## The Dock

The Dock is a prominent feature of the graphical user interface of macOS. It is used to launch applications and to switch between running applications.

## macOS Dock appareance



## Keyboard shortcuts and actions

| Keypress | Action |
| --- | --- |
| ⌃ + fn + F3 | Show or Focus on the Dock |
| ⌃ + F3 | Show or Focus on the Dock when `Fn` keys are locked |
| ⌥ + ⌘ + D | Show/hide the Dock |
| ⟵ | Select left application |
| ⟶ | Select right application |
| Enter | Switch to the selected application |

## Managing the Dock through defaults

Additionally to **System Settings**, the **Dock** can be adjusted using the `defaults` command (from the command line using **Terminal** or a similar application). All these commands requires to relaunch the **Dock**. So, for practical purposes all the commands shown here includes the `killall Dock` command.

## The defaults command

`defaults` allows users to read, write, and delete macOS user defaults from a command-line shell.

## defaults actions

| Action | Description |
| --- | --- |
| read | Prints all of the user's defaults, for every domain, to standard output. |
| write | Writes value as the value for key in domain. value must be a property list, and must be enclosed in single quotes. |
| delete | Removes all default information for domain or a key ion a domain |

## Domains, keys and values

A *default* belong to a **domain**, a domain name of the form `com.co m pa nyn ame.ap pname`, which typically correspond to individual applications. Each **domain** has a dictionary of **keys** and **values** representing its *defaults*; for example, "Default Font" = "Helvetica". **Keys** are always strings, but values can be complex data structures comprising arrays, dictionaries, strings, and binary data. These data structures are stored as XML property lists.

| Flag | Type |
| --- | --- |
| -string | Default value type if no flag type is provided. Allows the user to specify a string as the value for the given preference key. |
| -int[eger] | Allows the user to specify an integer as the value for the given preference key. |
| -float | Allows the user to specify a floating point number as the value for the given preference key. |
| -bool[ean] | Allows the user to specify a boolean as the value for the given preference key. Value must be TRUE, FALSE, YES, or NO |

For more information on other flags, consult the online help in the command line via **Terminal** or similar applications (*e.g.* `man defaults`).

## Empty

## References

1. "*Dock (macOS)*", **Wikipedia**, web. Visited: 2024.12.18. URL: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dock_(macOS))

2. `man defaults`, **macOS 15.2**, *General Commands Manual*.

3. "*The Dock on your Mac*", **Apple Inc.**, web. Visited: 2024.12.18. URL: https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/macbook-air/apd4b7f-b731f/mac

## Reaction time

Time to show or to hide

```
defaults write com.ap ple.Dock autohi de- delay -floa
```

Animation time to show or to hide the Dock

```
defaults write com.ap ple.dock autohi de- tim e-m odi
 Dock
```

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## Spaces, size and effects

Adding an space between the icons in the Dock

```
defaults write com.ap ple.dock persis ten t-apps -array-add '{"t ile -ty pe"= " spa cer -ti le";}'; k illall Dock
```

Size of the Dock

```
defaults write com.ap ple.dock tilesize -float 48; killall Dock
```

Magnification size

```
defaults write com.ap ple.dock largesize -int 128; killall Dock
```

## Applications

To show all windows of an application doing an scroll action on the icon

```
defaults write com.ap ple.dock scroll -to -open -bool TRUE; killall D ock
```

To keep only the active applications

```
defaults write com.ap ple.dock static -only -bool TRUE; killall Dock
```

To highlight hidden (⌘ + H) applications

```
defaults write com.ap ple.dock showhidden -bool TRUE; killall Dock
```

## Resetting the Dock

Resetting the Dock to the factory settings

```
defaults delete com.ap ple.dock; killall Dock
```

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