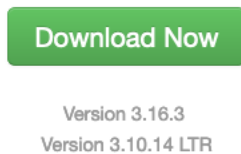


## Installing QGIS – draft 2-19-21

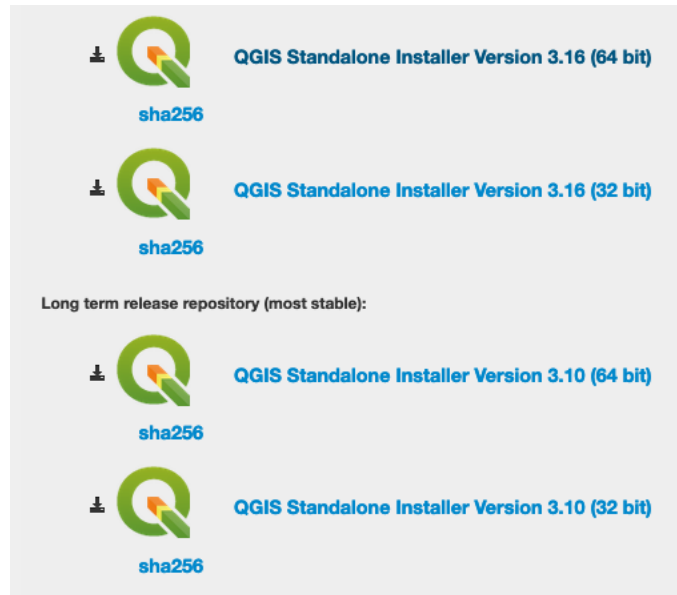
QGIS is a Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) that provides users with professional GIS capabilities that can be extended through plugins. QGIS is aptly described on the website (<https://www.qgis.org/en/site/about/index.html>) as “a user friendly Open Source Geographic Information System (GIS) licensed under the GNU General Public License. QGIS is an official project of the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo). It runs on Linux, Unix, Mac OSX, Windows and Android and supports numerous vector, raster, and database formats and functionalities.”

- 1) Go to <https://www.qgis.org>
- 2) Click the **Download Now** button. This will provide you access to the most recent version and the LTR version which is the Long-Term Release. The LTR is considered to be more stable and refined version whereas the most recent version that you can also download contains the newest features that occasionally need a bit more refinement before they can be included in a LTR.



Note: The Changelog page provides information on the new features and changes in the release. At the bottom of the Changelog menu are links to older Changelogs. Version 3.16 changelog is located at <https://www.qgis.org/en/site/forusers/visualchangelog316/index.html>. Change the 316 to the current version number when a new one arrives.

- 3) After pressing the **Download Now** Button the webpage for download will be presented.
  - a. If you are on a Mac, you will have two options and an alternative build. Select one of the first two options. If you are taking a workshop or just starting out, the LTR version is the one typically recommended.
  - b. If you are a Windows User, there are additional options for installers. The first two are for the OSGeo4W installers. Skip past these as they install additional software. The standalone versions are for both the LTR and most recent release. Within each you have a choice for a 32 or 64 Bit version. As long as you are running Windows 10, select the 64-bit option. If using Windows 7, match the version of your OS.



- 4) Once the software has downloaded, you are ready to install. Mac users will have downloaded a file with an extension of .dmg while Windows users will have a .exe file extension.
- Mac: Double click the .dmg file to open it as a QGIS drive image. Once uncompressed, a window will appear showing you the QGIS application and a link to the applications folder. Simply drag the QGIS icon to the applications folder and it will be copied to your computer. Note that this may take several minutes as the file is nearly 2 Gigabyte in size. Once the file has copied over, you can eject the QGIS drive image and go and delete the .DMG file that was downloaded.
  - Windows: Double click the downloaded .exe file. A window asking if you want to allow QGIS to make changes will display. Click Yes. Then proceed through the installer dialog questions. You can optionally install the practice data sets if you wish to explore them and have the disk space. The QGIS app itself is over 1.8 gigabyte. Once the installer completes, delete the downloaded .exe file.



- 5) After installation, you are ready to open QGIS.
- Mac: When you open QGIS for the first time, the Mac OS will verify the application and you will likely get a message that the app was downloaded from the Internet and it will ask you to confirm that you want to open it. On some older Mac OS systems, you might need to go to your preferences: Security & Privacy and verify. For the newest OS take note of this message from the downloads page.:

*Mac Installer Packages for macOS High Sierra (10.13) and newer. QGIS is not yet notarized as required by macOS Catalina (10.15) security rules. On first launch, please right-click on the QGIS app icon, hold down the Option key, then choose Open.*

- Windows: A shortcut menu for QGIS should have been created on the desktop. Open it and select the QGIS Desktop file that does not have GRASS in the file name. If the installer has not created a shortcut file for you, go to the Windows start menu and scroll down to the QGIS directory and open it. Select the QGIS Desktop 3.x file. Alternatively, you can go to the C:\Program Files\QGIS 3.10\bin directory for a file named something similar to qgis-ltr-bin.exe. (This is the LTR version).

- 6) When you start up QGIS it will display a Project window showing you Recent Projects, News and Project Templates. To start a new empty map, go to the Project→New menu.

