

Computer Setup

Machine

[[Workflow/Machine]] or [Machine]

Apple Apps:

1. Launcher – Alfred and Keyboard Macros
2. Browser – Firefox (Vivaldi), move to Safari if Zotero plugin developed
3. Text Editor – Zettlr; 1Writer on iPad [[Workflow/TextEditor]]
4. Bibliography – Zotero
5. Mail – Spark
6. Map – Scapple
7. Document Management and Web Clips – DevonThink – move markdown to file system –General to iA Writer; book to 1Writer. PDFs to Documents. [[Note-Taking]]
8. PDF – PDF Expert
9. Password Manager – 1Password
10. Notes in Obsidian [[Workflow/Note-Taking]] [[Note-Taking]]

Linux Apps

1. Launcher Ulauncher (Debian-based); K-runner (Arch)
2. Browser – Firefox
3. Text Editor – Atom [[Workflow/TextEditor]]
4. Bibliography – Zotero
5. Mail – MailSpring
6. Map – ?
7. Document Management and Web Clips – Joplin
8. PDF – Okular
9. Password Manager – BitWarden
10. Notes – Obsidian [[Workflow/Note-Taking]]

Practices [MacOS]

1. first three letters F5;
2. shift option command v no formatting paste;
3. option command v in destination folder for move
4. shift-command-backslash for move-copy through Alfred
5. Firefox produces two windows when opened through clicking on link; drag and drop merges.
6. for Terminal pandoc instead of `-filter=pandoc-citeproc` simply `-citeproc`
7. YAML allows Zettlr to create PDF. Control-Option-Command Y

Note-Taking Form

[[Workflow/Note-Taking]]

Probably worrying too much about notes and not enough about direction, point, and purpose of the reading. Need to do more summary. In fact, might be important to do that in Kindle.

1. Kindle and PDF Notes

Every highlight has an attached note. Those for interesting facts and points – will probably have simple NB or central argument. Some may have more extensive challenges or ideas.

2. Books and Articles

Date, Note, Citation, Tags, Links

Zettlr search works for all tags and linked files within a given folder. Command-click.

Example:

FreudOnKites_IOD

Date: 17 June 2020

Note: Contrary to expectations, held that kite dreams signaled sexual frustration, not liberation.

Tags: #workflow #dreams

Links: [[Note-Taking]] [[Computer Setup Redux]]

Machine

DHB

Very few of my work apps are OS-dependent. Atom, Zettlr, pandoc-latex, Obsidian, Firefox, and Bitwarden are all plain text or available on different platforms. So the issue becomes do I want to avoid the Apple markup and hardware costs or stay within the eco-system taking advantage of the silicon revolution? Linux is solid and workable (even a bit faster) while Apple is shiny and “just works.”

There is a third choice: use MacOS on old Apple hardware. Have generally rejected it on the grounds that eventually Apple will move things to silicon and the 2012 Pro will need replacement eventually (already the battery is incapable of sessions longer than an hour and a half).

As an aside, it is interesting the way that a fourth option – purchasing used Intel PC is not minimally attractive. At least with the inexpensive ones. As much as I have railed against thinness from Apple, I nonetheless seem to want to avoid chunky models and with present-day Lenovo, Dell, and AMD models the prices are so similar to the Mac, I may as well use a Mac.

Karen’s use of the iMac has meant that my machine will be in all likelihood a laptop, supplemented by an external drive. iPad-iPhone will be primarily the consumption machines. I could get a mac mini (M1) and use iPad as the mobile machine. That would open the way for mechanical keyboard use and keep me in the ecosystem. But that option would entail synchronization and **one advantage of a laptop is that it allows me to take my work anywhere without synchronization but with backup.**

So until June, the question is whether Linux will suffice. If yes (and as of 2021-03-20, the answer is a tentative “yes”), the test becomes whether the 13" is usable. Key will be how well the battery lasts (the 15" works poorly with Linux) and how the screen looks at that size. If Linux doable (and the real question is whether I accept I am not at the cutting edge and do quite little, all things considered, on the Mac. Finding out means doing actually work besides surfing the web, watching tech review videos.)

If Linux will not work, the question is whether the 13" or a silicon laptop will be the machine of choice. If I opt for Apple silicon, then sale or donation of old laptops.

Links: [\[\[Workflow/Machine\]\]](#); [\[\[Workflow/Distro\]\]](#); [\[\[Workflow/TextEditor\]\]](#) or
[\[\[Distro\]\]](#); [\[\[TextEditor\]\]](#)

Distro

The general Linux question is whether I can comfortably do my work and use the computer as I more or less use a Mac. There is, of course, much to learn, and so it appeals to my acquire skills inclinations. But it also will mean that I remove myself from the shiny, just works world of Apple. The development of silicon and Big Sur and beyond means that the mac collection in the house will eventually become obsolete at worst and “laggy” at best. The virtue of Linux is that it will extend the life of my current machines and save me money. This result makes even more sense given that I do not do heavy work (video, photos, music) but surf and research, take notes and write. Yes, there’s streaming but not so much as to tax the machine. Linux makes sense for those things, even with a steep learning curve.

As for the distribution, I have solved many of the Manjaro problems – screen fonts (16X9 rather than X10), email, Dropbox, Autokey usage, update, Zotero picker rather than autocomplete, Mint is solid but it isn’t very exciting. Manjaro has great software repositories, although Debian-based distros and easier to learn. Someday may switch to Garuda, but it is flashier but not necessarily better to use.

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TextEditor

In truth, the difference between Atom and Zettlr is marginal. They handle citations, links, MD conversion to PDF slightly differently. The strength of the search and the overall look and feel are also in play:

citation Zettlr can do the footnotes and produce PDFs with footnotes based on the bibtex or JSON file. Atom, on the other hand, is having trouble with autocomplete-bibtex, but Zotero picker works perfectly well, provided I remember to open Zotero.

links: Z reads Obsidian backlinks that do not have folder name directly. Atom has a Wikilinks package, which work perfectly but which, like Atom-notes, must have links that indicate the note and the directory.

conversion Zettlr PDF requires YAML on mac (which changes title if different from designated file name). On Linux, straight forward so far

Atom runs best through the terminal and for PDF is fairly simple: Include YAML, cd to folder, pandoc -s -o (pdf name) -citeproc (md name).

searches Atom slightly more powerful

storage Atom more easily store in GitHub, although to be fair I haven't tried it in awhile.

ease of writing Atom has dual editor; Zettlr needs kludges with Quick Look. Atom has autocomplete; Zettlr does not. Atom can show PDFs (with package); Zettlr in Linux can not

Conclusion – Really liked autocomplete-bibtex, but not a deal breaker. Atom has more slightly more versatility and the tree structure of files that enable Scrivener-like handling of projects.