Welcome to Mac\TeX! What’s Next?

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Everything in blue is a link. So click it.
TEX is a free, multilingual, open source typesetting system “for the creation of beautiful books—and especially for books that contain a lot of mathematics,” says TEX developer Donald Knuth.

TEX runs on all modern computer systems, including the Macintosh with Mac OS X. With few exceptions, documents created in TEX can be transported to all other operating systems and look the same, no matter where they are typeset.

Because TEX is a programming language with hundreds of typesetting commands, users of TEX work with macro “formats” designed to make TEX easier to use. Professor Knuth developed the first format, Plain TEX.
**T\(\text{E}X\) for the World**

\(T\text{E}X\) supports languages from around the world. It publishes from left-to-right, right-to-left and top-to-bottom. \(T\text{E}X\) languages include any with a writing system supported or supportable by fonts.

This means you can publish in almost any language. Where support for a language is unavailable or sketchy, if you ask, someone will probably help. It happens all of the time.

Supported languages include:

- Arabic, Armenian, Bangla and Asamese, Basque, Bengali, Burmese, Casyl, Cherokee, Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean, Coptic, Croatian, Czech and Slovene, Cyrillic, Devanagari, Dutch, English, Epi-Olmec, Ethiopian, French, German, Greek, Gurmukhi, Hebrew, Hungarian, Icelandic, Indian, Inuktitut, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Malayalam, Manju, Mongolian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Sanskrit, Sinhala, Slovene, Somali, Spanish, Swedish, Tamil, Telugu, Tibetan, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese...
Document Processing vs. Word Processing

\TeX is a document processing system, not a word processor.

A word processor—such as Pages or Word—shows you the results as you enter and format your content.

The \TeX document processor typesets your content and commands into a separate output file, typically a PDF.
TeX Front Ends and Supporting Tools

You can run TeX from the Mac OS X terminal or—as most Mac OS X users do—through one of the front end programs. The TeX front end programs look like text editors where you type your content and your control sequences. When you want to review your document, you can “typeset” or “compile” your project by selecting a command. Mac OS X has several TeX front ends, with TeXShop being the most widely used by beginners.

There are also front end programs for maintaining TeX bibliographies and typesetting equations and phrases.
About the Learning Curve

The effort needed to learn \TeX is similar to that of learning a word processor. Learning and using \TeX can be:

simple... or... complex...

...depending on your needs. While \TeX’s learning curve is similar to the most popular word processors, you get much better quality output.
TEX Formats

TEX includes hundreds of built-in formatting commands, called control sequences, such as \textsl{} for *slanted* and \textbf{} for **bold**. To ease marking up text, control sequences can be combined into “macros,” such as \textbf{\textsl{heading}} for **bold slanted**, for example. Groups of macros can be collected into “formats” for generalized or specialized uses. Formats can set margins, number sections and paragraphs, build tables of contents and define colors, as examples. Some popular formats are:

**\LaTeX** provides hundreds of add-on “packages” for scientific, technical and general publishing.

**AMS-\LaTeX** is \LaTeX{} enhanced for math publishing, formatting text and multiline equations to the standards of the American Mathematical society.

**Eplain \TeX** extends Plain \TeX{} with support for indexes, tables of contents and hyperlinks.

**ConTeXt** is very structured and intended for general publishing applications.

These and others are distributed with the Mac\TeX{} installer. Users can also create their own formats.
\LaTeX\ Resources—Online

The most widely used \TeX\ format—and a good place to start—\LaTeX\ was developed by Leslie Lamport and then refined by thousands of contributors by means of “packages” providing extra functions. Useful online starting places include:

**The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX** Summarizes the basic concepts and most commonly used control sequences. Updated fairly regularly in numerous languages.  

**\LaTeX\ for Word Processor Users** Cross references familiar word processor commands with the equivalent \LaTeX\ control sequences.  
http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/info/latex4wp/latex4wp.pdf

**Online Tutorials for \LaTeX\ by India TUG** For beginners, these cover lists, boxes, tables, floats, colors, footnotes, margin notes, bibliographies, math, tables of contents, indices and more…  
http://www.tug.org/tutorials/tugindia/

**Hypertext Help with \LaTeX** Reference information for experienced \LaTeX\ users.  
http://www.giss.nasa.gov/tools/latex/
**\LaTeX** Resources—Books

A few books, with others listed at [http://www.tug.org/books/](http://www.tug.org/books/):


**Guide to \LaTeX (4th Edition)** Covers many \LaTeX topics, including most packages. Helmut Kopka, Patrick W. Daly. ISBN: 0321173856.


Plain \TeX Resources

If you want to learn \TeX{} from the ground up, Plain \TeX{} is a technical place to start. Use it for a while, then modify and make your own macros. Resources include:

A Gentle Introduction to \TeX{} Starts from the beginning and moves toward more complex usage. No previous knowledge of \TeX{} is assumed.
http://ctan.tug.org/get/info/gentle/gentle.pdf

\TeX{} Reference Card Summarizes the most frequently used commands in Plain \TeX{}.

The \TeX{}book Definitive book on \TeX{} and Plain \TeX{} by Donald Knuth, the developer of \TeX{}. This is an excellent book if you want to understand \TeX{}. Follow the instructions for multiple-pass reading. ISBN: 0201134489
http://www-cs-faculty.stanford.edu/~knuth/books.html

Eplain Macros Eplain is a set of \TeX{} macros that expands on and extends the definitions of Plain \TeX{}. It is included as part of the Mac\TeX{} installation.
http://www.tug.org/eplain/
Other \TeX Resources

**TUG** The \TeX Users Group (TUG) is the local user group (LUG) for \TeX users in North America and any area or language not supported by a local users group. It is run by its members and supported mainly through annual dues.


**Local Users Groups** Because \TeX has extraordinary support for languages, local users groups are available worldwide.

http://tug.org/usergroups.html

**CTAN** This is the Comprehensive \TeX Archive Network, the authoritative collection of materials related to the \TeX typesetting system. Here you can download information, programs and packages about \TeX, \LaTeX, Con\TeXt and more…

http://www.ctan.org/

**The \TeX Showcase** The showcase contains examples of what you can do with \TeX, formats such as \LaTeX and AMS\LaTeX, many of the macros packages, plus related tools like MetaPost, TeX4ht (HTML conversion) and Music\TeX.

http://www.tug.org/texshowcase/
Fonts and XeTeX

Built-in Fonts
TeX comes with fonts separate from your system fonts. Using the fonts is fairly straightforward. Installing new fonts is complicated. There are no beginner-level tutorials on doing this, mostly because of the availability of XeTeX.

XeTeX
XeTeX—open source software developed by Jonathan Kew—allows TeX and friends to use Macintosh system fonts by merging Unicode and Mac OS X font technologies into TeX. XeTeX is included in the MacTeX installation. XeTeX is also available for Linux and Windows. More info: http://tug.org/xetex.

Bradley Hand  Gill Sans  Optima  Papyrus
Arial  Gentium Book  Impact  Stone Sans
Baskerville  Marker Felt  Hoefler Text  Palatino  Skia
Mac OS X \TeX/\LaTeX Web Site & Mailing List

The Mac OS X \TeX/\LaTeX web site is a primary source for finding information about running \TeX on a Macintosh. The web site was created and is maintained by Gary L. Gray and Joseph C. Slater as a service to the Macintosh \TeX community.

Here you can find information on \TeX software and instructions. You can also subscribe to the Mac-\TeX mailing list.

http://www.esm.psu.edu/mac-tex/
TeX Live and MacTeX

MacTeX is a complete installation of TeX Live, packaged for Mac OS X.
In addition to TeX Live, MacTeX installs:

⇒ Ghostscript
⇒ The front end program TeXShop editor for TeX, \LaTeXiT equation editor, BibDesk bibliography manager and Excalibur spell checker

Options allow you to selectively install some of the packages.
The web site for MacTeX is:
http://www.tug.org/mactex/
The web site for TeX Live is:
http://www.tug.org/texlive/
Current Version of Welcome Doc

You can find the current version of this document at:
http://www.tug.org/mactex/