

Software Documentation

General Tips

1. In past 3 years, modern OS releases have added hurdles if you seek to install software from non-approved vendors. The warnings typically invoke viruses or security concerns. Open-source software, generally maintained by academics, has been around longer, relies on volunteer labor, and is not going to start jumping through vendor hoops because the work is not for-profit. Therefore, when installing open source software, you may receive ominous OS warnings. You should trust me and override the OS settings.
2. To install software, you must have an administrator account on your computer. And you must also be logged in as the administrator when installing. In Windows, especially, you may be required to install or run software in administrator mode.
3. Much open-source software will be available through GitHub or SourceForge and sometimes on web sites that look dicey to you because they still employ frames and fonts out of 1990s. Despite advice that you trust me, SourceForge is a private company that has difficulty earning a profit. So it has been known to take advantage of newbie users. [SourceForge Warning](#) I will try to warn you of potential pitfalls, but I encourage you to warn one another if you encounter problems. One risk is that by end of course, 90s-style web sites with no dancing graphics may seem kind of cool to you. GitHub is generally more widely used today.
4. Likewise, open source UNIX-based software may have less support for mouse, may demand a whole arsenal of arcane commands, may have minimal availability of handholding tutorials, and may offer almost no immediate rewards during first hours of use, first days of use, or even first weeks of use. That is, expect 20 hours of struggle to reach minimal competence. Ask me about how long it took to achieve basic competence with LaTeX, Pandoc, Vim Text Editor, GitHub, etc. That answers: 4 mos., 4 weeks, 2 mos., 1 week, etc.
5. Operating Systems:
 - Apple Macintosh, you should be on Snow Leopard, Snow Lion, or Maverick. You may install UNIX-based software on Macintosh, which has been a UNIX OS for several years.
 - MS Windows, you should be on Windows 7 or later. Windows XP or Vista are not supported.
 - UNIX implementations like Ubuntu, Red Hat for laptop or desktop system. Any modern UNIX implementation should work fine. But you're on your own, like always.

- Apple or Android Tablets, Google Chrome, etc. I have no recommendations for OS-level hacking, emulation, dual boot modes, etc. In the end, I am still an English professor.
5. I will try to help, but I am not a substitute for trained computer troubleshooters or technicians. For software, contact [KSU HelpDesk](#). For virus and component repair, contact [KSU TechSpot](#).

Text Editors

1. Vi Improved (Vim)

- Download: [Vim Installer](#). Select appropriate executable installer for Windows or Mac (MacVim).
- Follow instructions for installation.
- Complete the basic online tutorial (browser-based VIM emulation) at [Open Vim](#).
- Within actual VIM, complete the vimtutor. 1) Open VIM, 2) Click . 3) Type “vimtutor” (exclude quote marks) and press . If that does not work, type “:help vimtutor” and follow the instructions. Or, type “:echo *VIMRUNTIME*” to figure out where vimtutor is located. Typically, it's located in “tutor” folder within the location. For browser-based emulation of text file, see [vimtutor](#). To read the tutorial here is not enough. Complete each exercise within VIM, about 45 minutes.
- For higher proficiency, see [Daniel Miessler, VIM Tutorial and Primer](#)
- Also see [Laurent Grégoire, VIM Quick Reference](#)