

Quicksilver

Procrastinating Efficiently

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Outline

- 1 Setup
 - Getting the Application
 - Preference Settings
- 2 Use
 - Getting Started
 - Simple Usage with Common Applications
 - Text Entry Tricks
 - Triggers
- 3 Tweaks
 - Tuning Your Catalog
 - Some Useful Tricks with Third-Party Utilities

Notes About Installation

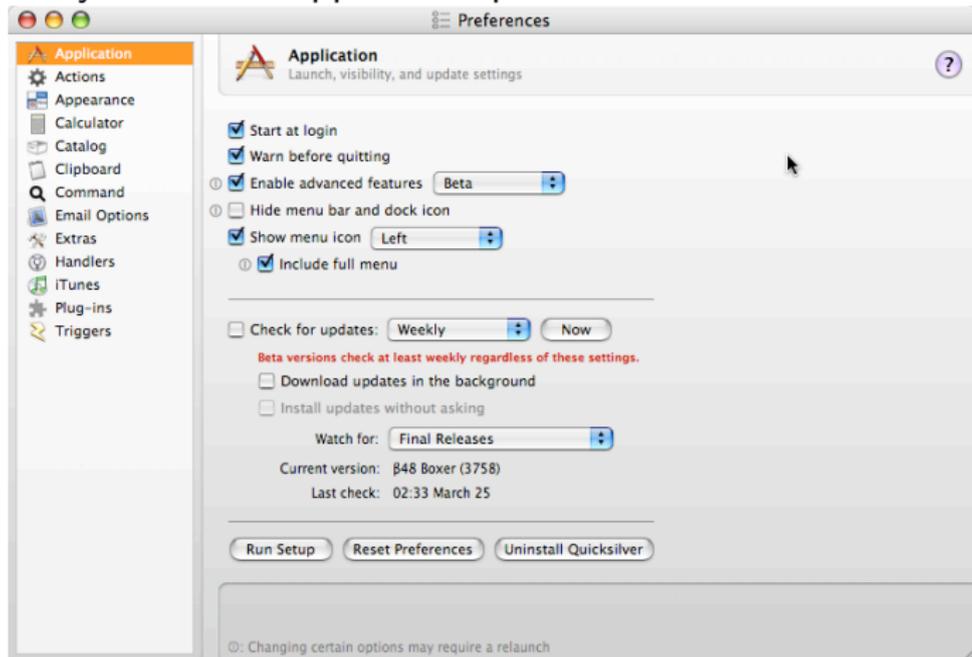
- Quicksilver can be found at <http://quicksilver.blacktree.com>
- While working through the tutorial, some plugins will be needed. You **must** be hooked up to the internet for this to work, because the plugins are loaded on demand.

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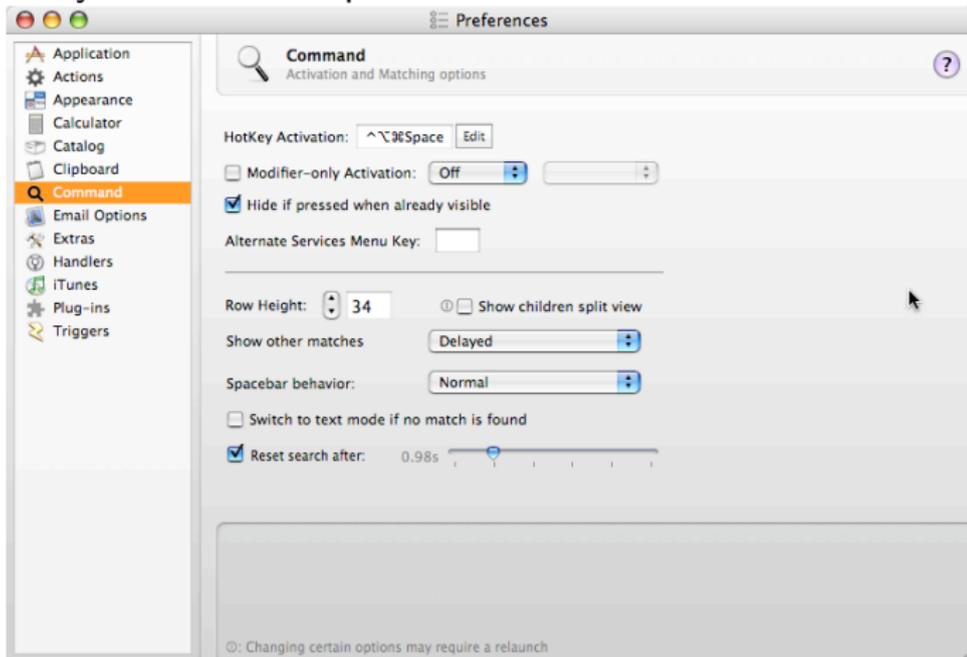
Application Preferences

- Set your overall application preferences to



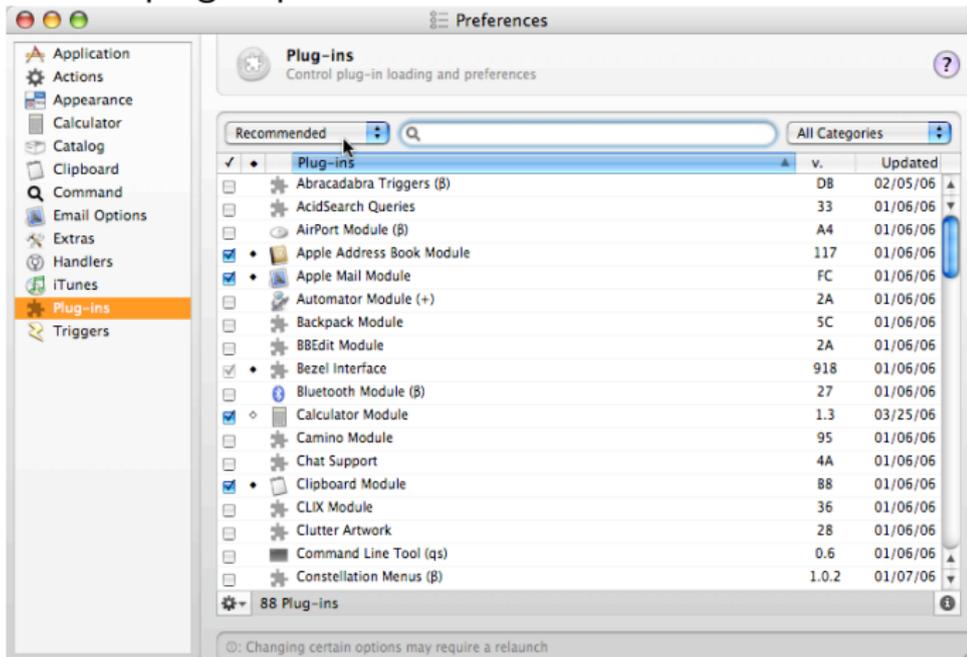
Command Preferences

- Set your command preferences to



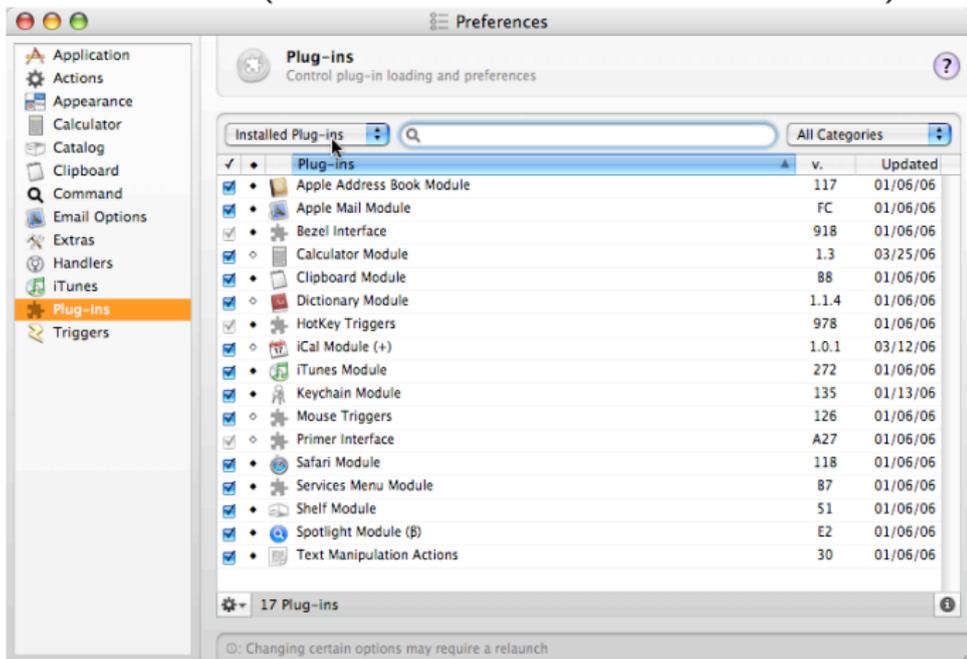
Plug-in Preferences I

- Set the plug-in preferences to Recommended



Plug-in Preferences II

- Turn these on (leave in the Recommended, first. . .)



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Invoke, Type, Hit Return

- Finds applications — right pane says Open
- Finds addresses — right pane says Show Contact
- Finds Safari bookmarks — right pane says Open URL
- Finds Preference Panes — right pane says Open
- Finds Finder Objects (files, folders) — right pane says Open

First Impression

- Hitting Enter picks the top pick with the default action
- Pausing causes a list of possibilities to appear
 - Navigate the list with arrows
- Letters need not be consecutive in words (useful)

Second Impression: QS Sentences

- Really works with sentences: Noun — Verb — Object
 - Object is often not needed — we'll see it's usage soon
- The second pane contains the verb, or **action**
- The possible actions depend on the object chosen
 - Just as “bowling ball → roll” would be OK, but “bowling ball → eat” would be rather silly.
- How can extra actions be seen with same object?

Generic Actions: Invoke, Type, Hit Tab

- The tab key moves one pane to the next pane to the right
- After hitting tab, arrow keys browse possible actions with that type of object
 - These depend only on the *type* of object, and not on the *particular* object.
- Useful for finding files
 - Reveal, for instance (we'll use others soon...)

Invoke, Type, Hit Right Arrow

- Right arrow invokes browsing object-specific actions
 - Navigate list with arrow keys
- Behavior is different from application to application
 - iTunes has many worthwhile options
 - Mail finds **local** folders
 - iCal does nothing
- When working with applications, this requires exploration

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Finding Files

- At first, this is somewhat limited
 - Finds objects in Home, Documents, and on the Desktop
 - Go to home with ~
 - Go to root with /
- Can navigate hierarchy easily, though
 - Right arrow or / to go into a folder
 - Left arrow to go up one level

Manipulating Files

- Hit the Tab key to find actions for Finder objects
- Useful things
 - Move files
 - Copy files
 - Delete files
 - Attach to email
 - Put on shelf of commonly used objects
- Not bad (but requires some knowledge of file structure)

Working with iTunes

- Invoke, right arrow
 - Can start playlists
 - Can look through song data
- This is good, too, but there will be more!

Working with Address Book

- Invoke by typing a name
- Right arrow reveals address book info
- Tab to see other actions
 - Can send email
 - Can view phone number in **Big Type** so that it is visible when dialing
 - Can copy to clipboard for use in a document
 - Can add a note to a contact!

Working with TextEdit

- Invoke, right arrow
 - Reveals recent items
- Typical for many applications
- Not so impressive

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Working with Text Entry

- Many of the additional actions require text passed on QS
- Text entry is invoked by invoking QS, and then hitting period .
- Type in the text input box
- Send the result to an application

Text Entry for iCal Todos and Events

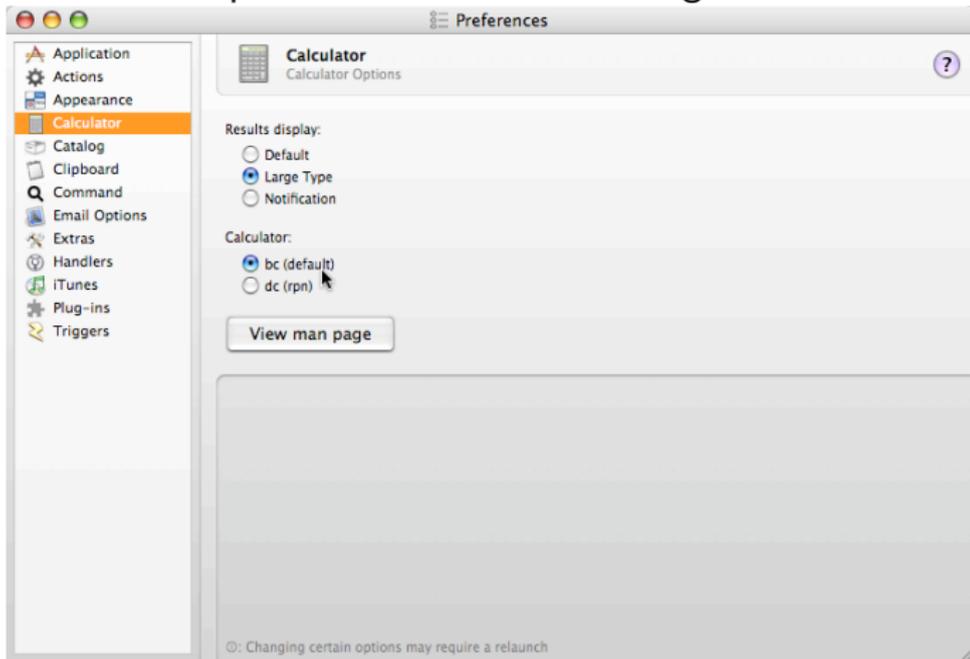
- Enter text as date time -- subject to add a dated event
- Tab to second pane
- Type ical
 - Aha! Can add events or to dos!
- Pick what you want to add, hit enter

Looking Up Words

- Invoke text entry
- Type word (try “procrastinate”)
- Tab to action, type dict
- Can try typing thesaurus
 - Can then get lost double-clicking words. . .

Simple Calculator: Setup

- First set the preferences to use usual algebraic rules:



Simple Calculator: Use

- Invoke text entry, hit =
- Enter calculations to do
- Hit enter — answer is (by default) in big print to read off.

QS and Spotlight

- Invoke text entry, hit Tab
- Start typing Spotlight

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What Are Triggers?

- Triggers are simply keyboard shortcuts which trigger actions
- These can range from simple to complex

Built-in Triggers: iTunes

- Can easily assign keystrokes for pausing iTunes
- Check the command to turn it on
- Click the trigger to assign a shortcut key

Custom Triggers

- Click the + button at the bottom of the screen
- Enter a noun, verb, and (possibly) object
- Can use for shortcuts to applications
 - I find it easier to type the name, so that I don't clutter my clogged brain with yet more keyboard shortcuts
 - Anyone else remember Word-Perfect on PeeCees?

Appending Text to Files

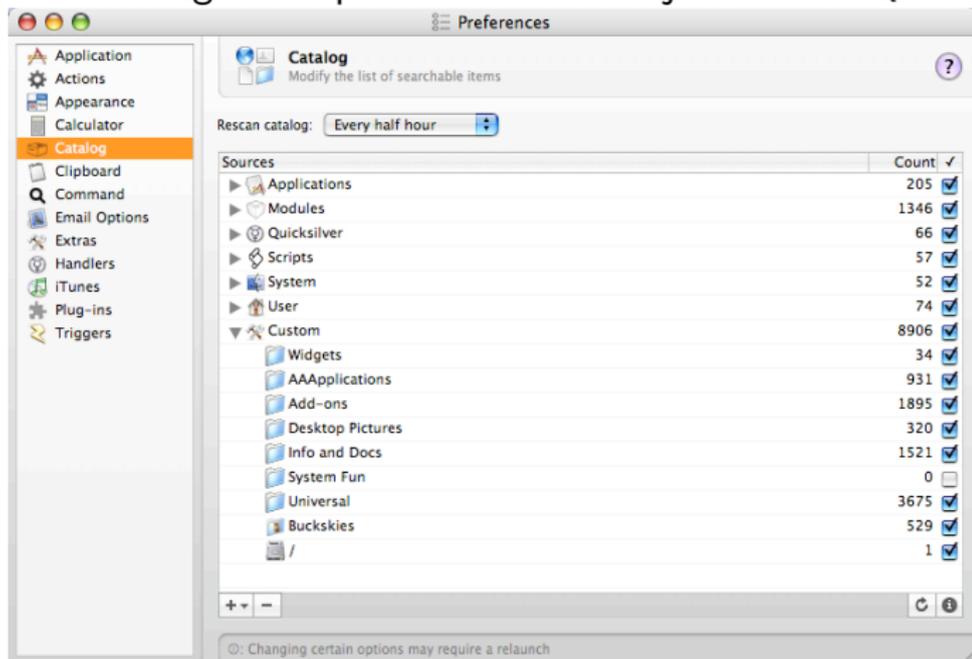
- Make a new file to hold your scraps
- Make a new trigger which has the file as the noun, and Append Text... as the verb
- Save, and give a keystroke

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What is the Catalog?

- The catalog is the place that holds objects which QS can find



Catalog Items

- Each item has a location (a folder) and a depth (how many tiers down in the folder QS will look
 - Take a look at the Applications item, for example
- QS has some default locations where it looks for finder objects
 - It has some virtual objects, too...
- Adding items (and adding depth) will increase the number of items QS can find, but will also slow QS down

Adding to the Catalog

- Click the + button
- Click the File & Folder locator
- Add a useful folder whose contents would be useful
- Choose the depth
- Click the rescan icon (circular arrow)

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Locator

- Can be downloaded from <http://www.sebastian-krauss.de/software>
- Searches all files (via name) much faster than spotlight
 - Front end to unix tool locate buried in the command line, usually
- Can send text to Locator to find file names quickly
 - Much faster than Finder's find
- Invoke text entry, enter partial file name, tab, start typing
locator