

Mac Software - Introduction

There is an absolute **ton** of great software out there. I've put a list together here with my favourite little bits of software, partially for my own reference, and partially because I think people should all experience these awesome software.

I've broken them up into a few simple sections:

1. [Design](#)
2. [Writing](#)
3. [Media](#)
4. [System Modifications](#)
5. [Hardware](#)
6. [Games](#)
7. [Programming](#)
8. [Python Libraries](#)

Design

I don't really use these extensively. I got Affinity on a **huge** discount, and prefer the fact that it's a one-time-payment as opposed to Adobe's equivalent.

- [Affinity Photo](#): Lightweight photo editor very photoshop-esque but works smoothly and for much less money.
- [Affinity Designer](#)
- [Affinity Publisher](#)
- [Inkscape](#): SVG editor, recently released v1.0

Writing

Sometimes I jot down notes in markdown, and sometimes I take a bit more time to compose a letter or paper in LaTeX. If you haven't heard of Markdown, get your head out of the ground!

0.0.1. Latex

- [TeXShop](#): The MacTeX editor of choice. The interface is a little old-school, but together with [Hungrymark](#) and [Magnet](#), I've got a pretty good workflow going.
- [TexPad](#): Not a free editor, but very pretty, and works well for tiny projects. It's a bit more finicky when you're trying to make fine-detail adjustments, but for general-purpose writing it's great.

0.0.1. Markdown

- [MacDown](#): One of my favourite Markdown editors on Mac.
 - [MarkText](#): Windows and Linux versions available too. This is basically a WYSIWYG editor, but tends to be.
 - [Obsidian](#): A *very* pretty interface for taking notes in Markdown. I don't really use it at the moment, but I have it on this list in case I want to try!
-

Media

0.0.1. Social Media

- [Zoom](#)
- [Whatsapp Desktop](#)
- [Telegram Lite](#)
- [Discord](#)
- [Facebook Messenger](#)

0.0.1. Entertainment

- [Clicker for Netflix](#): Netflix viewer. I don't really use this that much...
- [Voxal](#): Nice and free audio changer - fun to use in Discord etc.
- [Spotify](#): I actually use Apple Music, but Spotify sits in the background in case I can't find something on Apple Music.

- [Splashy](#): Wallpaper changer! There's a free version and it works nicely in the background!
-

Safari

Safari is my browser of choice - I've just gotten used to it over time, after moving away from Google Chrome, and can't really be bothered to try out Firefox at the moment. These are the extensions I use (on a regular basis).

0.0.1. Extensions

- [Pipifier for Mac](#): Allows for Picture-in-picture views in Netflix and *most* other websites.
- [AdGuard](#): After going through a bunch of different ad blockers, this has turned out to be by far the best. Although I use the system-wide version (that's paid), you can also use [AdGuard for Safari](#), available on the App Store.
- [uTorrent Web]([μTorrent® \(uTorrent\) - a \(very\) tiny BitTorrent client](#)): Bittorrent client of choice. It runs inside Safari, and is nice and super lightweight.
- [Honey](#): This needs to be added to Safari/Chrome...

0.0.1. Other

- [Google Chrome](#): I like Safari - it's fast and lightweight, but some things just run on Chrome and nothing else.
 - [VPN Unlimited](#): VPN Client of choice, mostly because I got the lifetime subscription for cheap. This runs system-wide and not just in Safari, so it works with all other apps too.
-

System Modifications

0.0.1. Regular Use

These are little mods that you'll use right up front (with keyboard shortcuts or the like) they change workflows a little.

- [Magnet](#): Nice snap-to-corner window manager making it a bit more windows-esque, free alternative is [Rectangle](#).

- [Monit](#): See key performance data in the notification centre.
- [Colormate](#): Allows picking colours and copying them from anywhere on the screen - has turned out to be incredibly useful!
- [TextSniper](#): The shortcut ⌘+⇧+2 lets you select an area of your screen and converts images to text very quickly and actually fairly accurately.
- [Hungrymark](#): Really cool bookmark button for websites, files, apps, lots of things you can use!
- [ViMac](#): Keyboard scrolling, replaces little shortcuts and checkboxes with letter keys, makes it super easy to use vim-like shortcuts in most of the mac environment.
- [Cheatsheet](#): Hold down ⌘ to view all shortcuts in basically any app or screen in your mac
- [Dato](#): Fairly convenient clock/calendar replacement that offers good customisation.

0.0.1. Background

These exist in the background a little more - you'll probably notice they're gone more than you'll notice than they're around, but YMMV.

- [Glance]([GitHub - samuelmeuli/glance: 🔍 All-in-one Quick Look plugin](#)): Gives some much nicer markup for things like Python/Markdown files.
- [BlackHole]([GitHub - ExistentialAudio/BlackHole: BlackHole is a modern macOS virtual audio driver that allows applications to pass audio to other applications with zero additional latency.](#)): BlackHole is a modern MacOS virtual audio driver that allows applications to pass audio to other applications with zero additional latency.
- [Amphetamine](#): Keeps your mac on permanently if you need to run renders etc. while AFK, with pretty good granular control. A paid alternative I've used before is [Lungo](#).
- [Karibiner-Elements](#): Karibiner does desktop shortcuts. I've used it almost exclusively to map my mouse keys to switch between virtual desktops (workspaces), because I realised I use that a LOT when I was working with a touchpad.
- [Mos](#): Smooth scrolling with the mouse on mac! I wish apple built this in automatically...

0.0.1. Utility

These bits do maintenance and help to run other little things that might be used once every few days/weeks.

- [VirtualBox](#): Virtual Machine, good to run Windows when compiling for some binaries or other.
 - [Onyx](#): Use for maintenance/cleaning tasks.
 - [CleanMyMacX](#): I'm a sucker for clean interfaces and lightweight software. CleanMyMacX removes bloat fairly quickly and you can either get it with SetApp or buy an individual subscription/pay a lifetime fee.
 - [TinkerTool](#): Access to additional preference settings Apple has built into macOS.
-

Hardware

These are either drivers or software that works specifically with certain hardware.

- [Veikk Drivers](#): Download for the super cheap drawing tablet I bought.
 - [Repaper Studio](#): I use this with the Slate - probably not for everyone else.
 - [Balena Etcher](#): Can be used to write image files to MicroSD cards. I use this with Raspberry Pi projects.
 - [Arduino IDE](#): The open-source Arduino Software (IDE) makes it easy to write code and upload it to the board.
-

Games

0.0.1. "Traditional" Gaming Platforms

Gaming on mac isn't really all that great, but you can have fun too!

- [Battle.net](#): Starcraft II runs on Mac (in Metal), and is pretty slick.
- [Steam](#): If you're coming from a windows gaming machine, it is likely you'd be able to find some games already written for Metal, or ported for Mac by [Feral Interactive](#).

0.0.1. Apple Arcade

I thought Apple Arcade was a waste of time when it first came out, but it turns out casual gaming was exactly what I needed to kill time when I *really* don't feel like playing a real game or

reading a book. My current playlist:

- [Butter Royale](#): Genuinely a great little battle royale game that's not at all difficult to pick up and mess around with!
 - [Oceanhorn 2](#): Honestly, this is just a fantastic game.
 - [Overland](#): I am a *sucker* for turn-based strategy, and the fact that this game is hair-pullingly difficult is even better!
-

Programming

- [Anaconda](#): Python distribution of choice - I also prefer Spyder over Pycharm.
 - [PyCharm CE](#): Other Python
 - [Github Desktop](#): Use to manage and push updates to github repos.
 - [Kite](#): Great little tool to do autocomplete in lots of editors.
 - [XCode](#)
 - [Docker Desktop](#)
 - [iTerm 2](#)
-

Python Libraries

I use python for quick-and-dirty jobs. These libraries are either ML stuff (I've taken an interest in it, or other utility libraries I've found useful in work/play) that I wouldn't remember exist normally (obviously numpy needs no introduction).

- [PlaidML](#): Tensor Compiler for any old graphics card - much faster than just chugging along with a slow CPU.
- [PDF2SVG](#): Converts any old PDFs to vector graphics - has turned out to be super useful.
- [PyFiglet](#): Great little library to make cool header text.
- [Cowsay](#): Another great little cool ASCII art text library.