

An Honest Family Christmas Card Photo

Michael Zhang · Dec 26, 2011



If families always listened when photographers say, "look natural", this is what nearly every Christmas card would look like. [Clever](#).

RUBES by Leigh Rubin



"I'm afraid your order will take longer than usual, sir. As you can see, our server is unexpectedly down."

BEETLE BAILEY by Mort, Greg and Brian Walker



Mac OSX LION 10.7.2 Tips

Tired Of The Mac's Dock?

Try A Tab Launcher Instead

By [Ron McElfresh](#) - Friday, December 23, 2011

Through the course of the year I'll try out a few hundred more apps. That means my Mac's Dock is cluttered to the point of nearly unusable. Even the time honored [DragThing](#) floating palette launcher is crowded to overflowing.

Tabs? We Don't Need No Stinking Tabs? Or, Do We?

One aspect of DragThing I like is the hot spot. Move the Mac's mouse pointer to a hot spot at the side of the screen, and the floating palette of app icons pops up.

[TabLauncher](#) works in a similar manner but doesn't take up the whole screen when launched. The tabs float quietly on the side (left or right, top or bottom) of your Mac's screen. Move the mouse pointer over a tab and it pops out a bit, revealing the app icons. Click an app icon and the app launches. Then, the tab retreats back and out of the way.



Setting up TabLauncher can be much more complicated than using the app. Usage is drop dead easy.

The Configuration menu is extensive. You control the tab locations, various skins, fonts and sizes and shadows, the text used on each app icon, spacing between icons, and much more.

General Controls allow you to load and save TabLauncher configurations, open at login, display in the Menubar, **even import app icons from the Dock (or reset to defaults).**

There are seven tab Styles to choose from and Tabs can be customized, too, giving you options on fonts and colors.

You control the Icon text labels (even color and shadow, position, size, and spacing). Preferences even gives you options to manage tab behavior, animations, and effects.

When TabLauncher's Preferences are open, the tabs pop out so you can see you customizations.

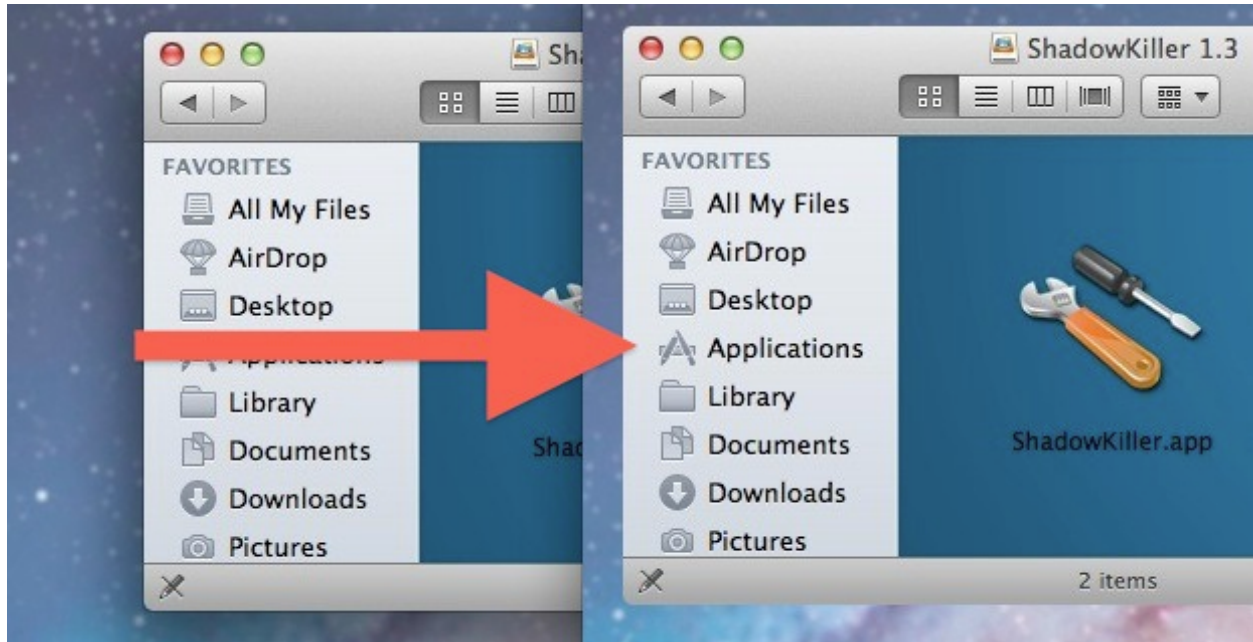
In many respects, TabLauncher is a much needed improvement over the Dock, though not quite as easy to set up, but easier to use, especially if your Mac is loaded with apps. Tabs are just a more efficient use of space, and apps are still a single click away. Here's how mine is set up on the left side of my main monitor -



Only a couple of issues so far: they are working on adding a "Trash" icon that functions like the Dock Trash to any Tab and adding "previews", in a Pop Up fashion, when you Mouse Over a running Application. Even with these changes a ways off I am sold on this Dock replacement.

Remove Shadows from Mac OS X (Lion Too!)

Dec 27, 2011 - 7 Comments



Ever wanted to remove shadows from windows, menus, and box items in Mac OS X? You can with a free tool called ShadowKiller, and it works in Mac OS X 10.7 too. All you need to do is launch the app, the screen will flicker briefly, and all on screen windows will appear shadowless. You can get the shadows back by just relaunching the app again. If you want to have the window shadows always disabled, you'll need to throw ShadowKiller into [Login Items](#).

- [Download Shadowkiller for free from Unsanity](#)

Why would you want to do this? At this point it's probably a matter of preference, but Shadowkiller was created to **speed** up performance of Mac OS X on older and slower hardware, and it reportedly works fairly well for that purpose.

For one of the best “Lets get my new Mac set up Right” articles I have read.

By John Brownlee (12:00 am, Dec 25)



Were you *very* good this year? Did Santa spoil you, and did you find yourself opening up a brand new Mac under the Christmas tree this morning? Congratulations, we're jealous... but not so jealous that we aren't eager to teach you how to get started with your new Mac, so you can enjoy it from day one.

<http://www.cultofmac.com/136944/how-to-set-up-your-new-mac-the-right-way-guide>

iOS Tips for 4S with Siri

