

Essential Keyboard Shortcuts

Understanding macOS shortcuts can significantly boost your productivity.

- **Cmd + Space**: Spotlight Search (Open apps, files, or perform calculations).
- **Cmd + Tab**: Switch between open applications.
- **Cmd + ~**: Switch between windows of the same application.
- **Cmd + W**: Close current window.
- **Cmd + Q**: Quit application.
- **Cmd + Shift + 4**: Capture selected area as screenshot (saved to Desktop by default).
- **Cmd + Shift + 5**: Open Screen Capture interface (record video or advanced shots).
- **Cmd + Option + Esc**: Force Quit applications.
- **Cmd + Space (Hold)**: Siri.

Finder and File Management

- **Space**: Quick Look (Preview file without opening).
- **Cmd + Delete**: Move selected item to Trash.
- **Cmd + Shift + Delete**: Empty Trash.
- **Cmd + [/]**: Back/Forward in Finder navigation.
- **Cmd + Option + P**: Show path bar.
- **Cmd + Option + S**: Show/Hide Sidebar.
- **Cmd + Shift + .**: Toggle visibility of hidden files.
- **Cmd + I**: View Get Info (File properties).

Window Management and Spaces

- **Ctrl + Up**: Mission Control (All windows and spaces).
- **Ctrl + Left / Right**: Switch between Desktop Spaces.
- **Cmd + Option + D**: Show/Hide the Dock.
- **Cmd + Ctrl + F**: Toggle Full Screen mode.

Terminal and CLI (macOS specific)

macOS is Unix-certified (BSD-based).

- **pbcopy < file.txt**: Copy file content to the system clipboard.

- **pbpaste > file.txt**: Paste clipboard content to a file.
- **open .**: Open the current terminal directory in Finder.
- **open file.txt**: Open a file using the default macOS application.
- **caffeinate**: Prevent your Mac from sleeping.
- **say "Hello"**: Convert text to speech.
- **system_profiler**: Detailed system hardware and software information.
- **tmutil**: Time Machine control utility.
- **mdfind**: Command-line search using Metadata (Spotlight engine).

Homebrew (The macOS Package Manager)

- **brew install <package>**: Install a command-line tool.
- **brew install --cask <app>**: Install a GUI application (e.g., Google Chrome).
- **brew update**: Update Homebrew itself.
- **brew upgrade**: Upgrade all installed packages.
- **brew cleanup**: Remove old versions and caches.

Development Tools

- **xcode-select --install**: Install command-line developer tools (gcc, git, etc.).
- **softwareupdate -l**: List available software updates.
- **sudo softwareupdate -ia**: Install all available updates.

System Paths

- **/Applications**: Installed user applications.
- **~/Library**: User-specific settings and application data (usually hidden).
- **/Library**: System-wide settings.
- **/Volumes**: Mounted external drives and disk images.
- **/usr/local/bin**: Usual location for Homebrew-installed binaries.