
shortcut Documentation

Release

Martin O'Hanlon

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Contents

1	Documentation	3
2	Install	5
3	Status	7
4	Table of Contents	9
4.1	shortcut app	9
4.2	API	10
4.3	Operating Systems	11
4.4	Build	11
4.5	Change log	13
	Python Module Index	15

Shortcut is a cross platform command line application and API for creating shortcuts.

shortcut will do its best to find your app, searching for the usual suspects in the usual places (i.e. those in the PATH), or you can give it a full path.

To create desktop and menu shortcuts for python:

- Using the app:

```
shortcut python
```

- Using the Python API:

```
from shortcut import ShortCutter
s = ShortCutter()
s.create_desktop_shortcut("python")
s.create_menu_shortcut("python")
```

It was created to solve a simple problem - if you install a python package using pip there is no simple way of creating a shortcut to the program it installs.

CHAPTER 1

Documentation

There is comprehensive documentation at shortcut.readthedocs.io.

Shortcut is available on [pypi](#) and can be installed using pip:

- Windows

```
pip install shortcut
```

- MacOS

```
pip3 install shortcut
```

- Linux

```
sudo pip3 install shortcut
```


CHAPTER 3

Status

Alpha - tested and works but [issues](#) maybe experienced and API changes are possible.

It should work with Windows, MacOS and Linux operating systems.

4.1 shortcut app

The command line application `shortcut` creates desktop and menu shortcuts.

`shortcut` will search for the app or use a full path if given.

4.1.1 Usage

To create desktop and menu shortcuts for the *python* application:

```
shortcut python
```

4.1.2 Options

The `-h` or `--help` option will display the help:

```
shortcut --help
```

```
usage: shortcut [-h] [-d] [-m] target

Auto shortcut creator

positional arguments:
target                The target executable to create Desktop and Menu shortcuts

optional arguments:
-h, --help            show this help message and exit
-d, --desktop         Only create a desktop shortcut
-m, --menu            Only create a menu shortcut
```

To only create a desktop shortcut use `--desktop`:

```
shortcut --desktop python
```

Or just a menu shortcut using `--menu`:

```
shortcut --menu python
```

4.2 API

4.2.1 ShortCutter

class `shortcut.base.ShortCutter`

Creates application shortcuts for Windows, MacOS and Linux operating systems.

To create desktop and menu shortcuts to *python*:

```
from shortcut import ShortCutter
s = ShortCutter()
s.create_desktop_shortcut("python")
s.create_menu_shortcut("python")
```

create_desktop_shortcut (*target*)

Creates a desktop shortcut to a target.

Parameters **target** (*str*) – The target to create a shortcut for, it can be a fully qualified file path */path/to/my_program* or a simple application name *my_program*.

Returns a tuple of (target_name, target_path, shortcut_file_path)

create_menu_shortcut (*target*)

Creates a menu shortcut to a target.

Parameters **target** (*str*) – The target to create a shortcut for, it can be a fully qualified file path */path/to/my_program* or a simple application name *my_program*.

Returns a tuple of (target_name, target_path, shortcut_file_path)

create_shortcut (*target*, *shortcut_directory*)

Creates a shortcut to a target.

Parameters

- **target** (*str*) – The target to create a shortcut for, it can be a fully qualified file path */path/to/my_program* or a simple application name *my_program*.
- **shortcut_directory** (*str*) – The directory path where the shortcut should be created.

Returns a tuple of (target_name, target_path, shortcut_file_path)

desktop_directory

Sets or returns the directory used when creating desktop shortcuts.

find_target (*target*)

Finds a file path for a target application.

Parameters **target** (*str*) – The target to find, it can be a fully qualified file path */path/to/my_program* or a simple application name *my_program*.

Returns a single target file path or `None` if a path cant be found.

menu_directory

Sets or returns the directory used when creating menu shortcuts.

search_for_target (*target*)

Searches for a target application.

Parameters **target** (*str*) – The target to find.

Returns a list of potential target file paths, if no paths are found an empty list is returned.

4.3 Operating Systems

Shortcut support Windows, MacOS and Linux.

The way shortcuts are provide and applications launched depends on the operating system.

4.3.1 Windows

`.lnk` files pointing directly to the application paths are created in the User Desktop (`CSIDL_DESKTOPDIRECTORY`) and Program (`CSIDL_PROGRAMS`) folders.

4.3.2 MacOS

MacOS applications are created which run the application via a terminal and copied to the User Desktop (`~/Desktop`) and Launchpad (`/Applications`).

4.3.3 Linux

`.desktop` files are created which start the application via the shell and created in the User Desktop (`~/Desktop`) and applications menu (`~/local/share/applications`).

4.4 Build

Instructions for developing and building shortcut.

4.4.1 Windows

Develop

Installing tools:

```
pip install pip --upgrade
pip install setuptools wheel twine
```

Get repo and install for dev:

```
git clone https://github.com/martinohanlon/shortcut
cd shortcut
git checkout dev
python setup.py develop
```

Deploy

Create `.pypirc` credentials file:

```
notepad %HOMEPATH%\pypirc

[distutils]
index-servers =
    pypi

[pypi]
username:
password:
```

Build for deployment:

```
python setup.py sdist
python setup.py bdist_wheel
```

Deploy to [PyPI](#):

```
twine upload dist/* --skip-existing
```

4.4.2 Linux

Develop

Installing tools:

```
sudo pip3 install pip --upgrade
sudo pip3 install setuptools wheel twine
```

Get repo and install for dev:

```
git clone https://github.com/martinohanlon/shortcut
cd shortcut
git checkout dev
sudo python3 setup.py develop
```

Deploy

Create `.pypirc` credentials file:

```
nano ~/.pypirc

[distutils]
index-servers =
    pypi
```



```
[pypi]
username:
password:
```

Build for deployment:

```
python3 setup.py sdist
python3 setup.py bdist_wheel
```

Deploy to PyPI:

```
twine upload dist/* --skip-existing
```

4.5 Change log

4.5.1 0.0.2 - 2018-02-25

- added desktop_directory and menu_directory properties
- documentation updates

4.5.2 0.0.1 - 2018-02-25

- initial alpha release
- support for Windows, MacOS & Linux
- shortcut app and ShortCutter API

S

`shortcut.base`, 10

C

`create_desktop_shortcut()` (shortcut.base.ShortCutter method), 10
`create_menu_shortcut()` (shortcut.base.ShortCutter method), 10
`create_shortcut()` (shortcut.base.ShortCutter method), 10

D

`desktop_directory` (shortcut.base.ShortCutter attribute), 10

F

`find_target()` (shortcut.base.ShortCutter method), 10

M

`menu_directory` (shortcut.base.ShortCutter attribute), 11

S

`search_for_target()` (shortcut.base.ShortCutter method), 11
`shortcut.base` (module), 10
`ShortCutter` (class in shortcut.base), 10