LaTeX Installation Guide for Windows

This guide will tell you how to get started with LaTeX if you use Microsoft Windows. In order to use LaTeX on Windows you must install MiKTeX and TeXnicCenter. Once you have set these up you will be able to write or download a `.tex` input file and produce a pdf.
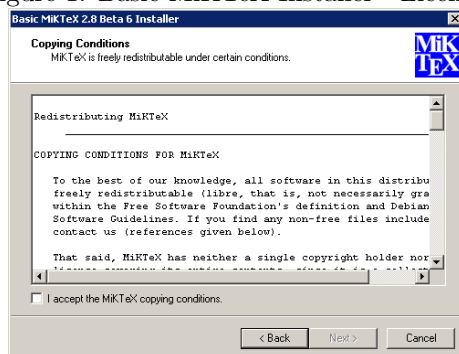
System requirements

MiKTeX is suitable for Microsoft Windows 7, Vista, XP and 2000. The programs will take up at least 310 MB of disk space.

If you have not already done so, download Adobe Reader (for displaying pdfs) from `http://get.adobe.com/uk/reader/`

A. Download MiKTeX

1. Direct your browser to `http://miktex.org/2.9/setup`

2. Click the button to download "Basic MiKTeX 2.9" Installer.

3. Click to confirm the download and click to run the installer.

4. Once the Basic MiKTeX Installer is running, accept the licence.

Figure 1: Basic MiKTeX Installer - License.

5. Accept the default installation settings (user and directory)

6. Enter the following settings: Paper - A4, Package installation - Yes.

7. After a while, the Installer should Finish.

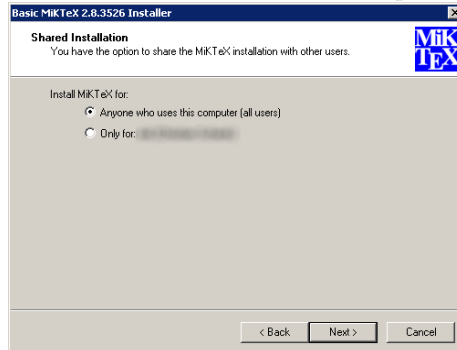Figure 2: Basic MiKTeX Installer: Shared vs. private installation.

Figure 3: Basic MiKTeX Installer: Installation directory.

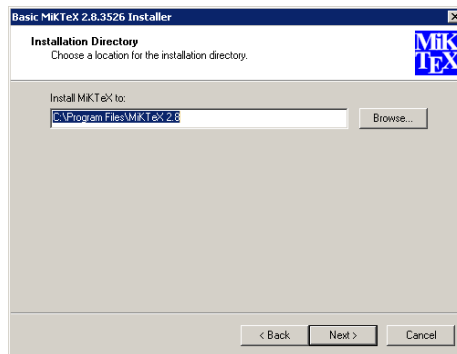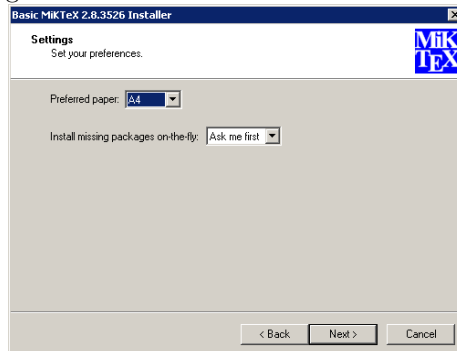Figure 4: Basic MiKTeX Installer: Settings.

B. Download TeXnicCenter

1. Direct your browser to
   `http://www.texniccenter.org/resources/downloads/`

2. Click the first link to download TeXnicCenter Installer.

3. At this stage you will be redirected to the Sourceforge website, where you may have to click on the direct link.

Figure 5: Basic MiKTeX Installer: Review.
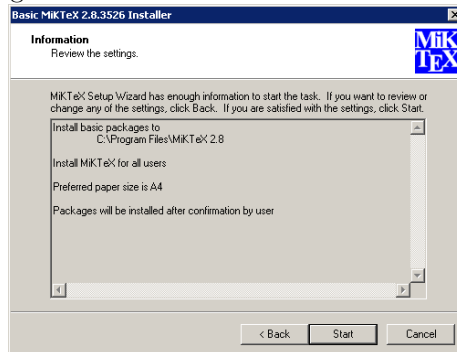

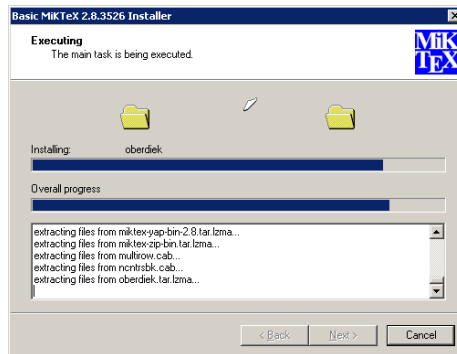Figure 6: Basic MiKTeX Installer: Installation progress.
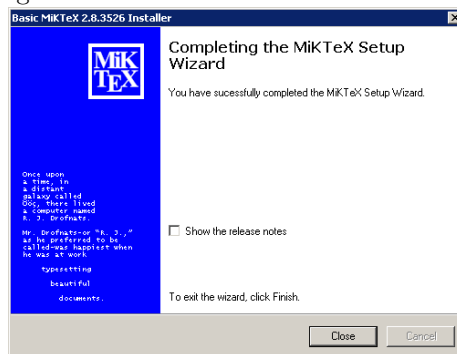

Figure 7: Basic MiKTeX Installer: Finish.

4. Click to confirm the download and click to run the installer.

5. Once the installer is running, accept the licence.

6. Accept the default directory and choose the Typical selection.

7. Change the program group if you wish, and choose whether to have a desktop icon.

8. After a short while, the Installer should Finish

C. Set up TeXnicCenter

1. Open TeXnicCenter. You will be greeted by the tip of the day (click Close) and then the Configuration Wizard. Click Next.

2. Enter the directory `C:\Program Files\MiKTeX 2.9\miktex\bin` and click Next.

3. Ignore the PostScript options: click Next.

4. Click Finish.

D. Using TeXnicCenter

You have now installed and configured LaTeX and are ready to make your first pdf.

1. Create or open a `.tex` file. You can download and save a template, open an existing file that you have been working on, or start a new file from scratch. If you start a new file make sure you save it in a memorable location with a meaningful name.

2. Select the pdf output profile. On the menu bar, choose Build then Select Output Profile. Then choose `LaTeX => PDF` and click OK.

3. Run LaTeX on your file. On the menu bar, choose Build then Current File. If all goes well you should see "0 Error(s)" at the end of the Output.

4. View your pdf. On the menu bar, choose Build then View Output. This will open Adobe Reader.

Problems with Adobe Reader X

The very last step in the above procedure might be problematic if you are using Adobe Reader version X.

1. In TeXnicCenter, choose the Build menu and then Define Output Profiles.

2. Select the `LaTeX => PDF` profile, and the Viewer tab.

3. Under 'View project's output' and 'Forward Search', change the radio button to 'Command line argument'.

4. Under 'View project's output' and 'Forward Search', enter the Command `%bm.pdf`

5. Click OK.

You can remove both TeXnicCenter and MiKTeX from your PC by uninstalling them from the Control Panel