

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-Install Folder

(Available only on the DVD.) The MacTeX-Install folder contains items for installing MacTeX-2017 in two stages; MacTeX Install Part 1 and MacTeX Install Part 2. Note: There also is a TLProfiles folder that contains information for the TeX Live 2017 installer; there is no need to access that folder.

2.1 The MacTeX Install Part 1 Document

The MacTeX Install Part 1 Document has instructions for installing the full TeX Live 2017 TeX Distribution from the DVD using Terminal.app.

2.2 The MacTeX Install Part 2 Package

Double clicking the MacTeX Install Part 2.pkg sets up the necessary environment variable and installs updated versions of Ghostscript as well as fully configured 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; Check your documents without worrying about embedded commands using Excalibur;
2. Build and Maintain BibTeX Bibliographic Databases using BibDesk (OS X 10.6 and later);
3. Build L^ATeX equations that can be used in other applications via Drag and Drop using LaTeXiT; and
4. Update the TeX Live 2017 TeX Distribution packages using the TeX Live Utility.

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 L^ATeX;
- 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 or links to demonstrations of what can be accomplished with the most popular “dialects” of T_EX; Plain T_EX, L^AT_EX, ConT_EXt, X_YT_EX and X_YL^AT_EX.

3.2 Documentation

Some URL files for further information about T_EX on Mac OS X on the internet as well as instructions for finding “A (Not So) Short Introduction to L^AT_EX” in several languages.

3.3 Extras

The Extras¹ folder contains several sub-folders with:

- alternates to the GUI applications installed by the MacT_EX installer; and
- additional software that a T_EXer might find useful.

3.3.1 Bibliography

Bibliography programs for building and maintaining B_IB_TE_X databases.

3.3.2 Browsers

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

3.3.3 Editors & Front Ends

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

Separate DVI and PDF previewers for use as external viewers with other editors.

3.3.6 Scripts

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

3.3.7 Spell Checkers

Alternate T_EX, L^AT_EX and ConT_EXt aware spell checkers.

4 In Closing

If you find the distribution useful, please consider joining TUG, <<http://tug.org/join.html>>, or the T_EX User Group best for you, <<http://tug.org/usergroups.html>>. If you want to report bugs or have a problem with the MacT_EX distribution please contact <<http://www.tug.org/mactex/support/>> or e-mail directly to <mactex-support@tug.org>. If you have T_EX problems, please join the TeX on Mac OS X mailing list, <<https://email.esm.psu.edu/mailman/listinfo/macosex-tex>>.

¹See the file Extras Folder.pdf for more information about Operating System version dependencies.