Ambientweet User Guide

Version 1.0, 26 September 2011

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Quick Start

Ambientweet is a minimalist twitter client, and it is intended to just be left running in the background, as a way of watching your twitter stream pass by.

Ambientweet shows just one tweet at a time. This is a deliberate design decision, which allows for a minimal user interface. This, in turn, means that the text can be bigger and there's no need for extraneous clutter like toolbars or buttons whilst you watch the twitter world go by.

When you first run Ambientweet, a sheet will slide over the window, asking you for your Twitter login name and password.

If you enter these correctly, the sheet should disappear and Ambientweet will start displaying tweets.

You can now leave Ambientweet running, and it will slowly cycle through your stream. It will periodically update its list of tweets as new ones come in.

You can customise various aspects of the display, such as its size, the font used, and what order the tweets are shown in. See the rest of this user guide for more details.
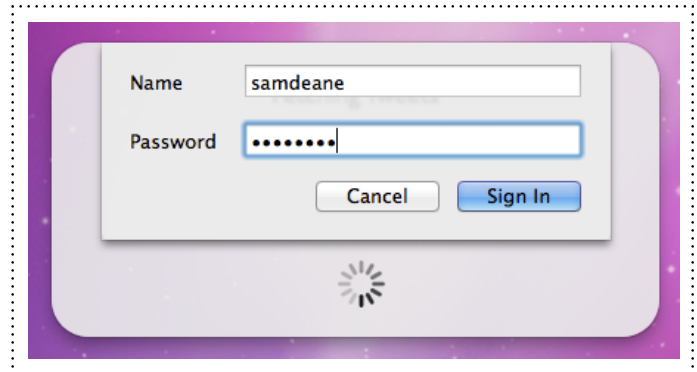
Logging In

When you first run Ambientweet, a sheet will slide over the window, asking you for your Twitter login name and password.

If you enter these correctly, the sheet should disappear and Ambientweet will start displaying tweets.

If you enter your name or password incorrectly, the sheet will reappear.

If at some later date you change your Twitter password using another Twitter client (or the twitter.com website), Ambientweet will not be able to log in. In this situation, the login sheet will re-appear and prompt you to enter your details again.

Viewing Tweets

Viewing Your Timeline

By default, Ambientweet will cycle through the tweets in your Twitter timeline.

You can use the **View** menu to change the order in which tweets are displayed.

By default, Ambientweet shows newer, unread tweets first.

You can change this to show older tweets first, or to show newer tweets first (ignoring whether or not the tweet has been displayed previously).

Following Links

Any web links, @twitternames, or #hashtags within a tweet are clickable.

Web links will open in your default browser. Hash tags will open on the relevant hash tag page on the twitter.com website.

By default, clicking on a twitter name will focus on that user's tweets (see below). However, if you hold down the command key whilst clicking, Ambientweet will open the relevant user's page on twitter.com instead.

Changing Tweets Manually

By default, Ambientweet cycles slowly through tweets.

If you hover the mouse over the Ambientweet window, a small panel with some icons will appear, and the cycling will stop temporarily. You can use this as a way to pause Ambientweet whilst you read a tweet.

If you want to move Ambientweet manually to display the previous or next tweets, you can do so using the **Previous Tweet** or **Next Tweet** menu commands in the **Actions** menu.

These commands can also be accessed with the keyboard shortcuts **Cmd-[** and **Cmd-]**.

Changing Appearance

You can use the **Font** options, in the **Edit** menu, to change the size and style of the text displayed in the Ambientweet window.

You can also drag on the edges of the Ambientweet window to move it around, and on the bottom-right of the window to resize the window.

Viewing Mentions

When there are unread tweets that mention your twitter user, Ambientweet will display a small red badge in the dock with the unread count.

If you want, you can switch Ambientweet to only display the tweets that mention you, so that you can read them quickly and clear the badge.

To do this, choose **Show Mentions Only** from the **View** menu.

When you want to return to viewing all tweets, choose **Show All Tweets** from the **View** menu.

Focussing On A Single User

If you wish, you can focus Ambientweet so that it just shows the tweets from a single user.

To focus on your own tweets, choose **Show My Tweets** from the **View** menu.

To focus on tweets from another user, either click on an **@twittername** link in a tweet, or on their picture.

Alternatively, you can choose **Focus On User...** from the **View** menu and enter the name of a twitter user.

When you want to return to viewing all tweets, choose **Show All Tweets** from the **View** menu.

Posting, Reply and Retweeting

Although Ambientweet is primarily designed for viewing tweets, you can also use it to reply, retweet and to post new tweets.

If you hover the mouse over the Ambientweet window, some icons will appear.

Clicking on this icon replies to the current tweet. The new tweet will initially contain the name of the original tweet's author, followed by the text of the tweet. You can obviously delete any text that you do not wish to include in your reply.

Clicking on this icon will retweet the current tweet.
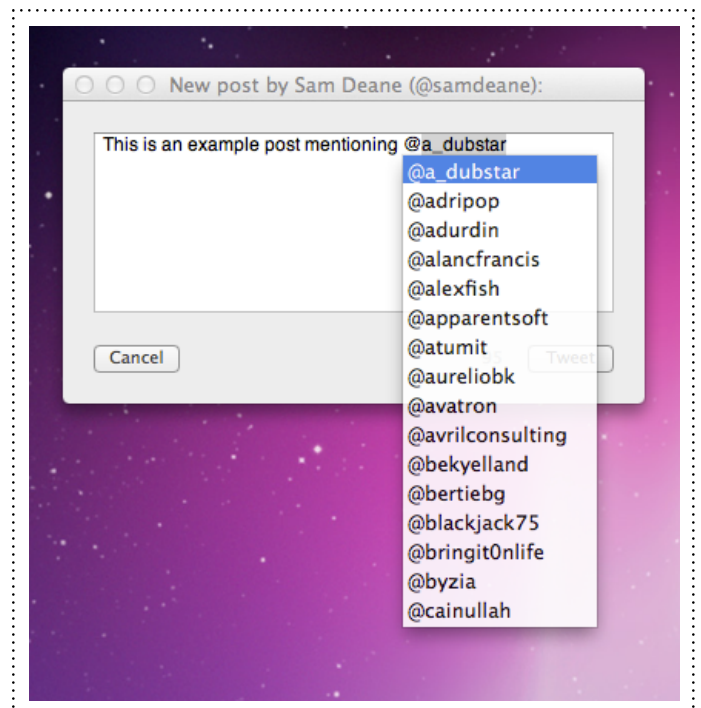
Clicking on this icon starts a new tweet.

Clicking on this icon will mark the current tweet as a favourite. Clicking again will un-mark it.

These actions can also be accessed from the **Actions** menu.

When posting or replying, a small editing window appears for you to enter the tweet text.

If you start typing a twitter user name beginning with an @ character, Ambientweet will pop up a list of suggested users, based on your friends list.

At the bottom of the window, you will see a small counter showing how many characters you have left.

Preferences

The Ambientweet preferences can be accessed from the **Preferences...** option in the **Ambientweet** menu.
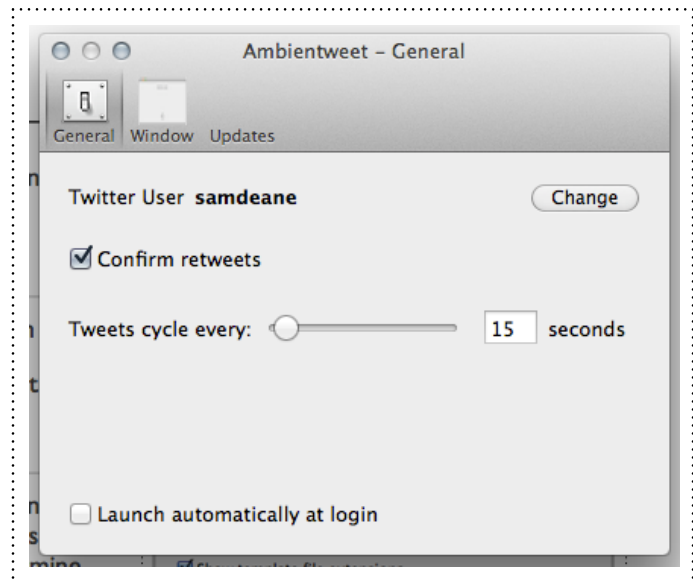
General Settings

Changing Account

At the moment, Ambientweet can only follow one twitter account at one time.

If you want to change the account that you are using, click on the **Change** button.

Confirming Retweets

If you tick the **Confirm retweets** option, you will be asked to confirm before retweeting someone else's tweet. This protects you against accidentally hitting the retweet button.

If you tick the **Launch automatically at login** option, Ambientweet will start up automatically, each time you log in to your computer.

Tweet Cycling

In addition to changing the font and text size (see above), you can use the slider in the preferences window to determine how frequently tweets are cycled.

Launching Automatically

If you wish, you can have Ambientweet launch itself automatically whenever you login to your computer.

Window Options

Auto-Sizing

If you tick the **Auto-size window to fit tweet** option, the tweet window will automatically resize itself as the tweets cycle, ensuring that the window is always large enough to fit in the tweet text.

Auto-Centring

Occasionally Ambientweet needs your attention, for example if there is a problem with your Twitter login.
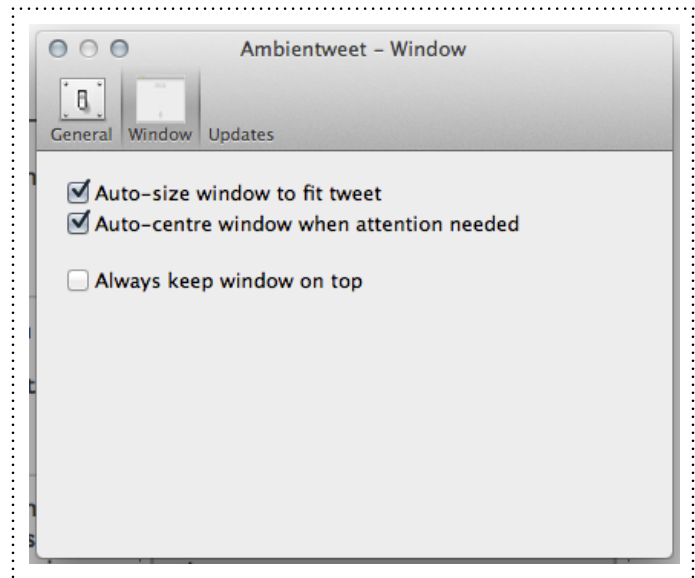
Because Ambientweet is designed to run in the background, the window is often placed off toward the edge or corner of a screen.

If you wish, you can have Ambientweet automatically move its window to the centre of the screen when it needs attention, so that it's hard to miss.

To do this, tick the **Auto-centre window when attention needed** checkbox.

Stay On Top

If you tick the **Tweet window always on top** option, the Ambientweet window will remain at the front, even when another application is active.

One More Thing...

For More Information

For the latest news and updates, please visit the **Ambientweet website**.

You can also visit the Ambientweet **support forum** if you have a question, or contact us directly at **support@elegantchaos.com**.

Copyright & Credits

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See the **credits page** for full details.

Thanks for using Ambientweet!