



KeyCue™

User's Guide

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Contents

1. License agreement.....	2
2. Limited warranty	2
3. Contact	2
4. About KeyCue	3
5. System requirements	4
6. Installation	4
7. Using KeyCue.....	5
8. System-wide shortcuts	5
9. KeyCue and macro utilities.....	6
10. KeyCue Settings	6
11. Activation modifiers	7
12. Custom shortcut descriptions	8
13. Registering KeyCue	8
14. Uninstalling KeyCue	9
15. The KeyCue application shortcut interface	9
16. Reporting problems	9
17. Known issues	10

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About KeyCue

In a typical Mac OS X application, the most frequently needed menu items have keyboard shortcuts that let you access these menu items faster. Many applications have 40 or more menu shortcuts. Mail, for example, can have 80 or more keyboard shortcuts, depending on the current situation. Menu shortcuts may be convenient to use, but you first need to memorize them, and you must remember all of them correctly in order not to make mistakes that may lead to undesired results.

KeyCue is a simple utility application that helps you find, remember and learn keyboard shortcuts for menu items. Just hold down the command key for a while to see a table of all currently available menu shortcuts.



You don't even have to remember which key to press to invoke KeyCue; when you want to type a keyboard shortcut, you'll press the command key, anyway. If it takes longer as usual

before you type the key, KeyCue comes to help and shows you which shortcuts are available right now. When you have found the desired shortcut in the KeyCue table, just type it and continue working as usual. The KeyCue window will disappear automatically until you need help about shortcuts again.

When you use KeyCue for a while, you will be surprised about the multitude of menu shortcuts in many applications. Since some of these shortcuts are buried in submenus, you may not even be aware that they exist. KeyCue will help you learn what applications can do and how to use them more effectively.

KeyCue can also display a number of system-wide shortcuts provided by Mac OS X. You can choose whether you want to see a single large table that contains both menu shortcuts and system-wide shortcuts, or you can use different activation keys to show them in separate tables. See the sections [System-wide Shortcuts](#) and [Custom Modifiers](#) for more information.

When you have Keyboard Maestro (3.0 or newer), QuicKeys (4.0 or newer) or iKey (2.5 or newer) installed, KeyCue can also display a cheat sheet for the keyboard macros assigned defined in these utilities. See the section on [KeyCue and Macro Utilities](#) for more information.

System requirements

KeyCue requires Mac OS X 10.5 or newer.

Installation

Installation of KeyCue is easy. Download the disk image from our web server:

<http://www.ergonis.com/downloads/>

Mount the disk image and double-click the KeyCue icon in the Finder window that opens. KeyCue helps you with the installation by copying itself to the Applications folder and launching the installed copy.

KeyCue is now active, although it does not show up in the dock. Whenever you hold down the command key, KeyCue displays a table of shortcuts.

KeyCue uses a feature of Mac OS X to check for available shortcuts in the active application. Per default, this feature is turned off, so you need to enable it when you use KeyCue for the first time: In System Preferences, select "Universal Access" and enable the checkbox "Enable access for assistive devices". If this option is turned off, KeyCue will tell you and help you to open the Universal Access settings. Please note that you need administrator privileges to enable this checkbox. If you do not have the necessary privileges, ask your system administrator to enable this option for your Macintosh.

Using KeyCue

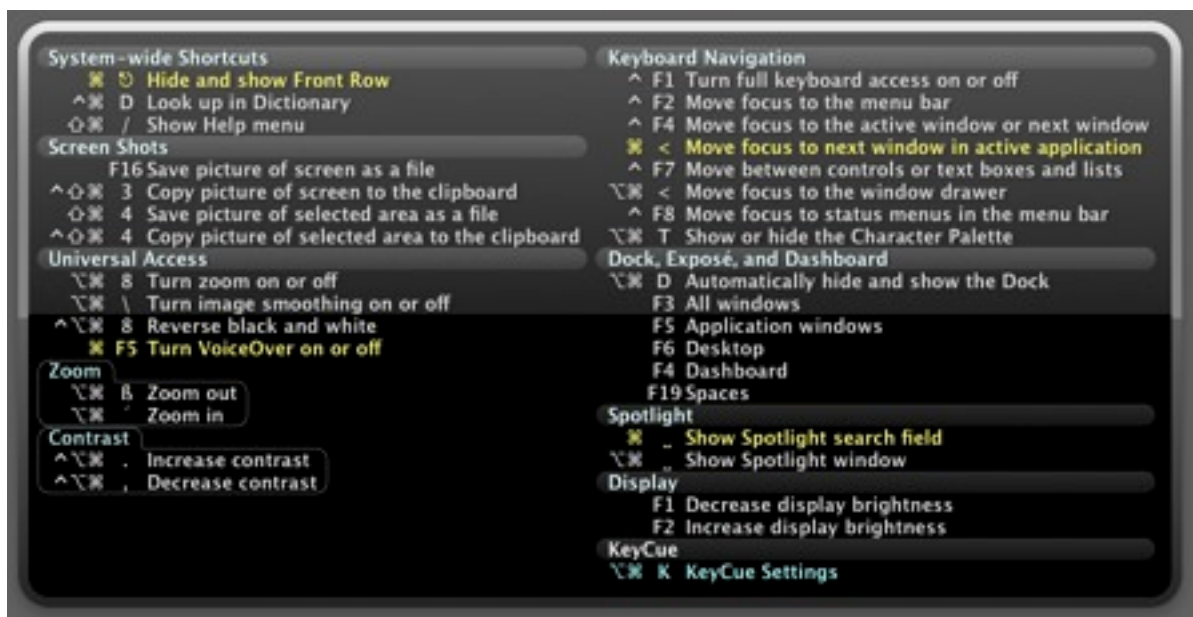
Using KeyCue is rather straightforward: Press the command key (and keep it pressed without moving the mouse or pressing another key), and KeyCue will display a table of all currently available menu shortcuts. When you press other modifier keys (such as option or shift) while the KeyCue table is visible, KeyCue highlights the matching menu items or dims those items that do not match the currently pressed modifier keys.

To activate a shortcut, just press the corresponding key combination or click the item on the screen. When you activate a shortcut or release the command key, the KeyCue table disappears automatically.

System-wide shortcuts

Mac OS X comes with a set of useful shortcuts for keyboard navigation, taking screen snapshots, zooming, activation of Spotlight, Exposé, Dashboard, and more. Starting with version 4.4, KeyCue also includes these shortcuts in a pop-up table.

You can decide whether the system wide shortcuts should appear together with the menu shortcuts in a single large table or in a separate table, as shown in the following snapshot:



These shortcuts have system-wide meaning and are generally active in any application. You can modify and disable shortcuts in the "Keyboard Shortcuts" section of the System Preferences panel "Keyboard & Mouse". KeyCue detects your changes and displays the correct keyboard combinations that are currently active.

The flat aluminum keyboards by Apple have some of these system-wide functions assigned to the "F keys" in the top row:



The functions (like Exposé for F3 and Dashboard for F4) are hard-wired and cannot be changed. The actual meaning of these keys may therefore not match your settings in System Preferences. KeyCue does not know which keyboard is attached to your computer and can therefore only display the system-wide shortcuts as defined in System Preferences. To avoid misleading information in KeyCue's shortcut table, we recommend that you manually change the settings in the "Keyboard Shortcuts" section of the System Preferences panel "Keyboard & Mouse" to match the function keys on your aluminum keyboard.

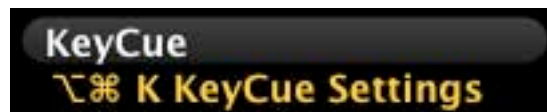
KeyCue and macro utilities

Macro utilities are software tools that let you define your own shortcuts for many different types of operations – simple menu commands as well as complex sequences of actions. Starting with version 4.5, KeyCue works together with three popular macro utilities, [Keyboard Maestro](#) (version 3.0 or newer), [QuicKeys](#) (version 4.0 or newer), and [iKey](#) (version 2.5 or newer). The combination of KeyCue with a macro utility takes your productivity to a new level: You define macros for common tasks, assign keyboard shortcuts to them and use KeyCue to display a list of macros, so you don't need to memorize all these keyboard combinations.

To display the available macros with their keyboard shortcuts, Keyboard Maestro, QuicKeys or iKey must be installed and active. In KeyCue's default configuration, just press the **ctrl** key instead of the command key to display a list of all macros. When certain macros are defined to be active only in certain applications, KeyCue will display only those macros that are enabled in the current situation.

KeyCue Settings

You can configure many aspects of KeyCue, such as when it should display the shortcut table, which actions should cause the table to disappear, what the table should look like and which shortcuts it should contain. To change these aspects, press the command key and wait until the shortcut table appears. The last item shows a keyboard shortcut for opening the settings window:



The default shortcut is command-option-K, but different modifier keys may be required if this shortcut is already used by the current application. You therefore must wait for the shortcut table to appear before you can open the settings window with the shortcut.

As an alternative, you can double-click the KeyCue application icon in the Finder. When KeyCue is already running, it will open the settings window.

The individual settings should be rather straightforward. We suggest that you simply try the various options. You can test the settings immediately without confirming the changes by clicking the OK button.

Activation modifiers

You can define which modifier keys should display the menu shortcuts, the system-wide shortcuts or the list of Keyboard Maestro, QuicKeys or iKey macros. To customize the keys, open the Settings window and click the Activation tab. The pop-up menus at the top let you define the actions for menu shortcuts, system-wide shortcuts and macros separately. To change the keys, open one of the pop-up menus and press the preferred modifier keys while selecting the activation method of your choice.

The first choice lets you use an arbitrary combination of modifier keys. KeyCue will then pop up when you press all these keys at once. The second choice defines which (single) modifier key must be pressed twice to activate KeyCue.

When you define the same key(s) for menu shortcuts, system-wide shortcuts and macros, KeyCue displays them all in the same table. If you prefer to see the menu and system-wide shortcuts in a single large window, use the same activation key(s) for the first two items. If you prefer separate smaller tables, just use different activation keys.

When KeyCue starts up, it briefly displays its icon in the center of the screen. Below the icon is a reminder that tells you which key(s) you have defined for the standard KeyCue display:



Note: For the sake of simplicity, the rest of this document refers to the default settings (command key for both menu and system-wide shortcuts, and ctrl key for macros).

Custom shortcut descriptions

The KeyCue Settings window contains a "Custom" section where you can enter additional shortcuts that cannot be detected automatically by KeyCue. For example, some applications accept hard-wired keyboard combinations for certain operations that are not listed in the menus and therefore cannot be found by KeyCue. The Custom section makes it easy to describe additional shortcuts specifically for all your applications.

Note that the Custom section does not allow you to actually *create* new shortcuts; it just lets you *describe* shortcuts that already exists. You can see this as a "cheat sheet" that you can create right inside KeyCue, and KeyCue displays your custom entries along with all the other shortcuts whenever you need them.

You can also export the complete set of shortcut descriptions for individual applications as files with the extension ".kcustom". These are compact descriptions of the custom keyboard shortcuts that you can import on another Mac or share with other KeyCue users.

You can find shortcut descriptions for some popular applications on our [Download Extras](#) web page. Just download these files and double-click them to import the shortcut descriptions into KeyCue. And you have created a set of shortcut descriptions that may be useful for other users, please contact us at <keycue-support@ergonis.com>. We would be more than happy to publish your contributions on our web pages.

Registering KeyCue

If you use KeyCue under the terms of a site license, this section does not apply for you. If KeyCue asks for a license key, ask your system administrator about the proper installation procedure.

KeyCue is distributed on a "try before you buy" basis. Unless you have a license key, KeyCue occasionally displays its registration window instead of the shortcut table. You can order a license key directly on our web pages:

<http://www.ergonis.com/store/>

For your convenience, the "Registration" section of the KeyCue settings dialog contains an "Order" button that takes you directly to our online store.

Once you have received your license key, enter it in the "Registration" section of the KeyCue settings dialog and click the "Register" button to unlock KeyCue.

Uninstalling KeyCue

To uninstall KeyCue permanently, perform these steps:

- Open the KeyCue settings window.
- In the "Activation" section, turn "Automatically start at login" off.
- Click the Quit button in the bottom left corner.
- Delete the KeyCue application.

The KeyCue application shortcut interface

Starting with version 5.0, KeyCue can display arbitrary shortcuts found in other applications, but it needs some support by these applications. We have defined a simple interface that allows other applications to tell KeyCue about available keyboard shortcuts. We invite software developers to use this interface. It is easy to implement and leads to an immediate benefit for both application developers and KeyCue users, as arbitrary applications can use KeyCue to display a "cheat sheet", and KeyCue can display all shortcuts found in an application, not only those that are tied to menu commands.

If you are a software developer and wish to use KeyCue's shortcut interface in one of your applications, please contact <keycue-support@ergonis.com> for more information.

Reporting problems

If you have any further questions or wish to report a problem, please send an e-mail message to <keycue-support@ergonis.com> or simply use the "Contact" section in KeyCue's settings window. We also would like to hear from you if you just want to tell us that you like KeyCue or you would like to suggest an improvement or additional feature. In any case, please include the following information in your reports:

- Macintosh model
- Mac OS X version
- Version number of KeyCue

If you wish to report a problem with incorrect shortcuts being displayed for a particular application, please also include

- the version number of the application,
- a detailed description of the situation (what's in the front window, what is selected in the window; where is the insertion point).

If you need to illustrate a problem with a screen snapshot showing the KeyCue table, you can use the Grab application in Applications/Utilities:

- Launch Grab.
- Select "Timed Screen" from the Capture menu.

- Move the "Timed Screen Grab" window into a corner of the screen.
- Click "Start Timer".
- Switch to the application in which you want to use KeyCue.
- Press the command key to display the KeyCue table.
- Wait until Grab beeps; continue pressing the command key until the "Timed Screen Grab" window disappears.
- Save the snapshot as a TIFF file and include it with your problem report.

Thank you for your cooperation. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Known issues

KeyCue uses a couple of sophisticated techniques to discover the available menu shortcuts within the current application. Although these techniques work well for the vast majority of Macintosh applications, you may come across one of the following deficiencies:

- When KeyCue does not seem to react or it takes extremely long until the shortcut table appears, this may be caused by many entries in the Services submenu. The content of this menu depends on the current situation, so the menu must be created dynamically, which can slow down KeyCue. Excluding the Settings menu can help to make KeyCue react faster. To do this, double-click the KeyCue application icon in the Finder to open the Settings window, select the View tab and disable the option "Include shortcuts in Services menu".
- Some menus and menu items do not contain text. For example, the script menus of some applications have a script icon as the menu title. KeyCue currently cannot display the proper symbols and shows a blank menu header instead.
- If you use a non-US keyboard, you may not be able to type some keyboard shortcuts. For example, a German keyboard does not have keys labeled with "[" and "]". If an application uses these characters for menu shortcuts (such as "command-]"), KeyCue will include them in the shortcut table, although you cannot type these shortcuts. However, you can activate these shortcuts by clicking them.
- There is a compatibility problem with Xounds by Unsanity that causes the "Menu Open" sound to play multiple times in rapid succession when KeyCue activates. This is a known problem that needs to be fixed by Unsanity. Until then, you can avoid the problem by disabling the "Menu Open" sound in Xounds.

We are currently investigating these issues and hope to fix them in future KeyCue versions. If you come across anything else that does not work as expected, please let us know by sending a problem report to <keycue-support@ergonis.com>.