.hosts` file from DNS, LDAP, a database, or some other authoritative source if possible, rather than managing it by hand. You might also schedule a job to update the file on a regular basis.

For hosts you want to frequently connect to at the same time, you can assign them to one or more groups in the scanned file. Any groups you define will be added to the catalog. You can search for them by name, or by name plus "Remote Host Group". You can use the SSH and Telnet actions to connect to all hosts in the group. Hitting → or / will reveal the group's members.

If you find yourself using "SSH as…" frequently, you may want to add something like this to your `~/.ssh/config`:

```
Host server.domain
  User someuser
```

See the `ssh_config(5)` man page for details.

For **iTerm** users, the SSH and Telnet actions are intentionally not specific to Terminal. They simply send an address to the OS to be opened. Configure your system to open `ssh://` and `telnet://` locations using iTerm if you want to use that instead of Terminal.

Finally, don't forget the "comma trick". You can select multiple hosts using the comma or ⌘A, then connect to them all at once.

4.54.4 SSH Keys

You can optionally add your SSH public keys to the catalog by enabling the preset in your Catalog preferences. This makes it easy to paste the key to a remote machine, or into a message to a remote sysadmin.

If the key has a descriptive comment, that will be used as its name. Otherwise, the file name will be used.

This plug-in uses icons from the Open Icon Library.

2018-06-03

4.55 Safari

Access to information from the Safari browser.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.55.1 Catalog

The Safari plug-in allows you to index your Safari bookmarks and history. You can locate these items by searching in Quicksilver, or by selecting Safari and hitting → or /.

It also provides access to all currently open pages. Select "Open Web Pages" in the first pane and hit → or /.

Proxy Objects

There are two proxy objects: Current Web Page and Current Website

Current Web Page gives you quick access to the URL of the active window/tab in Safari.

Current Website adds a new Web Search to your catalog that allows you to search (using Google) the entire site currently active in Safari.

4.55.2 Actions

ADD TO READING LIST

With a URL selected in Quicksilver's first pane, you can quickly add it to Safari's Reading List.

2018-06-03

4.56 Screen Capture

A set of actions that allow capturing the screen.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.56.1 Screen Capture Plugin

This plugin adds support for using Grab.app to capture portions of your display to image files, which can then be manipulated by Quicksilver. In order to see the objects added by the Screen Capture Plugin (they are visible in Quicksilver's first pane), you must enable the "Internal Commands" catalog entry, found in the Catalog Preferences under the "Quicksilver" side tab.

Note that all pictures captured with the Screen Capture Plugin are also saved to your Desktop.

Command Objects

Capture Region

This command object (run from Quicksilver's 1st pane) enables Grab.app in its "Capture Selection" mode. A cross hair is displayed on screen allowing you to drag a rectangle around what you want captured. Once complete the captured region is returned to Quicksilver.

Capture Window

Similar to the 'Capture Region' command object, 'Capture Window' gives you allows you to capture a whole window, and return the corresponding image to Quicksilver

Capture Screen

The 'Capture Screen' command object takes a screenshot of your current screen and returns it to Quicksilver.

Trigger Events

Event Triggers can be run whenever an image is captured using this plug-in. The "Event Trigger Object" will refer to the image's file.

🕑 2018-06-03

4.57 Services Menu

Converts entries from the Services menu into actions.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.57.1 Services Menu Plugin

This plugin scans all the available services for your installed applications and adds them as actions. You can view the available actions by going to the Quicksilver Preferences, clicking 'Actions' on the right hand side then filtering 'by Plugin' for the 'Services Menu' plugin.

This plugin can potentially add hundreds of new actions, which may affect the ranking of your preferred actions. If this occurs, re-rank your actions by dragging them up or down in the Actions preference pane.

2018-06-03

4.58 Shelf

Provides a shelf for permanent storage of objects.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.59 Shelf Plugin

Note: the Shelf Plugin must be installed in order for the Clipboard plugin to work correctly.

The shelf plugin adds a 'Shelf' for permanent storage of any Quicksilver item, which is persistent across relaunches. You can add any item to the Shelf, and retrieve it at any time.

Some examples of items you put on the shelf might be:

- Text you commonly type (like an email signature or boilerplate HTML code)

- Your best friend's email address

- A folder you commonly use

- URLs, making the shelf an alternative to your browser's bookmarks folder (which is usable across browsers)

4.59.1 Showing the Shelf

There are several ways in which you can show/activate the shelf:

1. Activate Quicksilver, and use the shortcut ⌘⌥S. This will automatically show or hide the shelf, depending on its current state.

2. From Quicksilver, selecting 'Shelf' in the 1st pane, and 'Show' as the action. This is useful for creating a trigger

3. If the Shelf is docked at the side of your screen, hover your mouse over it. For more info, see the 'Docked or Floating' section below.

4.59.2 Docked or Floating

The Shelf (and Clipboard) windows are called 'Docking windows' in Quicksilver terminology. They can either be moved to float anywhere on your screen, or docked to the edge of the screen (similar to how the Dock itself behaves when you turn on Dock hiding).

Where you place your Shelf window is up to you. If your Shelf is floating, then after use it will fade into the background. You can use options 1 and 2 in the 'Showing the Shelf' list above to open it.

If you dock your window, you can also show the window by hovering the mouse over the portion of the screen where your shelf is docked. This can be useful for dragging items onto the shelf, or for manipulating the shelf solely with the mouse.

4.59.3 Actions

Put on Shelf

Catalog

The Shelf plugin adds 3 items to your catalog (in one group), under the 'Quicksilver' tab.

Shelf & Clipboard

Shelf Contents

Clipboard Contents

4.59.4 Adding items to the Shelf

There are two ways to add items to your shelf. One is to use the 'Put on Shelf' action from Quicksilver; select an item in Quicksilver's 1st pane, and use the 'Put on Shelf' action. The other is to drag and drop an item from Quicksilver's 1st (or 3rd) pane straight onto the shelf.

4.59.5 Using items on the Shelf

You can use items on the shelf in several different ways

- **Executing Actions** : Double-clicking a shelf item (or pressing return ↩ on a selected item) will cause Quicksilver to use the default action for that item. For example: if your default action for text is "Large Type", when you double click a text item from your shelf it will be shown in Large Type. Alter your default actions in the actions preferences to alter this behavior.

- **Dragging items** : You can drag an item from the Shelf to an application. This will use the item in whatever way the receiving action sees fit. For example;

  - Dragging a text item from your shelf to TextEdit will make TextEdit paste the item

  - Dragging a URL from your shelf to Finder will make Finder create a file for that URL

  - If you drag a file from your shelf to Finder, Finder will move that file

  - **Removing Items** : you can remove items from your shelf by highlighting them, and pressing the delete (⌫) key, or by right clicking an item and choosing the 'Remove' option.

- **Opening an item in Quicksilver** : You can open an item in Quicksilver by right clicking and choosing the 'Open in Quicksilver' action, or by using the keyboard shortcut ⌘↩. This is useful if you want to execute a different command on the item on your shelf, or if you want to edit the shelf item.

- **Using Shelf Items Directly within Quicksilver** : Enabling the 'Shelf Contents' Catalog entry (see 'Catalog' above) means you can use the the items on your shelf from anywhere in Quicksilver (search for them in the 1st pane, or use them in actions in the 3rd pane)

2018-06-03

4.60 Shortcuts

Launch and control your Shortcuts within Quicksilver.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.61 ShortcutsPlugin

4.61.1 Launch and control your Shortcuts within Quicksilver

Documentation for ShortcutsPlugin

🕐2026-02-08

4.62 Spotlight

Spotlight actions and integration.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.62.1 Spotlight Plugin

This adds Spotlight integration to Quicksilver. It allows you to add files to your catalog based on Spotlight queries, tag files, and perform searches directly from Quicksilver.

Tagging

Users on OS X 10.9 or later are strongly encouraged to use the tagging features from the File Attribute Plugin. It offers all of the same features without the compromises by taking advantage of OS X's native tagging system. Tagging related actions and catalog presets are disabled by default, but can be activated in the preferences.

To distinguish between the two systems, the type of tags offered by this plug- in are now referred to as "comment tags".

Comment tags are all prefixed with one or more characters to make them stand out from regular text. By default, tags will be prefixed with `#`, but you can change this (to `@` or `tag:`) in the preferences. You should choose a prefix prior to tagging any files and stick with it. If you change it later, you'll have to go update all existing tags manually.

Tags and comments are both stored in a file's "Spotlight Comments" field, but they don't interfere with each other. In other words, manipulating tags will not erase an existing comment, and setting a comment will not alter any tags.

Catalog

PRESETS

There are two catalog presets added by this plug-in.

- **Smart Folders** - Automtically adds any Smart Folders you've created and saved. Presently, all you can do is open them in Finder.
- **Comment Tags** - If you've added any tags (using Quicksilver's tag prefix) to your files' Spotlight Comments, this will add them directly to the catalog. Using → or / on a tag will show all files matching that tag.

CUSTOM ENTRIES

You can create custom catalog entries to add files based on a Spotlight search. (See the Syntax section.) From the catalog preferences, click the "+" and choose "Spotlight". You'll be able to define the query, limit the search to a specific folder, and ignore removable disks via the entry's info panel.

Actions

GET SPOTLIGHT RESULTS

Searches for text and shows the results in Quicksilver.

SHOW SPOTLIGHT RESULTS IN FINDER

Uses search text to create and display a Smart Folder.

SPOTLIGHT IN WINDOW

Opens a Finder window with the search text pre-populated. The main advantage to this action is that it allows you to use the search syntax most users are familiar with.

SPOTLIGHT CONTENTS…

Perform a Spotlight search inside the selected folder and display the results in Quicksilver. Enter search text in the third pane.

SPOTLIGHT CONTENTS IN FINDER…

Perform a Spotlight search inside the selected folder and display the results in Finder. Enter search text in the third pane.

SPOTLIGHT FILENAMES MATCHING…

Search only filenames inside the selected folder and display the results in Quicksilver. Enter search text in the third pane.

SHOW FILES MATCHING COMMENT TAG

Create and display a Smart Folder containing files matching the selected comment tag.

SHOW COMMENT TAGS

Show any comment tags for the selected file or folder.

ADD COMMENT TAGS…

Add comment tags to the selected file or folder. Enter the new tags separated by a single space in the third pane. Existing tags and comments will be preserved.

REMOVE COMMENT TAGS…

Remove comment tags from the selected file or folder. Enter the tags to remove separated by a single space in the third pane.

SET COMMENT TAGS…

Replace any comment tags with the ones specified. Enter the tags separated by a single space in the third pane. Existing comments will be preserved.

SET COMMENT…

Set the file's Spotlight comment to the text entered in the third pane. Tags in the comments (if any) will be preserved.

Syntax

To search for basic terms like "vacation", you can just search for the word. For more complicated searches (by type, etc.) this plugin is unfortunately not able to support the familiar Spotlight syntax like `kind:movie`, so you might have to get your hands dirty to set up a search. The syntax for most searches is poorly documented by Apple in two places. It's really only worth the trouble if you're adding a custom catalog entry based on Spotlight, but it also works with most of the actions.

Some examples might be helpful.

To search for movies related to "vacation", you might do something like this:

```
kMDItemKind LIKE '*movie' && (kMDItemDisplayName LIKE[cd] '*vaction*' || kMDItemTextContent LIKE[cd] '*vaction*')
```

To replace the default "Applications" preset in your catalog with one that finds *all* applications, you could add a new entry with this query:

```
kMDItemKind == 'Application'
```

A good way to see what attributes are available and what the values look like is to examine a file in Terminal using `mdls`.

```
mdls ~/Movies/Beach.mov
```

To make things worse, Smart Folders use a different syntax so if you're trying to do a complicated search with the "Show Spotlight Results in Finder" action, you'll need to use that, which is also documented.

🕐 2018-06-03

4.63 System HotKey Commands

Allows triggering of Exposé and other System Hotkeys.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

Adds a catalog entry for Exposé and Dashboard commands. For these to work, keyboard activation in Exposé system preferences must be set to F1-F13 (with or without modifiers).

🕐 2018-06-03

4.64 Terminal

Allows running of shell scripts in Quicksilver or the Terminal.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.64.1 Terminal Plugin for Quicksilver

The Terminal plugin allows Quicksilver to interact with the OS X Terminal; run commands and shell scripts, open directories in Terminal and more.

 Actions

Run [...]

This action takes any script in Quicksilver's first pane (.sh, .pl, .command, .php, .py, .rb) and runs it in a Shell. An indirect argument is optional, meaning you can run any script with an argument by inputting text in Quicksilver's third pane. This differs from the 'Run in Terminal [...]' action in that it runs the script in a Shell, without opening a new Terminal window.

Run in Terminal [...]

The Run in Terminal [...] action can be used on script files (for example, php, pl, sh, py files) to run these files as scripts in a new Terminal window. The action supports an optional extra argument, entered in Quicksilver's 3rd pane. This differs from the 'run [...]' action in that it opens a Terminal window, as opposed to running the script in a Shell.

Run Command in Shell

Runs the item in Quicksilver's first pane in a shell, without launching Terminal. The item in Quicksilver's first pane should be a string (entered in Text Mode) of your desired

command. If the command returns an item (for example, `ls` returns a list of files and folders) they are returned to Quicksilver as text.

Run a Text Command in Terminal

Similar to the 'Run Command in Shell' action, but opens a new Terminal window and runs the command in the new window.

Open Directory in Terminal, Open Parent Directory in Terminal

These two actions open the folder or file selected in Quicksilver's first pane in Terminal. The name of the action depends on whether a folder or file is selected in Quicksilver's first pane.

Show Man Page

The 'Show Man Page' action can be run on any executable file (typically found in `/usr/bin` or `/usr/local/bin`). It opens a new window with the 'man' page for the selected executable.

Catalog Preset

Bash Command History

This Catalog Preset, found under 'Plugins > Bash Command History' adds your bash history to the Quicksilver catalog (more accurately, it adds the contents of `~/.bash_history` to your catalog).

🕒 2018-06-03

4.65 Text Manipulation

Actions for manipulating text lines in files.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.65.1 Overview

This plugin gives Quicksilver the ability to edit text files by appending text lines to the end of a file, prepending text or changing or deleting lines within a file. The plugin allows manipulation of `.txt`, `.rtf`, `.rtfd`, `.doc` and `.TEXT` files.

Note that Quicksilver has the ability to enter into text files (using → or /) and list the contents of the file, which can be used in conjunction with this plugin for increased flexibility.

Actions

Append Text… and Append To…

Prepend Text… and Prepend To…

Change To…

Delete Line

TIMESTAMPS

All of the Append/Prepend actions have alternates that will include a timestamp at the beginning of the line. The timestamp's format is taken from the "Short" format for Date and Time in System Preferences, so you can customize it there.

2018-06-03

4.66 Transmit 4

Favorites Access & Uploading.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.66.1 Transmit Plugin

The Transmit Plugin allows you to interact with your Transmit favorites, upload files to them, and open and mount FTP/SFTP etc. URLs in Transmit

Catalog

The Transmit Plugin adds a 'Transmit Favorites' catalog entry to the Quicksilver, which can be seen in the 'Plugins' section of the Catalog preferences. Enabling this entry means you can search for your Transmit favourites in Quicksilver's 1st pane.

You can also get a full list of your Transmit Favorites by finding 'Transmit.app' in Quicksilver's 1st pane, and pressing the right arrow key `→` (or the forward slash key `/`).

Actions

Connect

This action opens an FTP URL or a Transmit Favorite in Transmit. Supported URL schemes are `ftp://`, `sftp://` and `ftps://`

Mount as Disk

The 'Mount as Disk' action uses TransmitDisk to mount the specified transmit Favorites as a mounted disk on your Desktop. This action is only valid for Transmit Favorite objects

Upload to Site… and Upload File…

These actions upload single or multiple files to a given Transmit Favorite. The 'Upload to Site…' action takes a list of files (using Quicksilver's comma trick) in Quicksilver's 1st pane and requires a Transmit Favorite in Quicksilver's 3rd pane. The 'Upload File…' action is a reverse of this, requiring a Transmit Favorite in the 1st pane and a list of files in the 3rd pane.

2018-06-03

4.67 Twitter

Allows posting of tweets and messages to Twitter from Quicksilver.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

Twitter Plugin

Enables posting of tweets, messages and direct messages to Twitter from within Quicksilver

SETUP

Twitter Login

In order to post tweets from Quicksilver, you must authenticate Quicksilver with your Twitter account. Do this by going to the Twitter plugin preferences and clicking the 'Sign In' button. Your Twitter login details are stored securely in OS X's Keychain.app for access across computer and app relaunches. You can remove the login details at any time by clicking the 'Sign Out' button in the Twitter preference pane.

Twitter Contacts

Some actions require a contact to send a direct message/message to. These actions accept both text (e.g. in the form '@Twitter') or a contact from your Address Book (requires the Contacts plugin). In order to use contacts directly, you must ensure that your contacts have their Twitter username field set in Address Book.app / Contacts.app

ACTIONS

Send Tweet

The 'Tweet' action takes text in Quicksilver's 1st pane and posts a tweet directly to Twitter

Send Tweet… / Send Tweet To…

Use the 'Tweet…' action to send a contact selected in Quicksilver's 1st pane (either a contact from your Contacts list or a username entered as text) the text entered in Quicksilver's 3rd pane. The 'Send Tweet To…' action works in reverse, taking text in Quicksilver's 1st pane and a contact in Quicksilver's 3rd pane.

Send Direct Message… / Send Direct Message To…

'Send Direct Message…' can be used to send a contact (selected in Quicksilver's 1st pane) a direct message entered as text in Quicksilver's 3rd pane. The 'Send Direct Message To…' action works in reverse.

2018-06-03

4.68 User Interface

Access the menus and windows of running applications.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.68.1 User Interface Plugin

This plugin adds the ability to search for and manipulate running applications (processes), application windows, and application menu items from Quicksilver.

Access for assistive devices **must** be enabled in 'Universal Access' pane of System Preferences to use this plugin.

Processes

Processes represent applications which are currently running on your Mac. Any application in Quicksilver's catalog can be used as a process if that app is running. The following actions are available for processes:

- **Show Menu Items** – Generates and displays a searchable list of the app's menu items.
- **Show Windows** – Generates and displays a list of the app's windows, searchable by window title.
- **Focused Window** – Fetches and displays the app's focused window – this is usually the most recently used window, and the window which would get keyboard input if you started typing.
- **Current Document** – Fetches and displays the file which corresponds with the document open in the app's focused window.

Selecting these objects in the second pane causes the third pane to display the results:

- **Windows...** − Generates a list of the app's windows, searchable by window title. Pressing return on one of these windows is equivalent to using the Activate action on it.

- **Menu Bar Items...** − Generates a searchable list of the app's menu items. Pressing return on one of these menu items is equivalent to using the Press action on it.

Windows

Windows can also have several actions performed on them (you can view a full list in the Actions preferences by selecting 'Application Windows' from the dropdown types list). Several of the actions also have alternate actions (which can be executed with ⌘↩), you can see these in the same place in the Actions preferences:

- **Select Application** - shows the application for the selected window in Quicksilver

- **Activate Window** − Focuses the window, then makes all windows belonging to the app appear in front of all other windows.

- **Raise** − Makes the window appear in front of all other windows, without changing which app is focused.

- **Close** − The same as pressing the red Close button in the window's title bar.

- **Minimize Window** − The same as pressing the amber Minimize button in the window's title bar.

- **Zoom** − The same as pressing the green Zoom button in the window's title bar.

- **Show Menu Items & Menu Bar Items...** - See above (Processes section). These actions work just the same as for processes, except they show the menu bar items for a specific window. Menu bar items may be different for each window, so this is useful for selecting items specific to one window.

Note: The 'Close', 'Minimize' and 'Zoom' actions work with the comma trick, allowing you to manage multiple windows at once

Menu Items

Menu Items only have one action available: **Press**. This has the same effect as clicking the menu item. To better indicate where Menu Items have come from, their details will show the full Menu path. For example: "Edit ▸ Find ▸ Find…"

Triggers

When this plugin is installed, the following triggers are available in the UI Access section of the Triggers preference pane:

- **Show All Menus** – Generates and displays a searchable list of the menu items of all running apps, grouped by app.

- **Show All Windows** – Generates and displays a list of the windows of all running apps, searchable by window title and app name.

- **Current Application** – Fetches the current app, places it in the first pane of the command window, and selects the second pane of the command window.

- **Current Focused Window** – Fetches the current app's focused window, places it in the first pane of the command window, and selects the second pane of the command window.

- **Current Document** – Fetches the document open in the current app's focused window, places it in the first pane of the command window, and selects the second pane of the command window.

Proxy Objects

When this plugin is installed, the following proxy objects are available in the Proxy Objects source in the Quicksilver section of the Catalog preference pane:

- **Current Focused Window** – Represents the current app's focused window. The current app is whichever app currently has it's name in the menu bar. The focused window is usually the most recently used window, and the window which would get keyboard input if you started typing.

- **Current Document** – Represents the file which corresponds with the document open in the current app's focused window.

2018-06-03

4.69 Viscosity

Access VPN connections in Viscosity.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.70 Viscosity Plug-in

The VPN connections you've defined in Viscosity get added to the catalog. You can either search for them directly or right arrow into the Viscosity application.

There are two actions available for a Viscosity connection:

- Connect to VPN

- Disconnect from VPN

There are also two actions available if you select the Viscosity application in the first pane:

- Connect All VPNs

- Disconnect All VPNs

When you first install the plug-in, these actions will be higher in priority than "Open", which is normally the default for applications. If that's not what you want, move them down the list in your Quicksilver preferences.

The plug-in tries to be smart about which actions to display. For instance, you won't see "Disconnect from VPN" unless that connection is currently active.

NOTE: If Viscosity isn't running, any of the "Connect…" actions will start it. This is generally what you want, but be aware that if you've configured certain VPNs to connect on launch, they will be connected regardless of what you are trying to do via Quicksilver.

4.70.1 Event Triggers

If the Event Triggers plug-in is installed, you can configure actions to run when a VPN is connected or disconnected via Quicksilver. The Event Trigger Object proxy will refer to the connection in question.

2018-06-03

4.71 Web Search

Allows searching the web.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.71.1 Web Search Plugin

The Web Search Plugin for Quicksilver allows you to search websites from within Quicksilver. By default, the Web Search Plugin includes a list of the most commonly used websites for searching (e.g. Google, YouTube, Wikipedia). You can also specify your own websites to search (see 'Custom Web Searches' below).

Actions

Find With...

The 'Find With...' action takes text in Quicksilver's 1st pane, and a web search in the 3rd pane. An example could be:
'Steve Jobs' ⇥ Find With... ⇥ Google.com

Search For...

'Search For...' works in a similar way to the 'Find With...' action but in reverse; it takes a web search in the 1st pane and text in Quicksilver's 3rd pane. E.g.
Google.com ⇥ Search For... ⇥ 'Steve Jobs'

Show Results For Search...

This action works in exactly the same way as the 'Search For...' action, but returns the results to Quicksilver's 1st pane in the form of links on the results page. This action is an alternate action to the 'Search For...' action.

Default Web Searches (Catalog)

The plugin contains two default web search lists (simple and advanced). The simple list is enabled by default. To view the entries in each list, go to the Catalog Preferences and click the 'Plugins' tab. You should see two entries: 'Web Searches (Full List)' and 'Web Searches (Simple)'. Enable/disable them, and expand the sidebar to see their contents.

To request the addition of a new website to either list, post on the support forums.

Custom Web Searches (Catalog)

To create custom web searches, open the Catalog Preferences, and create a new 'Web Search List' catalog entry by clicking the '+' button in the bottom left hand corner of the window.

Typical Search Forms

The easiest way to create a custom search URL is to search for `***` in the website in question. Once you have done this, copy and paste the URL from your browser into a new 'Web Search List' entry.

POST Search Forms

Certain websites use POST search forms (instead of GET forms), where the search Query is not present in the URL, but is passed as a POST parameter (viewing the website HTML is required). For these websites, you can create QSS 'POST' URLs.

To achieve this, open a custom 'Web Search List', and expand the sidebar by clicking the 'i' button (or pressing ⌘I).
From the sidebar, add a new URL, with a prefix of either `qssp-http` or `qssp-https` depending on whether the website is using http or https.
After you have entered the URL of the search form, add `?key=***` to the end, where `key` is the *name* of the input as seen in the form online. An example of a full search URL could be:

```
qssp-http://google.com/?searchterm=***
```

Credits

Favicons images for web search objects within Quicksilver are provided by Grabicon

🕐 2018-06-03

4.72 Yojimbo

Add and Access Yojimbo Items.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.73 Yojimbo Plugin

4.73.1 Overview

This plug-in allows you to quickly find, add, and modify items in your Yojimbo library using Quicksilver. It also makes great use of your tags.

This plug-in works with Yojimbo 4 or higher. All actions that add or modify items in Yojimbo's library use BareBones supported scripting.

4.73.2 Actions

  • Add to Yojimbo with Name…

If you type, paste, or "grab" some text into Quicksilver, you can add it as a new Yojimbo note with this action. You can also add files. Currently, it will allow PDF, TXT, RTF, JPEG, PNG and GIF. I couldn't find a complete list of supported types, but if you need to add something else, a workaround is to use "Some File ⇥ Open with… ⇥ Yojimbo".

You'll be asked for a name for the new item in the third pane. There should be a reasonable default.

  • Add to Yojimbo with Contents…

This is the reverse of the previous action. If the name you want to use for the new item is in the first pane, you can go to the third pane to enter the item's contents.

   • Archive to Yojimbo

With a URL selected in Quicksilver, you can add the page it references as a web archive.

   • Show in Yojimbo

With a Yojimbo item in Quicksilver's first pane, this should be the default action. It will open (or switch to) Yojimbo with the item selected.

   • Add Tags to Item(s)…

With one or more Yojimbo items in Quicksilver's first pane, you can add tags using this action. The third pane will present a list of existing Yojimbo tags. You can select multiple tags using the comma trick, enter tags manually in text-entry mode, or a combination of those.

Note: You cannot add multiple tags in text-entry mode by typing them all at once, but you can enter one at a time as text by typing one, hitting ↺ then , then . and entering another.

   • Prepend text…

With a Yojimbo note item in Quicksilver's first pane, you can prepend text to the beginning of the note. Enter the text to prepend in the third pane.

   • Append text…

With a Yojimbo note item in Quicksilver's first pane, you can append text to the end of the note. Enter the text to append in the third pane.

4.73.3 Workflow

Here are a couple of examples of how you might use Quicksilver to interact with Yojimbo.

Adding an Item

1. Select text or a file in Quicksilver.

2. Choose "Add to Yojimbo…" in the second pane.

3. Tab to the third pane to enter a name (or accept the default).

4. Hit ↩

5. The item will be added to Yojimbo and Quicksilver will pop back up with the item in the first pane.

6. Choose "Add Tags to Item…" in the second pane. (You can also open the item, or just hit ↺ if you don't want to do anything further.)

7. Select or type the tags you want to assign.

8. Hit ↩

Locating Items

All of the items in your Yojimbo library are added directly to the catalog, so simply typing a few characters of the item's name might be enough to find it, but…

All of your tags in Yojimbo are also added to the catalog. If you locate and select a tag, then hit → or /, you will get a list of items in your library that have that tag. You will also get a list of all other tags that those items contain. If you right arrow into one of those tags, you will see items that match both tags and any tags contained by those items that you haven't already arrowed through. Right arrowing into another tag will show items matching all three, etc. This emulates the indispensable behavior of Yojimbo's Tag Explorer.

If you locate and select the Yojimbo application itself and hit → or /, you'll go directly to a list of items and tags. From there, you can hit → or / to go "into" a tag or tags as described above. Items with no tags assigned are also available (grouped under "Untagged Items").

NOTE

If you see duplicate items after upgrading Yojimbo from version 3 to version 4, you'll need to manually delete

Note Features

There are a couple of useful tricks specific to notes in Yojimbo. In addition to being able to prepend/append to them, they also support all of the standard actions you can perform on text in Quicksilver like "Paste", "Large Type", "E-mail…", etc. Each of these actions will use a plain-text version of the note's contents.

2018-06-03

4.74 Yosemite Interface

A simple, elegant theme matching Yosemite's Spotlight. Light and Dark Mode supported.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.74.1 Yosemite Interface

A beautiful, elegant interface similar to macOS's spotlight interface.

Colors

Both light mode and dark mode are supported by this plugin. Choose your color preferences by enabling the Yosemite interface in the Appearance preferences, and then clicking the 'Customize' button.

Credits

This plugin was created by Mikkel Malmberg (@mikker), and updated by the Patrick Robertson and the Quicksilver Development Team.

🕘 2026-02-08

4.75 zoom.us

Interact with zoom.us.

Summary	
Available on macOS version	10.14, 10.15, 11.6, 12.4, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0
for Quicksilver build	4048

4.76 zoom.us Plugin

4.76.1 Overview

This plug-in streamlines the process of joining Zoom meetings.

4.76.2 Actions

Join Meeting

This action works on Zoom Meeting objects selected in the first pane. Currently, the only such object is the

Join Zoom Meeting

Running this action on an HTTP URL will extract the meeting ID and open it using Zoom's

4.76.3 Proxy Objects

Next Zoom Meeting

This proxy represents any Zoom Meeting1 occurring in the next 10 minutes. Simply select it and hit Return to join. You can also share it with others using Paste, E-mail To…, and other actions.

The number of minutes can be adjusted using a hidden preference. For example, to change it to 30 minutes:

```
defaults write com.blacktree.Quicksilver ZoomCheckForwardMinutes 30
```

1. The plug-in will look for a Zoom URL in the Location, URL, and Notes for all upcoming events. The first match it finds will be used. ↵

2026-02-08

5. Preferences

5.1 Preferences

Quicksilver has a configuration window that provides access to the Guide, Preferences, Triggers, Catalog and Plugins. These can be accessed several ways. The easiest is to activate Quicksilver (with `^` `Space`) and then use the standard shortcut `⌘` `,` to bring up preferences. Other shortcuts are available to go directly to various sections of the preferences.

Shortcut	Action
`⌘` `,`	Open Preferences
`⌘` `;`	Open Catalog
`⌘` `'`	Open Triggers
`⌘` `"`	Open Plugins

Other ways to access preferences:

1. In the main command window, select one of the Internal Commands: Show Guide, Show Preferences, Show Trigger Preferences, QS Catalog Preferences, Show Plugin Preferences and use the Run action.

2. Click the Dock icon and Quicksilver's menu appears, look under Quicksilver.

3. If the menu bar icon is enabled, a menu is available by clicking on it

4. Right-click the Quicksilver icon in the Dock.

The following sections describe these preferences. First, global preferences that affect how Quicksilver is activated and appears and then sections on Plugins, the Catalog, Actions, Handlers, and Notifications. Triggers are a large topic and are covered in their own entire section immediately after this one.

Configuring new Quicksilver features is usually done by installing the relevant plugin. Sometimes there are additional things to configure such as enabling new catalog sources, new actions (under Preferences, Actions) or relevant Handlers (under Preferences, Handers). Finally some plugins add their own preference panels listed in the lower left area of the Preferences window.

2026-02-07

GitHub

5.2 General

Quicksilver's Preferences are divided into sets at the left of the window. Those listed at the top are built-in to Quicksilver and those in the bottom section are enabled by installed plugins.

5.2.1 Application

The Application Preferences control the most fundamental aspects of Quicksilver as an application. Once you're hooked on Quicksilver you'll want to enable **Start at login**.

Quicksilver shows an icon in the Dock like most applications, but many people prefer to disable this. Uncheck the box to disable the Dock icon. The ∮ symbol indicates Quicksilver must be restarted before the change will take effect. An easy way to restart is to activate Quicksilver and then type ⌃ ⌥ ⌘ Q .

Without a Dock icon, Quicksilver runs as a background process. This means it won't appear in the Dock or when switching apps with ⌘ ⇥ and the main Quicksilver menu will not appear while the preference window is open.

The **Show icon in menu bar** preference puts an indicator in the top right part of the screen. Some people like this, particularly if they don't configure a Dock icon or have their Dock hidden. It provides a simplified menu to access the various configuration panes of Quicksilver. For access to the full menu options (via more sub-menus) set the option **Include access to all menu items from menu bar**.

The next section controls if and how Quicksilver checks its website automatically for updates both for updates to Quicksilver and for all installed plugins. It can be configured to check on launch, daily, weekly or monthly. The Check Now button will, not surprisingly, check immediately for an update.

The three buttons at the bottom will rerun the installation setup described in the Installation section, Reset Quicksilver's preferences, and completely Uninstall Quicksilver.

The Appearance Preferences control how Quicksilver looks.

The command window supports various skins or themes, known as Interfaces and installed via plugins (all of which end with the word Interface). Select the Interface to use here via the popup list showing all installed Interfaces. See the Interface section below for details.

The default interface is Primer and it shows a little more context information than other interfaces so it's recommended for new users. The other builtin interface is Bezel interface; it's very popular and is shown throughout this manual.
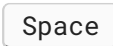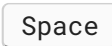
The Colors options allow further customization of the appearance of the interface and vary per interface. The column headers have tooltips showing what they represent: Background, Selection & Accents, and Text colors. Clicking on the nine colors in the grid will bring up a color picker.

5.2.2 Command
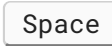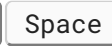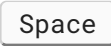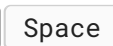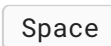
The Command Preferences allows configuration of the command window's behavior.

Activation Shortcuts

The top of the pane affects how you activate Quicksilver. The Keyboard Activation is the basic way to activate Quicksilver. The default is to type `^` `Space`, though `⌘` `Space` is a common alternative.

The shortcut is configurable in the Command Preferences Pane under Activation. Quicksilver defaulted to `⌘` `Space` for a long time, but with 10.4, Apple chose to use `⌘` `Space` for Spotlight. So Quicksilver changed its default to `^` `Space`. If you look at older posts on the Web, or even current posts from long-time users, you'll often see `⌘` `Space` used to activate Quicksilver.

A common setup is to use `⌘` `Space` for Quicksilver and `⌥` `⌘` `Space` for Spotlight (set in the Spotlight System Preference pane of macOS). An advantage is that many shortcuts used after activating Quicksilver use `⌘`, so using the same modifier key is easier. For example, `⌘` `,` will open up Quicksilver's Preferences.

Modifier-only Activation allows you to activate Quicksilver by single or double presses of modifier keys such as `^` , `⌥` , `⇧` , `⌘` or even `fn` . The activation is only triggered when you "tap" the chosen key and nothing else, so accidental activations are *far more rare* than you might expect.

When activated, switch keyboard to allows you to force Quicksilver to use a different keyboard layout than the one you use for macOS in general.

Searching and Spacebar Behavior

Thanks to Quicksilver's matching algorithm, the spacebar is completely unnecessary for searches in the command window. The **Spacebar behavior** preference lets you reclaim that easy-to-smack key and make Quicksilver a little faster to use. The options are:

- **Normal** - Literally type a space and include it in the search term

- **Select Next Result** - Select the next result in the results list, like typing `↓`

- **Jump to Argument List** - Change to the third pane

- **Switch to Text Mode** - Change the current pane to text mode entry, like typing `.` or `'`

- **Show Item's Contents** - Goes into the item, like typing `→` or `/`

- **Quick Look** - Show the selected file(s) using Quick Look

- **Smart** (default) - Select one of the above behaviors automatically based on context

The smart spacebar tries to be the best of all worlds and do what you probably want in any given situation. This is how it decides what to do:

- If in the second pane, select the first action that takes an argument in the third pane.

- If user is holding Shift, go to the parent (same as left arrow).

- If the object has children, show them (same as right arrow) unless it's a text file.

- Jump to the third pane if the current action requires it. This is very useful for web searches.

- Quick Look if the object supports it.

- Switch to text mode.

Plug-ins can override the above where it makes sense. For example, iTunes tracks have children (genre, artist, and album). According to the above rules, spacebar would act like right arrow and show them, but the iTunes plug-in tells the smart spacebar to use Quick Look instead.

Switch to text mode if no match is found will allow you to save typing `.` or `'` to enter text mode in a pane.

Reset search after lets you start a new search without manually clearing the current search string.

Wait before searching can be tweaked to work with your typing speed. It tells Quicksilver not to start a potentially resource intensive search until you've finished typing.

Results

The bottom of the Command Preferences pane affects how the results list window appears and how actions that return something to Quicksilver should behave.

Focus action when displaying results is designed to save time when performing multiple commands in sequence. For example, if you wanted to compress a folder, rename the resulting ZIP file, then copy it to another location. By default, each of those actions would

show the resulting file in Quicksilver and select it, requiring you to hit ⇥ each time to choose the next action.

Selecting **Show children split view** will split the results list vertically into two columns, the right one showing the contents of the selected item in the left one (much like the column view of the Finder). You must restart Quicksilver for changes to this setting to take effect. When first enabled you'll only see one column, but notice the small dot in the middle of the right edge, you can click on and drag that to the left to reveal the second column. **This feature will slow Quicksilver down tremendously (as it's constantly loading children you probably don't care about) and should never be used.**

You can specify the Row Height in pixels. A higher value will show a larger image on each row. A lower value will result in a single line per entry (showing label, but not details). The details for the selected entry will be shown in the bottom of the window in that case.

Show other results controls if the results list appears after you type into the command window immediately, after a short delay, or not until you manually scroll with ↓.

5.2.3 Appearance

Interface plugins change the look of Quicksilver's command window. Install them just like other plugins from the Plugins Preferences, then select one of the installed interfaces in the Appearance preference pane. If you use a remote control application to connect to different machines, you might want to configure them with different interfaces or change the colors on the interface to distinguish them.

Two interfaces are included with Quicksilver out of the box. Primer (the default) is intended for new users as it does a better job of labeling things and helping you understand what's going on. Bezel is a nice looking interface that places emphasis on icons over text.

The Colors and Text sections can be used to adjust the look of the selected interface (and the results list) if that interface supports it. Some interfaces have a hard-coded look and will ignore these settings.

Some interfaces will offer a Customize button that provides additional adjustments specific to that interface.

5.2.4 Actions

All of the actions available in Quicksilver are listed in this section of the preferences. It's a good idea to scan through this list to get an idea what sort of things are possible.

Viewing Actions

The default is to group actions by type. That is, clicking a type on the left will narrow the list of actions on the right to only those that work with that type. You can also view the actions by plug-in. Choosing a plug-in on the left will narrow the list of actions to only those provided by that plug-in.

You can also narrow the list of actions by name using the search field.

The list of actions will also show the alternate action if one exists. Alternate actions provide a quick way to do something slightly different from the selected action by hitting ⌘ ↵ instead of just ↵ . For example, if you select a file and run the **Open** action, the file will open. Hitting ⌘ ↵ instead will run the **Reveal** action instead, showing the file in Finder.

Adjusting actions

The checkbox next to every action allows you to enable or disable it. You may want to disable some you think you'll never use. Some of the more technically oriented or dangerous actions are disabled by default, but you can enable them here.

The most important use for the action preferences is to control the order in which they appear. The goal is for the actions you use most often to be selected by default so you'll rarely need to go to the second pane and choose one manually. You can change the order by dragging and dropping.

When you select an object in Quicksilver's first pane, the highest ranked applicable action will be the one selected by default in the second pane. The word "applicable" there is

important and deserves some discussion: The second pane will only contain actions that can be used on whatever you select in the first pane. Because of this, *you will generally want to put more specific actions (those that only apply to one or two types) high up on the list, and the more general actions lower*. For example, dragging the **Open URL** action all the way to the top will not annoy you by constantly showing that action when you select files because it will only appear when you select a URL. On the other hand, an action like **Paste** can be used on any object, so placing it high on the list *will* annoy you because you probably don't want it to be the default for everything you select.

Quicksilver and its plug-ins ship with reasonable defaults for the action rankings, but you might want to make adjustments. It might take some experimentation with real-world use before you get things just right.

5.2.5 Extras

The Extras Preferences have some advanced options.

Show the Task Viewer automatically when tasks are created will let you keep tabs on things Quicksilver does in the background. Unless you interact with it, the Task Viewer will hide itself again once all tasks are complete.

If you prefer concentrating on one thing at a time, check **Hide other applications when switching applications** so that Quicksilver will do a **Hide Others** after switching applications. You can prevent the hiding behavior by holding down the Shift key when completing the command.

Run tasks and actions in the background prevents longer-running commands from locking up Quicksilver's interface until they finish. You should only disable this if something isn't working as expected.

Reopening the current application configures what happens if you use the Open action on an application that is already running. You can have it activate the application, show the front window, or show all windows.

Application Update Type allows you to choose between Prerelease Candidates and Final Releases when Quicksilver checks for updates as configured in the Application Preferences. Sometimes after installation this is set to a blank value and that has been observed to cause problems, make sure it's set to some value in the popup.

Since the matching algorithm is case-insensitive the Shift key is available for some use in Quicksilver. If you check **Allow capitalized keys to select the action** then shifted letters are used to select the action, eliminating the need to tab to the second pane. Once moved to the action pane, unshifted letters don't change the first pane, all typing counts for the second pane. If you also hold down the ⌘ key the action will be performed immediately, no need to type return. E.g., ⇧ I selects the action for "i" (perhaps **IM**) while ⇧ ⌘ I performs the action for "i". Use caution, as it's not always clear which action is invoked.

If you enable **Disable Keyboard Triggers when Quicksilver is focused** then keyboard triggers will not work while Quicksilver is activated (i.e., the command window is open). I have no idea why you would want to enable this. If you don't want a particular trigger to work when Quicksilver is active, this can be configured in the individual trigger's settings.

Pressing the Delete key clears the whole search string disables the default behavior of removing a single character at a time from the search string. With this enabled, you can immediately start a new search by hitting ⌫ , and clear the interface entirely with ⌫ ⌫ .

5.2.6 Handlers

Quicksilver not only makes it easier to work with a variety of applications, it sometimes uses other applications to perform commands. These are configurable in the Handlers Preferences pane.

- **E-mail** - The e-mail client to use for Send/Compose actions

- **Command Line Interface** - The terminal program to use for command-line actions

- **String Ranker** - Choose either the default built-in ranker, or the TextStart Ranker, which uses a different matching algorithm. See the TextStart Ranker section for details.

- **File System Browser** - The application to use for file system actions like Reveal, Open, or Copy

- **Missing Object Selector** - This is the interface Quicksiver will present if you need to select an object for the third pane.

- **Notification** - How to display notifications. See the next section.

It's important to understand that the choices here actually refer to Quicksilver plug-ins and not the applications themselves. So for example, you won't see every e-mail client on your system listed. You will only see the ones for which a plug-in exists and has been installed.

Notifications

The Notifications Hub plugin allows finer granularity in configuring notifications. It adds a new preference pane called Notification Hub. There you can configure a default notifier as well as configure specific notifiers for specific events. E.g., iTunes notifications go to the Quicksilver built-in notification notifier while Plugin Installation notifications go to Growl. You can even send the same notification to multiple handlers by adding multiple lines for the same Notification and with different notifiers.

2026-02-07

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5.3 Catalog

The Catalog is the collection of items indexed by Quicksilver during its periodic scans. You populate it by configuring catalog sources which Quicksilver periodically indexes. This is done in the Catalog panel. You can bring it up from the menu or by activating Quicksilver and typing ⌘ ; .

Catalog sources are configured into sets shown in the left panel. Many plugins (and Quicksilver itself) provide catalog presets. These are pre-configured catalog entries that you might find useful. Presets can't be altered, but you can copy one, customize the copy, and disable the original. You can also manually add your own entries. Anything you add or copy from a preset will appear under Custom.

The checkbox enables or disables the entry. Enabled entries that have been indexed show the number of items found. Note that not all entries are enabled by default after plugins are installed.

At the bottom of the window you can configure how frequently Quicksilver rescans the catalog sources to find (and remove) items. The default is 10 minutes. This might seem too short, but give it a try before adjusting it. Quicksilver isn't going to bog down your system with a full rescan every 10 minutes. Instead, it only asks the catalog source for each entry whether or not it *needs* to be scanned again. The answer is almost always "no", so very little ends up happening unless there's a reason. For example, your Applications folder will only be scanned if its modification time is more recent that the last scan.

The Refresh button will manually rescan a selected catalog source. You can manually rescan the whole catalog with the Rescan Catalog command in the Quicksilver menu (only if you have the Dock icon visible) or more conveniently by typing ⌘ R after activating Quicksilver. Some interfaces (e.g., Bezel) will show a spinner icon while rescanning the catalog. You can also configure the Task Viewer to show automatically during a catalog rescan. Show the Task Viewer by selecting it from the Window menu (if the Quicksilver Dock icon is enabled) or by typing ⌘ K after activating Quicksilver. The

gear menu in the top right (which is there even if it's not visible in some interfaces) will let you configure two options: Show Automatically and Resize Automatically. The Task Viewer isn't all that useful as things usually just work. It could be used to notice when Quicksilver is doing rescans or perhaps to help troubleshoot a slow catalog source (if you've configured a file scan to be too deep).

With a source selected click on the   button to show a drawer with three tabs:

- **Source Options** - Varies based on the kind of source. A file source allows you to configure depth of scan and file types to be included. See below for details.

- **Contents** - The list of all items found by indexing this source. You can remove a specific item by unchecking it.

- **Attributes** - Provides some info about the source and allows you to enable it and change the name. Include in Global Catalog is whether the source is enabled or not and is the same as the checkbox in the main Catalog panel. Presets have a Create Copy button that will duplicate the source to the Custom catalog set, allowing you to change the source options.

To find out what catalog source an object comes from, bring up the object in the first pane and use the **Show Source in Catalog** action; the Catalog window will open with the source of the object selected. If the catalog contains unwanted items, this is a way to track down what sources you want to modify or remove.

Using the + and - buttons in the Custom set you can add and remove additional catalog entries. The + button will show a drop down menu of various source types (aka scanners) which varies based on the plugins installed. Note that some plugins provide presets in the Plugins set and others provide new scanner types, while some provide both. When trying to determine what a new plugin does, remember to check both places (or read its documentation).

5.3.1 Proxy Objects

Proxy objects are items in your catalog that refer to another object that could change at any time. They are one of Quicksilver's more powerful features. Some examples will probably make it easier to understand than a description.

• Current Web Page

• Finder Selection

• Latest Download

• Currently Playing Track

• Current Selection (text, files, tracks and playlists in iTunes, etc.)

Proxy objects allow you to do things like e-mail the selected files to a coworker, paste the URL of the page open in your browser, assign a rating to the currently playing track, or move the latest download to another folder. You can do all of that without switching apps, copying, selecting, dragging, etc.

If you're now convinced that proxy objects are amazing, you probably want to know what other proxy objects are available. Open the Catalog, select the Quicksilver set and then select Proxy Objects source, click the   button at the bottom to open the drawer and look at the Contents tab. Note that some third party plugins might install additional proxy objects.

It's obvious from the name what most of them do, but the usefulness of some might *not* be so obvious.

The Quicksilver Selection might seem silly. If you already have something selected, why do you need a proxy for it? Some proxy objects, like this one, are really only useful (but extremely so) as part of Triggers, which are discussed in a bit.

5.3.2 Synonyms

Synonyms allow you to assign another name to an object in your catalog. Remember that you can only assign an abbreviation to something if those letters appear in the name. So

you can't use $\boxed{\texttt{I}}\;\boxed{\texttt{R}}\;\boxed{\texttt{C}}$ to launch Colloquy, for instance. But you can create a synonym for Colloquy called "IRC Client" and search for that instead.

Some other examples:

- Your muscle memory hasn't adjusted since Apple renamed Address Book to Contacts, so you could create "Address Book" as a synonym for Contacts.
- If you're used to Windows and can never remember the name of that text editing app, create a synonym called "Notepad" that points to TextEdit.

Synonyms act just like the object they refer to, so they will have the same icon, the same children, and the same actions will be available in the second pane.

To create a synonym:

1. Go to Preferences → Catalog

2. Click the + button at the bottom of the window

3. Choose "Synonym"

4. In the panel that appears, type a name for your synonym and hit $\boxed{\texttt{↵}}$

5. Click the search widget to search the catalog just like you would in Quicksilver's main interface.

6. Once the desired object is selected, you can close the Preferences window

5.3.3 Preset Details

The **File & Folder Scanner** lets you add folders to scan into the catalog. You can also just drag folders into the main catalog pane to add a source.

A common thing to want to do is to scan the `~/Documents/` folder deeper than the depth of 2 the default source uses (in the User set). To do this, select the Users set and the Documents source, open the drawer and select the Attributes tab. Click on Create Copy to create a new source in Custom named Documents. The difference is that the Source Options tab of it is editable. Change the depth slider to what you want. Many people just

select infinity but this is never recommended. Your indexes will take longer and your catalog will be huge which will slow Quicksilver down. Also if you have many extra items in your catalog your searches are more likely to contain useless noise. Remember that you can always navigate to any file in Quicksilver (see the Files and Folders section), so all you need in your catalog are your more commonly used files.

You probably don't want to just index your entire home directory. `~/Library` alone has many preference and cache files that you don't want indexed, and the Music and Pictures folders are better served by the iTunes and iPhoto plugins.

The File & Folder Scanner can also scan the *contents* of files to add to the catalog. The scanner can recognize either HTML links or text lines depending on the setting of the Include Contents popup. Text lines are "sniffed" to see if they can be converted into anything useful.

The Applications set has 4 sources defined. The Applications (User) source indexes `~/Applications/` to a depth of 3 but also only finds the applications, not the intervening folders. If you want those in the catalog so you can easily move an application into them (e.g., `~/Applications/Games/` and `~/Application/Browsers/`), the Types field in the Source Options tab is useful for this. If you type file extensions (e.g., `.txt`, `.c`, `.doc`, etc.) into it you can filter the kinds of files indexed. You can also enter Mac Type Codes surrounded by single quotes and type tab to have it interpreted.

So, to get applications entered as it is in the pre-configured source, enter `'APPL'` (including the single quotes). In this example, you want folders, so enter `'fold'` and type tab and it's replaced with "folder". You can choose a depth of 1 to include the Games and Browsers folders but not folders that some applications come with (or the Contents folders inside the `.app` packages).

Note that the Find All Applications source under the Applications set will search the whole system for application packages. It also indexes any external drives connected. Be aware that allowing Quicksilver to index things on an external drive might cause performance problems and other strange behavior.

The Spotlight object source allows you to add files to the catalog if they match a Spotlight query. See the Spotlight plugin's documentation for a discussion of the syntax.

The Defaults Reader allows you to index some keys from Property List (`.plist`) files, though it's a little flakey (doesn't deal well with paths), is difficult to configure (you must manually specify each key) and doesn't let you change the plist file.

The Group type is just a a folder for custom catalog sources to be able to group many custom sources in the catalog preferences to make them easier to read.

Additional catalog sources are described elsewhere in this manual.

In the Quicksilver set there is a source called Quicksilver Catalog Entries. If enabled, an item is added to the catalog for each source configured. These items have names that end with "(Catalog)". You can select one of these items in the first pane and then type → to navigate through just that source. If you want to do this often, create a trigger. E.g., the trigger Applications (Catalog) (**Show Contents**) lets you search through just the applications in your catalog (well those that are found via this catalog source). While you can often do this just by typing → into an object, if you have custom sources configured (say for files of a particular project) this can be very handy.

2026-02-08

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5.4 Triggers

You define triggers in the Triggers Preference pane. You can go to this pane directly by activating Quicksilver and typing ⌘ ' . You'll see several sets in the left side of the preference pane. Some triggers are predefined by Quicksilver itself or various plugins, e.g., you'll find several in iTunes, and two in Quicksilver. Triggers you create will be in the Custom Triggers set.

5.4.1 The Triggers Interface

Each trigger is shown by its name which is usually a combination of the object and action to be invoked. The checkbox shows if the trigger is active. The ⌘ column shows the type of trigger, in this case they are all activated by a shortcut which is shown in the Trigger column (some are not assigned to keys). If you select a trigger and click on the button at the bottom, a drawer is revealed with various settings for the trigger. The settings tab looks different for each type of trigger. You can change the name of the trigger in the top text field.

5.4.2 Editing Triggers

You can change some options by clicking in the main trigger window. If you click on the command name you can get an edit field to change the name of the trigger. If you click in the Trigger column you can set or change the shortcut. If you click on the icon in the ⌘ column you can add another means (Gesture, Mouse) to activate the trigger. Though once you create an additional way, there doesn't seem to be a way to delete it without deleting the entire trigger.

5.4.3 Creating New Triggers

You create a new trigger by clicking the + button at the bottom and selecting a trigger type from the pop-up menu (Gesture, Keyboard, or Mouse, depending on installed

plugins). The Group option is just a way to collect triggers in a group or folder. They don't perform any function other than helping you organize a lot of triggers. You can't activate all the triggers in a group at once. Create a Group from the + menu and drag triggers into it.

Regardless of which type you choose, a special command window appears (populated with the last command you performed) to let you define the command for the trigger. Enter the command and click Save. Then open the drawer to the Settings tab to assign a shortcut, mouse click, or gesture to use to activate the trigger. If you're creating a keyboard trigger, just click in the Trigger column for this new trigger, the drawer will open and you can just type the shortcut as if you had clicked the Edit button.

5.4.4 Settings and Scope

By default, triggers are available whenever Quicksilver is running, regardless of what application is active. They can also be limited to function only when a certain application is active or when a certain application is not active. You do this by opening the drawer for a trigger and choosing the Scope tab. The default is "Enabled in all applications" but you can also choose from the popup "Enabled in selected applications" or "Disabled in selected applications". For the latter two you can type the name of the application into the large box and type `→` or `,` after the name to have it turn into a blue button. You can then enter another application if you choose.

If you have triggers that use certain features, be cautious about deleting the plugins that supply those features. In particular if you have triggers using mouse gestures from Abracadabra (see the Gestures section) and if you remove the Abracadabra plugin, the trigger panel may display oddly with some blank lines and missing icons. To correct this, reinstall the plugin (Abracadabra in this case), or remove the triggers.

5.4.5 Tips

Your trigger configuration is stored in `~/Library/Application Support/Quicksilver/ Triggers.plist` . This is useful to know if you want to have the same configuration on

several machines, just copy the file between the machines while Quicksilver is not running.

For more information on using triggers, see the Triggers feature section.

2026-02-08

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5.5 Touch Bar Support

For Macs with a Touch Bar, the following will be available when Quicksilver is active:

• Back/forward in history

• Grab current selection

• Clear the interface

• Quick Look

• Reveal Proxy

• Show Task Viewer

• Back/forward in collection

• Explode collection

• Remove last item from collection

The available buttons and their positions can be customized to your liking.

1. Invoke Quicksilver (the interface must be visible)

2. Go to the Quicksilver menu in the menu bar

3. Choose "Customize Touch Bar…"

!!! note If you don't normally run Quicksilver with the Dock icon visible, you'll need to enable it temporarily to access the menu. (Preferences → General → Application → Show icon in dock)

```
You can hide the Dock icon again once you're happy with your customizations.
```

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5.6 Plugins

Quicksilver is designed with a central core that implements some basic functionality, but most of the features are implemented in plugins. You can pick and choose which plugin functionality you want, but must install the plugins before that functionality is available. Managing the plugins including finding, installing, enabling, and removing is done entirely from within Quicksilver in the Plugins Preferences (though additional configuration in Preferences or the Catalog may be useful or necessary). You can bring it up from the menu, or by activating Quicksilver and typing ⌘ " .

The plugins are shown in the right pane, with a checkbox showing if they are enabled, a column showing the version number, and the date the installed version was released. The left panel shows sets of plugins:

- **Recommended** - Plugins can appear on this list based on the applications you have installed, files that might exist on your system, or because they're considered generally useful. This is also the list Quicksilver presents during the initial setup process.

- **Installed Plugins** - All installed plugins are listed here. Only those that are checked are enabled. Those not checked are installed, but disabled.

- **Disabled** - Plugins you've installed, but disabled are shown here. These may be candidates for removal.

- **Not Installed** - To quickly see if there are any potentially useful plugins you don't yet have, you can see a list of ones you don't have installed.

- **All Plugins** - All available plugins from the update server are listed here. Checked plugins are installed and enabled, unchecked plugins are not installed. ⌥ -click on this to show some hidden plugins.

  This section can be expanded to show a list of categories. Plugins can be in more than one category.

Checking a plugin will enable it, downloading and installing it if necessary. Selecting a plugin and clicking the   button will open a drawer with additional details:

· Author(s)

· A short description

· Installed version (if installed)

· Latest version available from the update server (based on your version of Quicksilver and macOS)

· Status, which normally shows "Loaded". If a plugin fails to load for some reason, you might find a helpful message here.

Clicking the ? button will open the plugin's documentation in a new window. Reading this for any installed plugins is highly recommended. Some less obvious features and uses can be discovered in the docs.

Selecting one or more plugins and clicking the gear button opens a pop-up menu of things you can do to plugins including install, download, copy, and delete. Delete is the only one you'll typically use from this menu. The last three items in the menu are options you can enable or not.

The Refresh button (circular arrow) will refresh the list of plugins from the update server.

To disable a plugin, uncheck it. Its features will no longer be available but its code will still be loaded into memory. To clean up this memory (possibly fixing stability issues), restart Quicksilver. The plugin is still installed on disk (so it will appear unchecked in the Installed Plugins view) until it is deleted.

If you expect to see a plugin in the list and don't, try refreshing the list of plugins.

If you're having problems installing plugins check the ownership and permissions on `~/ Library/Application Support/Quicksilver/PlugIns/` and its parent directory. Use the Finder's Get Info command (from the File menu) to see the Ownership & Permissions of a folder. It should be owned by you and you should have permission to read and write it. Usually quitting Quicksilver and removing (or moving) the PlugIns folder or its parent Quicksilver folder and restarting Quicksilver (allowing it to recreate the folder) will solve

any problems. Of course removing the Quicksilver folder will remove any customizations you've made.

2026-02-07

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6. Appendix

6.1 Appendix

This appendix contains additional reference material and resources for working with Quicksilver.

6.1.1 What's in the Appendix

- **FAQ** - Frequently asked questions about using Quicksilver

- **Troubleshooting** - Solutions to common problems and issues

- **Extending Quicksilver** - Information on developing plugins and extending Quicksilver's functionality

- **Random Notes** - Miscellaneous tips, tricks, and notes

- **Style Guide** - Guidelines for contributing to this documentation

2026-02-08

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6.2 FAQ

6.2.1 Quicksilver uses lots of memory, CPU, or hangs

Quicksilver keeps the entire index in memory and scans the catalog sources regularly. Usually when it uses too many resources it's because the catalog is configured too large. The default `~/Documents` source is configured to a depth of 2. If you create a custom source of infinite depth, it will make the catalog large. Also, if you configure a source for your home directory, it will probably scan many unnecessary files (`~/Library` , etc.). This is also why your music and pictures aren't in the global catalog and should be accessed via the iTunes and iPhoto plugins, which require you to type → to get into your music files and photos.

If you have network drives configured to be scanned, that can make the catalog large or take a while. Note the Find All Applications catalog source (in the Applications set) will scan your entire machine, including network drives for applications. A comfortable size for your catalog will vary based on the capabilities of your computer.

Also, if you have the Clipboard Module plugin installed and configured in the Clipboard Preferences to Capture History you might have large clippings in the history. This would cause Quicksilver to use lots of memory and perhaps lots of CPU at startup. The clipboard history is stored in the following file:

```
~/Library/Application Support/Quicksilver/Shelves/
QSPasteboardHistory.qsshelf
```

You can check its size. To clear it you can use the clear button in the Clipboard History panel or, while Quicksilver is not running, delete the above file.

If you open the drawer for catalog sources, in the Contents tab you'll find all the items found for that source. Clicking on the headings in this tab will sort the list. Large catalog sources (500 or more) will take a long time to sort and use lots of memory. If I accidentally sort my Documents with 2000 items I ultimately force quit Quicksilver since it uses 60-80% CPU and several hundred MB of real memory. Be careful as the sort order

applies globally. If you sort a small source it works fine, if you then (even accidentally) click on a large source it will eat up resources. A Quicksilver restart resets the contents tab to be unsorted.

6.2.2 Quicksilver doesn't find my files

By default Quicksilver finds files on your Desktop and in your Documents folder but it doesn't scan very far into those locations. It scans things on the Desktop but not inside folders on the Desktop, that is it scans the Desktop to a depth of 1. Quicksilver scans the `~/Documents` folder to a depth of 2.

To scan deeper, clone the source so it's in the Custom set in the catalog and editable. To do this, select the Users set and the Documents source, open the drawer and select the Attributes tab. Click on Create Copy to create a new source in Custom named Documents. Select the new source and click on the button to show a drawer with three tabs. Select the Source Options tab and select the depth.

Do not just set it to infinite, the catalog will be too large and Quicksilver will slow to a crawl. See the Catalog section for some tips.

6.2.3 Quicksilver always searches the entire catalog

After right-arrowing into something, if searching appears to start over from the entire catalog rather than searching the current context, you may have inadvertently changed the search mode using ⌘ → or ⌘ ← .

After you right-arrow, click the gear at the top of the results list. You can change the search mode there. You can also use the keyboard shortcuts above to cycle though the search modes. "Filter Results" is probably what you want in most situations.

6.2.4 Quicksilver crashes

When you see crashes, here are a few things to try.

- Check the log in Console.app to see if there is some log message hinting at what might have gone wrong.
- Try clearing the catalog cache by quitting Quicksilver and deleting `~/Library/Caches/ Quicksilver`, then relaunch Quicksilver.
- Try disabling plug-ins a few at a time to see if things improve. Repeat the process until you've identified the offending plug-in.
- If Quicksilver crashes at startup, see if you have a `~/Library/Application Support/ Quicksilver/Shelves/` folder. Quit Quicksilver, move it out of the way and start Quicksilver again. Sometimes the shelf gets corrupted.

6.2.5 Quicksilver won't install any plugins or hangs when trying

This is usually a permissions problem. Check that your user account (and not root) owns `~/Library/Application Support/Quicksilver/` and the PlugIns folder beneath it. You can check and change this if needed by doing Get Info in the Finder and looking in the Ownership & Permission section. After making sure the folder exists and you own it and have permissions to write to it, restart Quicksilver.

The other cause is if you're running Little Snitch which is a reverse firewall and prevents Quicksilver from contacting the server where the plugins are.

Another possibility is that the plugin is no longer supported by your system. See if the plugin was moved to `~/Library/Application Support/Quicksilver/PlugIns (disabled)`.

6.2.6 Doesn't Spotlight make Quicksilver unnecessary?

No, they do different things and are in fact complementary. Spotlight scans inside files (and their metadata) so you can search their contents. Quicksilver only looks at file

names and inside some things like contacts and bookmarks and lets you do more than just open them (e.g., e-mail a file to a contact). Since Quicksilver's index is smaller than Spotlight's and because it learns from your previous searches Quicksilver often finds things faster than Spotlight.

6.2.7 I don't see feature X

Make sure you have the appropriate plugin(s) installed.

If it's an action you don't see, check in the Action Preferences that the action is enabled (checked).

If it's something in the first pane you don't see, make sure it's enabled in the catalog and scanned (so that the catalog source has a number next to the checkbox). This manual tries to be very precise in describing how to enable each feature it describes.

6.2.8 Why is X in my catalog?

If you see something unexpected or unwanted and you're not sure how it ended up in your catalog, you can use the Show Source in Catalog action to see where it came from. The action will open Quicksilver's preferences and select the source entry.

!!! note The Show Source in Catalog action needs to be enabled in Preferences → General → Actions

6.2.9 Triggers don't work after a restart of Quicksilver

You may create a trigger that works as expected until the next time Quicksilver is launched. If this happens, the trigger probably involves something that isn't in the catalog. You may be able to find something and use it in a trigger while it's in memory, but when Quicksilver restarts and sets up your triggers, only the objects in the catalog are available.

There are exceptions to this for objects that can be easily recreated in memory using their identifier, like text, files, and URLs.

6.2.10 Catalog entries are missing on Mojave or later

This is known to affect Safari Bookmarks and Safari History.

Go to your Privacy Preferences and add Quicksilver to the "Full Disk Access" list.

6.2.11 Actions fail on Mojave or later

In macOS Mojave, Apple began requiring user confirmation before allowing applications to interact with each other via AppleEvents (one of the technologies behind AppleScript). Quicksilver makes heavy use of AppleEvents to interact with your system.

If certain actions don't seem to be doing anything, you may have accidentally denied access to Quicksilver, or you may have missed the dialog asking for permission, in which case it will default to denying access. (This is especially a problem as the dialog may appear *behind* the Quicksilver interface.)

If you find yourself in this situation, you can go to your Privacy Preferences and review the access given to Quicksilver.

Alternatively, you can reset the access in Terminal:

```
tccutil reset AppleEvents
```

Unfortunately, that resets everything, so any application on your system using AppleEvents will have to be reauthorized.

6.2.12 Adding symlinks to the Quicksilver catalog

Some users would like to add symlinks to files or directories to their Quicksilver catalog *without* resolving the symlink. For example, `nix` users may want to add the contents of `~/.nix-profile` to their catalog. `~/.nix-profile` is a symlink to a directory whose

target usually resides in `/nix/store` somewhere (you can inspect with `/usr/bin/readlink -f ~/.nix-profile/`).

If one attempts to add this path to the Quicksilver catalog through the graphical user interface (`Settings` ⇥ `Catalog` ⇥ `+` ⇥ `File & Folder Scanner`), a MacOS file picker presents itself, and one can enter in the path either by pressing `⌘` `⇧` `G` to type it in, or using `⌘` `⇧` `.` to toggle showing hidden files and folders. However, taking this approach, MacOS will resolve the path to the symlink at the time of adding the path; if that symlink changes to point to a different directory, the Quicksilver catalog entry will still point to the old path that was resolved at the time of adding.

If this is not the desired behavior, one can add the symlink to the Quicksilver catalog *without* resolving to its target by selecting the symlink in Quicksilver's first pane (either by navigating or by entering text mode, typing it in, then hitting `⏎`), then using the `Add To Catalog` action:

Adding a Symlink to the Catalog

Please note that currently Quicksilver will not index the contents of a symlinked directory, though it will index the content of a directory that is within a symlinked directory. For example, adding `~/.nix-profile` to the catalog will not index `~/.nix-profile/bin`. However, because `~/.nix-profile/bin` is a directory (not a symlink), adding `~/.nix-profile/bin` to your catalog can scan and add its contents such as `~/.nix-profile/bin/nix`. Further, if you use the approach above to add it without resolving its path, it should continue to update its contents over time, even as the target of `~/.nix-profile` evolves.

For context and additional discussion, see Quicksilver/issues/2758.

🕐2022-06-15

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6.3 Troubleshooting

http://docs.blacktree.com/quicksilver/support

Is the required plugin installed?

Is the catalog source, action, trigger enabled?

Check Console

Applications and system processes often write useful debugging information to log files. Different things write to different log files, but you can use /Applications/Utilities/ Console.app to read all of them. Start Console.app and you'll see the console.log displayed, most applications write their information to this log. If there isn't a left hand pane in the window click the Logs button in the toolbar to make it appear (or use the Show Log List command from the View menu). Make sure the console.log is selected, that's where Quicksilver writes all its information. Since so many things write to the console.log it's useful to filter the display to just what you're looking for, in this case type "Quicksilver" into the Filter box in the top right. Now you can see the Quicksilver log messages. Note that all the messages are preceded with a date and time to make finding relevant messages easier. Sometimes non-Quicksilver messages are relevant to diagnosing a problem, so after finding when something started failing you might unfilter the results and see if anything is reporting problems at the same time.

Task viewer (⌘ K) - gear menu invisible in Cube

where's the verbose debugging info you're seeing? you hold down option while starting up and it starts spitting out lots of info to console

Some things (oddly) require being administrator to work correctly

For Crashes, look in Console to find path to crash log, usually it is `~/Library/Logs/ CrashReporter/Quicksilver.crash.log`

Find what catalog source is finding and item with **Show Source in Catalog**. e.g., to find what's scanning an external drive.

The following files and folders should be owned by you and be readable and writable by you. You can check this by using the Finder's Get Info command or opening Terminal.app and using the command line `ls -ld file`.

```
drwxr-xr-x  ~/Library/Application Support/Quicksilver/
-rw-------  ~/Library/Preferences/com.blacktree.Quicksilver.plist
drwxr-xr-x  ~/Library/Caches/Quicksilver/
```

6.3.1 Program Interactions

Little Snitch prevents showing of plugin list

kGTD might screw up the permissions of `~/Library/Application Support/ Quicksilver/`

Stoplight prevents Quicksilver from starting

FileVault breaks stuff

Check that what's in the panes is actually what you think is there. Some things look similar but are not the same, e.g., a link to google.com vs a google web search with *** in the URL or the actions. Can check with Show Source in Catalog.

6.3.2 Reporting problems

I got an error but don't mention what the error is. It's like saying "Doctor it hurts when I do something"

Describing what you did so vaguely that others can't reproduce or help. It's like saying "I drove to Chicago but when I stopped I wasn't there"

2017-11-11

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6.4 Extending Quicksilver

TODO: Create your own actions: http://docs.blacktree.com/quicksilver/creations/scripts

But that's not to say there isn't a way to do it from Quicksilver. You can find a script on the Quicksilver website at http://docs.blacktree.com/quicksilver/creations/applescript_create_event. Cut and paste it into a file and put that file in the directory ~/Library/Application Support/Quicksilver/Actions/.

Set the icon of the script and it appears in the QS pane.

have you got QS → Preferences → Advanced → "run commands in background" turned on? If you have turn it off and try again.

Action for large text Growl notifications: http://blacktree.cocoaforge.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=4474

2017-11-12

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6.5 Random Notes

> This section is a random collection of notes I've gathered of things to be added to the manual. Please take these and either incorporate them in the main text or remove those that are out of date.

6.5.1 Results List
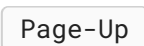
There are a bunch of ways of choosing an item.
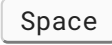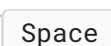
You can type the start of it and then using the mouse scroll through the results list and click on the item you want. That sounds like what you are doing.

You can continue typing the whole thing and it will eventually appear as the first choice. Over time, you should have to type less of the item to get it to the top as QS learns what you do often.

If the results list is appearing slowly go to the Command preference pane and set "Show Other Results" to "Immediately".

You can type the beginning of what you want and then `↓` into through the results list. `↑` and `Page-Up` and `Page-Down` and `Home` and `End` work as well. People like this method because it's not using the mouse, so it's faster (you don't have to move your hand to the mouse).

Even faster is to configure the "Spacebar behavior" in the Command Preference Pane to "Select Next Result". Now `Space` acts like `↓` and you don't have to move your hand to the arrow-keys (`Space` is right under your thumb).

You can explicitly assign default choices for a sequence of letters you type. Say you have a "Documents" folder and a `document1.txt` file. Type `D` and they both appear. In the results list right-click on Documents and choose "Set as Default for D" (for this to work it can't be the first choice in the list, since it's already the default)). Now activate QS again and type `D` `O` `C` `U` and set that as the default for `document1.txt`. Now you can

always choose "Documents" by typing `D` and `document1.txt` by typing `D` `O` `C` `U` .

If you want to choose a default that's not at the beginning of the name use the **Assign Abbreviation** action to make an abbreviation (which behaves like a default but is separate). E.g., I do a lot of searching in the internet movie database, which is www.imdb.com. I want this assigned to `M` (for movies) but if I just type `M` I get a very long results list and imdb isn't towards the top and I don't want to scroll through the long list to find it to right-click to set a default. Instead select www.imdb.com in the first pane (type it all or do whatever works), and choose the **Assign Abbreviation** action then in the third pane type `M` (in text mode). Now if you activate quicksilver and type `M` www.imdb.com will appear in the first pane with the default action in the 2nd. Probably all you have to do is type `↵` . Very fast.

If you want it even faster. Setup a trigger. This way you can bring up your choice with just one keystroke (perhaps something like `⌥` `⌘` `M`) or a mouse gesture, without even invoking QS first.

Show Children Split View

My `~/Applications/` has enough in it I've started putting some sub-folders. But they don't show up in the catalog If i create a custom entry I get folders inside the `.apps` (e.g., Contents) I can't figure out how to select a folder in the Source Options. Any hints? so I'd like my `.apps` and the folders in the catalog but not what is inside the packages

hmelman: can't you specify types of things that get added to the catalog?

how do you specify the type "folder"? (and I can't see a way to specify "application" unless you copy it from a copy of one of the built-in Application sources)

type folder is specified by 'fold' -- note that includes single quotes i think these things may be discoverable via appropriate Info.plist files

ok, that works but unfortunately includes folders inside .app's :(but I can create a 2nd source for just the top level folders that combined with a depth 3 of just applications gives me what I want

http://quicksilver.infogami.com/ExecutableFileActions

6.5.2 Using Spotlight sources in the Catalog:

http://blacktree.cocoaforge.com/forums//viewtopic.php?p=19515#19515

6.5.3 iTunes artwork not displaying?

I was having this problem as well. Some tracks were displaying cover artwork correctly while others were displaying only the generic iTunes icon. All tracks had the artwork attached to the file.

After searching these forums, (can't find the link) the answer turns out to be setting the proper ID3 tag for each track. It seems that version 2.3 or 2.4 works in QS but v.2.2 or less doesn't.

Select all the tracks that aren't displaying correctly, go to the iTunes Advanced Menu and select Convert ID3 Tags... In the dialog box you'll be given the option to select which Tags you want. After you switch to v.2.3 or 2.4 you should be good to go.

6.5.4 Adium

The older Adium plugin (as of B51) works with Adium 0.89.1, it does not work with Adium 1.x. It can also be a little tricky to install if you're upgrading from an older version. It's actually two plugins (one for Quicksilver and one for Adium) that communicate with each other. Both parts come with the Quicksilver plugin and when you run it the first time it installs the Adium part as `~/Library/Application Support/Adium 2.0/PlugIns/ Quicksilver.AdiumPlugin` . If the plugin isn't working it's probably an issue with the Adium part. To reinstall it do the following: 1. Quit QS and Adium 2. Open Terminal and run the command: `defaults delete com.blacktree.Quicksilver AdiumPluginInstalled` 3. Remove `~/Library/Application Support/Adium 2.0/ PlugIns/Quicksilver.AdiumPlugin` . Note that the PlugIns directory might have a lowercase i, if so remove any Quicksilver.AdiumPlugin from there too. 4. Double-click on `~/Library/Application Support/Quicksilver/PlugIns/Adium Module.qsplugin`

6.5.5 Nice trick from Rob McBroom with OpenMeta Plugin:

So I've started tagging all those one-offs with "Quicksilver Catalog" and then I added a custom entry that puts anything with that tag in the catalog, and I have a tag for things that I'm currently working on and a trigger for Current Document ⇥ *Add Tag...* ⇥ Work On. So as soon as I create something in TextMate, I can tag it or tag the current directory in Terminal even. Wish I could tag URLs.

🕐 2017-11-12

○ GitHub

6.6 Manual Style Guide

6.6.1 Rationale

The original rationale for the manual was to be a comprehensive guide for Quicksilver. There were many short tutorials and How-To's for specific things online but nothing that covered all of Quicksilver in depth. Terminology was inconsistent (particularly what the three panes were called) and there weren't good explanations of why Quicksilver is a great application that everyone should use. There were pockets of info around and that did draw people of all skill levels to try it and given the nature of Quicksilver's configuration, it led to a lot of support questions from people who didn't install everything needed for a particular feature.

Given that Quicksilver has so many functions and each user tends to have specific use cases in mind (for some iTunes control was their introduction, for others it was e-mail and contacts, for others finding and manipulating files) I wanted the manual structured so that people could get directly to functionality that was interesting to them, find complete info, but be shown other things of interest while avoiding duplication as much as possible.

6.6.2 Sections

The Introduction is intended for everyone to read through from beginning to end. New users find out what to use Quicksilver for and experienced users have terminology defined and perhaps learn some advanced invocation methods.

The Preferences section walks through all of Quicksilver's preferences in depth, particularly how to install plugins and setup triggers so later sections could just refer to it.

The Features section covers all the plugins, in detail. Each section includes general usage and configuration instructions, as well as troubleshooting hints and tips for using features more efficiently using advanced Quicksilver features. It includes every cool

Quicksilver example I ever found. New users should be able to start using the features quickly and experienced users will probably find something new about many features.

6.6.3 Formatting

- When giving examples of something to type, wrap each physical key in a `<kbd>` tag. For example, <kbd>⌘</kbd> <kbd>A</kbd> , not <kbd>⌘A</kbd> .

    - Don't hesitate to use multiple characters to represent a single physical key if it makes sense, like <kbd>Space</kbd> .

   - Show letter keys using upper-case, since that's how they appear on most keyboards. If the user is expected to hold <kbd>⇧</kbd> , be explicit and show it.

- Indent ordered and unordered lists by two characters before the asterisk or number. It makes them stand out better in the plain-text version, and if you ever need to include a second paragraph, the indentation of the text will look more natural. (Markdown requires follow-on paragraphs to be indented by 4 spaces. If the bullet is indented by 2, the text for the first line will naturally start at 4, lining it up with subsequent lines.)

- Wrap the following in ticks to have them formatted using a fixed-width font:

    - File names

    - File extensions

    - Inline commands

    - Inline code snippets

- Action names should be in **bold**.

- Display full commands using "⇥" as a separator, as in Direct Object ⇥ **Action** ⇥ Indirect Object. It's a decent enough visual separator and it's literally what you would hit to move from one part of the command to another. Skip the `<kbd>` tag here, as it's too visually heavy.

- Images of example commands should use the Bezel interface with the default colors. It's popular, built-in, and smaller than Primer. Obviously use other interfaces if it's important for some feature/concept.

- Use bidirectional (a.k.a. smart or curly) quotes when speaking to the reader. Use unidirectional (a.k.a. straight) quotes in contexts where it makes sense, such as code snippets where bidirectional quotes would actually prevent the code from working.

  Many plain-text editors might not do this for you. macOS allows you to type bidirectional double quotes with ⌥ [and ⌥ ⇧ [, while the single-quote equivalents are ⌥] and ⌥ ⇧] .

- Use the unicode symbols for various keys (as they appear in menu shortcuts)

  - Enter the applicable modifiers in the correct order: ^ ⌥ ⇧ ⌘

  - Use these symbols to represent keystrokes where appropriate: → , ← , ↑ , ↓ , ⇥ , ⌫ , and ⌦ . If you don't know how to type the character that represents a particular key, you can almost certainly find it somewhere else in this manual and copy it.

  - The Quicksilver preference pane has buttons on the bottom bar. Use these when referring to them: ↻

- Put images in the `images` directory.

- Describe the location of something in the preferences using arrows. For example, Preferences → General → Actions

6.6.4 Keep in Mind

- Explain explicit installation steps for each feature at the top of the section. Include which plugins to install, everything that plugin installs (actions, handlers, an advanced preference pane, a catalog source, etc.) and how to configure them (e.g., if an action is installed but disabled by default, tell the user to enable it).

- Explain what Quicksilver does. Remember that it customizes itself for each user so be explicit about what the user types and Quicksilver's behavior and why different users might see different behavior if they type the same thing. Remember that people rank actions differently (particularly if different plugins are installed) and catalogs are configured differently.

- People come to Quicksilver with very different skill levels. Some are new to macOS and don't know details of how to install applications from `.dmg` files or other common conventions. Remember that people use keyboards in different languages with keys in different places.

- When describing new features, include the version number it was added, e.g., "As of version 1.4.1…". People using older versions will know something won't apply to them. This version decoration can removed as older versions not supporting the feature are unsupported.

- Include details of how to avoid common problems. e.g., Don't add a catalog source that scans to infinite depth because it will use a lot of memory and make Quicksilver slow.

- Use "TODO" to tag text to be changed/added.

- The current text explains things in prose and the original PDF used a lot of images. Changing procedures to lists is probably a good thing.

The reason to be explicit about things is to reduce the number of support questions. The reason to be comprehensive is to get people to find out and try new features.

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