



# Ten Killer Tips

to speed up your Mac without spending a dime



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Your Guide to a Faster Mac. By Lucas Roberts, CEO of [Macinhome Consulting](#)

There is nothing quite like a brand-new Mac first out-of-the-box. It's like a new car, with that new car smell; every button and latch has that satisfying new-button-and-new-latch feel.

If only you could keep it that way forever, right?



One of the most common complaints we get from clients is that their once-speedy Macs have become sluggish. You may have noticed the same thing.

This guide will help you become more efficient than you ever thought possible. These tips range from simple and obvious things that everyone can apply to slightly more complex (but still easy) steps you can take every couple of weeks or when you run into problems.

If you do these things, you'll always enjoy that happy, delightful, just-out-of-the-box brand-new Mac feeling. The tips are arranged in order of how much time they save you.

Now you'll have way more time for all those things you really want to be doing to get the most out of your awesome life. Enjoy!



[Watch the video](#)





# Killer Tip Number 1

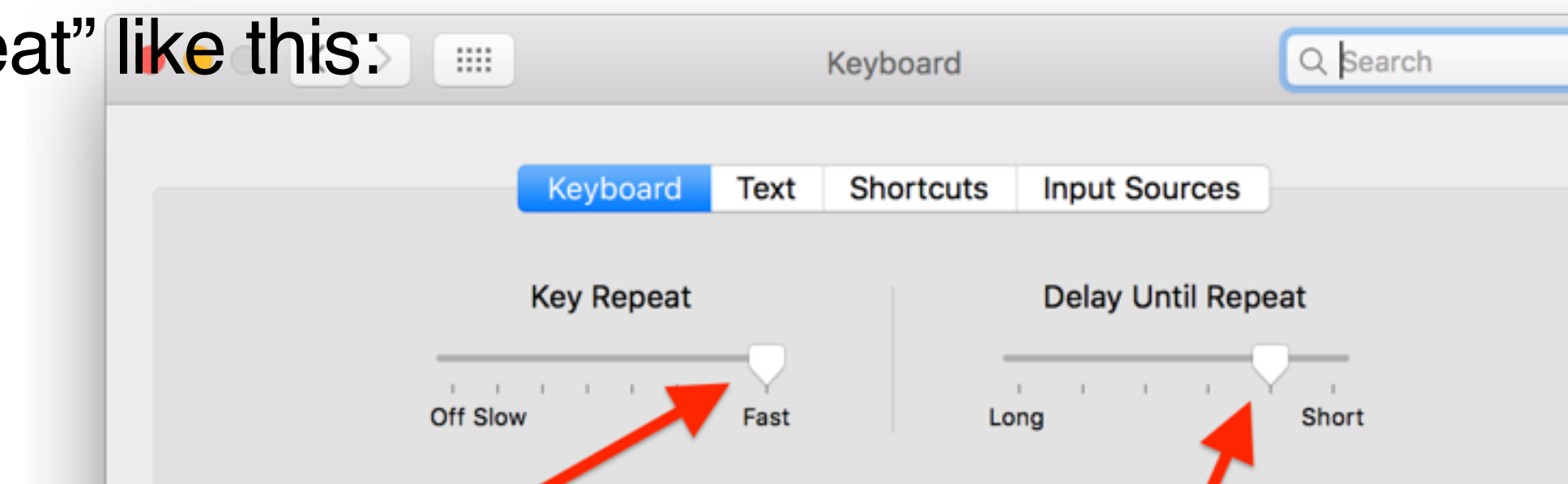
**Learn to type faster without learning to type faster, per [this video](#).**

This is a funny one and you won't even notice it until you try it and fall in love with it after it's done.

**Try this:** Type some words in an email, then hold the **delete** key.

Takes forever to delete things, right? You can do the same thing holding the **arrow key** to go **left, right, up, or down** in text. Slow as molasses in January.

Head into the Apple menu (🍏) and click System Preferences, then Keyboard. Set the “Key Repeat Rate” and “Delay Until Repeat” like this:



Now go back and try deleting some words again. LIFE CHANGING, right? Your Mac will FEEL faster forever! Every time you do that you will smile.

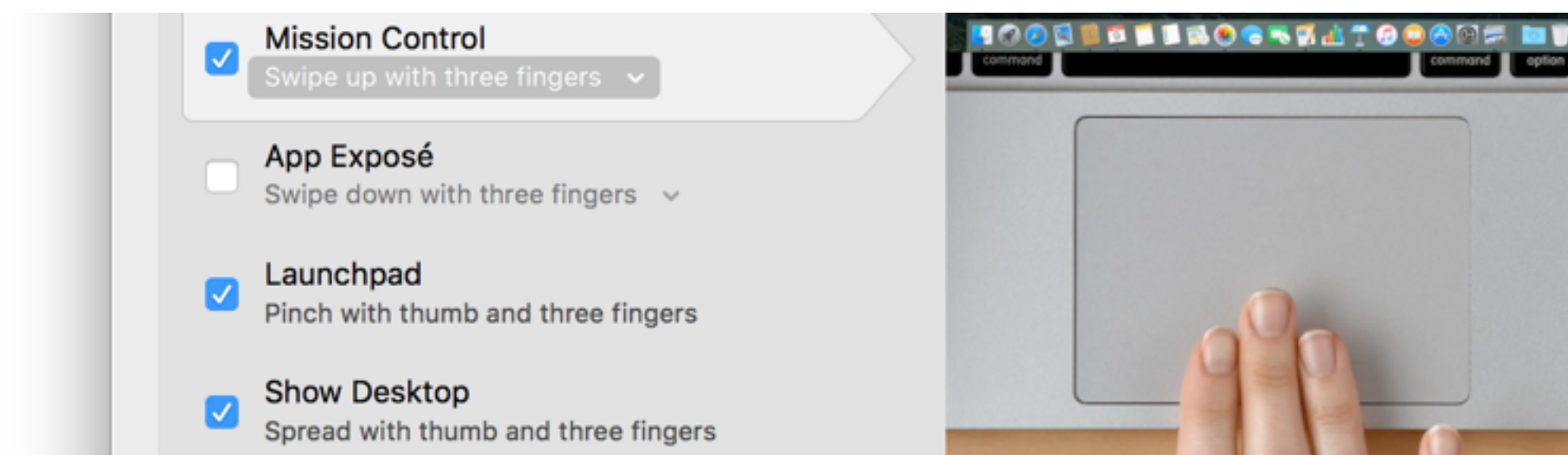
# Killer Tip Number 2

See all your open windows. Three finger swipe up.

If you ever have a ton of stuff open and there's one window that you want to get to, you'll be familiar with the annoyance of painstakingly dragging and moving things out of the way.

This wastes a ton of time you could be spending hanging out with your family.

Check out this amazingness: when you have a ton of stuff open, you can get a bird's eye view of everything super fast by swiping three fingers up on the trackpad like this:



Then you can just click the thing you want, right away!

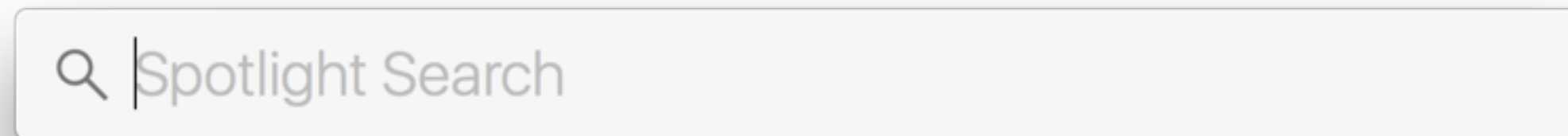
Don't have a trackpad? No worries! Just hit control-up arrow. You can change this from System Preferences -> Mission Control.

# Killer Tip Number 3

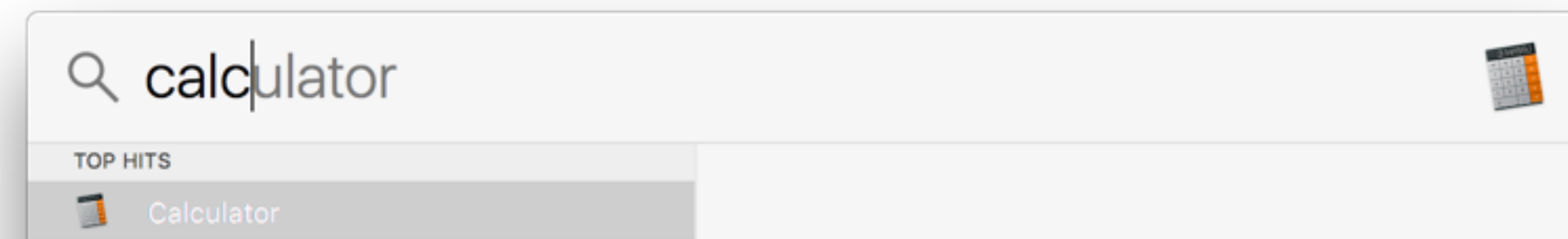
Launch your apps FAST, per [this video](#).

This is my favourite way to open apps. It is really efficient and super satisfying, especially when you're on a deadline trying to complete that life-changing proposal.

Whenever you need to get into an app you just hold command and press spacebar.



From there you just type the first letter or two of the app you want, and you will see it automatically fill in the rest as it recognizes what you're writing. As soon it shows the one you want, hit return to launch it.




The best part is that it will remember the ones you use most, and will get to a point where you can just type the first letter and hit return and it will open. Try it. Right now.

# Killer Tip Number 4

Is your Mac slow, is the App stuck, or is it the internet? Here's how to know for sure.

When you get that morale-ruining beach ball or sluggish Mac feeling, it could be the Mac, the App you're currently using, or the internet.

To find out where to direct your searing frustration, do these things in order:

1. First try to launch another app like Contacts and if it's quite peppy, then it's not the Mac itself. If it launches slowly, then you know it's the Mac. Quit your Apps and restart.
2. Then, try going to a website like [apple.com](http://apple.com) or [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) and if it loads up really fast, then you know it's not the internet. If it's really slow, call your internet provider or reset your WiFi. You can also test it from [speedtest.net](http://speedtest.net) or [fast.com](http://fast.com), and check out [this video](#).
3. If you then try to do something else in the app you were just in and it's slow, then that particular app is unhappy. Give it some time and then force quit from Apple menu  
() -> Force Quit. Warning: You will lose unsaved changes to whatever you were working on.

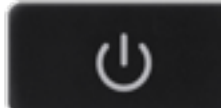


# Killer Tip Number 5

Restart your Mac. No, really, restart it.

Macs are like people. If you go, and go, and go, and work, and work, and never sleep... you would be a wreck who couldn't think their way out of a paper bag at the end of the night. Go to sleep.

The Mac equivalent to a good night's sleep is a restart. Press the following buttons or go to Apple Menu > Restart

control + 





How often you should give your Mac a restart?

1. If you just check your email and browse the internet or Facebook a few times a day, restart once a week.
2. If you are using your Mac hard with 5-10 apps at the same time, internet stuff, hands-on all day, restart once every 2-3 days.
3. If you are on a production machine doing high level video or audio stuff, or working a LOT with Microsoft Office, then close apps, save your stuff, and restart every night, or morning.

When your Mac is getting a good night's sleep it will be peppy, self-cleaning, and apps will run smoothly.



## Killer Tip Number 6

Close and quit stuff as you go, as you finish with it. [Per this video](#).

I apologize in advance, because I'm about to tell you what your mom has always told you;

it's just really, really important here, if you want your Mac to always feel fast.

**“Your goals are important to you.  
Don't let bad habits slow you down.”**

**— Mom**



It's okay if you don't do it, just know that the effect will be your Mac feeling slower and slower until it's slogging through knee-deep mud.

Clean up as you go. When you are finished with something, close it. Otherwise it will be lingering and using up “brainpower” on the Mac.

This goes for windows, apps, tabs, emails, messages, notes, etc. These two commands are your friends:

`cmd-w` to close windows and tabs

`cmd-q` to quit apps

Just get in the habit of knowing when you're done with something and “putting it away” by quitting or closing it.

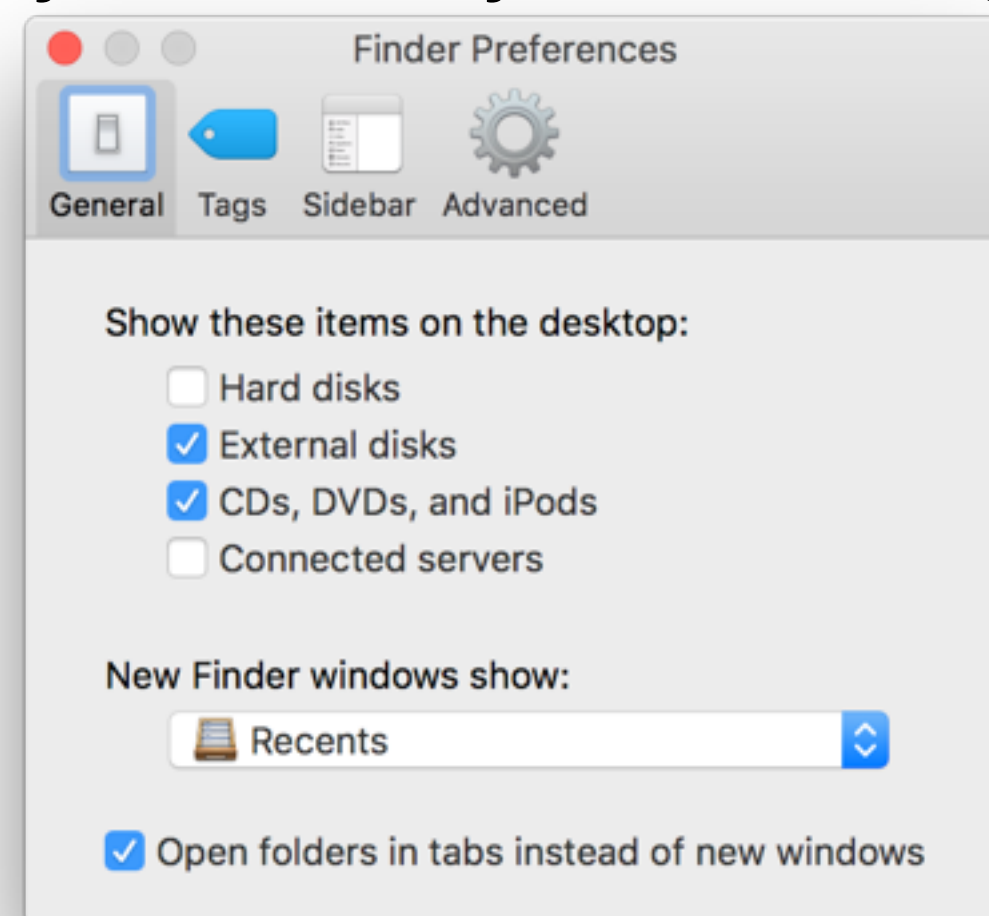


# Killer Tip Number 7

Set your default Finder windows to go to where you actually work, as per [this video](#).

I find this tip strangely satisfying. As a kid, I had a wall with everything I needed for my artwork within arms reach. I could do arts and crafts to my heart's content with zero wasted time.

On the Mac, when you click the Finder smiley face, it doesn't always take you where you want to go. It wastes a ton of time when you do it over and over.



Head to Finder preferences and set “New Finder windows show:” to the folder you go to the most.

Now every time you want to work on something, you can click that Finder face, and smile, because now your time is going to its best possible use.



# Killer Tip Number 8

Set up sidebar shortcuts usefully, as per [this video](#).

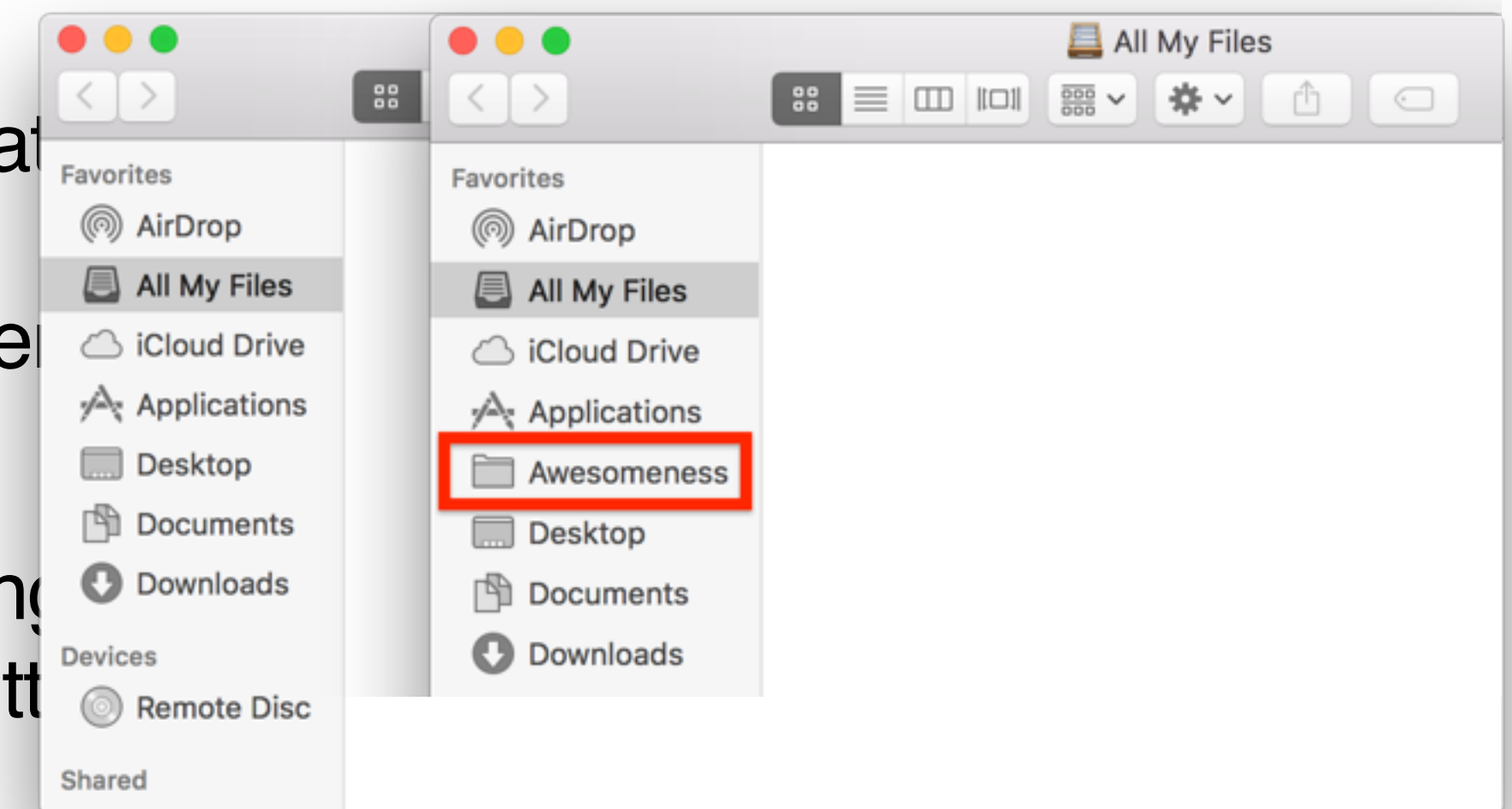
Want instant access to the stuff you use most? Just add your frequently accessed things to the Sidebar in your Finder windows.

This is unprecedented awesomeness that you'll appreciate over time. You can get straight to those folders from any Finder window, and from other apps when you go to Open or Save from there as well.

Just drag your folder in there, and put it between two things. Don't worry, it doesn't move your folder, it just makes a little shortcut so you can get there faster.

To get rid of something from the Sidebar just control-click it and choose "Remove from Sidebar."

When things are in the right place on your Sidebar, it's like owning a Tesla that has everything you need within sexy-efficient reach. Trade in your 1998 Impala now.



## Killer Tip Number 9

Only install the bare minimum apps, as per [this video](#).

Just like your wardrobe, you don't want to buy a bunch of stuff that doesn't quite fit right or represent your style. You don't want low quality items cluttering your closet. To kick butt in your life, you only want the right items to hand.

Installing apps on your Mac is a risky endeavor. Every one of them can make your Mac a little bit slower, or cause problems for you down the road.



Ask yourself these three questions to help steer clear of extra weight you'll need to trim later:

1. Do you really, actually need this now and into the future? Will it serve you, and save you time in the coming months?
2. Is the company that makes it, and the website you're getting it from, reputable and reliable? Examples: [adobe.com](https://www.adobe.com) or [apple.com](https://www.apple.com) or [microsoft.com](https://www.microsoft.com) versus [freevideodownload.com](https://www.freevideodownload.com) or [videoplayerforyou.com](https://www.videoplayerforyou.com)
3. Is it going to be a small app that you just use when you need it, or does it install things to your system in the background?

When you have your Mac (and your closet) stocked with just what you need, people will ask you routinely why you have such a bad-ass spring in your step.

# Killer Tip Number 10

Quit your Apps and run your Mac lean, the cool way, as per [this video](#).

Your Mac is like a person. It can only think about so many things at the same time before it starts bogging down and bugging out.

This one killer shortcut will show you all the stuff your Mac is thinking about, AND give you instant access to quit things you don't need.

Are you ready for this one?



Hold command and press tab once, but keep holding command. There. That's all the apps you have running right now:



If you press tab a couple more times, you'll see the little box moving. When you get to the one you want to quit, keep holding command and press q. If it has unsaved stuff, it will bug you to save, and you won't lose your stuff. You're safe here.

When you are using your Mac with ONLY the apps you actually need, you are a lean, mean, thinking-working machine. And so is your Mac.



Now go change the world  
with all this spare time you've created for yourself

If you want some one-on-one time with a smart, patient, non-condescending Apple expert,  
head to [macinhome.com](https://macinhome.com) or call 1-877-707-6227.

