CmdVees 1.2 User Guide

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Overview

What is CmdVees?

CmdVees is a minimalistic pasteboard enhancement for your Mac. With CmdVees you copy texts sequentially and paste them, one after another, elsewhere. You don't need to switch apps and move back and forth just to avoid overwriting the pasteboard.

When you paste a saved item, it's removed from CmdVees history. When you paste again, the next one will be used and removed, and so on.

For example: imagine you receive a message with a web address, a user name and a password. With CmdVees you copy all 3 bits of text sequentially: select the web address and press ⌘-C, select the user name and press ⌘-C and finally select the password and press ⌘-C. Now paste them sequentially too: open a browser and press ⌘-V to paste the URL, click the user name box and press ⌘-V, click the password box and press ⌘-V.

In short: ⌘-C, ⌘-C, ⌘-C, switch app, ⌘-V, ⌘-V, ⌘-V.

CmdVees can act as a Queue or as a Stack.

Copied items are accessible from a menu in the status bar, newest at the top. You can paste any saved snippet by choosing it from the menu.

To paste multiple items at once use the Join shortcut.

CmdVees is not limited to texts. You can copy almost anything (e-mails, RTF, web page fragments, etc.), and it will be converted to text when pasted, if necessary.

How it works

Background agent

When you launch CmdVees it starts a background agent that monitors your pasteboard and stores the copied texts in a stack. The agent will keep running even if you quit CmdVees main app. In the configuration window there is a button (1 in figure below) to stop/start the agent, or to configure it to run as a Mac OSX login item.
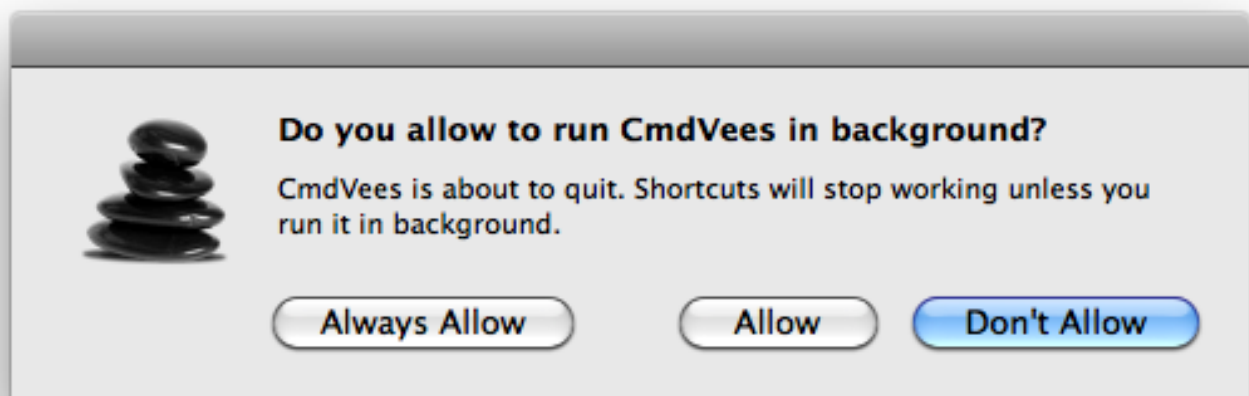
Stop/Start
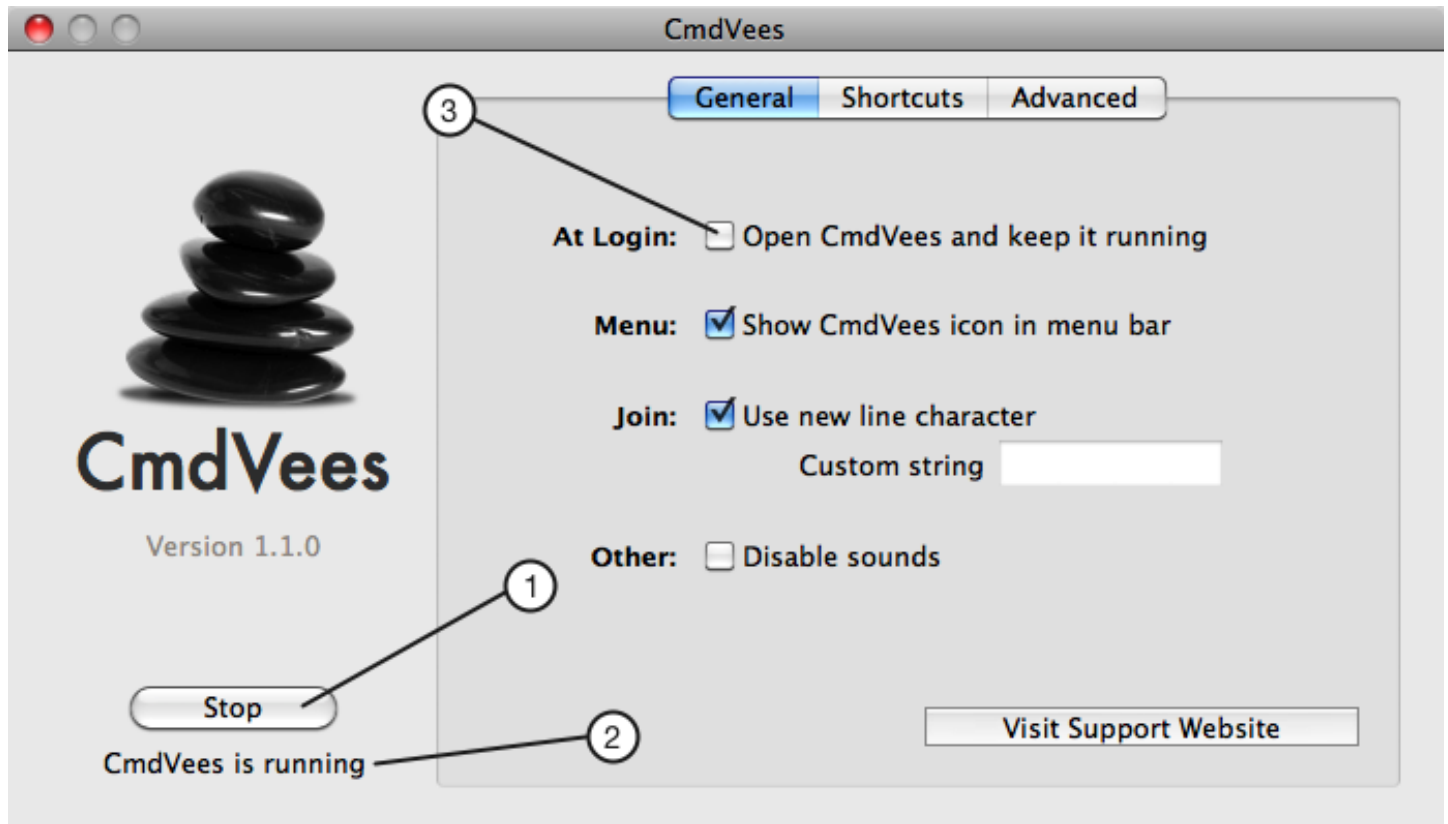
1. Stop/Start the background agent.
2. Current background agent running state.
3. Configure the background agent as login item.

Allow background task

When you quit CmdVees main app, it will ask you permission to run the background agent.

- **Don't Allow:** background agent will be stopped. You won't be able to use CmdVees shortcuts until you run the application again.
- **Allow**: background agent will continue to run. You can stop it at any moment from status bar menu or using the Stop button.
- **Always Allow**: Like Run, but you won't be asked again.

Stack and Queue modes

CmdVees keeps a stack with copied items. When you copy a new item it goes on top of the stack. When you press the Paste shortcut, CmdVees selects an item, depending on the current mode, paste and remove it.

You can configure CmdVees to act as a queue or as a stack:
- In **Queue** mode, the first item copied (oldest one) will be pasted and removed.
- In **Stack** mode, the item on top of the stack (newest one) will be pasted and and removed.

Depending on your activity you will find Queue or Stack mode more suitable. We think Stack mode is perfect to write source code while Queue mode is better to deal with e-mails. You can switch mode quickly on menubar menu (right click) and experiment to find out what's best in your case.

To bypass Stack (last-in first-out) or Queue (first-in, first-out) order, pick an arbitrary item from the menu.

Shortcuts

The motivation to create CmdVees was stop overwriting the standard pasteboard each time you copy a new item plus access those copied items quickly without menus or floating windows. We wanted to smooth the copy/paste flow as much as possible, increasing our productivity writing source code.

The only way to achieve this objective is via keyboard shortcuts.

Shortcuts
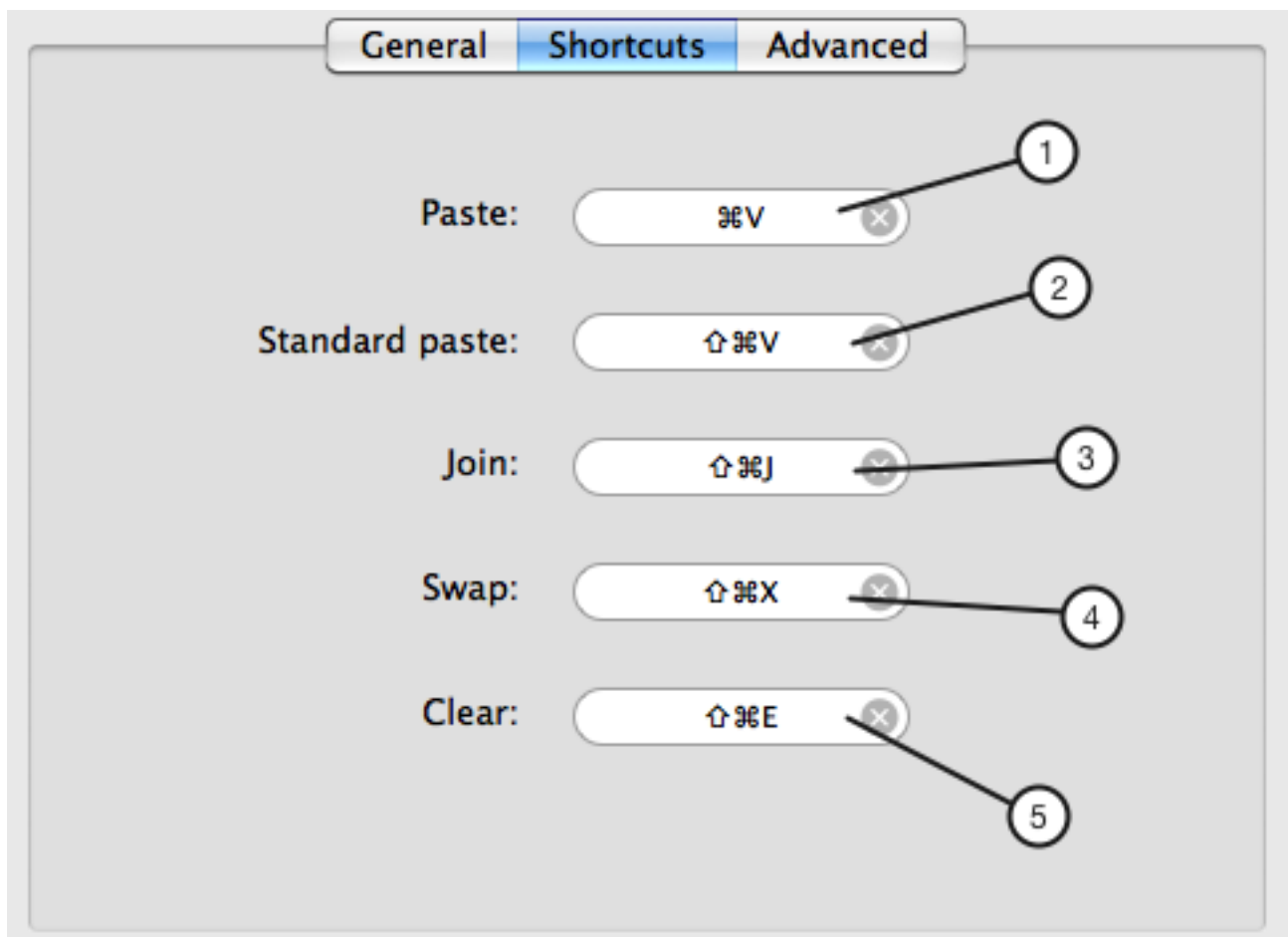
1. Paste

This is the most powerful CmdVees shortcut. It pastes the item on top or bottom of the stack and remove it. One item at a time. It pastes items in the same order they were copied (Queue) or reversed (Stack).

Why do you want to do this? Let's explain it with an example: imagine you receive a message with a web address, a user name and a password. Without CmdVees you need to:

•   In message, copy username
•   Switch app, paste username
•   Switch app back, copy the password
•   Switch app again, paste the password

With CmdVees you can do:
- In message, copy username, copy password
- Switch app, paste username (first copied), paste password

It seems a very little saving, but at the end of the day it sums up a lot of time and much less app switching. Especially if you do a lot of copy-paste operations during the day, and I bet you do.

If there are more than 3 or 4 copy operations you may forget the order. No problem, just pick the right one from the menu.

2. Standard paste.

This is the usual OSX paste shortcut. We allow its customization in order to use the default OSX paste shortcut, Command-V, as CmdVees Paste shortcut.

3. Join

This shortcut will paste the concatenation of all available items on the stack. In General tab you can customize how the items will be joined. The stack is emptied after the join. If you wan to customize joins even further in Advanced settings.

4. Swap

Exchange item on top of stack with current selection.

5. Clear

Remove all items without pasting them. If you set Detect new items option, only newest items will be removed. If you want to remove all items in the stack, unconditionally, press the option (⌥) key while the menu is visible and click "Clear All".

Default shortcuts

Paste: ⌘V
Standard paste: ⇧⌘V
Join: ⇧⌘J
Swap: ⇧⌘X
Clear: ⇧⌘E

Drag and drop

Instead of using the ⌘C shortcut to copy, you can drop text snippets over the menu bar icon. CmdVees doesn't accept any item yet. If the dragged snippet is valid a + symbol over a green circle will appear to give you visual feedback. Dropped items will be added to the stack exactly as if you copied them with the shortcut.
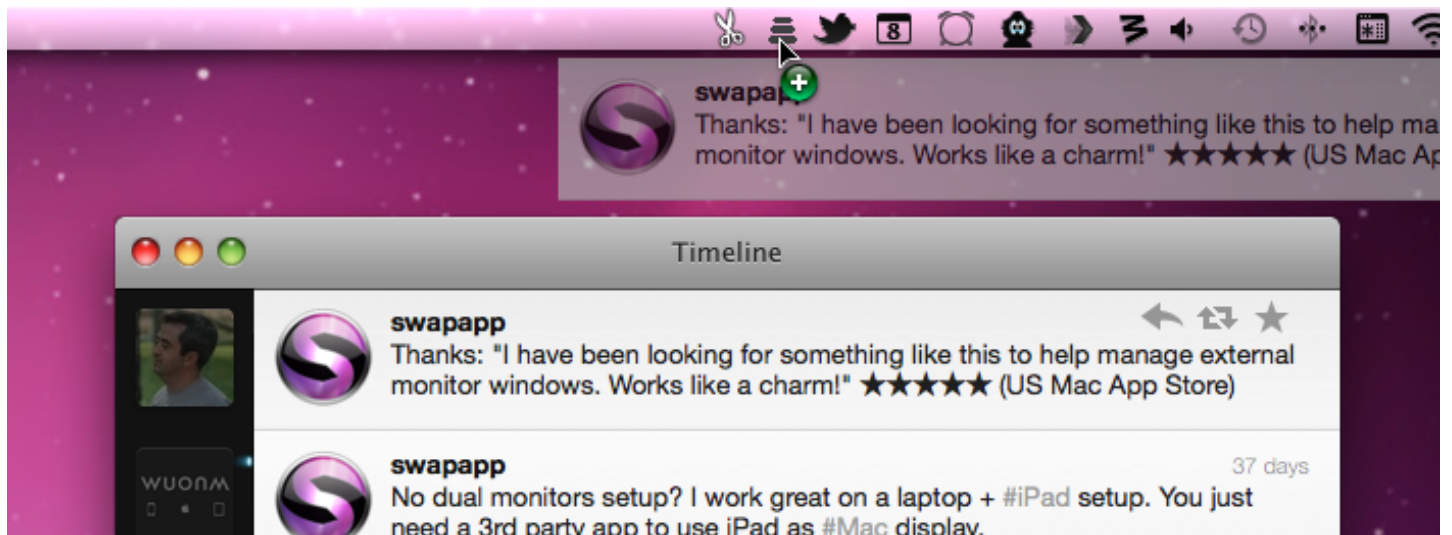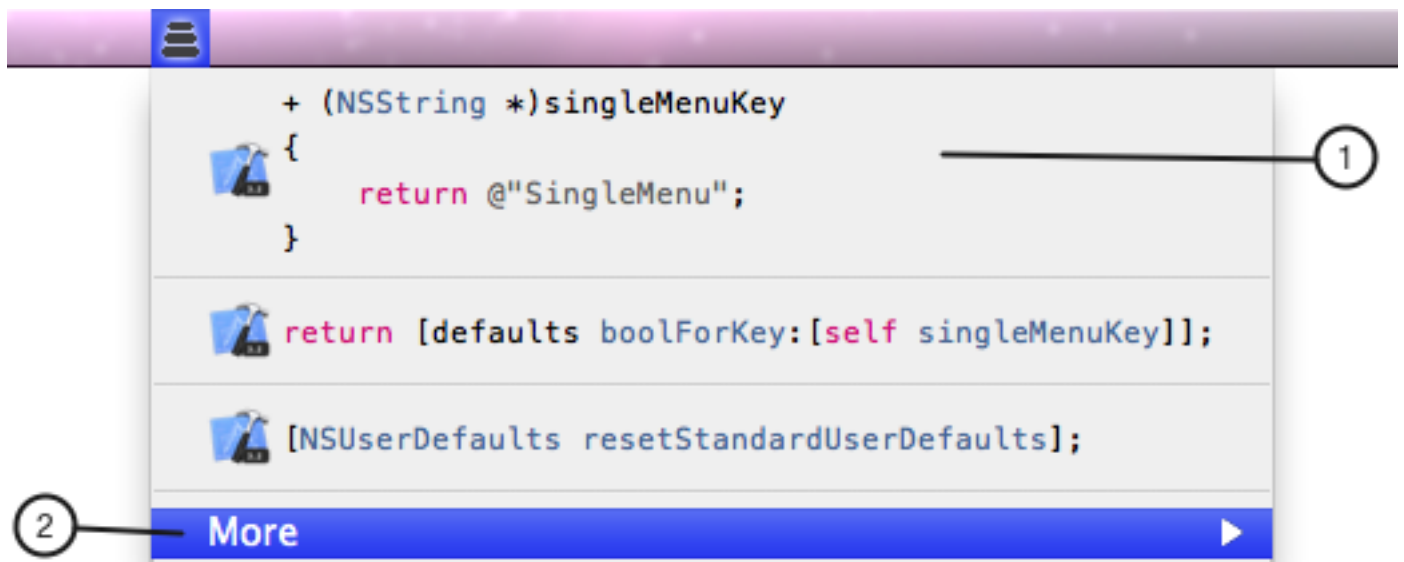
The menu

Menubar icon and menus

CmdVees features two different menus. The main one contains the copied items. You access it clicking with the mouse's left button on menubar icon. The secondary menu, accessible with a right click, contains commands and options.

You can hide or show the menubar icon on General preferences and use CmdVees exclusively with keyboard shortcuts. Launch CmdVees app to change preferences when the menubar icon is hidden.
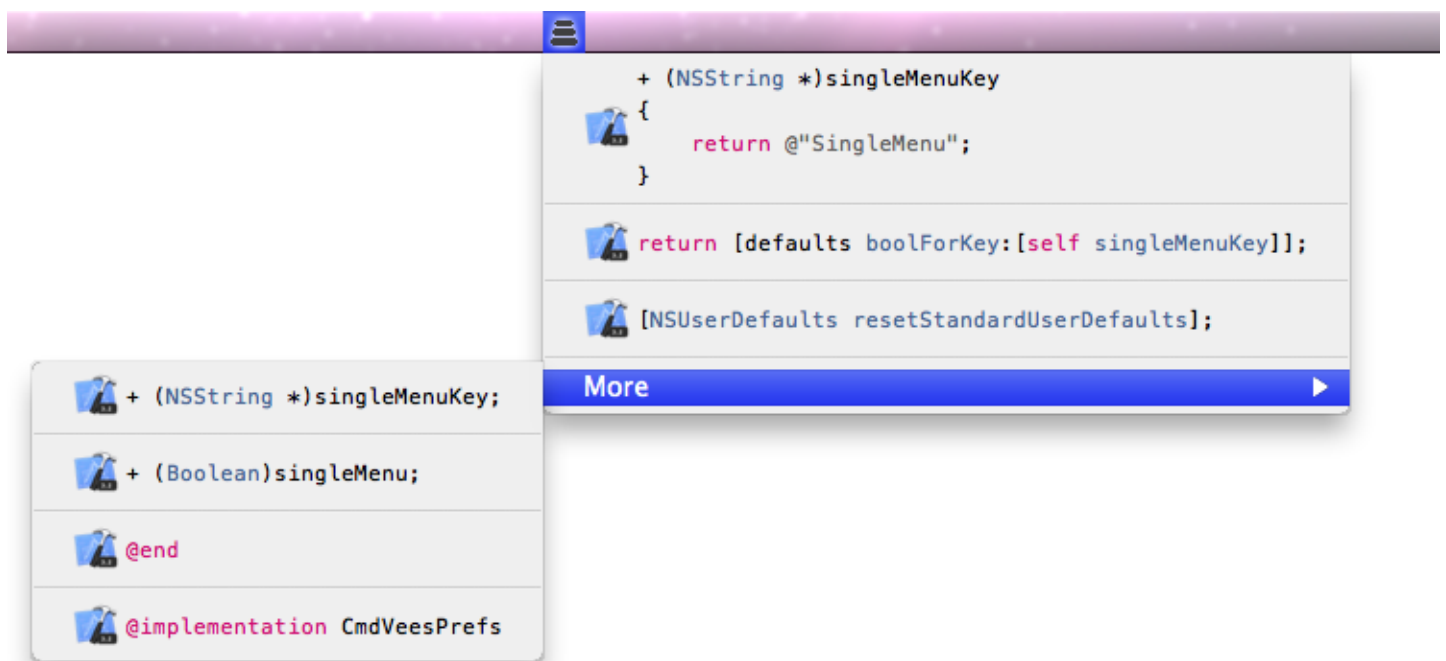
Copied items

Each time you copy a compatible item (a text fragment, an e-mail, a chunk of a web page, etc.) it gets added to the stack. First item (1 in the figure above) in the menu is the top item on the stack. There is a limited number of items to show in the first level menu. Additional items will show up in a submenu under "More" section (2 in above figure). You can set how many items to show in Advanced preferences.
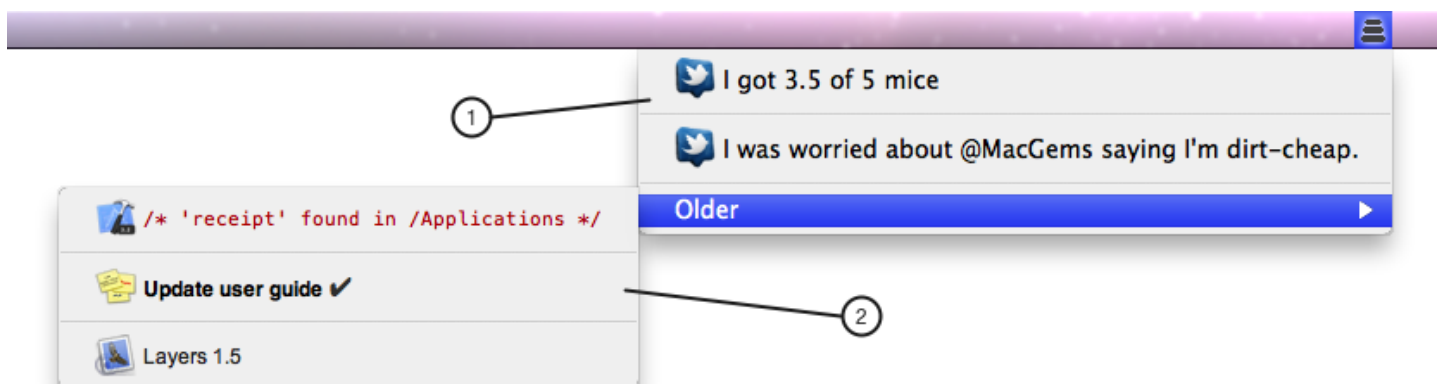
Commands and options

Paste   ⌘V
Join   ⇧⌘J
Swap   ⇧⌘X
Clear   ⇧⌘E

✓ Stack
Queue

Configure...

Quit CmdVees
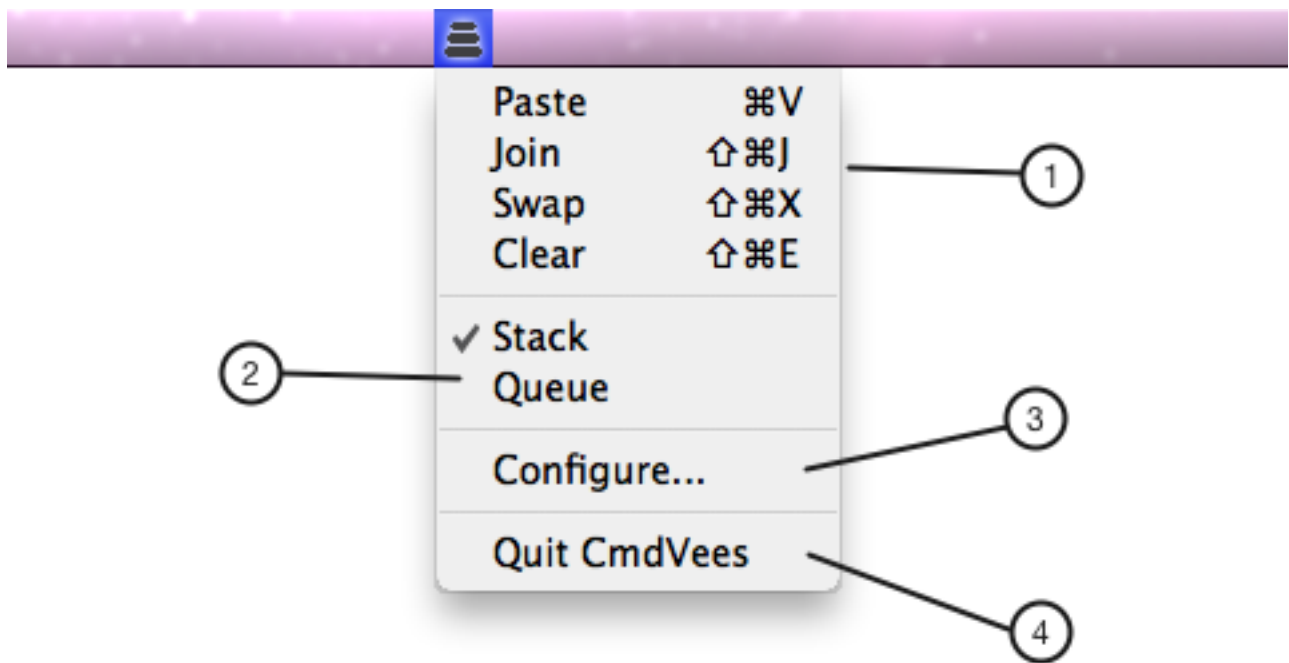
The menu has 4 parts:
1. Commands. Use them if you don't want to remember shortcuts.
2. Switch mode.
3. Launch configuration window.
3. Quit the agent.

More submenu


```
        + (NSString *)singleMenuKey
        {
            return @"SingleMenu";
        }

        return [defaults boolForKey:[self singleMenuKey]];

        [NSUserDefaults resetStandardUserDefaults];

More                                                                    ▶
```

```
        + (NSString *)singleMenuKey;

        + (Boolean)singleMenu;

        @end

        @implementation CmdVeesPrefs
```

Clicking "More" will show additional items. The idea is to keep the first level menu simple, in order to find out quickly what you're looking for.

Older submenu


```
                                    ① ┄ I got 3.5 of 5 mice

                                        I was worried about @MacGems saying I'm dirt-cheap.

                                    Older                                          ▶
```

```
        /* 'receipt' found in /Applications */

        Update user guide ✔              ┄ ②

        Layers 1.5
```

CmdVees detects periods of inactivity between copy operations. When that happens, a new submenu is created for "old" copied items. You can set the number of seconds of the inactiviy period in Advanced preferences.

Example: you spend a few minutes on your Twitter client and decide to copy a few tweets (1 in the figure). You want to send them to a friend over IM and you decide to do it via the menu. Probably you are not interested in your "work" pasteboard (2 in the figure). It's much convenient to see just the items you copied recently and move the rest to a submenu.

Paste and remove from menu

You can paste an arbitrary item from the stack by selecting it on the menu. If you want to paste and remove it you, should press command key (⌘) and click the menu item without releasing it. It works exactly like the paste shortcut but for any item in the stack.

You can configure command key (⌘) the other way around in Advanced preferences:
- Click to paste and remove
- Command-click to just paste

Configuration

Configuration

To change CmdVees preferences, open the main app or click "Configure..." item on status bar menu.

Configuration options are grouped into 3 categories:
 - General
 - Shortcuts
 - Advanced

You can change preferences with CmdVees agent running. **To commit a change press Enter key or change focus.**

General Configuration

In the General tab you can customize CmdVees behaviour, appereance and more.
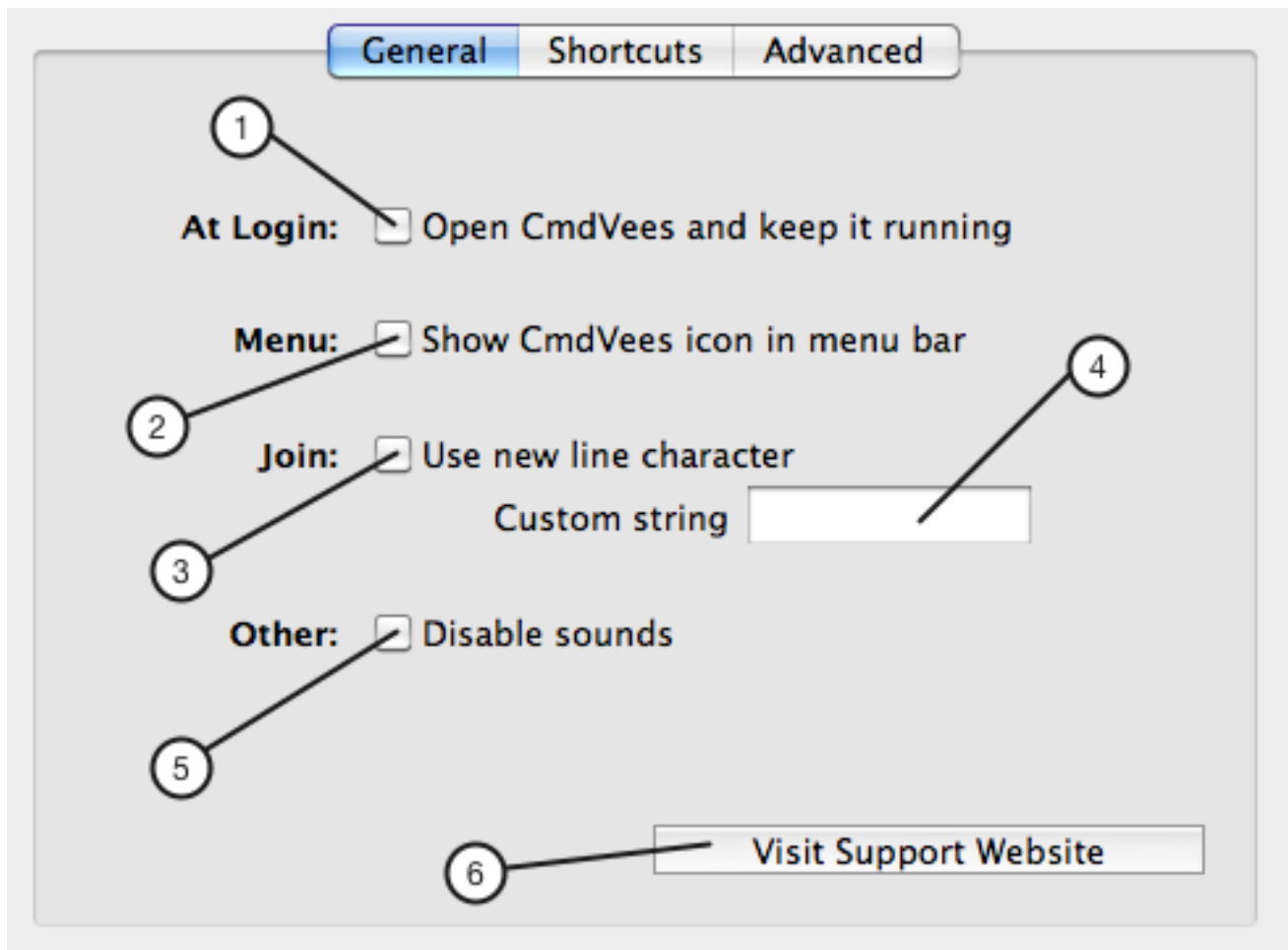
1. Open CmdVees at login. Once set up, a "login item" is one that opens automatically after you log into the computer.
2. Check to show CmdVees in menu bar. If you hide the menu bar icon, you must operate CmdVees on shortcuts only. To change the configuration, launch CmdVees main app.
3. Check to add a new line character after each stack item when joining.
Example: if you have 2 items in the stack: "hello", "world" and you join them with this option enabled, the resulting paste will be:
hello
world
If you uncheck the option, the resulting paste will be:
helloworld
4. When you uncheck "new line character" option, you'll be able to customize a string to use as joiner. By default it's the empty string. Use **\n** to embed new lines and **\t** to embed the tab character.
Example: using "**;\n**" as separator string, the resulting paste will be:
hello;
world
5. Check to disable sounds. CmdVees will play a sound when you clear the stack or if you use the paste shortcut when the stack is empty.
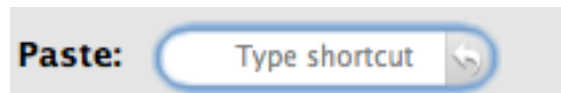**6.** Click to open CmdVees support web site in the default browser.

Shortcuts configuration

Customize the shortcuts to match your personal preferences.

Click the shortcut

Paste: ⇧⌘V   1
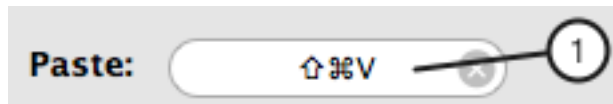
Click the white area of the shortcut control as in 1 above.
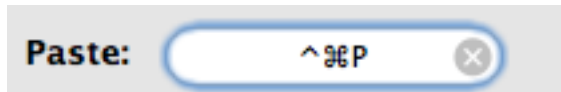
Type the keyboard combination

Paste: Type shortcut

Enter the new keyboard combination. You should press all wanted keys, they must be pressed for a moment at the same time, then release all together. Example: press command key, press control key and P.
To cancel just press Escape.

You're done

Paste: ^⌘P

The control will show the new key combination. If you are not familiar with those symbols:
⌘ Command
⌥ Option
⇧ Shift
^ Control

Shortcut in use

The key combination ⌘V can't be used!

The key combination "Command + V" can't be used because it's already used.

OK

If you try to use the same shortcut twice, you'll get an alert explaining that's not possible.

Advanced Configuration

You would like to play with these options to find your perfect setup.

Advanced preferences

Customize the stack and menu behaviour.

History

1. Select the paste mode. Stack mode will paste items in reverse order as they were copied. Queue mode will paste in the same order as they were copied.
2. Check to discard any formatting when copying texts. The menu will show plain text items. It is slightly faster and responsive and consume less memory.

3. Limit the number of stored items. The internal stackwill discard older items when adding more than the number specified. Should be greater than zero.

Join
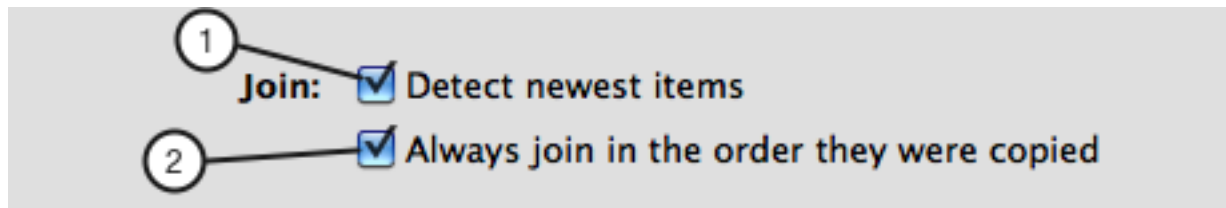
1. Detect newest items (using **Consider items old after (seconds)** value) and join just them. See how it works.
2. Stack mode only: respect the order items were copied. Individual paste will use newest item but join will paste in natural order.

Menu
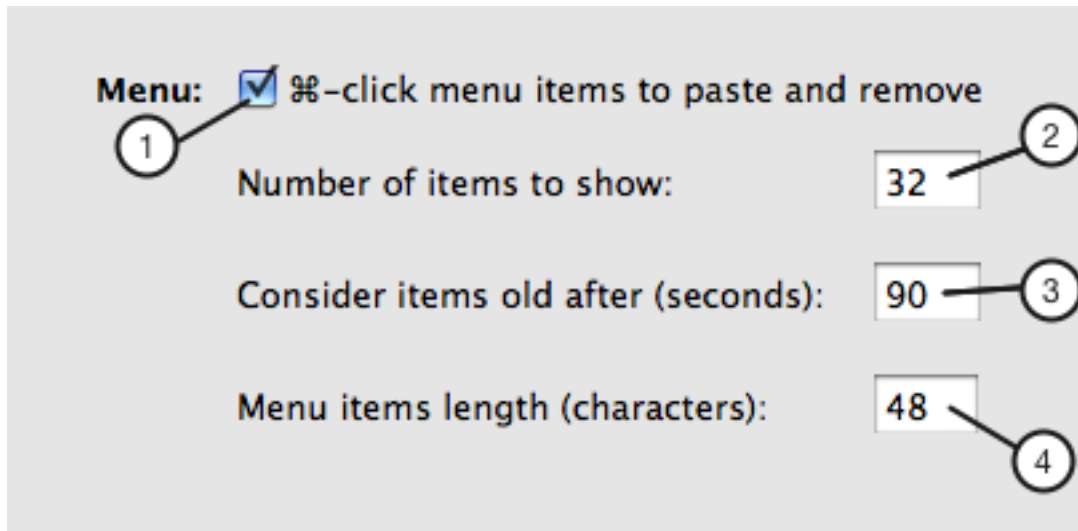
1. Check to use command-click in menu items in order to paste and remove from stack and just click to paste without removing them. When unchecked it works the other way around: click on menu items will paste and remove, command click just paste.
2. Limit the maximum number of items in first level menu. Should be greater than zero.
3. Number of seconds before an item is considered old and moved to a second level submenu. Should be greater than one second.
4. Limit the width of menu items. It is a number of characters. New lines characters are treated like any other character. Should be greater or equal than 8. You can enter zero for unlimited width.

Join

Detect newest items

Most of the time you want to join newest items, not the full content of the stack, even if you're using Queue mode.
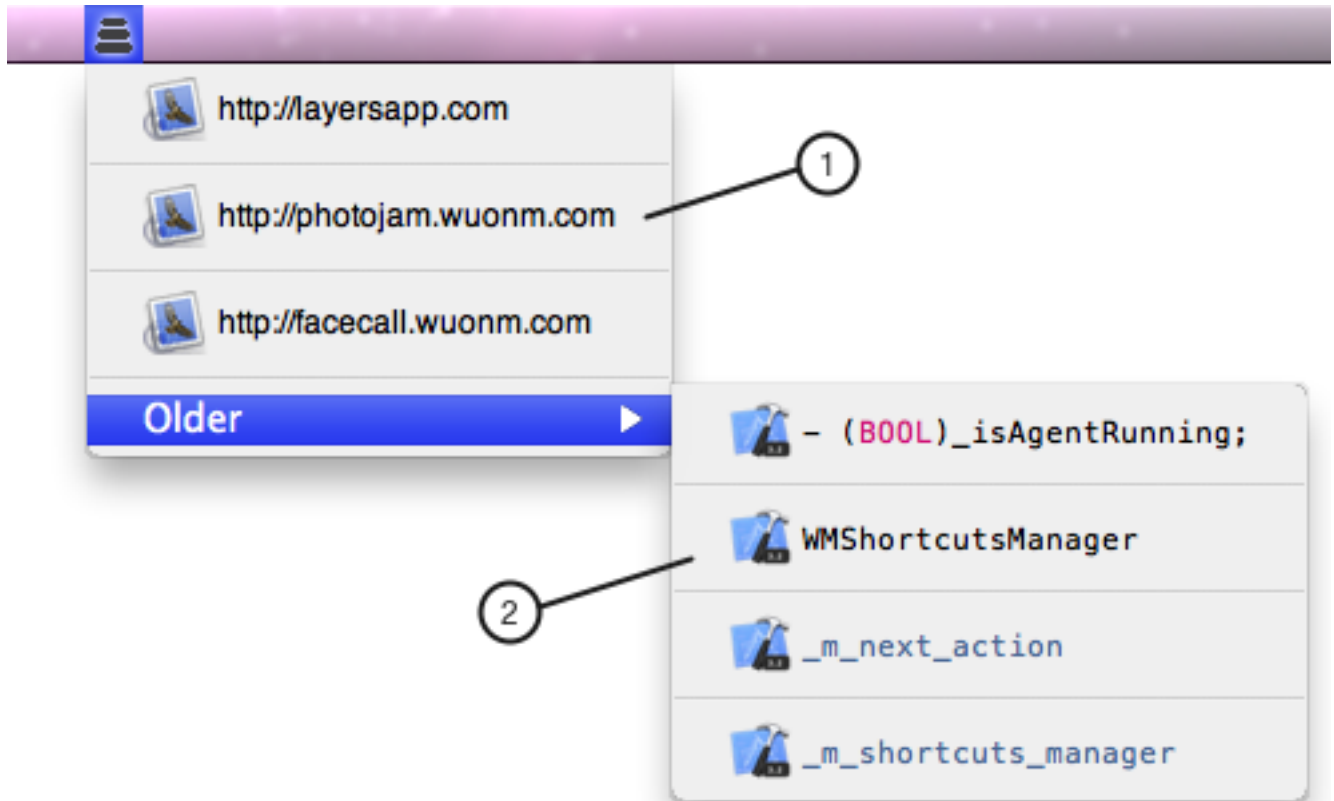
Set "Detect newest items" to check the timestamp of each snippet and stop joining when the gap is bigger than the specified on "Consider items old after (seconds)" option.
Example: in figure above only items on first level (marked as 1) will be joined and removed.
Rest of items (marked as 2) will stay on menu.

Respect order

Set "Always join in the order they were copied" to join items in the same order they were copied, even on Stack mode.

Support

Frequently Asked Questions

The Trial is newer than the Mac App Store version. Why?

The Mac App Store version of CmdVees should be approved by Apple before it is widely available for users. Apple review process is not always as fast as we would like it to be.

On the other hand, the Trial version is published on CmdVees web site immediately after our own validation process ends.

If you want to use the newest version of CmdVees, you just need to download the Trial to a different folder, anywhere except /Applications. When you launch CmdVees Trial, it will detect your purchased copy on /Applications and **will unlock itself removing the trial time limitation**. When the updated version reaches the App Store you can stop using the Trial version and move it to the trash.

I can't paste on Spotlight box. Why?

CmdVees shortcuts doesn't work on Spotlight box. We don't yet why. We'll fix it as soon as we find the reason.

There is a couple of work arounds:

1. Use the right click menu and choose Paste.
2. Customize CmdVees Paste shortcut to a different combination, anything except ⌘-V. This way, you can use OSX ⌘-V paste shortcut in Spotlight box.

Where is "Configuration..." menu item now?

It is on status bar icon context menu. Right click on the icon to obtain the menu. Also, you can access CmdVees configuration launching the main app.

Troubleshooting

Enable logs and provide feedback
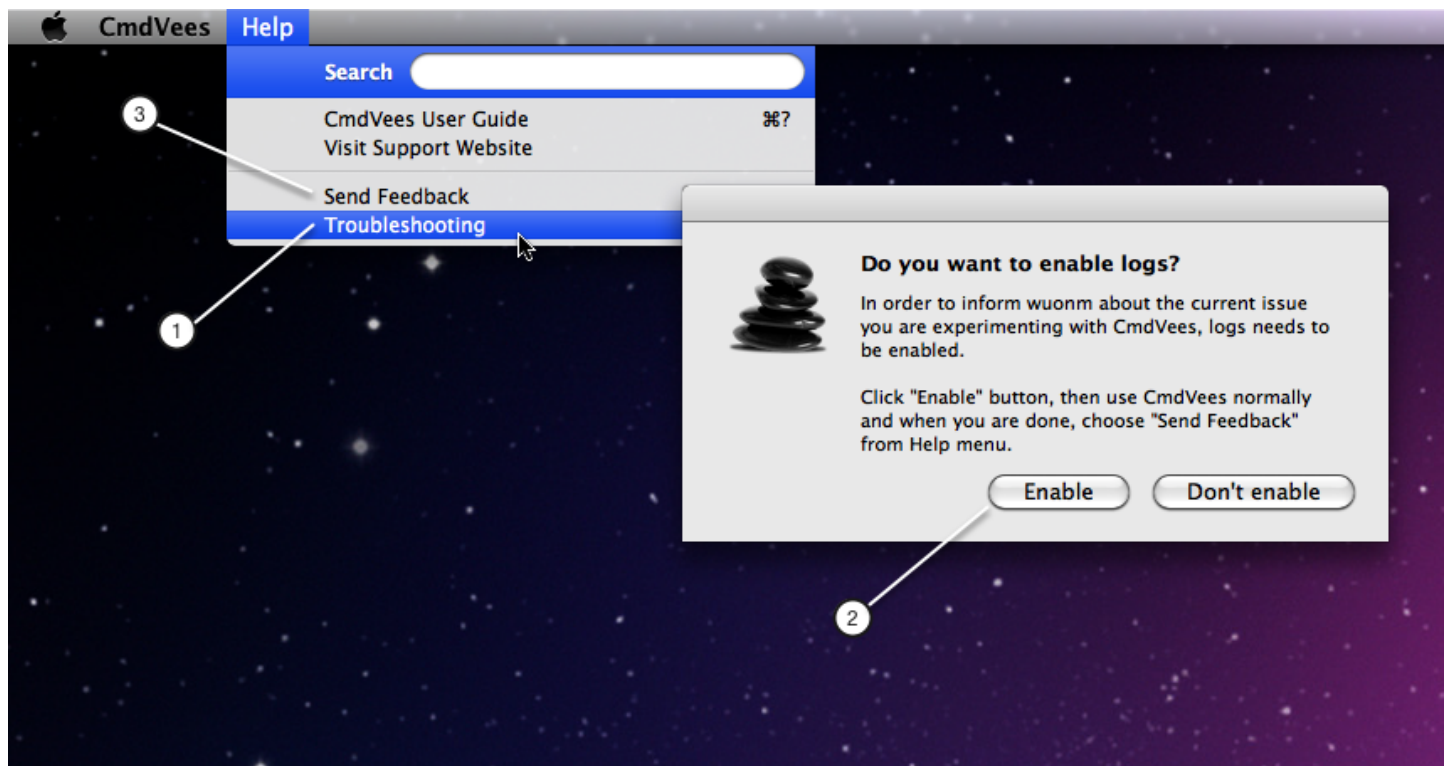
If you experiment a problem with CmdVees, follow these steps to send us the relevant information easily:

1. Choose "Troubleshooting" item in Help menu.

2. Click "Enable" button to start logging information.

Once logging is enabled, repeat the action that caused the issue.

3. Choose "Send Feedback" in Help menu. A window (see below) will show up to gather information and send a bug report.

Send Bug Report

1. Describe the problem you have found.
2. Enter the steps required to reproduce the problem.
3. Mark if you consider this bug critical.
4. Check if you want to receive a copy.
5. Verify your e-mail address or write it down.
6. Click "Send" button.

When you send the bug report we'll receive an email message with the information you entered plus the log file.

The background application doesn't respond. How can I stop it?

If the Stop/Start button doesn't work, you can terminate the background application running the following command on a Terminal:

```
killall CmdVeesAgent
```

Alternatively, you can look for CmdVeesAgent on Activity Monitor, select it and click Quit Process button on top left corner.

About

About CmdVees

CmdVees 1.1 is a Mac application developed by wuonm.
Requires an Intel Mac running OSX 10.6.6 or better.
Languages: English, French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Chinese and Portuguese.

CmdVees Copyright (c) 2011 wuonm

We'll be happy to hear from you. Send us your questions, complaints or suggestions:

Web site: http://cmdvees.wuonm.com/support
Support e-mail: cmdvees@wuonm.com
Twitter: @cmdvees

Legal information

Company:
Wuonm Web Services S.L.
B84533439

Address:
Avenida de Levante, 52
28521 Madrid
Spain

Phone:
+34 668869688

E-mail:
info@wuonm.com

Credits

CmdVees uses code from several Open Source projects.

ShortcutRecorder

http://code.google.com/p/shortcutrecorder/

Copyright 2006-2007 Contributors. All rights reserved.
License: BSD
Contributors:
   David Dauer
   Jesper
   Jamie Kirkpatrick

DDHotKey

https://github.com/davedelong/DDHotKey

DDHotKey Copyright (c) 2010, Dave DeLong http://www.davedelong.com

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Sparkle

http://sparkle.andymatuschak.org/

Created by Andy Matuschak on 2/13/08.
Copyright 2008 Andy Matuschak. All rights reserved.

AquaticPrime License

http://aquaticmac.com/

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MAAttachedWindow

Includes "MAAttachedWindow" code by Matt Gemmell.
http://mattgemmell.com/files/source/maattachedwindow.zip
http://mattgemmell.com/

JSON

http://code.google.com/p/json-framework/

PyATOM - Automated Testing on Mac

https://github.com/pyatom/pyatom with modifications available at
https://github.com/madmw/pyatom

PyAtom has been used to partially automate the testing. It is not included as part of the product. Licensing terms doesn't apply.