HippoLaunch
A Little Utility for Mac Users by Steve Cholerton
Version 0.5.3 r1 d1.1
Download: http://goo.gl/ML5k1
Movie: http://goo.gl/KNq99

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HippoLaunch is a small application I wrote at the beginning of 2011 and have now, six months later at the insistence of a few customers and suppliers who have seen it in action, released it free of charge for download.

HippoLaunch is an Application Launcher. A Fast One.

We all know that the MacOSX Lion release will give us a great looking iOS style Application Launcher, but I want something quicker to use, besides HL will work on the Intel Mac's as well as the older Non Intel models.

For me quicker means using the keyboard which is why I have tried every 'command line' launcher for the Mac before giving up and writing my own.

So, what was wrong with the others ? Well, not a lot really although they did tend to be a Swiss Army Knife when all I wanted was a screwdriver, they were also not as fast as I would like. Oh, and they didn't track application usage.

Basically I want to hit my chosen key combination, the default is **Cmd & Enter**, instantly type *'saf'*, press Enter and have Safari load. If their is more than one match for example Safari and Safecracker then I want to see them both, select using the cursor keys and press Enter to launch.

As quick as that. Simple, Easy and Fast.

Getting Started

Download HL from the link at the top of the page. Double click the hippolaunch.zip file that is downloaded. Move the HippoLaunch application that is revealed into your Applications folder. Double Click the HippoLaunch application to start. *Note: Ideally you should setup HL to start at Login from the Accounts section of the System Preferences.*

At this point HL scans your Applications folder and stores the filename contents, compressed, in memory.

Press **Cmd & Enter** to bring up the HL window.

Type a few characters of your desired program name and press enter. See the screenshot overleaf:

Press the Cursor Down key and press Enter on either of the options, NanooSooM or ooSooMpro in this example. The application will then be launched.

Application Usage Tracking

HL tracks how many times you have launched each application and when. It presents this information to you and allows you to launch any one of your top nine applications just by typing the number shown to the left and pressing Enter.

You can view these usage statistics from the the Preferences by clicking the blue 'Info' icon in the bottom right of the HL window. You can also alter various program behaviours such as whether HL opens in the Top, Middle or Bottom of your screen. See the images below for more information.

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