

STARTUP ITEMS AND SHUTDOWN ITEMS FOLDERS FOR TEXSHOP

RAMÓN M. FIGUEROA-CENTENO

1. INTRODUCTION

The BBEdit text editor¹ has among its plethora of features *Startup Items* and *Shutdown Items* folders in the “~/Library/Application Support/BBEdit” folder. For example, any applescript in the *Startup Items* folder gets executed upon BBEdit launching and any other kind of file there gets opened.

Now, such features can be implemented with a preference pane called *Do Something When*² and Applescript applications and scripts included with this document.

2. INSTALLATION

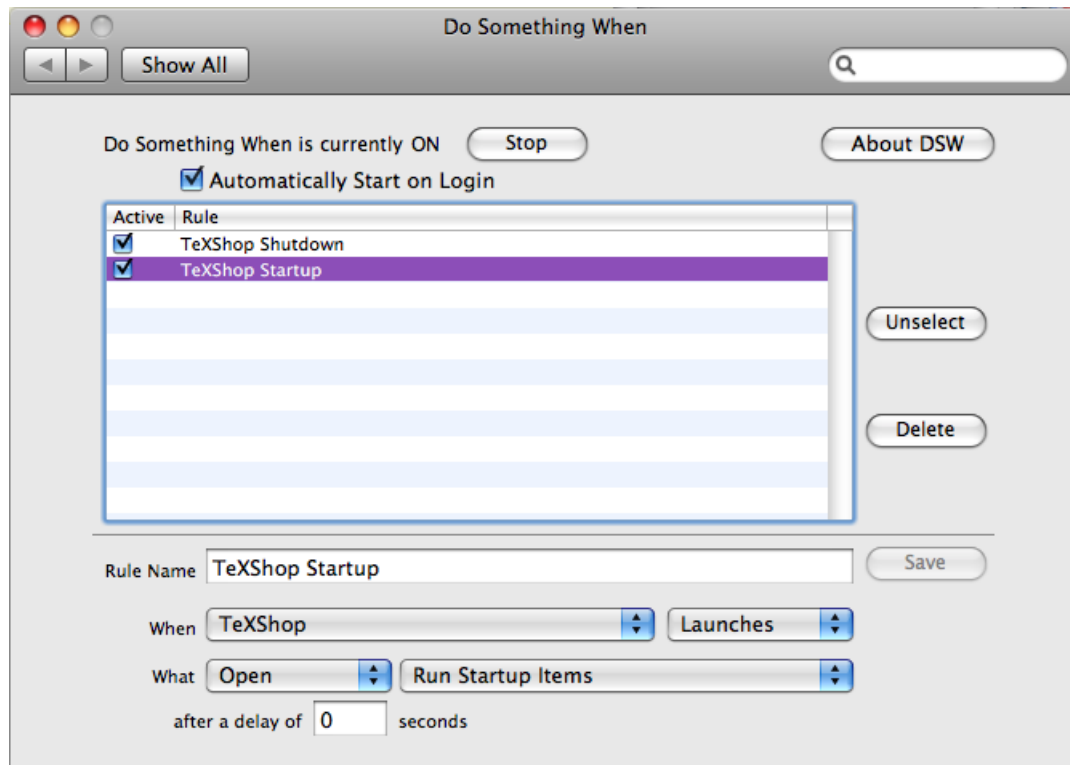
Here are detailed instructions to make this work.

- (1) Download and install *Do Something When*.
- (2) In “~/Library/TeXShop” create two folders: *Startup Items* and *Shutdown Items*.
- (3) Place the applications *Run Startup Items* and *Run Shutdown Items*³ wherever you want, e.g. in “~/Library/TeXShop”.
- (4) Open the *Do Something When* preference pane in the *System Preferences* (see Figure 1).
 - (a) Set it to *Automatically Run on Login* and start it.
 - (b) Create and save an item that launches *Run Startup Items* when TeXShop launches.
 - (c) Create and save an item that launches *Run Shutdown Items* when TeXShop quits.
- (5) Place applescripts and files in the *Startup Items* and *Shutdown Items*

¹<http://www.barebones.com/>

²<http://www.azarhi.com/Projects/DSW/>

³These are simple applescripts that were saved as application bundles and inside them the *Info.plist* had the property *LSUIElement* set to 1, so that they do not appear in the Dock when launched.

FIGURE 1. *Do Something When*

3. USAGE

You can now put aliases to documents you are working on in the Startup items folder and they will open every time *TeXShop* starts, also aliases to helper applications and scripts.

4. NOTES ON WRITING SCRIPTS

Here are some example scripts⁴. First, one, for the *Startup Items* folder, that launches Claus Gerhart's *Flashmode*⁵ and brings *TeXShop* to the foreground (an alias to *Flashmode* would not only launch it but bring it to the foreground).

```
try
tell application "Flashmode"
  ignoring application responses
```

⁴These sample scripts and some other simple ones are included.

⁵<http://www.math.uni-heidelberg.de/studinfo/gerhardt/Flashmode/>.

```

    activate
  end ignoring
end tell
tell application "TeXShop"
  ignoring application responses
    activate
  end ignoring
end tell
end try

```

The key observation is the usage of **ignoring application responses**, otherwise bad things can happen (e.g., spinning beach balls).

Now, here is one, for the *Shutdown Items* folder, that quits *Flashmode* if it was running. It is complicated due the fact that if *Flashmode* is watching a document you should not just quit it.

```

tell application "System Events"
  set ep to (name of every process whose name contains "Flashmode")

  if (count of ep) = 1 then
    if item 1 of ep as string is "Flashmode" then
      ignoring application responses
        tell application "Flashmode" to quit
      end ignoring
    return
  end if
end if

try
  do shell script "rm ~/Library/Flashmode/../../Flashmode-TS/Activity/Flashmode*"
end try
end tell

```

5. LIMITATIONS

The items in *Shutdown Items* are executed or opened after *TeXShop* has quit, not before it is about to quit. So, for example, it is impossible to run a script on shutdown that refers to the documents that were opened in *TeXShop* to clean the auxiliary files. Such a feature would have to be part of *TeXShop*.

E-mail address: ramonf@hawaii.edu