

# My Favorite Things Help

My Favorite Things version 1.5 online help.

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# 1. The Big Picture

My Favorite Things, like most programs, has a few special details that you want to get a handle on early if you want to understand how it works. Many users will never have to look at this manual, but if you are curious what is a Hot Key or how My favorite Things decides [what to put](#) in the [Launch Menu](#), then this section will explain it all.

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# 1.1. The First Launch & the Launch Menu

To launch My Favorite Things, simply double-click on its icon. As it launches, you will see a gray bar appear across the top of your screen, just below the menu bar. This bar is called the [Status Window](#) . The Status Window will report the various steps it takes to start up. This will only take a few seconds.

After the Status Window disappears, you will notice that a new icon has appeared on the right side of your menubar. You can always access the Launch Menu by clicking on this icon. Go ahead and click on it now.

What you will see is the Launch Menu as it currently exists. My Favorite Things constantly changes and [updates](#) the Launch Menu to make it easier to get to what you want to do, but the menu as you see it is what it knows about so far.

The Launch Menu will [start](#) with the application that's currently in front (the same application whose name appears at the far left of your menubar). Then there will be a space followed by the words "[Most Common](#)", followed by a list of every application that's currently running on your system at the moment. After the applications will come your Documents folder and your Home folder. Then will come the words "[Most Favorite Things](#)" followed by your Applications folder . Finally, there will be two more items: "[Other ThingsÉ](#)" and "[My Favorite Things](#)". Everything in this list will be explained later in this help file.

For now, click anywhere on your screen to dismiss the menu.

## 1.2. Switching to a Running Application

The simplest of uses for My Favorite Things is as an app switcher. My Favorite Things constantly keeps track of which apps are running and which are not as part of its [tracking](#) mechanism..

You can always tell what applications are currently running by looking at the [Launch Menu](#). Currently running applications will have a dash beside their name while the current application will have a check beside its name and applications that aren't running will have nothing.

Yes, that's right, if you quit an application, its icon does not disappear from the Launch Menu right away. Instead, it hangs around, ready for the next time you wish to launch that application.

Right now, practice switching applications by using My Favorite Things to switch to the Finder.

Click on the My Favorite Things icon in the menubar to bring up the [Launch Menu](#).

Move your mouse over the Finder's icon. It should highlight just like any other menu in Mac OS X.

Click the menu item for the Finder. The [Status Window](#) will display the phrase "Opening Finder", then you'll notice that the Finder has become the current application.

Practice switching applications some more.

You'll notice that beside each running application's menu item in the Launch Menu, a submenu appears that lists a couple options of things you can do with that application. We'll discuss that submenu [later](#) .

As you switch applications, you may notice that they gradually start moving within the menu and may even change size. Do not be alarmed, this is [normal behavior](#) .

**If you are using Mac OS X 10.3**, then the Running Application menu will also include one more item at the top, a [Windows menu](#).

Mac OS X 10.3 users also get another benefit. If a folder's contents menu includes a running application's file, then that file will appear with a dash (or a check) beside it and it will have a menu that will allow you to quit or hide it, just like if it were in the Launch Menu.

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## 1.3. The Status Window

The Status Window is nothing more than a way for My Favorite Things to report to you what it's doing. Occasionally, you will see it appear just under your menu bar. You will recognize the My Favorite Things icon on the far right.

If you would like, you can always turn the [status window off](#) so that it doesn't display at all.

If you leave it on, however, it will report to you whenever My Favorite Things:

¥ [Launches](#) (it will actually tell you some of the steps it takes to launch)

¥ Opens an item ( [application](#) ,[file](#) ,[folder](#) ,[URL](#) ,[terminal command](#) , etc.)

¥ Or runs an [Applescript](#) .

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## 1.4. The Hot Key

It can be annoying to constantly maneuver your mouse up to the menu bar whenever you want to use the My Favorite Things menu. Because of this, My Favorite Things is equipped with a Hot Key, or a global key combination, to bring up its menu.

If you press the command key and space bar at the same time, the [Launch Menu](#) will appear directly under your cursor. Anywhere your cursor is, just press that same combination of command key and the space bar, and the My Favorite Things menu will appear right where you're working.

Of course, you may not like to use command-space bar as your Hot Key or you may prefer to not use a Hot Key at all. As are many things in My Favorite Things, the Hot Key is totally customizable. You can [change the Hot Key](#) that activates the My Favorite Things menu, or you can [turn it off completely](#) .

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## 1.5. Tracking

By now, you've probably noticed that My Favorite Things does some strange things when it comes to building its menu. It will often change the order in which things appear and even change the size of icons. This is one of the most powerful features of My Favorite Things, though it may be slightly unnerving the first time you notice it.

Each time you use My Favorite Things to open an item, it will update its internal data to keep track of what you're using most frequently and when. When My Favorite Things next updates its menu (which will happen the next time you click on its icon or use the hot key), it will place things in order according to what it thinks you're most likely to want to use again.

To determine this order, My Favorite Things takes several things into account:

What things do you open the most?

What are the things you've opened most recently?

What are the things you tend to open when you're running the current application?

What are your [most favorite things](#) as you've listed them in the preferences?

How many things do you want to be shown in the menu according to your preferences?

What things do you [never want to appear](#) in the menu according to your preferences?

By looking at all these variables in a smart way, My Favorite Things constantly rearranges the menu and resizes the icons in it to make the things you're likely to want to do the things that appear earliest and largest in the menu.

At first, this can be slightly disconcerting, as items quickly move up or down the menu, especially when there's not much in the menu yet. You will notice, however, that the things you use most will quickly start to congregate near the top while, depending on your [preferences](#) , the things you don't use so much will sink to the bottom of the menu and even disappear from it. Give My Favorite Things a few days and you'll have a launch menu custom made to let you launch exactly the stuff you launch most often.

Now that you understand how My favorite Things tracks what you use most, let's look at how it arranges the [parts of the launch menu](#) .

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## 1.6. The Parts of the Launch Menu

My Favorite Things arranges its menu in such a way that it should be easy to access your favorite things to launch. Simply put, the things you're most likely to want to launch appear near the top and the things you're least likely to want to launch will appear near the bottom or not at all. As you saw in the section on tracking, My Favorite Things rebuilds its menu almost every time it is drawn. Here is the order it uses to do this:

If you've not yet [registered](#) My Favorite Things, then the first item in the Launch Menu will say "Register My Favorite Things". Choosing this menu item will open a registration dialog where you can get your registration code and enter it so that you won't get these messages again.

The current application takes the top spot in the menu (unless you've [changed](#) this in the preferences) so that you can easily access the options in its [submenu](#) .

Next is a section of those items that you often launch while inside the current application. For instance, if every time you use your favorite book keeping software you also visit your online bank account, that bank account url could appear here even though you might not open it often enough to be in the "Most Common" list. You can change the number of items that appear here, or choose not to show this section at all, in the [preferences](#).

Next, under a label marked "Most Common" are the things you're most likely to want to open even if they're not the things you usually open within the current application. Using the above example, you probably don't usually open your favorite photo editor while you're balancing your budget, so it will appear here rather than in the above section. You can change a lot of the criteria on how this section is built in the [preferences](#), such as how many items to list, how long an item

should remain in the menu if it hasn't been used, and how many times something should be launched before it can appear on the list.

You will notice that the icons for things in the "Most Common for Application" and "Most Common" lists vary. This is another part of My Favorite Things' tracking mechanism. The more commonly used things will have larger icons than things you don't use as much. This can be changed or turned off in the [preferences](#). This behavior even extends to items in the "[Contents](#)" menu for a given folder.

Next comes another section: "Most Favorite Things", which includes a few items that you've chosen to always appear in the launch menu no matter if you haven't used them in months or just used them yesterday. By default, your Applications folder will appear here, but you can remove it or add anything else you'd like to this list by using the "Most Favorite Things" tab in the [preferences](#). Your most favorite things will always appear in the order you arrange them and are guaranteed to always appear in the launch menu.

Next is a single menu item titled "Other Things", which will bring up the [Other ThingsÉ dialog](#). You can, of course, choose to [not have this appear](#) as well.

Finally, at the bottom of the launch menu, is the My Favorite Things submenu, which offers options to [launch files, folders, terminal commands, urls, etc.](#) that My Favorite Things doesn't know about yet. It also is where you can [remove things](#) from My Favorite Things, change the [preferences](#), [check for a new version of My Favorite Things](#), [report a bug](#), and [quit](#) My Favorite Things.

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## 1.7. The Running Application Submenu

Any running application has a submenu that offers just a couple of extra options to choose from.

You can quit any running application from within My Favorite Things. For example, to quit Safari if it's running, you could

¥ open the My Favorite Things menu (from the menu bar icon or the hot key),

¥ move your cursor over the Safari menu item

¥ when the Safari submenu appeared, choose "Quit Safari"

This works just like holding the control key down while clicking on Safari's dock icon and choosing "Quit" from the menu that appears. Note that after you quit Safari, it does not disappear from the My Favorite Things menu, exactly as you would expect from the way My Favorite Things [tracks items](#).

You can also hide the application, just like choosing the Hide menu item in the application's menu, but without having to switch to that application. Just follow the same steps as above.

Finally, you can choose to switch to the application and hide every other application that's running. In our example from above, you would do this by choosing "Show only Safari".

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## 1.8. The My Favorite Things Menu

Many of the functions of My Favorite Things, things that you are not likely to need often, are in a special menu called the My Favorite Things Menu. This menu is where you'll find commands to [open any file](#), to [run terminal commands](#), to [remove things](#) you don't want My Favorite Things to track anymore, and to change the [preferences](#), among other things.

By default, the My Favorite Things menu appears at the bottom of the Launch Menu, [but you can choose to have it appear at the top as well](#).

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## 1.9. Switching to application windows

Users of Mac OS X 10.3 or later can use My Favorite Things to get directly to any window in any running application. Simply navigate to a running application's menu from the Launch Menu, and you will find a submenu labeled "Windows". This submenu will list all the open windows in this application that My Favorite Things [knows about](#).

To bring a window to the front, simply click on its name.

Some applications will even report to My Favorite Things what file a given window represents. If My Favorite Things can find out this information, then it will display the icon for the window's file in the menu. Clicking on that window's name will then not only bring up the window, but cause My Favorite Things to [track](#) that click as if the file had been opened from the Launch Menu.

- . [inconsistent window behavior](#)
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### 31.9.1. inconsistent window behavior

My Favorite Things can find out more about some applications' windows than others when it build its [Windows menus](#).

Some applications will report not only the name of the window, but also the file, if any, that the window represents. These windows will appear with the file icon for the file they represent in the Windows menu.

Other applications will only report the name of the window. One example of this kind of application is Adobe Photoshop.

Still others will not tell My Favorite Things anything about the makeup of their windows, and thus My Favorite Things can only report "none" in the Windows menu for them. You can still change to these applications by choosing their icon in the [Launch Menu](#). Most of these applications are either utility apps, like Activity Monitor, or Classic Applications. My Favorite Things cannot allow you to switch directly to the windows on any Classic Application.

A very few applications, like Safari, will only report their windows to My Favorite Things when they are visible. For this reason, if an applications is hidden, and it will not tell My Favorite Things how many windows it has open, then My Favorite Things will show the word "Hidden" in the Windows menu for that application.

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## 2. Launching Files, Folders, URLs and Other Things

Aside from [running applications](#), there are plenty of other things that My Favorite Things can launch for you.

It can open any file on your desktop through any of several techniques. It can also open [bookmarks](#) from many popular web browsers, run [terminal commands](#), and even launch [Applescripts](#).

- . [Opening a File from the Launch Menu](#)
  - . [Opening a File from A Folder's Submenu](#)
  - . [Opening a File from the Open File dialog](#)
  - . [Opening a File from the Finder](#)
  - . [Opening a Bookmark or History Item from your Favorite Browser](#)
  - . [Opening an URL](#)
  - . [Running a Terminal Command](#)
  - . [Running an Applescript](#)
  - . [Launching an item from the Other Things dialog](#)
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## 2.1. Opening a File from the Launch Menu

Any file or folder that's in the Launch Menu can, of course, be opened by simply choosing it from the menu.

Choose a file from the Launch Menu, and it will open in the default application set to open that kind of file.

Choose an application, and it will launch if it isn't running already, or switch to it if it is.

Choose a folder or volume, and its window will appear in the Finder.

What items appear in the Launch Menu depend on what things you open most often, as explained in the section on [tracking](#).

Many of the other techniques for opening files in this section will result in the item appearing in the Launch Menu the next time it's redrawn.

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## 2.2. Opening a File from A Folder's Submenu

Folders that appear in the Launch Menu have a special menu associated with them. This menu has a single item, called "Contents". The behavior of the Contents menu will vary depending on which version of OS X you use.

**If you are using Mac OS X 10.3 or later**, then the Contents menu will have a submenu which lists all the files and folders in that folder. Choosing any of the items in this menu will open that file or folder just as if you had opened it from the Launch Menu itself. Of course, folders within this menu also have their own Contents menu and so you can continue to dig down through a folder's subfolders to find the particular file you are looking for.

**For users of Mac OS X prior to version 10.3**, choosing this menu item will bring up a new menu that shows the contents of the folder you selected. From this new menu, you can either choose a file from that folder to launch or choose the Contents menu of a folder within that folder. It's possible to continue travelling to subfolders as long as there are subfolders to travel to. Once you find the file or folder you wish to open, simply choose it from the menu and it will open.

Opening a file in this way will most likely result in the file appearing in the Launch Menu the next time it is redrawn, depending on your [preferences](#).

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## 2.3. Opening a File from the Open File dialog

If you prefer, you can always open an item using the standard Open File dialog. This is the exact same dialog that you see when you are in your favorite word processor and choose "Open" from the file menu. One of the advantages of this approach is that it's possible to open more than one file or folder at the same time.

To open one or more files or folders using the Open File dialog, follow these steps:

- 1) Bring up the Launch Menu either by using the Hot Key or clicking on the menu bar icon.
- 2) Move to the My Favorite Things menu at the bottom (by default) of the Launch Menu.
- 3) Choose "Open File(s)" from the My Favorite Things menu.
- 4) Navigate to the file you want to open.
- 5) Select the first file you want to open by clicking its icon.
- 5) If you want to open more than one file at the same time, select their icon either by drag-selecting them or by holding down the command or shift keys while clicking them. The command key will let you add items to the selection one at a time while the shift key will let you select an entire range from the first icon you selected to the one you just selected.
- 6) Either click the OK button or press the Return key to open the selected files.

If you decide you don't want to open anything using this menu at any time, simply click the Cancel button or press the command key and period at the same time.

Any file or folder opened this way will be [tracked](#) by My Favorite Things and will probably appear in the Launch menu the next time it's redrawn.

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## 2.4. Opening a File from the Finder

My Favorite Things does not keep track of every file you open from the Finder. Rather it keeps track of every application you use and lets you track other files if you so choose. Still, if you are in the Finder and wish to open a file and have My Favorite Things [track](#) its launch, there is a way. Simply drag and drop the file's icon (or multiple files at the same time, if you'd like) on top of My Favorite Things' application icon. My Favorite Things will launch if it is not running, open the icons you dropped onto it, and begin [tracking](#) those files.

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## 2.5. Opening a Bookmark or History Item from your Favorite Browser

If you are in another application, but want to quickly get to one of your favorite websites, My Favorite Things can help. It can also let you quickly access any sites you've visited recently in either Safari or Internet Explorer. To open a bookmarks or history item while you're in any application, just do the following:

¥ Open the Launch Menu by using the [Hot Key](#) or by clicking on the [menu bar icon](#).

¥ Navigate to the My Favorite Things menu, by default at the bottom of the Launch Menu.

¥ Choose the "Open Bookmark" menu item.

¥ In the dialog that appears, choose the set of bookamrks you want to choose from in the popup menu at the top.

You can choose to search through any of the following sets:

¥ Safari Bookmarks

¥ Safari History

¥ Internet Explorer Favorites

¥ Internet Explorer History

¥ OmniWeb Bookmarks

¥ iCab Hotlist

¥ Choose the things you want to open and click the OK button (or press return).

¥ The bookmark(s) you chose will open in your favorite browser right away, and they will appear in the Launch Menu the next time you use it, unless your [preferences don't allow it](#).

There are a couple tricks to make this dialog even more useful for you.

- [Opening Multiple Bookmarks at the same Time](#)
  - [Filtering the Choices in the Bookmarks dialog](#)
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## 2.5.1. Opening Multiple Bookmarks at the same Time

You can open multiple bookmarks at the same time by selecting them in the [Open Bookmarks Dialog](#).

You can select many items in a row by drag-selecting them, or by selecting the first bookmark you wish to open then holding down the shift key while you click the last bookmark you wish to open.

To select several bookmarks that aren't in a row, hold down the command key while you click each one.

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## 2.5.2. Filtering the Choices in the Bookmarks dialog

Bookmarks lists can get very long, and it can be very hard to find exactly the item you want. To find what you're looking for more easily, you can narrow down the list at any time.

To filter your bookmarks list, simply type into the filter text box at the top of the Open Bookmark(s) Dialog. As you type, the list of bookmarks in the table will shorten, showing only those things that have the text you've type in their name or the address.

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## 2.6. Opening an URL

Sometimes, you want to open an URL that isn't in your bookmarks. My favorite Things has a way to open any URL you might want to open. To open an URL:

¥ Open the Launch Menu by using the Hot Key or by clicking on the menu bar icon.

¥ Navigate to the My Favorite Things menu, by default at the bottom of the [Launch Menu](#).

¥ Choose the "Open URL" menu item.

¥ In the dialog that appears, type the URL you want to open.

¥ If you want My Favorite Things to [track](#) the url and include it in the [Launch Menu](#), type a name for it to remember in the "title" field.

¥ Click the OK button, and the URL will launch.

it will appear in the Launch Menu the next time you

If you entered a title for the URL, it will appear in the [Launch Menu](#) the next time you use it, unless your [preferences don't allow it](#).

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## 2.7. Running a Terminal Command

If you're a person who uses the terminal to run unix programs (such as emacs, curl, or even just top), then you will probably appreciate My Favorite Things' "Run Terminal Command" dialog. This dialog will let, no matter what you're currently doing on your Macintosh, type out any command you might type at a command prompt and, optionally, tell My Favorite Things to [keep track of when it's run](#).

To run a terminal command:

¥ Open the [Launch Menu](#) by using the [Hot Key](#) or by clicking on the [menu bar icon](#).

¥ Navigate to the [My Favorite Things menu](#), by default at the bottom of the Launch Menu.

¥ Choose the "Run Terminal Command" menu item.

¥ In the dialog that appears, type the terminal command you want to run.

¥ If you want My Favorite Things to [track](#) the terminal command and include it in the [Launch Menu](#), type a name for it to remember in the "title" field.

¥ Click the OK button, and the Terminal application will launch (if it isn't running already) and run the terminal command you typed.

It should be noted that this dialog will let you run any command that you would run within the terminal. So, for instance, you can run a program with any options that you would like, or you can pipe output from one command into another. The output appears in the terminal window, so behavior will be exactly the same as if you typed the command directly into the terminal.

If you entered a title for the URL, it will appear in the [Launch Menu](#) the next time you use it, unless your [preferences don't allow it](#).

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## 2.8. Running an Applescript

One of the favorite features of Mac OS X for power users is a scripting language called Applescript. Applescript allows you to write scripts that will automate tasks within applications and let you transfer data between applications in new and exciting ways. My Favorite Things supports Applescript by allowing you to run any saved applescript script without having to navigate to it from the Finder. Scripts are treated just like regular files with the exception that they can be run simply by accessing them from the [Launch Menu](#).

Applescript script files have a special submenu when they appear in the Launch Menu. This special submenu has one item named "run script" followed by the name of the script. Choosing the "run script" submenu item will cause the script to be run. Each time you run a script using this method, you tell My Favorite Things to track it. Thus, opening the script file itself or running the script will both have the same effect on when the Launch Menu displays that file.

## 2.9. Launching an item from the Other Things dialog

After you've used it for awhile, My Favorite Things will probably be keeping track of several hundred, if not several thousand, files, folders, applications, URLs, terminal commands, etc. Just imagine if you could browse through that list. Now imagine that the stuff you use most were at the very top where it was easily accessible, and that you could filter the list by typing into a search field, just like you filter songs in iTunes. You've just imagined the Other Things dialog.

To open anything that My Favorite Things knows about from the Other Things dialog:

¥ Bring up the [Launch Menu](#) either by using the [Hot Key](#) or clicking on the [menu bar icon](#).

¥ Choose "Other Things" from the Launch Menu.

¥ In the dialog that appears, you can choose anything in the list. Once at least one thing has been selected, you can click the OK button to open that thing.

¥ If you decide you don't want to open anything, simply click the Cancel button.

- [Filtering the Choices in the Other Things dialog](#)
- [Opening Multiple things from the Other Things dialog at the same Time](#)



## 2.9.1. Filtering the Choices in the Other Things dialog

The Other Things dialog's list can get very long, and it can be very hard to find exactly the item you want. To find what you're looking for more easily, you can narrow down the list at any time.

To filter your bookmarks list, simply type into the filter text box at the top of the Other Things Dialog. As you type, the list of bookmarks in the table will shorten, showing only those things that have the text you've type in their name.

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## 2.9.2. Opening Multiple things from the Other Things dialog at the same Time

It's possible to open more than one thing at a time using the [Other Things dialog](#). To open more than one thing, you simply select more than one thing from the list:

You can select many items in a row by drag-selecting them, or by selecting the first bookmark you wish to open then holding down the shift key while you click the last bookmark you wish to open.

To select several bookmarks that aren't in a row, hold down the command key while you click each one.

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# 3. Changing Preferences

My Favorite Things was designed to work the way you want it to. Almost everything about the program is modifiable, from the [size of the icons in the Launch Menu](#) to [how many things appear](#), to what things should [never appear](#) in the Launch Menu.

## **To modify the preferences, do the following:**

¥ Open the [Launch Menu](#) by using the [Hot Key](#) or by clicking on the [menu bar icon](#).

¥ Navigate to the My Favorite Things menu, by default at the bottom of the Launch Menu.

¥ Choose the Preferences menu item.

After you done this, the Preferences dialog will open. The Preferences dialog has several tabs which control several different kinds of settings you can change. See the sections below to find out what you can change.

## **After you've made the modifications to the preferences you would like:**

¥ Click the OK button or press the Return or Enter keys to dismiss the Preferences dialog. Your changes will take effect immediately.

## **If you decide you don't want to change anything:**

¥ Click the Cancel button or press command-period to dismiss the Preferences dialog without changing anything.

- . [Changing the Settings for the Launch Menu](#)
  - . [Changing the User Interface](#)
  - . [Changing the Size of Icons](#)
  - . [Changing your Most Favorite Things](#)
  - . [Preventing things from appearing in the Launch Menu](#)
  - . [Automatically Checking for Updates](#)
  - . [Viewing the Registration Status](#)
-

## 3.1. Changing the Settings for the Launch Menu

Almost everything about the Launch Menu can be changed to suit your particular needs. Most of these changes can be categorized either as changing the [appearance](#) of the Launch Menu (what order the launch menu is arranged and what goes into it) or its [behavior](#) (how tracked items appear in or are removed from the Launch Menu).

To change any of these settings, you need to open the Menu tab of the Preferences Dialog:

¥ [Open the Preferences dialog.](#)

¥ Click on the tab that says "Menu".

- [Changing the Appearance of the Launch Menu](#)
  - [Changing what can appear in the Launch Menu](#)
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### 3.1.1. Changing the Appearance of the Launch Menu

You can change quite a few things about the general appearance of the Launch Menu. Every one of these options can be found in the top half of the ["Menu" tab](#) of the Preferences dialog.

- [Changing where the current application appears](#)
  - [Showing the things most Commonly Launched for the Current Application](#)
  - [Choosing to show or hide the "Other ThingsÉ" item](#)
  - [Changing where the My Favorite Things menu appears](#)
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#### 43.1.1.1. Changing where the current application appears

You can make the current application appear near the top of the launch menu, or you can choose to have it appear right in the middle of the launch menu, sorted with other things as if it were a regular item.

To make the current application appear at the top of the Launch Menu:

¥ Navigate to the ["Menu" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the checkbox labeled "Show current application at the top of the menu"

¥ If this checkbox is not checked, click it to make it checked.

To make the current application appear in the middle of the Launch Menu, sorted according to regular rules about [tracking](#) and [Most Favorite Things](#):

¥ Navigate to the ["Menu" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the checkbox labeled "Show current application at the top of the menu"

¥ If this checkbox is checked, click it to make it not be checked.

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#### 43.1.1.2. Showing the things most Commonly Launched for the Current Application

My Favorite Things keeps a separate list of what things you tend to open within each running application. For instance, if you tend to open several browsers while you work on web pages in your favorite html editor, then it will keep a record of those browsers.

By default, My favorite Things will show the ten most common things you open while using the current application near the top of the Launch Menu. You can, of course, change this number or choose to not have My Favorite Things show anything in this section of the Launch Menu,

**To change the number of things that My Favorite Things shows in the "Most Common for Application" section of the Launch Menu:**

¥ Navigate to the ["Menu" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the checkbox labeled "Show the most popular \_\_\_\_ items for the current application"

¥ If this checkbox is not checked, click it to make it checked.

¥ Click in the text box beside this check box and change the number to the maximum number of things you want My Favorite Things to display in this section of the Launch Menu.

You should note that you are entering the maximum number of items to appear in this section. My Favorite Things will only show things that have been opened while the current application was frontmost, so, especially when you are just starting to use My Favorite Things, there is a good chance that many applications will have fewer items in their "Most Common for Current Application" section.

To turn off this feature completely:

¥ Navigate to the ["Menu" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the checkbox labeled "Show the most popular \_\_\_\_ items for the current application"

¥ If this checkbox is checked, click it to make it not be checked.

¥ The Launch Menu will now not show the "Most Common for Current Application" section

---

### 43.1.1.3. Choosing to show or hide the "Other ThingsÉ" item

You can choose to have the ["Other ThingsÉ" menu item](#) available in your Launch Menu or not. By default, it is included near the bottom of the Launch Menu, but you can choose to not have it appear if you do not wish to use it.

To remove the ["Other ThingsÉ"](#) menu item from the Launch Menu:

¥ Navigate to the ["Menu" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the checkbox labeled "Show the "Other ThingsÉ" menu item"

¥ If this checkbox is checked, click it to make it be not checked.

**If you ever wish to get the ["Other ThingsÉ"](#) menu item back:**

¥ Navigate to the ["Menu" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the checkbox labeled "Show the "Other ThingsÉ" menu item"

¥ If this checkbox is unchecked, click it to make it be checked.

---

#### 43.1.1.4. Changing where the My Favorite Things menu appears

The [My Favorite Things menu](#) can appear at the bottom of the Launch Menu or at the top. By default, it appears near the bottom so that the things you use most appear at the top. By moving it to the top of the Launch Menu, you can make it easier to get to things like the "Open Bookmarks" or "Open URLs" dialogs.

To make the [My Favorite Things menu](#) appear at the top of the Launch Menu:

¥ Navigate to the ["Menu" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the sentence that say "My Favorite Things menu appears at the bottom of the launch menu"

¥ Below the word "bottom" is a radio button which says "top". Click this radio button.

To make the My Favorite Things menu appear at the bottom of the Launch Menu again:

¥ Navigate to the ["Menu" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the sentence that say "My Favorite Things menu appears at the bottom of the launch menu"

¥ Make sure the radio button beside the word bottom is selected.

---

## 3.1.2. Changing what can appear in the Launch Menu

At the center of how My Favorite Things works is the [tracking](#) of different diverse things and their subsequent placement into the [Launch Menu](#). The general rule is that things that you use more often appear near the top of the menu while those that you use less frequently appear near the bottom or not at all. Still, it is possible, within this framework, to change quite a bit about what My Favorite Things chooses to show in the Launch Menu.

- [Weeding out less commonly used things](#)
- [Requiring multiple opens before something appears in the menu](#)
- [Weeding things that haven't been opened for a certain set amount of time](#)
- [Limiting the Length of the Launch Menu](#)

---

### 43.1.2.1. Weeding out less commonly used things

How often should something stay in the Launch Menu?

This was the big question we had to answer in order to make My Favorite Things a useful utility rather than just a long list of everything you've ever opened. In considering this question, we came up with a good general guideline:

Things that you use more often should stay in the Launch menu longer than things you use less often.

For instance, let's say that every day you spend at least 30% of your time in your email program. That program should never leave your Launch Menu.

On the other hand, you may have a favorite game you like to run on weekends. Should it appear in your Launch Menu all the time? Or can we assume that, if you haven't run it in a couple weeks, maybe you've lost interest and it doesn't need to be quite as readily available to you.

This is the guideline that My Favorite Things follows by default. Each time you use something, whether it's a url, a file, an application, whatever, it's put back into the Launch Menu. The amount of time it stays in the Launch Menu, though, is dependent upon how often you use it. So things you tend to use a lot will tend to stay in the Launch Menu a long time, while things you use very frequently will stay in the Launch Menu, available if you need them, for only shorter periods of time.

If, for some reason, you dislike this behavior, you can choose to turn it off.

To make all things stay in the Launch Menu the same amount of time:

¥ Navigate to the ["Menu" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the checkbox labeled "Less commonly used things disappear from the menu more quickly"

¥ If this checkbox is checked, click it to uncheck it.

To restore the default behavior:

¥ Navigate to the "Menu" tab of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the checkbox labeled "Less commonly used things disappear from the menu more quickly"

¥ If this checkbox is not checked, click it to make it checked.

---

#### 43.1.2.2. Requiring multiple opens before something appears in the menu

If you think that the Launch Menu is filling up way too quickly, one option is to require that only things that have been launched a certain set number of times appear in it. This has the effect of weeding out those things that you launched once or twice to try out or that you only use on rare occasions.

This is the kind of option that you may wish to not have on right away, as it limits the usefulness of the Launch Menu, but that, after you've been using My Favorite Things for a while, you may wish to change to guarantee that only things you're really likely to want to use will appear in the Launch Menu.

By default, something only has to be opened once for it to potentially appear in the Launch Menu.

To change the number of times something must be opened before it can appear in the Launch Menu:

¥ Navigate to the ["Menu" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the sentence that reads "Include things that have been opened at least \_\_\_ times." The \_\_\_ will have some number, probably 1, inside it.

¥ Change the number in the \_\_\_ to whatever number you would like. It's advisable to start off with 2, then come back and change this again if you think you want to limit the Launch Menu even more.

To restore the default behavior:

Follow the above instructions, but replace whatever number is in the \_\_\_ with a 1.

---

#### 43.1.2.3. Weeding things that haven't been opened for a certain set amount of time

It is possible to put a limit on how long anything stays in the Launch Menu. For instance, you could decide that, if you haven't used it in a week, it shouldn't be in the Launch Menu to bother you.

It should be noted that this preference only applies to the Most Common Things list, not to the list of things "Most Common for this Application"

To put a limit on how long something can stay in the Launch Menu:

¥ Navigate to the ["Menu" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the checkbox labeled "Don't include things that haven't been used in the last \_\_\_\_ days."

¥ If the checkbox is not checked, then click it to make it be checked.

¥ Change the number in the \_\_\_\_ to whatever number of days you would like. The larger the number, the more things will appear in the Launch Menu.

To turn off time limits for something staying in the Launch Menu:

¥ Navigate to the ["Menu" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the checkbox labeled "Don't include things that haven't been used in the last \_\_\_\_ days."

¥ If the checkbox is checked, then click it to make it be unchecked.

---

#### 43.1.2.4. Limiting the Length of the Launch Menu

It is possible to put an upper limit on how many things can appear in the Launch Menu. This will limit the total number of things that will appear in the Launch Menu. Of course, your [Most Favorite Things](#) will still appear.

To put a limit on how many things can appear in the Launch Menu:

¥ Navigate to the ["Menu" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the checkbox labeled "Only include the \_\_\_ most commonly launched things."

¥ If the checkbox is not checked, then click it to make it be checked.

¥ Change the number in the \_\_\_ to whatever number you would like. The larger the number, the more things will appear in the Launch Menu.

To remove the limit on how many things can appear in the Launch Menu:

¥ Navigate to the "Menu" tab of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the checkbox labeled "Only include the \_\_\_ most commonly launched things."

¥ If the checkbox is checked, then click it to make it be unchecked.

---

## 3.2. Changing the User Interface

My Favorite Things makes some changes to the way the user environment works. The [status window](#) appears above almost any other window in many situations. The [Hot Key](#) will bring up the Launch Menu no matter what you are doing. Luckily, these things are changeable and most of them can be turned off completely. The Interface tab of the [Preferences](#) dialog is where you can change most of these.

To change any of these settings you need to open the Interface tab of the Preferences Dialog:

¥ Open the [Preferences](#) dialog.

¥ Click on the tab that says "Interface".

- . [Making My Favorite Things start up at Login](#)
  - . [Changing the Appearance of the Menu Bar Icon](#)
  - . [Changing the Hot Key](#)
  - . [Showing and Hiding the status window](#)
-

### 3.2.1. Making My Favorite Things start up at Login

After you've been using My Favorite Things for a while, you'll probably decide that you always want it running. The easiest way to do this is to have My Favorite Things run automatically whenever you log in to your computer (if you have turned on Auto Login, then this will happen whenever you start up your Macintosh).

There is, of course, a way to do this within the System Preferences application, but My Favorite Things will let you do it right from its Preferences dialog as well.

To make My Favorite Things automatically launch whenever you log in:

¥ Navigate to the ["Interface" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the checkbox labeled "Launch My Favorite Things at Login"

¥ If this checkbox is not checked, click it to make it checked.

To make My Favorite Things not launch when you log in:

¥ Navigate to the "Interface" tab of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the checkbox labeled "Launch My Favorite Things at Login"

¥ If this checkbox is checked, click it to make it not be checked.



## 3.2.2. Changing the Appearance of the Menu Bar Icon

Most people love the bright green My Favorite Things icon in the menu bar, but some users, especially those who work with graphics regularly, may find that the bright green icon is distracting. For this reason, My Favorite Things offers the option to make the icon that appears in the menu bar flat black instead of emerald green.

To make the [menu bar icon](#) black:

¥ Navigate to the ["Interface" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the box labeled "Menu Bar Icon"

¥ Within that box is a set of radio buttons. Click the radio button labeled "Black Icon"

¥ After you click the OK button in the Preferences dialog, the menu bar icon will be completely black.

To make the [menu bar icon](#) green again:

¥ Navigate to the ["Interface" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the box labeled "Menu Bar Icon"

¥ Within that box is a set of radio buttons. Click the radio button labeled "Fancy Icon"

¥ After you click the OK button in the Preferences dialog, the menu bar icon will be the original fancy emerald green icon that appears in all of My Favorite Things' dialogs and menus.

---

## 3.2.3. Changing the Hot Key

The [Hot Key](#) provides quick access to the [Launch Menu](#) without making you go to the menu bar and click on the [menu bar icon](#). No matter what you're doing, pressing the key combination set for the Hot Key will bring up the Launch Menu. There are times when this may not be the behavior you want. My Favorite Things lets you change the key combination you use for the Hot Key or even just turn the Hot Key off altogether,

- [Turning the Hot Key On & Off](#)
- [Changing the Key Combination](#)

---

### 43.2.3.1. Turning the Hot Key On & Off

Sometimes you just want to turn the Hot Key off. Perhaps it conflicts with another program that also uses Hot Keys or perhaps you are about to play a game and don't want the Launch Menu appearing by accident right as you're about to hit that dangerous turn.

#### **To turn the Hot Key off:**

¥ Navigate to the "Interface" tab of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the box labeled "Hot Key"

¥ Within that box is a checkbox labeled "Enable Hot Key".

¥ If the checkbox is checked, click it to make it not be checked.

To turn the Hot Key back on:

¥ Navigate to the "Interface" tab of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the box labeled "Hot Key"

¥ Within that box is a checkbox labeled "Enable Hot Key".

¥ If the checkbox is not checked, click it to make it be checked again.

---

#### 43.2.3.2. Changing the Key Combination

It may be necessary to change the [Hot Key's](#) key combination. Some other applications also use Hot Keys, and you may find that the Launch Menu appears when you wish to use the Hot Key of another program. Some applications may use the key combination you've chosen as a regular key combo for a menu item (though the default key combination, command-space bar, is not likely to be used by other applications). You may just decide that pressing command-space bar is uncomfortable for you and you'd like to try another key combination.

To change the key combination for the [Hot Key](#):

¥ Navigate to the "Interface" tab of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the box labeled "Hot Key"

¥ Within that box is a checkbox labeled "Enable Hot Key". Make sure it's turned on.

¥ Below the checkbox is a big space that shows the current Hot Key key combination. (by default, command-space)

¥ At the bottom of the box is a button labeled "Set Hot Key".

¥ Press the button.

A new dialog will appear which will let you enter whatever you would like as the Hot Key. Simply press the key combination you would like to use and, when you're happy with what you've chosen, click the OK button. If you decide you don't want to change the Hot Key, simply click the Cancel button.

**A warning:**

The dialog does not distinguish whether the key combination you've chosen is wise or even will work. It is possible, for instance, to just type the letter "P", then click OK. This will set the Hot Key to the letter P, but pressing the P key will not bring up the Launch Menu.

Also, if you choose a key combination that is the same as an application's menu item key combo (for instance, most applications use command-P to print), the Hot Key will intercept the key combination and, in effect, turn off the ability to use that key combination within that application.

For these reasons, it's advisable, though not required, that the key combination you use contain at least two of either the command key, option key, or control key.

If you set up a Hot Key that will not work, simply follow the above steps to try a different key combination.

---

### 3.2.4. Showing and Hiding the status window

The [Status Window](#) is designed to report to the user whenever My Favorite Things is doing something that takes a little while. It's the way My Favorite Things keeps you informed about what it's doing. Many users find that, after they've been using My Favorite Things for a while, they no longer need the Status Window to tell them what's going on. For this reason, it is possible to choose to not have the Status Window appear.

To make the [Status Window](#) not appear:

¥ Navigate to the ["Interface" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the checkbox labeled "Show the status window in the top right of the screen"

¥ If the checkbox is checked, click it to make it not be checked.

To make the [Status Window](#) appear when My Favorite Things needs to report something:

¥ Navigate to the ["Interface" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the checkbox labeled "Show the status window in the top right of the screen"

¥ If the checkbox is unchecked, click it to make it be checked again.

If the checkbox is disabled:

My Favorite Things does not allow you to hide the status window until it has been registered. This is one of only a few [restrictions](#) that you will encounter if you have not yet [registered](#) My Favorite Things.

---

## 3.3. Changing the Size of Icons

By default, My Favorite Things makes the icons in the [Launch Menu](#), and in the [menus for folders](#), vary in size. An icon's size will always be directly proportional to the how often you use it ([see the section on tracking](#)). This will make the things you usually want to use appear larger on the screen and make them easier to get to in order to select them. You can, though, choose to not have variably sized icons, or you can choose how large or small icons can get.

To change the icon size settings you need to open the Icon Size tab of the Preferences Dialog:

¥ Open the [Preferences](#) dialog.

¥ Click on the tab that says "Icon Size".

- [Making Icon Size Constant or Variable](#)
  - [Changing the Size of the Icons](#)
-

### 3.3.1. Making Icon Size Constant or Variable

#### **To make all icons in My Favorite Things the same size:**

¥ Navigate to the ["Icon Size" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Click the radio button labeled "Icon size is constant" to select it

After you've done this, there will be one icon size widget. You can [change the size](#) of all the icons in My Favorite Things using this slider.

#### **To make My Favorite Things use variable icons again:**

¥ Navigate to the "Icon Size" tab of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Click the radio button labeled "More commonly launched things have bigger icons" to select it

After you've done this, there will be two icon size widgets, one showing the smallest that an icon can appear and the other showing the largest an icon can appear. You can [change either or both of these sizes using these widgets](#).

---

## 3.3.2. Changing the Size of the Icons

It is possible to change the size of icons whether you've chosen to [have variable icon sizes or constant icon sizes](#). In either case, it's just a matter of using the icon size widgets.

To change an icon size using an icon size widget:

¥ make sure you're using the right widget whether you want to have variable or constant sized icons.

¥ drag the slider on the widget to change the size of the heart icon below the slider.

¥ If you've chosen to have variably sized icons, then the widgets will not allow you to make the smallest possible icon size larger than the largest possible icon size

¥ After you're done and you've clicked the OK button in the [Preferences](#) dialog, the icons in the [Launch Menu](#) will be the same sizes as you set the heart icon to in the icon size widget(s).

---

## 3.4. Changing your Most Favorite Things

In addition to having the tracked items in the [Launch Menu](#) show you what you've been using most, you may feel the need for My Favorite Things to always include certain things in the Launch Menu. A good example of this might be your Applications folder or your Documents folder.

My Favorite Things has a special place in the Launch Menu where it shows these things, called "Most Favorite Things". By default, your Applications folder is listed in your Most Favorite Things, but you can add anything to the list or choose to have nothing at all in your Most Favorite Things.

It should be noted that, when something is in your Most Favorite Things, it will not appear in the "Most Common" or "Most Common for this Application" sections of the Launch Menu. If you add an application to your Most Favorite Things, it will, however, appear at the top of the Launch Menu if it is the current application, unless you've changed this behavior in the Preferences.

To change what's in your Most Favorite Things:

¥ Open the [Preferences](#) dialog.

¥ Click on the tab that says "Most Favorite Things".

- . [Adding things to you Most Favorite Things](#)

- . [Selecting things in your Most Favorite Things](#)
  - . [Removing things from your Most Favorite Things:](#)
  - . [Rearranging things in your Most Favorite Things:](#)
-

## 3.4.1. Adding things to you Most Favorite Things

There are quite a few ways to add something to your Most Favorite Things.

- [Adding anything that My Favorite Things knows about to your Most Favorite Things:](#)
- [Adding a specific file to your Most Favorite Things:](#)
- [Adding a file from the Finder to your Most Favorite Things:](#)

---

43.4.1.1. Adding anything that My Favorite Things knows about to your Most Favorite Things:

### **To add anything that My Favorite Things knows about to your Most Favorite Things:**

Click the button marked "Add Thing(s)" to bring up the "Add Thing(s)" dialog. This dialog works exactly the same as the "Other Things" dialog, but the things you choose from it will be added to you Most Favorite Things rather than being opened right away.

---

43.4.1.2. Adding a specific file to your Most Favorite Things:

### **To add a specific file to your Most Favorite Things:**

Click the button marked "Add File(s)" to bring up the "Open" dialog. Use the dialog to navigate to the file or files you wish to add, then select them, then click OK.

If you need more help using this dialog, it operates exactly the same as the "Open File(s)" dialog.

---

### 43.4.1.3. Adding a file from the Finder to your Most Favorite Things:

#### **To add a file from the Finder to your Most Favorite Things:**

You can drag a file or folder from any Finder window into the Most Favorite Things list to add it to your Most Favorite Things. You can even drag multiple files at the same time.

---

## 3.4.2. Selecting things in your Most Favorite Things

**To select things in your Most Favorite Things for [removal](#) or [rearranging](#):**

¥ To select a single thing, click anywhere in its row.

¥ To select multiple things in a row, drag-select them

¥ Another way to select multiple things in a row is to click the first, then hold down the shift key while you click the last.

¥ To select multiple things that aren't necessarily in a row, hold down the command key while you click each one.

---

### 3.4.3. Removing things from your Most Favorite Things:

#### **To remove things from your Most Favorite Things:**

¥ [Select](#) the thing or things you wish to remove.

¥ Click the button marked "RemoveÉ"

¥ In the alert that appears, click the button marked "Remove"

---

### 3.4.4. Rearranging things in your Most Favorite Things:

#### **To rearrange things in your Most Favorite Things:**

¥ [Select](#) the things or things you wish to move.

¥ Holding the mouse button down, drag them to the new location in the list where you want them.

¥ Release the mouse button, and the things will appear in their new location in the list.

---

## 3.5. Preventing things from appearing in the Launch Menu

There may be certain things that you never want to appear in the Launch Menu, no matter how often you really use them. A good example of this might be certain compression utilities which launch every time you download a compressed file, but which you rarely want to launch on your own.

If you don't want something to appear in the Launch Menu, there is a special list in the Preferences called "Never Show". You can put anything in this list: files, folders, URLs etc. and it won't appear in the Launch Menu. It will still appear in folder menus, the bookmarks dialog, or the Other Things dialog, if it should otherwise, but it won't clutter up your Launch Menu.

If you add something to the Never Show list but it is also in your Most Favorite Things, it will still appear in the Launch Menu under Most Favorite Things.

To change what's in your Never Show List:

¥ Open the [Preferences](#) dialog.

¥ Click on the tab that says "Never Show".

- [Adding things to the Never Show List](#)
- [Selecting things in your Never Show List for removal or rearranging:](#)

- . Removing things from your Most Favorite Things:
  - . Rearranging things in your Most Favorite Things:
-

## 3.5.1. Adding things to the Never Show List

There are quite a few ways to add something to your Never Show List.

- [Adding anything that My Favorite Things knows about to your Never Show List:](#)
- [Adding a specific file to your Never Show List:](#)
- [Adding a file from the Finder to your Never Show List:](#)

---

43.5.1.1. Adding anything that My Favorite Things knows about to your Never Show List:

### **To add anything that My Favorite Things knows about to your Never Show List:**

Click the button marked "Add Thing(s)" to bring up the "Add Thing(s)" dialog. This dialog works exactly the same as the "Other Things" dialog, but the things you choose from it will be added to your Never Show List rather than being opened right away.

---

43.5.1.2. Adding a specific file to your Never Show List:

### **To add a specific file to your Never Show List:**

Click the button marked "Add File(s)" to bring up the "Open" dialog. Use the dialog to navigate to the file or files you wish to add, then select them, then click OK.

If you need more help using this dialog, it operates exactly the same as the "Open File(s)" dialog.

---

### 43.5.1.3. Adding a file from the Finder to your Never Show List:

#### **To add a file from the Finder to your Never Show List:**

You can drag a file or folder from any Finder window into the Never Show List to add it to your Never Show List. You can even drag multiple files at the same time.

---

## 3.5.2. Selecting things in your Never Show List for removal or rearranging:

**To select things in your Never Show List for [removal](#) or [rearranging](#):**

¥ To select a single thing, click anywhere in its row.

¥ To select multiple things in a row, drag-select them

¥ Another way to select multiple things in a row is to click the first, then hold down the shift key while you click the last.

¥ To select multiple things that aren't necessarily in a row, hold down the command key while you click each one.

---

### 3.5.3. Removing things from your Most Favorite Things:

#### **To remove things from your Most Favorite Things:**

¥ [Select](#) the thing or things you wish to remove.

¥ Click the button marked "RemoveÉ"

¥ In the alert that appears, click the button marked "Remove"

---

### 3.5.4. Rearranging things in your Most Favorite Things:

It may seem pointless to do this, but you can rearrange the things in your Never Show List. Perhaps it will make it easier to read?

#### **To rearrange things in your Most Favorite Things:**

¥ [Select](#) the things or things you wish to move.

¥ Holding the mouse button down, drag them to the new location in the list where you want them.

¥ Release the mouse button, and the things will appear in their new location in the list.

---

## 3.6. Automatically Checking for Updates

By default, My Favorite Things will automatically check the Internet when it launches to see if there is a newer version available. If there is, then My Favorite Things will follow the procedures layed out in the section [Checking for a Newer Version](#). Some people don't like to have My Favorite Things check for updates automatically, though, so it is possible to turn this feature off.

To turn off automatic version checking:

¥ Open the [Preferences](#) dialog.

¥ Click on the tab that says "Registration & Version".

¥ If it is checked, click the checkbox marked "Automatically check for new version at launch to uncheck it.

To turn automatic version checking back on:

¥ Open the [Preferences](#) dialog.

¥ Click on the tab that says "Registration & Version".

¥ If it is not checked, then click the checkbox marked "Automatically check for new version at launch to check it.



## 3.7. Viewing the Registration Status

My Favorite Things is shareware, and as such, it [does not fully function](#) until it has been registered. The preferences dialog provides a simple way to verify whether you've registered My Favorite Things or not.

To check to see if My Favorite Things has been registered:

¥ Open the [Preferences](#) dialog.

¥ Click on the tab that says "Registration & Version".

¥ Read the text in the box marked "Registration". If you've already registered My Favorite Things, then this box will show the user name and registration code you purchased when you registered.

To register My Favorite Things:

¥ follow the directions in "[Registering My Favorite Things](#)" later in this help document.

---

# 4. Some Other Things You May Want to Do

There are a few other things you may want to do in My Favorite Things. These mostly have to do with housekeeping and making sure that you have the latest version.

- [Removing things from the Launch Menu](#)
  - [Renaming an URL or Terminal Command](#)
  - [Getting Information about My Favorite Things](#)
  - [Checking for a Newer Version](#)
  - [Reporting a bug from within My Favorite Things](#)
  - [Quitting My Favorite Things](#)
-

## 4.1. Removing things from the Launch Menu

Since My Favorite Things tracks things that are run often whether you want it to or not, you may find it necessary at times to make My Favorite Things forget about certain things.

For instance, My Favorite Things will remember documents you deleted or applications that were on cd-roms that are no longer mounted. While it won't show them in the Launch Menu, it will include them in the Other Things dialog.

To remove something from My Favorite Things so that it won't appear in the Launch Menu or the Other Things dialog:

To run a terminal command:

¥ Open the [Launch Menu](#) by using the [Hot Key](#) or by clicking on the [menu bar icon](#).

¥ Navigate to the [My Favorite Things menu](#), by default at the bottom of the Launch Menu.

¥ Choose the "Remove ThingsÉ" menu item.

¥ The dialog that appears works exactly like the "[Other ThingsÉ](#)" dialog, except that anything you select from it, after you click the OK button, will be removed from the list.

¥ After selecting what you want to remove, click the OK button and click OK as My Favorite Things verifies that you want to remove each thing you selected.



## 4.2. Renaming an URL or Terminal Command

So there's an URL or terminal command that you've been using a lot in My Favorite Things and now you want to change its name. My Favorite Things does not include a direct way to do this at the moment, but it is possible using one of the features of the "Open Terminal Command" or "Open URL" dialogs.

For simplicity's sake, we'll discuss terminal commands here. Changing the name of an URL works exactly the same way.

When you open a terminal command using the "Run Terminal Command" dialog, you are given the choice of giving the terminal command a name. If you provide a name, then My Favorite Things uses that name to track the command. If you use the "Run Terminal Command" dialog again to run the same command, but use a different name, then My Favorite Things will begin to track the same command using the new name, but remembering everything about how you used that command in the past.

So, for example, let's say that you've been using a terminal command that you named "everything in Movies directory" that runs the command "ls ~/Movies". Now you decide to change the name of this command to "list the files in my Movies Directory". Here's how to do it:

¥ Open the "Run Terminal Command" dialog as you normally would.

¥ Enter the command ("ls ~/Movies") into the Command text field.

¥ Enter the new name ("list the files in my Movies Directory") into the Title text field.

The next time you load the Launch Menu, you will notice that the icon for "everything in Movies directory" has been replaced for one titled "list the files in my Movies Directory". If you choose the new icon, it will open a Terminal window and enter the command "ls ~/Movies".

---

## 4.3. Getting Information about My Favorite Things

### **To get basic information about My Favorite Things:**

- ¥ Open the Launch Menu by using the Hot Key or by clicking on the menu bar icon.
  - ¥ Navigate to the My Favorite Things menu, by default at the bottom of the Launch Menu.
  - ¥ Choose the "About My Favorite ThingsÉ" menu item.
  - ¥ Read the information in the window that appears.
-

## 4.4. Checking for a Newer Version

My Favorite Things is constantly being upgraded and improved. We regularly offer new versions and recommend that users, especially registered users, download and use the latest version.

By default, My Favorite Things checks for a new version every time it's launched (this can be changed in the [preferences](#)). Still, you can check at any time to find out if there is a newer version of My Favorite Things than the version you're running.

### **To check for a newer version of My Favorite Things:**

¥ Open the Launch Menu by using the Hot Key or by clicking on the menu bar icon.

¥ Navigate to the My Favorite Things menu, by default at the bottom of the Launch Menu.

¥ Choose the "Check for new versionÉ" menu item.

¥ My Favorite Things will attempt to contact the [oldjewelsoftware.com](http://oldjewelsoftware.com) website and find out if there is a new version of My Favorite Things available. If there is, it will ask you if you would like to download the new version.

¥ Click the "Download Now" button to be taken to the download page for the latest version of My Favorite Things using your favorite web browser. From here, you can download the latest version of My Favorite Things and install it onto your computer.

- . [How does the version checking work?](#)



## 4.4.1. How does the version checking work?

Some people are concerned about programs that perform network activity without letting the user know. This is one of the reasons that we chose to make it easy to [turn off version checking at startup](#).

If you're curious how My Favorite Things checks for new versions, or if you worry about giving up any private information, then here's the scoop. Most people will find this information dry and not very helpful, but you may just be the type who doesn't, so here goes:

When My Favorite Things checks for a new version (either at startup if you've not [turned it off](#) or when you've chosen to [do it manually](#)), it sends a request to a php script at [www.oldjewelsoftware.com](http://www.oldjewelsoftware.com) with a single argument: the current version string of the version of My Favorite Things that you're using. It does not send any information about you, your computer, your OS, or even whether you've registered My Favorite Things or not.

The php script takes this request, and makes a note of it in a mysql database. The database simply records how many requests the script receives each day, and what versions are making those requests. This is used by Old Jewel Software to keep track of how many people we have using various versions of My Favorite Things. We use this information for internal record keeping purposes only.

The php script then sends back to your computer a simple xml-formatted plist file which contains a single argument: the version string of the most recent version of My Favorite Things that's been released. My Favorite Things then compares that string with its own version string and, if the two do not match, puts up a dialog telling you that there's a new version to download.

If, after reading this information, you feel uncomfortable about using automatic version checking, then please feel free to [turn it off now](#).

---

## 4.5. Reporting a bug from within My Favorite Things

### **To report a bug:**

- ¥ Open the Launch Menu by using the Hot Key or by clicking on the menu bar icon.
  - ¥ Navigate to the My Favorite Things menu, by default at the bottom of the Launch Menu.
  - ¥ Choose the "Report a bugÉ" menu item.
  - ¥ Your email application will open and create a new email addressed to the My Favorite Things support address. Type the bug report into the message section of the email and then send it.
-

## 4.6. Quitting My Favorite Things

### **To quit My Favorite Things:**

¥ Open the Launch Menu by using the Hot Key or by clicking on the menu bar icon.

¥ Navigate to the My Favorite Things menu, by default at the bottom of the Launch Menu.

¥ Choose the "Quit My Favorite Things" menu item.

---

# 5. Tips & Tricks

There are a couple special tricks that you can make My Favorite Things do if you want to make it behave in special ways. Certainly there are others, but these are the ones we're asked about the most often.

- . [Multi-Button Mouse](#)
  - . [Static Launcher](#)
  - . [Keyboard Navigation](#)
-

## 5.1. Multi-Button Mouse

It may come as no surprise to find out that My Favorite Things was designed by a person who uses a multi-button mouse. While using the Hot Key provides fast access to the Launch Menu, assigning a mouse button to open My Favorite Things instead can make using your Mac with My Favorite Things seem like second nature.

To set up My Favorite Things to work from a mouse button, you will need the following things:

¥ A mouse with at least three buttons or 2 buttons and a scroll-wheel that emulates a button when clicked. There are any number of manufacturers that make these, and a visit to [Apple's Hot Deals](#) page will find several. We never recommend you give up the traditional click or right-click functions of your mouse, but if you have a third mouse button (or more than that), this is a great trick to get more use both from your mouse and from My Favorite Things.

¥ Software that will translate a click on a mouse button into a keyboard command. Several manufacturers include this option in their drivers, but if your mouse did not come with special drivers that do this, then you can find a generic driver called USB Overdrive at <http://www.usboverdrive.com/>.

To set up your mouse to display the Launch Menu when a mouse button is clicked:

¥ Using the configuration software for your mouse's driver, choose a button that you wish to use to bring up the Launch Menu.

¥ Set that button to emulate a keyboard key press. You can make this key combination as complex as you want. We really recommend something like command-option-shift-F12. If you make it something very hard to type, it's not likely it will ever conflict with any other key combination in any other program. Don't worry about remembering this key combination; You will only have to type it once.

¥ Once the mouse drivers are set to output this key combination whenever you click the button you've chosen, access the "Interface" tab of the Preferences dialog by following [these instructions](#) if necessary.

¥ [Turn on the Hot Key](#) if it is not yet enabled.

¥ Click the "Set Hot KeyÉ" button.

¥ After the "Set Hot Key" dialog has opened, press the mouse button you changed in step 2. You will notice that the field that shows the current hot key will change to show the key combination you set in step 2.

¥ Click the OK button in the "Set Hot Key" dialog.

¥ Click the OK button in the Preferences dialog.

¥ Press the mouse button you chose in step 2. The Launch Menu will appear. If it does not, then go back through the steps and try again.

If you have set up separate profiles for different applications, then it may be necessary to change each profile separately.

Of course, this tip can also be applied to other devices, like game pads, programmable keyboards, graphics tablets, or any other input device that can emulate a keyboard command.

**special note:**

*The mention of USB Overdrive in this tip in no way indicates any special relationship between Old Jewel Software and the makers of USB Overdrive. Nor does it constitute a recommendation that you use or download USB Overdrive. It is simply the only generic mouse driver we know of that includes keyboard emulation in its feature list.*

---

## 5.2. Static Launcher

Maybe you don't like to have your actions tracked by an application. Maybe all you're looking for is a simple launcher that will open using a Hot Key and show a short list of things you want to launch easily. Maybe the concept of a menu that's contents change regularly seems confusing or inefficient for you.

While My Favorite Things was designed to offer a dynamic list of things you're likely to want to open, there are people who enjoy using it as a simple static list with no tracking and no moving menus. Setting this up is just a matter of setting a few preferences:

To use My Favorite Things as a static launcher:

¥ Navigate to the ["Menu" tab](#) of the Preferences Dialog.

¥ Find the checkbox labeled "Only include the \_\_\_ most commonly launched things."

¥ If the checkbox is not checked, then click it to make it be checked.

¥ Change the number in the \_\_\_ to 0. This will make My Favorite Things show nothing in the "Most Common" or "Most Common for Current Application" sections of the Launch Menu.

¥ Find the checkbox marked "Show current application at the top of the menu"

¥ If it is checked, then click it to make it unchecked. This will keep My Favorite Things from putting the currently running application at the top of the Launch Menu.

¥ Find the checkbox marked "Show the most popular \_\_\_ items for current application.

¥ If this is checked, then click it to make it unchecked. This will prevent My Favorite Things" from putting up an empty section of things under a "Most Common for this Application" item. In other words, it will get rid of some clutter.

¥ The other options in the Tracking section of this tab will not have any effect now.

¥ The other options in the Appearance section of this tab can be set any way you want.

¥ Move to the "Icon Size" tab and click the radio button labeled "Icon size is constant"

¥ Move the slider labeled "Size of Icons" to change the size of the icons that will appear in the Launch Menu.

¥ Move to the "Most Favorite Things" tab and follow the directions [here](#) to add and reorganize the things you want to appear in your launcher.

¥ Click the OK button and enjoy your static launcher.

---

## 5.3. Keyboard Navigation

Mac OS X 10.3 Panther added a new feature that may be interesting to users of My Favorite Things: Keyboard Navigation of menus. If you open the Launch Menu via the Hot Key or the Menu Bar Icon, you can select any item in the menu simply by typing its name.

Try this if you are running Panther:

¥ Click the My Favorite Things Menu Bar icon to bring up the Launch Menu.

¥ Start typing the words "Other Things".

¥ Assuming you have not [chosen to hide the Other Things menu item](#), then Other Things should become selected.

¥ Press the Enter key to open the Other Things dialog.

You can, of course, choose anything in the Launch Menu this way, simply by typing its name. In most cases, you will only have to type the first few letters. Panther chooses whatever menu item begins with the letters you have typed. Pressing Return or Enter will act the same as if you clicked the menu item. Pressing the escape key will dismiss the Launch Menu.

If you type the name of something with a submenu attached, such as a folder or a running application, then you can press the right arrow key to bring up the submenu. Use the arrow keys, or type, to choose the item you want from the list.



# 6. Troubleshooting

- [Where to Get Help](#)
  - [Common Questions](#)
  - [Known Limitations](#)
  - [Reporting a Bug](#)
-

## 6.1. Where to Get Help

If you have a question or a problem, there are several ways to get help.

The simplest is to use this help document. If it does not give you the help you need, you can use the "report a bug" feature of My Favorite Things. If you're unable to do that, you can always email us directly.

To open this help document from inside My Favorite Things:

¥ Open the [Launch Menu](#) by using the [Hot Key](#) or by clicking on the [menu bar icon](#).

¥ Navigate to the My Favorite Things menu, by default at the bottom of the Launch Menu.

¥ Choose the "My Favorite Things Help..." menu item, right at the top of the menu.

¥ Your favorite browser will launch and display the My Favorite Things help document.

To report a bug to Old Jewel Software:

If you need to contact us for troubleshooting assistance, the easiest way may be to use the "report a bug" feature. Simply follow the directions under [Reporting a Bug](#) later in this section.

To contact us by email:

¥ You can always send email to [feedback@oldjewelsoftware.com](mailto:feedback@oldjewelsoftware.com) to get assistance with any problem you may have.

---

## 6.2. Common Questions

From time to time, users will ask us questions that we feel may be asked by other users. While we aren't maintaining a real FAQ on My Favorite Things, we will include the most pressing questions in this section for your perusal.

- [Why are there no nested submenus for folders?](#)
  - [Why are things I've deleted still in the menu?](#)
-

## 6.2.1. Why are there no nested submenus for folders?

One of our beta testers sent this message to us:

On a separate note, personally I'm not a fan of having to click the "Contents" menu, to get at my apps. If you had an option to use this feature or not (just show the contents) i think that could work out well. Dunno if I'm the only one who mentioned this... but it's been on my mind since you added the feature a while back.

And we responded with this reply:

*I really wish I could. The issue is RAM. Mac OS X forces you to load in all the contents of a menu before it will show it (at least as far as I've gotten appkit to do so far). So loading the submenu for every folder in the launch menu on the chance that the user MAY choose something from one of those submenus becomes a case of a lot of RAM for a comparatively smaller possibility. The RAM use is really bad with icons (and variable icon sizes), but it's still pretty awful without them. The other thing is time to build the menus. The Contents approach is a trick I added at the time I was trying to get deep submenus going. I found out that if you load deep submenus, the time to load increases geometrically (roughly) for each level deeper you went.*

And of course, this long load time takes place the very first time you try to bring up the Launch Menu, which can be very annoying.

So, in other words, using submenus for folders within the Launch Menu uses a lot of system resources, both in terms of memory and processor power. Rather than make an arbitrary decision that we would go 1 or 2 folders deep, we decided to simply offer the "Contents" menu item in all menus and let people dig as deep as they wanted while using relatively little memory and time.

We're sorry, but there's no known way right now to efficiently offer the kind of deep folder navigation that My Favorite Things provides without using the separate Contents menu items.

---

## 6.2.2. Why are things I've deleted still in the menu?

A user on versiontracker.com asked the following question:

Why does it bring up old apps and documents that are no longer there in "other things"? Is this because I have installed it in previous versions and the preferences are not automatically updated as in "Launch Bar"? If so then I guess the only workaround is to delete the preferences in ~/library/preferences and start over. Am I correct on this???

And we responded with this reply:

*> If so then I guess the only workaround is to delete the preferences in ~/library/preferences and start over. Am I correct on this???*

*You can use the "Remove Things" menu item to make My Favorite Things forget about them.*

*And now to try to answer your question:*

*> Why does it bring up old apps and documents that are no longer there in "other things"??*

*Other things basically gives you access to anything and everything that My Favrote Things knows about. Thus, it even tells you about things that were there before but aren't any longer.*

*There are things that aren't there for awhile and then come back (I'm thinking of cd-roms as an example, there are others). You don't want My Favorite THings to forget about them every time they disappear.*

*Would a "Remove old things" menu item be a desired feature? email [feedback@oldjewelsoftware.com](mailto:feedback@oldjewelsoftware.com) to let me know.*

This behavior is rather disconcerting, and something we intend to improve for a future release. Please watch this space and either our site or the major update sites (versiontracker and macupate) for news.

---

## 6.3. Known Limitations

We are very proud of My Favorite Things as it currently works, but there are a few known limitations which you may want to be aware of.

- [The Hot Key and Other Programs](#)
  - [problems in panther](#)
-

## 6.3.1. The Hot Key and Other Programs

Some other programs will also use the key combination of command-space bar, the default key combination for My Favorite Things. This can cause any number of conflicts. Sometimes, the Launch Menu appears and the other program's hot key doesn't work. Sometimes the reverse happens and you cannot use the Launch Menu without clicking in the [menu bar icon](#). Sometimes both hot keys are activated.

To fix this conflict, you can change the hot key that My Favorite Things uses by following the directions in "[Changing the Key Combination](#)".

---

## 6.3.2. problems in panther

For version 1.0 of My Favorite Things, we included a warning about running My Favorite Things with Mac OS 10.3 Panther. At that time, there had been some reports from users that My Favorite Things did not work correctly with certain prerelease versions of Panther.

After much testing of version 1.0.1 under the final release of Mac OS 10.3, we have discovered no reproducible bug that makes My Favorite Things incompatible with Panther. There have been a couple interface issues which we [corrected with version 1.0.1](#).

If you do encounter issues with My Favorite Things under Mac OS 10.3, please [report them to us](#) so we can try to correct them. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Below is the original text from the version 1.0 documentation:

Users who have access to prerelease versions of Mac OS X 10.3 Panther have reported that My Favorite Things refuses to show any dialogs. We don't yet have access to Mac OS X 10.3, so we can't guess why this would be going on, though it looks like it might be something fairly simple to fix once we can test My Favorite Things on 10.3.

*Users who are running 10.3 are encouraged to report to us any bugs or wrong behaviors you experience with My Favorite Things. In fact, if you've had problems or not, please let us know how it works for you.*

*We apologize ahead of time for the inconvenience if you've run across this.*

---

## 6.4. Reporting a Bug

We recommend that you send a bug report using the My Favorite Things menu as described in [Reporting a bug from within My favorite Things](#), but if you can't do this for some reason, then bug reports can be sent to [feedback@oldjewelsoftware.com](mailto:feedback@oldjewelsoftware.com).

---

# 7. Registering My Favorite Things

My Favorite Things is shareware. If you find it useful, we ask that you please register it. Registration gives you a lifetime license to use My Favorite Things on one computer at a time and to upgrade to any new version ever released. [Site licenses](#) are also available to families, businesses and educational institutions.

If you're not sure if you want to register, then please read the section "[What does registration get me?](#)".

To find out how much registration costs, read the section on [price](#).

Registering My Favorite Things is a 2-step process. First you must purchase a registration code, then you must enter the registration code. Both of these functions can be accessed from the registration dialog.

To open the registration dialog:

There are several ways to get to the registration dialog, yet the easiest way is to use the Launch Menu.

¥ Open the [Launch Menu](#) by using the [Hot Key](#) or by clicking on the [menu bar icon](#).

¥ Choose the item labeled "Register My Favorite Things".

¥ The registration dialog will appear.

To purchase a registration key:

Old Jewel Software uses Kagi.com to handle our registration system. This way we can concentrate on writing software and let them handle the details of assuring secure and prompt response to payment. You will give your registration information to Kagi.com using a secure web form in order to purchase My Favorite Things.

¥ Open the registration dialog by following the steps listed above.

¥ Click the button marked "Get Registration Key"

¥ Your favorite browser will launch and you will be taken to the My Favorite Things registration page.

¥ Enter the number of licenses you would like to purchase in the page that appears. (An explanation of the pricing structure can be found [here](#)). Most people will choose to purchase 1 single license.

¥ If you would like to send a message to us, then type it into the field labeled "Enter any additional comments for the supplier here: "

¥ Click the button marked "Continue"

¥ On the next page, enter your credit card information and your email address. A valid email address is very important, since your registration code will be sent to you via email.

¥ Follow the directions on Kagi's site until your order has been placed.

¥ After your order has been processed, you will receive an email from Kagi. This process should not take longer than 5 business days. The email will include your user name and registration code.

To enter your registration key:

After you've purchased your registration code through Kagi by following the steps listed above, you will receive an email providing your registration code and your user name. The email describes in great detail how to finish the registration process, but the steps are repeated here for your convenience.

¥ Open the registration dialog by following the steps listed above in "To open the registration dialog".

¥ Type your user name, as it appears in the email, into the field labeled "User Name"

¥ Type your registration code (copy and paste or drag and drop may be easier) into the field labeled "Registration Key"

¥ Once both of these have been entered, the "Register" button will become enabled. Click it to finish registering My Favorite Things.

To check to see if My Favorite Things has been registered:

If you're not sure if you've registered My Favorite Things, there's an easy way to find out.

¥ Open the [Preferences](#) dialog.

¥ Click on the tab that says "Registration & Version".

¥ Read the text in the box marked "Registration". If you've already registered My Favorite Things, then this box will show the user name and registration code you purchased when you registered.

- . [Price](#)
  - . [What does registration get me?](#)
-

## 7.1. Price

A single user license, with a lifetime of free upgrades, costs \$17.85 US.

A site license for up to 5 users, for use by families or small businesses for example, can be had for \$69.90 US.

A site license for up to 10 users, for use by a single office or other small groups, will cost \$120.90 US..

Finally, site licenses are available in groups of 100 seats for large organizations. Each 100 seats will cost \$990.00 US.

---

## 7.2. What does registration get me?

The most important thing that registration provides is the knowledge that you're supporting innovative software on the Mac OS X platform. Without license sales, we would be unable to provide the great productivity enhancements that My Favorite Things offers you. If you have an idea for a feature to add to My Favorite Things, or if you have a bug you wish to have fixed, then paying the registration fee is the best way to help your desires turn into reality. We always answer email from registered users first, and our future design goals are always weighed in favor of those who have registered.

That said, there are a few things that differ between the registered and unregistered versions of My Favorite Things. Until it's been registered, My Favorite Things will:

- ¥ show a dialog when it launches asking you if you want to register it.

- ¥ not allow you to hide the Status Window.

- ¥ show a blurb in the Status Window and most dialogs stating that it is not registered.

- ¥ include a menu item at the top of the Launch Menu to take you to the registration page.

Once you have registered and entered your registration key, these restrictions will disappear.

---



# 8. Release History

- [1.5](#)
- [1.0](#)
- [0.9](#)
- [0.8](#)
- [0.7](#)
- [0.6](#)
- [0.5](#)



## 8.1. 1.5

- [1.5.2 1/20/2004](#)
  - [1.5.1 1/19/2004](#)
  - [1.5 1/7/2004](#)
-

## 8.1.1. 1.5.2 1/20/2004

¥ Fixed a bug that appeared in 1.5.1 involving My Favorite Things crashing for new users.

---

## 8.1.2. 1.5.1 1/19/2004

¥ fixed a bug where My Favorite Things would sometimes crash the first time it was run if the user had never set up a login item before.

¥ fixed an appearance glitch with the new Contents menus in Mac OS X 10.3

¥ Menus should load slightly faster now.

---

## 8.1.3. 1.5 1/7/2004

Version 1.5 adds a couple new features (most of them Panther-only):

### **For users of Mac OS X 10.3 and later:**

¥ The [contents](#) menu for folders now shows all contents of that folder directly, rather than requiring the user to click to get a new menu. You can essentially drill down as deep as you'd like from any folder in the Launch Menu. This is probably our most requested feature, and something that we're very excited to finally offer.

¥ Files for running applications now show their state, and offer their [application submenu](#), even within a folder's [contents](#) menu. In other words, if you're looking at the Contents menu for the Applications folder, and Safari is running, then Safari's menu item will have a dash beside it and you will be able to quit it from that menu.

¥ Added [windows menus](#) for [running applications](#). Get a list of all open windows in any application that's currently running.

¥ Added [tracking](#) of windows in running applications. Most applications will provide some information on what files their windows currently represent. When My Favorite Things can get that information, it will show the file icon for that window's file and it will [track](#) that file if you select it.

¥ One or two minor interface tweaks.

**For users of Mac OS X 10.2 and Mac OS X 10.3:**

¥ All dialogs now remember their size and position across launches.

---

## 8.2. 1.0

- [1.0.3 11/30/2003](#)
  - [1.0.2 11/11/2003](#)
  - [1.0.1 11/2/2003](#)
  - [1.0 10/1/2003](#)
-

## 8.2.1. 1.0.3 11/30/2003

¥ If My Favorite Things were set to start up at login and the user had set the "Hide" checkbox inside the login items System Preferences, then My Favorite Things would not respond to clicks on its menu bar icon until a dialog had been displayed or the Launch Menu had been brought up using the Hot Key.

version 1.0.3 fixes this.

¥ Some minor changes to the documentation have been made.

---

## 8.2.2. 1.0.2 11/11/2003

¥ Made registration just slightly easier. If you have bought a license for My Favorite Things, but had trouble entering the registration code, then download version 1.0.2 and try again.

---

## 8.2.3. 1.0.1 11/2/2003

¥ Fixed an issue with the Launch Menu only being displayed below the cursor in Panther. When using Panther, the launch menu will once again fill most of the screen.

¥ Made it slightly easier to enter registration codes by forgiving whitespace in the registration dialog and using a better font for entering registration codes.

¥ Fixed a minor display issue in the Preferences dialog under Panther.

---

## 8.2.4. 1.0 10/1/2003

¥ Added registration code, including UI and key parsing elements.

¥ Updated the documentation to reflect a 1.0 release.

¥ My Favorite Things now automatically places itself in the log in items the first time it's run (you can use the Preferences to turn off launching at log in if you would like).

¥ My Favorite Things is now officially shareware.

---

## 8.3. 0.9

. [0.9 9/14/2003](#)

---

## 8.3.1. 0.9 9/14/2003

¥ Added a preference to start up My Favorite Things at login.

¥ Added online help.

¥ Rearranged the items in the My Favorite Things menu to make the more commonly used things appear near the top (a pretty novel idea, huh?)

¥ Contents menu item now shows the name of the folder whose contents will be shown.

¥ Some modifications to the way labels appear in the Launch Menu depending on preferred icon size.

¥ The application icon has been cleaned up.

¥ Some slight UI tweaks.

---

## 8.4. 0.8

- . [0.8.7 8/30/2003](#)
  - . [0.8.6 8/21/2003](#)
  - . [0.8.5 8/19/2003](#)
  - . [0.8.4 8/19/2003](#)
  - . [0.8.3 8/18/2003](#)
  - . [0.8.2 8/4/2003](#)
  - . [0.8.1 7/29/2003](#)
  - . [0.8 7/28/2003](#)
-

## 8.4.1. 0.8.7 8/30/2003

¥ [First draft of final documentation released.](#)

¥ Added back special icons for mailto urls and for terminal commands, something we lost with 0.8.

¥ Changed the way the Most Favorite Things and Never Show tables (in the Preferences window) drag and rearrange themselves. A fringe benefit is that you can now drag directly from a Finder window into either table.

¥ Added an option to show the My Favorite Things menu at the top of the Launch Menu rather than at the bottom.

¥ Really rearranged the Preferences Dialog

¥ Rearranged the loading process, something that shouldn't affect users directly...

¥ Added some error checking code under the hood.

---

## 8.4.2. 0.8.6 8/21/2003

¥ My Favorite Things now keeps a backup file to avoid situations where data is corrupted and the user has to rebuild the My Favorite Things menu from scratch.

¥ Items that are rarely used will now stay in the menu less time than items that are used more often. This should help pare down the very long menus that can sometimes develop. Of course, it can be turned off too.

¥ The Menu Preferences tab has been seriously rearranged.

¥ The distinctive color scheme is gone. My Favorite Things's windows now look just like any other app's windows.

¥ Some other minor UI tweaks.

¥ Better reporting with the version check mechanism (good for the developer, hopefully unnoticeable to users).

---

### 8.4.3. 0.8.5 8/19/2003

¥ Fixed a very nasty bug that would cause a crash at startup for people who were using MFTs for the first time.

¥ cleaned up the Other Things, Remove Things and Add Things dialog.

¥ cleaned up the Open URL and Run Terminal Command dialogs.

¥ Added an icon to folder contents menus to identify them as being part of My Favorite Things.

---

## 8.4.4. 0.8.4 8/19/2003

¥ Repaired the disabled Folder Contents menus in 0.8.3

¥ Added multiple selection to the bookmarks window.

¥ Rearranged the bookmarks window.

---

## 8.4.5. 0.8.3 8/18/2003

¥ Fixed a bug where icons would sometimes display larger than they should the first time MFTs drew its menu.

¥ Fixed a bug where the preferences dialog's icon size slider would not update correctly if the minimum icon size was set to 8.

¥ Changed the indicator for running applications to a dash. Only the current application now has a checkmark beside its name.

¥ Much speed improvement in menu updating

¥ Much internal reorganization, code simplification.

¥ Menu updates in the background now. It should tend to load much quicker in most situations without slowing anything down now.

¥ Added an icon to the My Favorite Things menu item inside the My Favorite Things menu.

¥ Added a preference to hide the Other Things' menu item, for people who really want a small launch menu.

¥ There is no longer an ugly flash just before the first time the menu loads.

¥ Removed duplicate option in preferences dialog.

---



## 8.4.6. 0.8.2 8/4/2003

¥ MFTs now records whenever the user switches to a new current application, so apps that are left open rather than launched regularly will not disappear from the menu prematurely.

¥ Sorting of menus for folder contents should now more closely resemble the way the Finder sorts the same items.

¥ The MFTs menu now displays during a click and hold, whereas before it would only respond to a click on the menu bar icon.

¥ Added a preference to switch on and off the display of the current application at the top of the menu. This will let people have a totally static menu if they absolutely want it.

¥ Fixed a problem with the `Constant` icon size controller having more size options than were actually available, thus sometimes causing strange redraw behavior.

¥ MFTs now reports to the user if a file launched from the `Other Things` dialog fails to open because its path is invalid. Same for adding a file to the Most Favorite Things list.

¥ Fixed a minor display error with the status dialog that occurred when the dock was set to appear on the left side of the screen.

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## 8.4.7. 0.8.1 7/29/2003

¥Hopefully finally fixed a bug that caused random crashes when updating the menu. This particular crash would appear and disappear, but should hopefully be gone now.

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## 8.4.8. 0.8 7/28/2003

- . [New Features in 0.8](#)
- . [Bug Fixes in 0.8](#)

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### 48.4.8.1. New Features in 0.8

¥ Unlimited navigating within subfolders. Go as deep as you want. Each folder menu item has a submenu with one option, "Contents". Choosing it will open a new menu which just lists the contents of the folder. Choose an item from that list and it will launch and appear in MFTs's list.

¥ Variable icon size: By default, items that you use more often have a larger icon than items you use less often. The largest and smallest possible sizes can be modified or you can turn this feature off and choose still choose a single icon size for everything.

¥ You can now run an applescript from within MFTs. Find a script file within a MFTs menu and there will be a submenu with the option to "run script". Just choose it and watch your script run. Errors are reported, but return values are not, unfortunately.

¥ Faster loading and less memory use: MFTs no longer has to load as much information at startup for icons it MIGHT use or subfolders for menus you MAY want to load. Thus, it should load much quicker for most people and use much less memory.

¥ Always show is now "Most Favorite Things": This is mostly just a name change to make the user experience more consistent. Most Favorite Things items will always have the largest icons if you have variable icon size turned on.

¥ MFTs no longer updates the menu until right before it is displayed. This prevents some of the lag that some users felt they were experiencing on app switches and app loads. It also saves on unnecessary processing that was occurring when a user would switch apps several times before using MFTs.

¥ MFTs now stores its path information separate from its preferences. This should be seamless for people upgrading from a previous version, but please report if your settings don't get carried over.

¥ The status window is now right under the menu bar, near the MFTs icon, and has gotten a facelift

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## 48.4.8.2. Bug Fixes in 0.8

¥ Fixed a bug that sometimes caused the scroll bar in the always and never show dialogs to not appear.

¥ Fixed a strange behavior in one of the text fields in the preferences dialog

¥ Fixed a bug where the status window would forget to let the mouse click through it.

¥ Fixed a bug that would sometimes cripple urls that were launched from the Bookmarks dialog.

¥ Fixed an issue where, after dismissing a dialog, a previously foremost application would come to the front or even launch.

¥ Fixed a bug that would cause a crash when dealing with file:// urls with multiple http escape characters (such as file:///Library/Application%20Support). This is a bug that hopefully was rare enough that it didn't hurt too many people.

¥ My Favorite Things now reads the new Safari 1.0 style history format. (sorry, the beta format is no longer supported)

¥ Fixed a bug that caused an exception if there was whitespace at the beginning or end of an url launched from the launch url dialog (or the bookmarks dialog I suppose...)

¥ If an item was moved or renamed but it was in the "Always Show" list, MFTs would lose track of it and give a blank icon. Now MFTs will prompt the user to find or remove the item the next time she tries to use it.

¥ Fixed a bug that could occasionally cause a crash when trying to sort if data wasn't of an expected type. This is something that probably appeared after 0.7.4, but I cannot be sure, so I'm listing it just in case.

¥ IE bookmarks and history should now load more consistently.

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## 8.5. 0.7

- . [0.7.4 6/18/2003](#)
  - . [0.7.3 internal release](#)
  - . [0.7.2 6/15/2003](#)
  - . [0.7.1 6/11/2003](#)
  - . [0.7 6/9/2003](#)
-

## 8.5.1. 0.7.4 6/18/2003

¥ improved hot key menu placement - The menu should appear very close to the mouse pointer at almost all times now.

¥ fixed a bug where MFTs would not quit nicely during a shutdown or restart, causing it to report a very ominous error the next time it launched.

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8.5.2. 0.7.3 internal release

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## 8.5.3. 0.7.2 6/15/2003

¥ fixed a bug which could cause a crash when using the open file(s) menu item

¥ fixed a bug which could cause a crash if there was an item in the always show list that had been removed using the Remove Thing(s) menu item

¥ fixed a bug where we'd forget what app was in front after a trip to the Preferences window or Remove Things window

¥ added a simple crash check to allow the user to start fresh and delete preferences after a crash if the user chooses

¥ added a preference to only list items in the menu if they've been launched a certain number of times (default is 1)

¥ added the ability to rearrange the order of items in the Always show tab

¥ added a Add file(s) button to the always and never show tabs

¥ preferences dialog now remembers what tab it was on the last time it was opened

¥ fixed a minor display error having to do with truncating long names

¥ Other Things dialog (and add and remove things dialogs) now never show items out of order.

¥ Fixed a display bug where bookmarks weren't displaying the proper encoding (garbage characters)

¥ added iCab hotlist support

¥ extended new look to tables

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## 8.5.4. 0.7.1 6/11/2003

¥ Tweaked the startup to make icons load earlier in the startup process. This makes for a longer startup, but also means that the first time the menu loads doesn't take forever.

¥ fixed a bug that would sometimes cause the scroll bar in the "Other Things" dialog to not appear.

¥ fixed a possible crash if My Favorite Things would not load a bookmarks file.

¥ fixed an odd menu layout bug that could occur when preferences were set to show very few items.

¥ added the ability to "Only show the 0 most popular items", in effect turning My Favorite Things into a static launcher if the user so desires.

¥ added a preferences option to turn off the "fancy menu bar icon" for those users who think that it can be too obtrusive

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## 8.5.5. 0.7 6/9/2003

¥ added `always show` and `never show` lists

¥ added `Open bookmark` menu item

¥ added a search field in the `Other Things` dialog

¥ updated look for dialogs, tell me what you think

¥ added a `Report a Bug` menu item. Please use it if you find a bug.

¥ many minor interface tweaks

¥ status window now allows you to click what's underneath it.

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## 8.6. 0.6

- [0.6.1 6/5/2003](#)
  - [0.6 6/2/2003 First Major Update - time limited to 6/10/2003](#)
-

## 8.6.1. 0.6.1 6/5/2003

¥ added internet version checking, no more time limited versions

¥ added a preference to hide the status window if preferred

¥ rearranged the Preferences dialog

¥ changed the Hot Key dialog to match the appearance of the rest of the application

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## 8.6.2. 0.6 6/2/2003 First Major Update - time limited to 6/10/2003

¥ lots and lots of internal reorganization

¥ improved application-specific item tracking

¥ now keeps track of changes in folders

¥ Added a "Remove Item(s)" menu option.

¥ added an icon for terminal commands

¥ status dialog is a bit more informative

¥ initialization & startup are sped up, but the first time the menu loads still takes forever, sorry to say.

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## 8.7. 0.5

- . [0.5.1 5/30/2003 time limited to 6/8/2003](#)
  - . [0.5 5/28/2003 Initial Public Release - time limited to 6/6/2003](#)
-

## 8.7.1. 0.5.1 5/30/2003 time limited to 6/8/2003

¥ Fixed double-click in Other ThingsÉ dialog

¥ Improved load time. It should be at least acceptable now.

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8.7.2. 0.5 5/28/2003 Initial Public Release - time limited to 6/6/  
2003

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# 9. Contacting Old Jewel Software

Website: <http://www.oldjewelsoftware.com/>

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