Cheatography

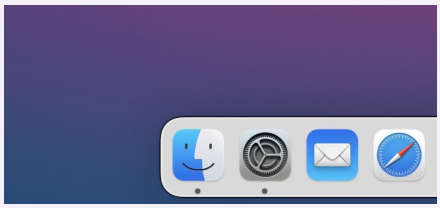
The Dock of Mac Cheat Sheet

by Dr. Eduardo Rodriguez A. (Dr. Edu)via cheatography.com/210086/cs/45281/

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



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 the **Terminal** application or any similar). All these commands requires to relaunch the **Dock**. So, for practical purposes, all the commands shown here includes the `killall Dock` command.

If you feel your Dock configuration is getting messy at any time, you can reset it to the default configuration and start over. The section on **Resetting the Dock** in this cheat sheet.

The defaults command

The `defaults` command 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.companyname.appname**, 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.* type:

```
$ man defaults
```


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Conventions for code

Commands are shown using a `non-proportional font`.
Placeholders (elements to substitute) are shown in *italic*. Lines too long are shown with a BASH "backslash continuation line" character.

Spaces, size and effects

Adding an space between the icons in the Dock

```
defaults write com.apple.dock persistent-apps \
  -array-add '{"tile-type"="spacer-tile";}'
 killall Dock
```

Size of the Dock

```
defaults write com.apple.dock tilesize -float 48
 killall Dock
```

Magnification size

```
defaults write com.apple.dock largesize -int 128
 killall Dock
```

Applications

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

```
defaults write com.apple.dock scroll-to-open \
    -bool TRUE; killall Dock
```

To keep only the active applications

```
defaults write com.apple.dock static-only \
  -bool TRUE; killall Dock
```

To highlight hidden (⌘ + H) applications

```
defaults write com.apple.dock showhidden -bool TRUE
killall Dock
```

Reaction time

Time to show or to hide

```
defaults write com.apple.Dock autohide-delay \
  -float 0.4;killall Dock
```

Animation time to show or to hide the Dock

```
defaults write com.apple.dock  \
  autohide-time-modifier -float 1; killall Dock
```

Querying the Dock

Reviewing the Dock settings

```
defaults read setting
```

Example (reviewing the `autohi de- delay` setting).

```
defaults read com.ap ple.dock autohi de- delay
```

Resetting the Dock

Resetting a specific setting could be done by deletion

```
defaults delete com.apple.dock autohide-delay; killa
```

Resetting everything to the factory settings

```
defaults delete com.apple.dock; killall Dock
```

Applications

Some applications for management or enhancement of the Dock.

1. **Dockey**, URL: https://dockey.publicspace.co/
2. **ActiveDock 2**, URL: https://noteifyapp.com/activedock/

References

1. "*Dock (macOS)*", **Wikipedia**, web. Visited: 2024.12.18. URL: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dock_(macOS))
2. "*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

Online help

Manual pages with detailed information on the `defaults` command is available from the command line with:

```
man defaults
```

Additionally, a quick usage reference is provided with:

```
defaults -h
```

History

Version	1.1.0

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Published 3rd February, 2025.
Last updated 19th May, 2025.

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