
Instructions for Installing L^AT_EX

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Bringing Your Own Computer

I strongly recommend you bring your own computer to the workshop if you have a laptop. There will be outlets to plug in your computer and bringing your computer will give me the opportunity to help you with any issues. Installing L^AT_EX on your computer ahead of time will give you the opportunity to follow along with the workshop. You will need to install both the L^AT_EX base which provides your computer with the necessary information to interpret and compile your documents, and a text editor to actually author your documents in. Below are directions to install both the L^AT_EX base and an editor. You should install the L^AT_EX base first, as your editor will need L^AT_EX to already be installed so it can automatically configure itself to access the L^AT_EX libraries. If this sounds confusing, don't worry, I will explain all of this in more detail during the workshop.

Installing the L^AT_EX Base:

Windows

The standard L^AT_EX distribution for Windows computers is MikTeX (available here: <http://miktex.org/download>). However, I find that installing this version of L^AT_EX is more challenging and less reliable than using the distribution provided in the step by step instructions below:

1. Go to the following website: <http://ctan.math.utah.edu/ctan/tex-archive/systems/windows/protext/> and select the first entry: **ProTeXt-3.1.4-020114.exe** which is about 1.6 Gigabytes. Download this file to your **Downloads** folder. It will probably take an hour.
2. Once you have downloaded the file, double click on it to extract the folder. Go into the folder and click on the **Setup.exe** file. A window will pop up, click on the **Install** button next to MikTeX. Once you have accepted the licence, make sure you check the bubble to install the **Complete MikTeX**. After you click next, make sure you select **Install for all users** and then follow any further directions. This is important because it will ensure L^AT_EX runs with every package you could want to use and is the most stable installation on Windows.

Mac OSX

MacTeX is my favorite distribution for Mac OSX. Go to this website: <https://www.tug.org/mactex/> and select the **MacTeX.pkg** link toward the middle of the page. Download this package to your desktop (using Safari if possible). When this is complete, double click on the package and follow the directions to install on your computer.

Linux

If you are using Ubuntu or Debian simply type the following command into your terminal:

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apt-get install texlive
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I will assume that if you are using another Linux distro, you are probably capable of taking care of yourself, but feel free to email me with questions.

Installing an Editor (All Operating Systems):

There are many programs available for editing L^AT_EX documents. I am going to suggest one editor which works across all platforms as one of the easiest, most intuitive and powerful editors available, and its FREE!

TeXMaker is available here: <http://www.xmlmath.net/texmaker/download.html>, just select the version that matches your operating system and download it.

There are more than 20 different editors available, but for the purposes of this workshop, it will be simpler if we all use the same one. I have tried most of these editors and I always come back to this TeXMaker. I will include some other options in the workshop handout for you to explore.