

Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed



[Eugene Toporov](#) 447 posts since

Nov 5, 2003

Hi everyone!

I want to introduce here a new keymap scheme that we created recently for Mac OS X users.

The main reasons for doing this are:

1. More native key combinations for standard actions (e.g. Find, Find Next, Go to Line, Close Tab, etc.)
2. Less conflicts with the default system key bindings, such as Exposé (F9, F10, F11) and others.

The new keymap is available in the [latest EAP builds](#), though it is not set by default now. To activate it open **IDE Settings | Keymap** and select the "Mac OS X 10.5+" schema from the dropdown.

I've attached the updated reference/cheatsheet PDF that you can print, for your reference.

The feedback is highly appreciated.

-Eugene

Attachments:

- [IntelliJIDEA9_ReferenceCard_Mac10_5.pdf](#) (142.8 K)

Tags: keymap, mac



[nodje](#) 295 posts since

Nov 4, 2003 1. **Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Dec 1, 2009 8:26 AM

Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed

Hi Eugene,

thanks a lot for that, very good idea in fact!

I'm using the new keymap now and will let you know how it goes.

rgds

-nodje

On 2009-12-01 05:16:21 +0900, Eugene Toporov

<eugene.toporov@jetbrains.com> said:

Hi everyone!

I want to introduce here a new keymap scheme that we created recently for Mac OS X users.

The main reasons for doing this are:

1. More native key combinations for standard actions (e.g. Find, Find Next, Go to Line, Close Tab, etc.)

2. Less conflicts with the default system key bindings, such as (F9, F10, F11) and others.

The new keymap is available in the <http://www.jetbrains.net/confluence/display/IDEADEV/Maia+EAP>, though it is not set by default now. To activate it open **IDE Settings | Keymap** and select the "*Mac OS X 10.5+*" schema from the dropdown.

I've attached the updated reference/cheatsheet PDF that you can print, for your reference.

The feedback is highly appreciated.

-Eugene

Original message URL: <http://www.jetbrains.net/devnet/message/5251290#5251290>

90

This message has one or more attachments. Select "Save Attachments" from the File menu to save.

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[nodje](#) 295 posts since

Nov 4, 2003 2. **Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Dec 1, 2009 11:04 AM

I can't find replacement for the Cmd+Y, it was deleting the current line.

I use it extensively.

cheers



[Eugene Toporov](#) 447 posts since

Nov 5, 2003 3. **Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Dec 1, 2009 4:56 PM

Please use Cmd-Backspace (⌘⌫) as delete line. It replaces the Cmd-Y

-Eugene



[nodje](#) 295 posts since

Nov 4, 2003 4. **Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Dec 2, 2009 10:26 AM

Eugene,

I've tried that, but the behavior is different.

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What I'm talking about is 'Delete Line At Caret' function, which is unavailable in menus AFAIK.

In the new keymap, 'Delete Line At Caret' and 'Safe Delete' are both mapped with `⌘⌫`, which in effect always trigger 'Safe Delete'.

That renders 'Delete Line At Caret' unavailable.

Please also keep in mind that the delete key `⌫` is not available on macbooks keyboard.

It'd be better to keep the `less used` shortcuts only use that `⌫` key.

Once you get use to 'Delete Line At Caret', you use it in each every file you edit.

I highly recommend it! And it's coming shortcut 😊

-nodje

On 2009-12-02 01:56:04 +0900, Eugene Toporov

[<eugene.toporov@jetbrains.com>](mailto:eugene.toporov@jetbrains.com) said:

Please use Cmd-Backspace (`⌘⌫`) as delete line. It replaces the Cmd-Y

-Eugene

Original message URL: <http://www.jetbrains.com/devnet/message/5251386#5251386>



[Eugene Toporov](#) *447 posts since*

Nov 5, 2003 5. **Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Dec 3, 2009 5:19 PM

Nodje,

In the new keymap, 'Delete Line At Caret' and 'Safe Delete' are both mapped with `⌘⌘`, which in effect always trigger 'Safe Delete'.

That renders 'Delete Line At Caret' unavailable.

Please also keep in mind that the delete key `⌘` is not available on macbooks keyboard.

It'd be better to keep the less used shortcuts only use that `⌘` key.

There are 2 different keys:

`⌘` key — available on all keyboards (Also known as Backspace)

`⌘` key — (aka Delete) only available on full keyboards (not on laptops). But to emulate it on a MacBook you can press `Fn + ⌘`.

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So, Safe Delete uses \mathbb{X} And Delete line at Caret is $\text{Cmd}+\mathbb{X}$, which should be fine on any keyboard and seems pretty logical.

-Eugene



[nodje](#) 295 posts since

Nov 4, 2003 6. **Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Dec 7, 2009 10:55 AM

thanks a lot for the precision Eugene, wasn't aware of the \mathbb{X} icon for the delete key, which is probably why I mixed it up with BS.

It's good like that for me and totally makes sense.

best rgds

nodje



[Charles Wise](#) 85 posts since

Mar 26, 2003 7. **Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Dec 7, 2009 5:19 PM

I made a blog post a while back listing the Mac keyboard symbols and what they mean (<http://tedwise.com/2009/04/28/what-do-those-weird-mac-symbols-mean/>). When I switched to the Mac I was at a loss as to what some of the key symbols meant. The MacBook Pro keyboard doesn't have the symbols on most of the keys. Maybe it will help you.



[nodje](#) 295 posts since

Nov 4, 2003 8. **Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Dec 8, 2009 4:15 AM

Hey Charles

thanks for the post. It is in fact pretty useful!

Even though I've been on Mac for quite some years now, I missed a couple of symbols.

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Alexander Orlov 16 posts since

Jul 24, 2009 9. Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed Dec 1, 2009 12:01 PM

Great approach! I'm working with IDEA both at work (Windows) and privately (Mac) and so I've to remember both keymap variants. I think many people are using IDEA in such a context. Originally I wanted to use the Windows keymap on my Mac but faced the "Insert" key problem. In fact there is **no insert key on a MacBook Pro!** Also the Windows keymap is much more similar to the Linux keymap(?) as I'm also using Linux from time to time. The point is: I want to have the (almost) same keymap for at least two OSs (Mac+Win)! I'm even willing to use *Cmd/Ctrl+Shift+Option+S* instead of the default Mac-wide *Cmd+*, shortcut to call the settings window. IDEA is an OS for its own... 😊 So as of now we have two Mac keymaps would you please keep the classic Mac keymap more Win-like. Actually **I want one single "Cross-platform Meta keymap" which don't use any platform specific keys such as the "Insert" key...** Sure, it wouldn't be "native" on any platform but it would be native for IDEA which is for many people the main app on their computer.



Norris Shelton 669 posts since

Aug 29, 2002 10. Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed Dec 1, 2009 5:03 PM

+1 for the unified keymap. I am nowhere near as efficient with IDEA when I switch over to my MacBook Pro.



Charles Wise 85 posts since

Mar 26, 2003 11. Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed Dec 1, 2009 5:49 PM

-10000 for the unified keymap.

The problem is that the Mac has many, many keystrokes that are consistent across applications. On Windows and Linux no one expects or relies on consistency. On the Mac, everyone does. The same keystroke brings up preferences in every single application. The same keystroke closes the active window in every single application. And so on, and so on.

To make the job even tougher, the function keys are, by default, pre-assigned to system functions. And then, of course, there's no insert key on Mac laptops. And no delete key (the Mac delete key is really a backspace key).

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So if you're planning on switching back and forth between the Mac and PC you're completely out of luck. I went down that path when I first switched to the Mac and you're just trying to swim upstream. It's a different platform. Linux and Windows are cut out of the same UI mold. The Mac isn't.



Alexander Orlov 16 posts since

Jul 24, 2009 12:12. Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed Dec 1, 2009 6:32 PM

ctwise wrote:

The problem is that the Mac has many, many keystrokes that are consistent across applications. On Windows and Linux no one expects or relies on consistency. On the Mac, everyone does. The same keystroke brings up preferences in every single application. The same keystroke closes the active window in every single application. And so on, and so on. To make the job even tougher, the function keys are, by default, pre-assigned to system functions.

And therefore you can choose between different keymaps! Different people different flavors... Indeed there are people who use their IDE more than the OS (Set) specific shortcuts and functions. And those people want primary identical IDE behavior on every platform because you can't expect the vice versa case. Also I've disabled some Mac specific shortcuts to get a Windows-like IDEA keymap. In fact I use many of the Mac OS shortcuts but there are no system-wide Mac shortcuts (that I've disabled to have a unified keymap experience) I miss when I'm working with IDEA.

And then, of course, there's no insert key on Mac laptops. And no delete key (the Mac delete key is really a backspace key).

No insert key, right but there is a delete key digraph: `fn⌘` 😊

So if you're planning on switching back and forth between the Mac and PC you're completely out of luck. I went down that path when I first switched to the Mac and you're just trying to

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swim upstream. It's a different platform. Linux and Windows are cut out of the same UI mold. The Mac isn't.

Most people have no choice (at work). Of course I'd like my company to use Macs but I don't think there are IT companies which could afford this.



[StanAccy](#) 495 posts since

Mar 18, 2003 13. **Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Dec 17, 2009 5:47 PM

I also mapped everything on my Mac to a Windows layout. The only real change was the INS - I mapped Apple-Enter for that and it seems to work well - I moved some of my Expose and other OS shortcuts around to accommodate the IDEA keymap, but generally, the key strokes are the same.

The only set I'm still not sure about are the Copy/Paste/Cut. I have mapped these to Ctrl-C, Ctrl-X, Ctrl-V thinking that I would naturally use these since these are the common short cuts on a PC. However, the more I use my Macs (I'm a relative newcomer in the Mac area), I find myself using the standard Apple shortcuts for Copy/Paste/Cut since all the other apps use that I guess I've got used to using those shortcuts, so I'll probably change those three keys back.

The Fn+Backspace works as Delete as has already been mentioned.

Nick



[Alexander Orlov](#) 16 posts since

Jul 24, 2009 14. **Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Dec 10, 2009 5:06 AM

Also I'd appreciate if the Mac keymap would mirror the Eclipse keymap and shortcuts which are not available on Eclipse should be represented by shortcuts that are also useable on a PC without a hassle.

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Basically I'm for an unified keymap which represents the superset of the Eclipse keymap.



[Alexander Orlov](#) 16 posts since

Jul 24, 2009 15. **Re: Mac OS X keymap on Windows** Dec 15, 2009 3:44 PM

I've tried the new keymap and appreciate it very much as it's more native. Also I work on a Windows machine and want to use the same keymap on Windows too. The Cmd key is called "Meta" and I've thought this might be the Windows logo key but it isn't(?!). I've checked all special keys but no key had the value "Meta". So where is the Meta key on Windows?



[Ronny Løvtangen](#) 47 posts since

Sep 13, 2002 16. **Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Dec 23, 2009 3:16 AM

Topka wrote:

More native key combinations for standard actions (e.g. Find, Find Next, Go to Line, Close Tab, etc.)
This is great!

I think it is nice to have two different options on Mac, a native Mac version like the new keymap for those using Mac as their primary platform, and a Windows-like version for those that have to use Windows at work but have a Mac at home.

Keeping the Windows-like version as an option could also be convenient when doing pair programming with Windows users.

Topka wrote:

Less conflicts with the default system key bindings, such as Exposé (F9, F10, F11) and others.

This has been a source of frustration since I switched to Mac 2 years ago. I still find myself using the mouse when debugging because the key bindings conflicts. New key bindings that avoid OS X key bindings would be great.

In the new keymap there are at least 2 key bindings that still conflict: F8 (Step over) and Shift F8 (Step out) which is used for Spaces by OS X. Finding some other key bindings for these would be great.

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The reference card is nice, but it would be great with some kind of documentation on just the key bindings that has been changed. Like:

Mac OS X	Mac OS X 10.5+	Description
F3	Cmd G	Find next
Shift F3	Cmd Shift G	Find previous
etc.		



[Eugene Toporov](#) 447 posts since

Nov 5, 2003 17. Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed Dec 23, 2009 3:54 PM

Hi Ronny,

Thanks a lot for the feedback.

rlovtang wrote:

This has been a source of frustration since I switched to Mac 2 years ago. I still find myself using the mouse when debugging because the key bindings conflict. New key bindings that avoid OS X key bindings would be great.

In the new keymap there are at least 2 key bindings that still conflict: F8 (Step over) and Shift F8 (Step out) which is used for Spaces by OS X. Finding some other key bindings for these would be great.

Yes, we left F8 unchanged. The reason was the fact that Spaces are off by default on Mac OS X. And finding other bindings appears to be not a trivial task now.

We'll also think about the change-list for keymaps. Thanks for the suggestion.

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-Eugene



[Ronny Løvtangen](#) 47 posts since

Sep 13, 2002 18. **Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Jan 8, 2010 2:24 PM

Topka wrote:

Hi Ronny,

Thanks a lot for the feedback.

rlovtang wrote:

This has been a source of frustration since I switched to Mac 2 years ago. I still find myself using the mouse when debugging because the key bindings conflicts. New key bindings that avoid OS X key bindings would be great.

In the new keymap there are at least 2 key bindings that still conflict: F8 (Step over) and Shift F8 (Step out) which is used for Spaces by OS X. Finding some other key bindings for these would be great.

Yes, we left F8 unchanged. The reason was the fact that Spaces are off by default on Mac OS X. And finding other bindings appears to be not a trivial task now.

I hope you find a different key binding. My experience is that most technically savvy Mac users (like developers) have Spaces enabled.



[Steve Franks](#) 1 posts since

Dec 19, 2009 19. **Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Jan 8, 2010 2:14 PM

Hi,

This is nice!

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As an old time Unix person who has been using OS X for many years, I grew to appreciate the consistent use of shortcut keys (Cmd and Opt) as well as the fact that most of the Cocoa applications support many emacs keystrokes.

Haven't tried this new scheme yet, but I see it doesn't use control keys very much, combining the standard Mac shortcuts and adding Emacs text editing shortcuts is my approach with a highly customized keyboard mapping.

This mapping is much better than my Mac mapping though!

Perhaps there are more people interested in a combination of Mac shortcuts for "actions" and "editing" with an additional set of emacs text editing commands on top??

(Will try this map out once EAP is downloaded)



[Sebastian](#) 29 posts since

Nov 2, 2008 20. Re: **Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Jan 8, 2010 6:43 PM

With the Mac Pro layout, I cannot toggle comments any longer. I think it was CMD+7 before and is now CMD + / = CMD + Shift + 7. This is assigned to 'Show Help Menu' in all Mac applications.

I need to say that I am using a German keyboard where / is reached with Shift +7

Actually on my Mac Pro notebook keys using Shift doesn't work at all.

For example, I cannot access the settings (CMD+; = Shift + CMD + ,) .

Is this only on my system?

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Best Regards

Sebastian Hennebrueder



[Alexander Orlov](#) 16 posts since

Jul 24, 2009 **21. Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Jan 8, 2010 6:46 PM

Actually on my Mac Pro notebook keys using Shift doesn't work at all.

For example, I cannot access the settings (CMD+; = Shift + CMD + ,) .

It's because you're using the German keyboard layout. Try ⌘+"the key to the left from your right shift key" to toggle comments.



[Sebastian](#) 29 posts since

Nov 2, 2008 **22. Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Jan 8, 2010 6:55 PM

Thanks that helps. So I need to keep an english keymap in my mind to memorize the keymap. It would be nice, if the PDF could be printed for different country key layouts.

Best Regards

Sebastian Hennebrueder



[Ronny Løvtangen](#) 47 posts since

Sep 13, 2002 **23. Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Jan 8, 2010 7:34 PM

laliluna wrote:

With the Mac Pro layout, I cannot toggle comments any longer. I think it was CMD+7 before and is now CMD + / = CMD + Shift + 7. This is assigned to 'Show Help Menu' in all Mac applications.

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I need to say that I am using a German keyboard where / is reached with Shift +7

I think it's always been like that.

Same problem on a Norwegian keyboard. This is the first keyboard mapping I change when installing IntelliJ IDEA.



[Marcus Bointon](#) 10 posts since

Nov 4, 2009 24. **Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Apr 22, 2010 1:05 AM

Something really simple that I only recently discovered is that you can disable the preset Mac OS function key assignments and get 'regular' function key operations instead. This is very useful if you ever use terminal-based apps (e.g. htop), need to switch consoles in a VM etc. Go to the keyboard control panel and check the "Use all F1, F2 etc keys as standard function keys". What's more, in writing this I've just noticed that the Apple Aluminium extended keyboard does have an Fn key, just below F13. Think I must be going blind or something...



[Charles Wise](#) 85 posts since

Mar 26, 2003 25. **Re: Updated Mac OS X keymap. Feedback needed** Apr 22, 2010 7:11 PM

Oh yes. That's the very first change I make to OS/X when I bring up a new machine. The standard setting is for people who use software that doesn't make use of function keys. Developers don't fit in that category. After that I install LaunchBar.