



# **Typinator™ Read Me**

**Version 1.2  
December 2005**

**Typinator™ is a macility® product**

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## About Typinator

Typinator is a simple application that helps you to quickly type phrases or insert pictures in documents. Configuration is easy: You just define abbreviations and their expansion text or picture. Whenever you type one of these abbreviations in an arbitrary application, Typinator inserts the corresponding expansion.

Typinator can be helpful for a variety of tasks. You can use it to ...

- quickly type greeting phrases
- set up a list of standard text fragments to be used in e-mail replies
- pre-format text fragments with multiple fonts and included pictures
- insert the current date and/or time in arbitrary formats with a few keystrokes
- "type pictures", such as smilies or bullets
- insert Unicode symbols (such as →) by typing few special characters (e.g., "-->")
- define shorthands for frequently used Unix commands
- quickly create templates for code fragments, if you are a programmer
- and much more...

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## System Requirements

Typinator requires Mac OS X 10.3 ("Panther") or newer.

## Installation

To install Typinator, simply copy it to a convenient place on your startup disk. We recommend putting it into the Applications folder. After copying Typinator, unmount the distribution disk image and start Typinator by double-clicking its icon. When you start Typinator for the first time, the abbreviations window appears. We recommend adding Typinator to your list of login items by clicking the Preferences icon in the toolbar and enabling the checkbox "Automatically start Typinator at Login".

Typinator requires a global Mac OS X setting to monitor keystrokes. Per default, this feature is turned off, so you need to enable it when you use Typinator 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, Typinator will tell you and help you to open System Preferences. 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.

To install a newer version of Typinator while another copy is still running, upgrade to the new version in these steps:

- Quit Typinator.
- Copy the new version from the disk image into the same folder as the old version; click "Replace" when the Finder warns you that an older version already exists.
- Double-click the icon of the new version to launch it.

## First Steps

When you install Typinator for the first time, it comes with three predefined abbreviations:

Abbreviation	Expansion
typurl.	<a href="http://www.macity.com/products/typinator/">http://www.macity.com/products/typinator/</a>
dt.	{YYYY}-{MM}-{DD}
typicon.	<i>Picture</i>

To see how Typinator works, we suggest that you try the following steps:

- Launch Typinator and make sure its icon shows up in the dock. Typinator's abbreviations window does not need to be open, so you can close it before you continue.
- Start TextEdit and open a new window.

- Type the abbreviation "typurl.". Note that the abbreviation is in all lower-case letters and ends with a period. As soon as you type the period, Typinator replaces the abbreviation with the URL of the Typinator web page.
- Also try this in the address field of your favorite web browser. Just enter "typurl.", and the complete URL will appear.
- Back in TextEdit, type "dt." (again with a period). Typinator immediately inserts the current date in the form year-month-day.
- You can also use this abbreviation in the Finder. For example, create a new folder and rename it to "dt."
- Again in Textedit, start a new line, type "typicon." and watch Typinator inserting its icon.

These first experiments should give you an impression how Typinator works. The following sections describe how you can define your own abbreviations.

## Defining Abbreviations

Before you can use your own abbreviations, you need to define them. Click the "+" symbol in the toolbar to add a new item, then enter the abbreviation and the expansion text. You don't need to confirm or save your settings; all changes take effect immediately.

Once you are done adding abbreviations, you can close the Typinator Abbreviations window. Typinator will then work in the background, watch your keystrokes and expand abbreviations as you type them. If you wish to add more abbreviations or edit existing abbreviations, just click the Typinator icon in the dock, and the abbreviations window will reappear.

## Recommended Abbreviations

Abbreviations must consist of at least two characters, and they must not overlap with each other. For example, "xy" and "xyz" would be ambiguous because Typinator would not know what to do when you type "xy": expand this abbreviation immediately or wait for "z". If there is any problem with an abbreviation, Typinator displays a message in red:



It is generally a good idea to avoid abbreviations that might appear elsewhere in typed text. For example, the abbreviation "cal" (as a shorthand for "Charles A. Lindbergh") would expand whenever you type something like "calculate" or "calendar".

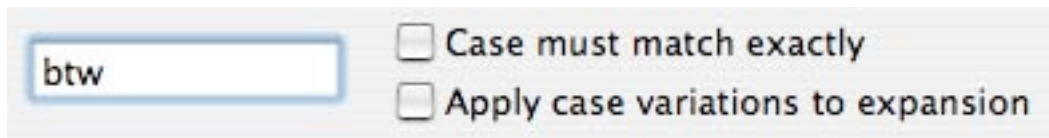
Note that Typinator never expands typed characters in the middle of a word. This means that you could, for example, safely use "mm" as an abbreviation because it would get expanded only when you start a new word with "mm", but not in "hammer".

To create unique abbreviations that are unlikely to occur elsewhere, you may want to use a special character as prefix or suffix. If you use a keyboard with the US layout, you could add

the symbol "/" to an abbreviation (such as "/cal" or "cal/") to make sure it does not expand by accident. Since abbreviations are often written with a period (such as "etc."), you may find it convenient to use a period as a suffix. In this way, you just need to avoid whole words, as they would expand at the end of sentences.

## Case Variations

If an abbreviation consists of letters, you can use the checkboxes next to the abbreviation to specify how Typinator should handle case variations:



If **Case must match exactly** is enabled, you need to type the abbreviation exactly as you defined it. If the checkbox is deactivated (as in the above example), you can also type it as "BTW" or even "bTw".

When the **Apply case variations to expansion** checkbox is enabled, mixed case in a typed abbreviation affects the expansion in the following way (assuming that "btw" stands for the expansion "by the way"):

- If all typed letters are capital letters ("BTW"), the expansion will be inserted in all caps as well ("BY THE WAY").
- If you start the abbreviation with a capital letter and the remainder contains at least one lower case letter (e.g., "Btw"), the first letter of the expansion appears in upper case ("By the way").
- If the first typed letter is a lowercase letter, the expansion starts with a lower case letter ("by the way").

In short: You can use this setting to generate correctly capitalized phrases at the beginning and in the middle of a sentence.

## Formatted Text

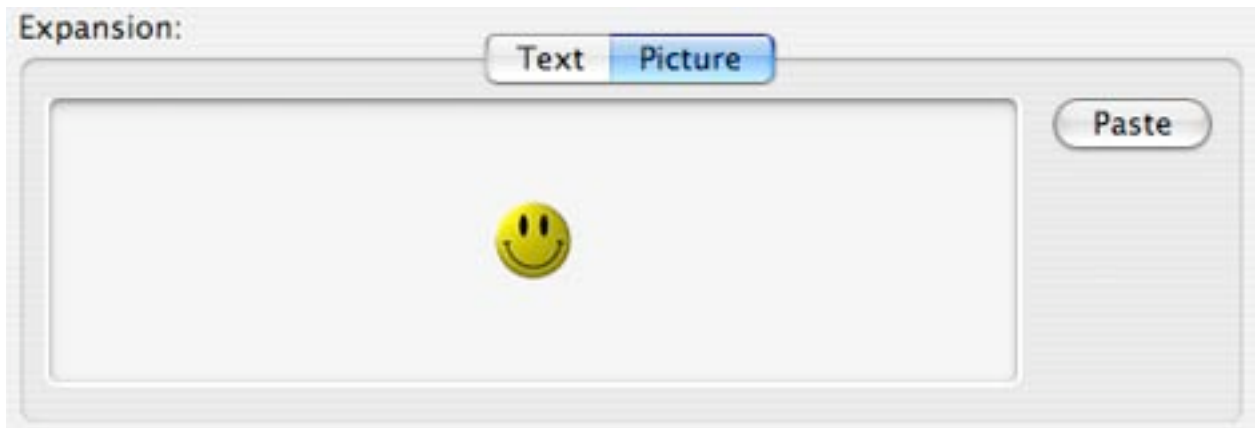
To create an expansion with multiple fonts and/or embedded pictures, enable the "formatted" checkbox next to the expansion field. You can now apply various formats to the text using the Format menu and insert pictures via Copy/Paste or by dragging image files into the text field.

When you type an abbreviation with a formatted expansion, the current application must be able to handle text with multiple fonts. This works for most word processors. If an application uses a fixed font for all text, the expansion will assume the font used by the application; additional formats applied in Typinator will not appear.

## Pictures

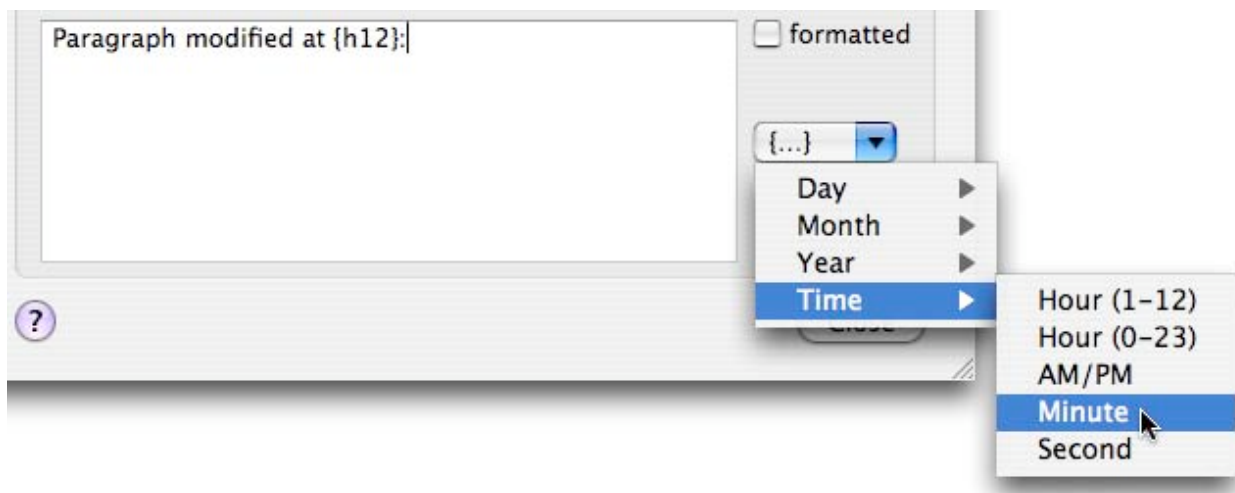
To create a picture expansion, click the Picture tab in the Expansion section, then insert the picture of your choice using one of the following techniques:

- Copy a picture into the clipboard in another application, then click the Paste button in Typinator.
- Drag an image file from the Finder into the picture area.



## Date and Time

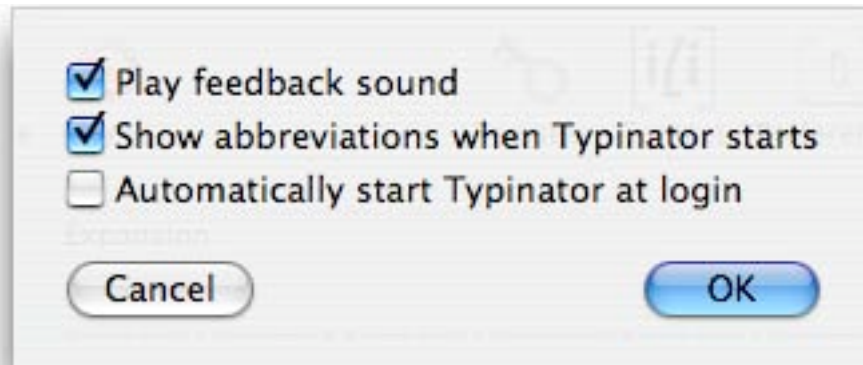
To include the current date or time in an expansion text, you can use the pop-up menu to the right of the text field. Just place the insertion point where you want to insert a date or time symbol and select the desired element from the menu:



For example, if you select "Minute", Typinator will insert {m} in the expansion text. When you type the corresponding abbreviation, Typinator replaces this item with the minutes of the current hour. Since you can compose date and time templates using the individual parts, you have some flexibility in how to format the time and date.

## Preferences

Click the Preferences icon in the toolbar to change the following settings:



- **Play feedback sound** plays a “pop” sound whenever Typinator expands an abbreviation.
- **Show abbreviations when Typinator starts** opens the list of abbreviations whenever you launch Typinator. If you want Typinator to start silently (especially when it starts automatically at login), turn this checkbox off. To open the list of abbreviations, just click the Typinator icon in the dock.
- **Automatically start Typinator at login** adds Typinator to your list of login items, so Typinator will automatically launch whenever you start up your Mac.

## If it doesn't work...

If typing an abbreviation does not work, take a look at the Typinator icon in the dock:



Typinator displays a strike-through symbol on top of its dock icon whenever it detects a situation in which expansion of abbreviations does not work. Possible reasons are:

- The “access for assistive devices” option is turned off in System Preferences. For assistance, open the Typinator window and click the button at the bottom of the window.
- You are working in a Classic application. Typinator disables itself in this case because it cannot transfer the expansion to Classic applications.
- The insertion point or selection is in a password field. For security reasons, Typinator cannot watch your keystrokes in this situation.
- One of the currently active applications has disabled keyboard monitoring. Most likely, you have enabled the “Secure Keyboard Entry” option in the Terminal application.

## Registering Typinator

Typinator is distributed on a “try before you buy” basis. Unless you have a license key, you can use only the first five abbreviations in the list.

You can order a license key directly from our online store:

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

You can also click the Register button in the toolbar and then use the “Order License Key” button to visit our online store.

Once you have received your license key, click the Register icon in the toolbar and enter the license key. This will immediately remove the demo limitation and let you use all defined abbreviations.

## Uninstalling Typinator

To uninstall Typinator permanently, perform these steps:

- Open the Typinator window.
- Click the Preferences icon in the toolbar and make sure that “Automatically start Typinator at login” is disabled.
- Quit Typinator.
- Move the Typinator application to the trash.

## Contacting Us

If you have any further questions or wish to report a problem, please send an e-mail message to <[typinator-support@macity.com](mailto:typinator-support@macity.com)>. We also would like to hear from you if you just want to tell us that you like Typinator 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 Typinator

If you wish to report a problem where Typinator does not work correctly with a particular application, please also include

- the version number of the application,
- a detailed description of the situation, so we can reproduce the problem (in particular, tell us what expansion you try to insert with which abbreviation).

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



## Known Issues

Typinator uses a couple of sophisticated techniques to monitor your keystrokes and insert the expansion in the current application. Although these techniques work well for the vast majority of applications, you may come across one of the following deficiencies:

- Text-only applications (such as BBEdit or Terminal) will not be able to insert picture expansions, and formatted text will lose embedded pictures as well as specific font and style settings. This is not a bug but rather a limitation of these applications.
- If the expansion text contains Unicode characters, strange characters will appear instead in some older applications that do not fully support Unicode (such as AppleWorks or MS Word versions older than Word 2004).
- Expansion does not work properly with older versions of Adobe InDesign, which inserts the previous contents of the clipboard instead of the expansion. This problem was fixed in InDesign CS2.
- When the "Secure keyboard entry" option is enabled in Terminal, expansion of abbreviations does not work at all. Note that this affects *all* applications (not just Terminal) as long as the Terminal application is running. To avoid this problem, disable the "Secure keyboard entry" option or quit the Terminal application when you don't need it.

## Version History

### 1.2 (December 2005)

#### **New Features:**

- Typinator restores the contents of the clipboard after expanding an abbreviation.
- Undo is now supported when editing the expansion field.
- Formatted text with different text styles and embedded pictures.
- The Typinator dock icon indicates situations in which abbreviations do not work.
- The delete key can now be used to remove the selected abbreviation.
- When deleting an item, pressing the option key deletes without a warning.

#### **Problems Fixed:**

- Duplicating a picture abbreviation resulted in an empty expansion.
- Missing "Customize Toolbar" item added to Window menu.
- Typinator now respects the "hide" setting in the login items.
- Detection of abbreviation conflicts displayed false alerts during editing of an abbreviation.
- Fixed a problem with expansion of abbreviations in Lotus Notes.
- Typinator now correctly disables itself for Classic applications.

## 1.1 (October 2005)

### **New Features:**

- Quick selection of items in the abbreviation list by typing the first few letters of an abbreviation.
- When an abbreviation cannot be inserted, Typinator now plays an error sound.

### **Problems Fixed:**

- Fixed a problem with expansion of abbreviations in Panorama.
- Fixed a problem where certain picture expansions could not be inserted.
- Command-tab switching beeped when Typinator was in front.
- Typinator skipped keystrokes that occurred immediately after expanding an abbreviation.
- Typinator worked only for user accounts with administrator permissions.
- Typinator sometimes crashed during restart, shutdown or logout.

## 1.0 (June 2005)

First official version.