

Getting Inkscape up and running on a newer Mac (OS X 10.8 Mountain Lion and OS X 10.9 Mavericks)

Background

Starting with Mac OS X 10.8, Apple stopped packaging X11 graphics windowing within its OS X operating system. X11 is needed to run Inkscape.

Before installing Inkscape, you must install XQuartz. XQuartz will install the X11 graphics needed to install and configure Inkscape.

For more detailed technical information, read the Inkscape FAQ:

[http://wiki.inkscape.org/wiki/index.php/FAQ#Inkscape fails to launch on OS X 10.8 Mountain Lion or 10.9 Mavericks](http://wiki.inkscape.org/wiki/index.php/FAQ#Inkscape_fails_to_launch_on_OS_X_10.8_Mountain_Lion_or_10.9_Mavericks)

Additional information from Apple: <http://support.apple.com/kb/ht5293>

Getting Started – Read the Instructions (Very Helpful; Skip at your own risk)

1. Read the installation instructions on the Inkscape website:

<http://inkscape.org/en/download/mac-os/>

2. Read the Inkscape FAQ about Installation on OS X 10.8 Mountain Lion or OS X 10.9 Mavericks

[http://wiki.inkscape.org/wiki/index.php/FAQ#Inkscape fails to launch on OS X 10.8 Mountain Lion or 10.9 Mavericks](http://wiki.inkscape.org/wiki/index.php/FAQ#Inkscape_fails_to_launch_on_OS_X_10.8_Mountain_Lion_or_10.9_Mavericks)

Install XQuartz

(Note: This is the same as Step 1 and Step 2 of the Inkscape install instructions)

1. Go to XQuartz website

<http://xquartz.macosforge.org/landing/>

2. Click on the link below Quick Downloads to download the XQuartz.dmg file.

3. Double click the downloaded Xquartz.dmg file to install and follow prompts.

4. Reboot to finish installation.

5. Complete any configuration steps necessary.

You may need to reboot again.

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Install Inkscape

Now, it's time to do Step 3 of the Inkscape installation instructions.

1. Double click on the icon at the top of the page with the ink mountain and big green down arrow.

2. Drag and drop downloaded Inkscape file to your Applications folder.

Now, it's time to do Step 4 of the Inkscape instructions and run the Inkscape application:

3. Launch the application by double clicking Inkscape in the Applications folder.

4. When prompted for the location of X11 application, you want to select XQuartz in your Applications Directory (it is possible that it may be located within the Utilities subdirectory so check there if needed).

Now it is time to complete Step 5 of the Inkscape install instructions and set the X11 preferences.

5. The XQuartz application should be running. If not, double click to run XQuartz. From the X11 menu in the XQuartz application, choose Preferences.

6. Set preferences to match the Inkscape installation instructions pictures.

Next Steps and Troubleshooting

At this point, Inkscape should be working.

When I did this, I needed to reboot and relaunch Inkscape before it would work properly. I think I rebooted and relaunched twice.

Happily, it has been running well since then :)

Good luck!