

The MacTeX Distribution

1 Introduction

The MacTeX project is a modern TeX distribution for Mac OS X, produced by the TUG working group on Mac OS X. For more information see <<http://tug.org/mactex>>.

2 The MacTeX-2008.mpkg

Double clicking the MacTeX-2008.mpkg package installs a complete and up to date TeX system along with updated versions of Ghostscript and ImageMagic's convert as well as fully configured Graphical User Interface (GUI) applications. The supplied GUI applications, installed in a "TeX" folder inside your Applications folder, allow you to:

1. Edit, Typeset and Preview your documents using TeXShop as a front end to the TeX typesetting system;
2. Spell Check your documents without worrying about embedded commands using Excalibur;
3. Build and Maintain BibTeX Bibliographic Databases using BibDesk; and
4. Build LaTeX equations that can be used in other applications via Drag and Drop using LaTeXiT.

Those just starting out with TeX should follow the suggestions in the short "Read Me First.pdf" document in the "TeX" folder.

3 The Other Folders

The remaining folders contain:

- information on getting started with the installed system;
- some introductory documentation to LaTeX;
- duplicates of some of the GUI applications for those who already have a TeX distribution or other special needs; and,
- additional or alternative software that some users may find useful.

3.1 Demos

This folder has some demonstrations of what can be accomplished with the most popular "dialects" of TeX; Plain TeX, LaTeX, ConTeXt, XeTeX and XeLaTeX.

3.2 Documentation

Some URL files for further information about TeX on Mac OS X on the internet as well as copies of "*A (Not So) Short Introduction to LaTeX*" in several languages.

3.3 Extras

The Extras¹ folder contains several sub-folders with:

- duplicates of several GUI programs installed by the MacTeX installer for those who already have a TeX distribution;
- alternates to the GUI applications installed by the MacTeX installer; and
- additional software that a TeXer might find useful.

3.3.1 Bibliography

Bibliography programs for building and maintaining BibTeX databases.

3.3.2 Browsers

Programs to browse, look at documentation for and download extensions to L^ATeX. Also a widget for many symbols.

3.3.3 Editors & Front Ends

Alternative Editors, Typesetters and Previewers for TeX. These range from “WYSIWYM (What You See Is What You Mean)” to a Programmer’s Editor which interacts with the TeX system via script extensions.

3.3.4 Equation Editors

These allow the user to create beautiful equations, etc., that may be exported for use in other applications; e.g., illustration and presentation software.

3.3.5 Previewers

A separate DVI and PDF previewer for use as an external viewer with other editors.

3.3.6 Scripts

Files to integrate some external programmer’s editors with the TeX system.

3.3.7 Spell Checkers

Alternate TeX, L^ATeX and ConTeXt aware spell checkers.

4 In Closing

If you find the distribution useful, please consider joining TUG, <<http://tug.org/join.html>>, or the TeX User Group best for you, <<http://tug.org/usergroups.html>>. If you want to report bugs or have a problem with the MacTeX distribution please contact <<http://www.tug.org/mactex/support/>> or e-mail directly to <mactex-support@tug.org>. If you have TeX problems, please join the TeX on Mac OS X Mailing List, <<http://www.esm.psu.edu/mac-tex/main.shtml#Mailinglist>>.

¹Most applications that are listed for Tiger will also run fine in Leopard. See the file Extra Folder.pdf for more information.