Intro to QGIS Laptop Guidelines

Frank Donnelly, Head of GIS & Data Services, Brown University Library

The *Introduction to GIS with QGIS* workshops require participants to bring their own laptop (Windows 64 bit, Mac, or Linux) with QGIS pre-installed. Please follow these guidelines to insure that you can participate. ¹

Can I take this QGIS workshop with my laptop?



YES. If it's a laptop you're intimately familiar with and are comfortable using. It's like a dear friend and traveling companion to you. You have admin rights and know how to navigate it. You know how to connect to wifi and can download and install software on your own.



NO. If you have rarely (or never) seen or used this laptop in your entire life. You have little or no intention of using it in the future. You borrowed it from a co-worker or dug it out of a closet. It is unfamiliar, mysterious, and bizarre.

Sadly, you can't take this workshop if your laptop is:



A netbook. These are too small and underpowered for our purposes.



A tablet. Touchscreens are not suitable for the work we'll be doing.



An ancient artifact. Ideally it shouldn't be more than six to ten years old.

¹If you don't have access to a laptop that's suitable for this session but would like to attend, please contact the instructor *well in advance* and we'll do our best to make arrangements so you can participate.

So, you can attend and bring a laptop! Now what?

- BE SURE TO DOWNLOAD AND INSTALL THE SOFTWARE BEFORE WORKSHOP DAY. We will **not** have time to do, or troubleshoot, installations in class.
- WE ARE USING QGIS 3.28 FIRENZE FOR THIS WORKSHOP. To avoid confusion and lost class time **please** install the same version we are using in class.



The QGIS download page displays the **latest** release first. When downloading the software, click the link *below* the large button for the stable **long term** release:



Or, just use the links below. Hover over them and click to download.



MS Windows - Stand-alone installers are available for 64 bit operating systems only: QGIS 3.28 64 bit. Don't know if your OS is 32 or 64 bit? Look under the Start Menu - Control Panel - System and Security - System for the answer.



Mac - Download and install QGIS 3.28, as a DMG image file. macOS High Sierra (10.13) or newer is required. QGIS is not yet notarized by macOS Catalina (10.15) security rules; on first launch, control-click on the icon and choose Open from the context menu, after which a confirmation dialog is shown and you need to click the Open button.



Linux - If you're lucky, your distro may include QGIS 3.28 in its software repositories, so check there. Otherwise, go to the QGIS website and follow the instructions for downloading QGIS for your distro (if you're a Linux user, you're probably used to figuring stuff like this out).

For whatever reason, if you simply can't get QGIS 3.28 Firenze working on your machine, you can try an earlier or later 3.x version. LASTLY - this part is optional - you can save some time and download the data that we'll be using in advance from https://libguides.brown.edu/gis_data_tutorials/intro_qgis. It may be faster than using the wifi in the classroom. Otherwise, we will have time to download the data in class.

Picture credits (under Creative Commons licenses): laptop feet up - https://www.flickr.com/photos/donger/, scary computer - https://www.flickr.com/photos/xesc/, netbooks - https://www.flickr.com/photos/umpcportal/, tablets - https://www.flickr.com/photos/ourcage/, old computers - https://www.flickr.com/photos/kenfagerdotcom/.