

Installing \LaTeX

Distributions and editors

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To write a document with L^AT_EX, the user must install specific programs, as for any other text editor. These are:

- a distribution,
- an editor.

The L^AT_EX distribution contains all tools necessary to generate a document (usually a PDF) from the “code”. The editor is a program which simplifies the L^AT_EX writing by providing shortcuts for compilation (cf. next tutorial) and shortcuts for text styling (e.g., CTRL+B creates bold text).

Which distribution to choose

Comparison of LaTeX distributions based on OS compatibility

OS	Distributions		
	T _E X Live	MiK _T E _X	MacT _E X
Windows	yes	yes	no
Linux	yes	yes	yes
MacOS	no	yes	yes

Which distribution to choose

Feedback from my own experience

As I have used both Windows and Linux (mainly CentOS) operating systems but never Mac, I cannot provide any feedback about **MacTeX**. Sorry for Mac users...

However, I have used extensively **MiKTeX** (on Windows only) and **TeX Live** (both Linux and Windows):

- I faced problems for using some packages or compilers with **MiKTeX** that were not existing with **TeX Live** such as
 - compilation issues when using **LuaLaTeX** (cf. tutorial B002),
 - **biber** engine not recognised while I was using the **biblatex** package,
- this is what I experienced
 - I compared up-to-date versions,
 - I did it a few years ago so it could have changed since the comparison was done,
- I **recommend** the use of **TeX Live**.

Which editor to choose

Comparison of LaTeX editors based on OS compatibility

OS	Editors		
	TeXstudio	TeXmaker	TeXnicCenter
Windows	yes	yes	yes
Linux	yes	yes	no
MacOS	yes	yes	no

Which editor to choose

Feedback from my own experience

As I have used both \TeX maker and \TeX studio but \TeX nicCenter. Sorry that I cannot provide any feedback about it...

I have used a lot \TeX maker (on Windows only) then I switched to \TeX studio (both Linux and Windows) because to my opinion:

- the tool was more “clever” considering the key management (references, bibliography),
- it proposes automatic alignment in tabular environments (even though this is not working when the `multicolumn` command is used).

However, for those who like a fine control, e.g. for compilation, \TeX maker is providing a more visible interface.

Anyway, the editor is a matter of taste. So try some and do not hesitate to change and to compare them to find yours.

Installation process