

Recommended programs and applications for Mac:

Academic, research and personal organization software and apps

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So, you have a Mac and you're wondering what software to download to organize your computer, your research, and your life? Here's a list of recommended software to for every step of your academic computing experience. Disclaimer: These are my thoughts. I'm not making money off of this, and the opinions expressed do not reflect those of the staff or administration of the University of Washington.

Caveat about the App store: If you click on the blue button with an application's price, the program automatically downloads. Many mistakes have been made by people trying to see if there's a free trial by clicking this button. Make sure you're ready to commit! Also, note that you must have an up-to-date version of Snow Leopard (OSX version 10.6). To get a copy of the Mac App Store application, go to the Apple menu and select Software Update. A blue icon will appear in your task bar. That's it!

Security: Safety first! The programs below keep your computer safe from viruses, thieves, and hacking.

- Sophos: Powerful antivirus software offered for free by the UW. It's always a good idea to perform regular virus scans. www.washington.edu/uware/sophos Free for UW students and staff.
- Orbicle Undercover: Retrieve a stolen Mac by transmitting your computer's location, photos of the thief, and screenshots of the thief's activity. Sleep easier knowing that you can save your lost computer. <http://www.orbicle.com/> \$49
- 1Password: Creates strong, unique passwords, then stores and organizes all of them. Log in to all of your accounts with 1Password, and never forget a password again! <http://agilewebsolutions.com/products/1Password/Mac> \$39.95

Backup and Synchronization: These programs provide solutions for backing up your computer, as well as coordinating files between multiple computers (or devices).

- Time Machine: An excellent backup program that has been provided for free by Apple. Use it! It is easy with almost no setup (except for an external hard-disk one-to-two times larger than the storage capacity of your internal hard drive). If you are using a laptop then simply attach your time-machine hard drive every week more-or-less (hint: more is better than less). You can even totally reformat (or replace) your internal hard-drive and completely restore from a Time Machine backup. <http://www.apple.com/macosx/what-is-macosx/time-machine.html> Free!

- SuperDuper: A great compliment to Time Machine. SuperDuper clones your hard drive to create a bootable emergency backup system. Whereas Time Machine saves the files, pictures and music you created, SuperDuper will backup all of that information as well as system information, in case of complete computer failure. <http://www.shirt-pocket.com/SuperDuper/SuperDuperDescription.html> \$27.95
- ChronoSync: Sync files between computers. ChronoSync copies files between computers, and even better, it will automatically copy only those files that have changed since the last sync! You can sync between two Macs, or between a Mac and a PC (but, from what I understand, it doesn't work from PC to Mac). ChronoSync also offers other tools for backing up your computer, and analyzing your system data. http://www.econtechnologies.com/pages/cs/chrono_overview.html# \$40
- Dropbox: An easy way to backup and share files and folders. Once you download Dropbox, a folder is automatically placed on your desktop, and this serves as the tool that connects folders. This is a great way to access files from different computers or the Internet. The only problem is that all files have to be saved in the Dropbox folder, which means that files saved to other locations (e.g. Documents folder) will not be synced. <http://www.dropbox.com/> Free

Computer Management: These programs allow you to customize and personalize your Mac.

- Automator: Comes with MacOSX. Automator provides a user-friendly environment for automating tedious workflows. Without any programming knowledge, you can create a script that will automatically rename or resize iPhoto pictures, rather than editing each file individually. You can save clipboard items as text documents, create a script that fills-out and sends emails and much, much more. <http://support.apple.com/kb/ht2488> Free
- Text Expander: Saves shortcuts for longer text you commonly type out (such as an email signature). <http://smilesoftware.com/TextExpander/> \$34.95
- LaunchBar: LaunchBar has a myriad of features that allow you to create shortcuts for just about anything you have to do on your computer. Find items on your computer by typing short acronyms, create keyboard shortcuts for commonly used commands, combine sequential clipboard items into a single object, preview files with a single keystroke, and much more. <http://www.obdev.at/products/launchbar/index.html> \$35
- BetterTouch Tool: Increase the sensitivity of your laptop's touch pad or magic mouse by customizing gestures! Two finger sweeps, clicks in different corners etc. can all be defined to produce certain actions (only works with Snow Leopard). <http://www.boastr.de/> Free
- DaisyDisk: Analyze disk space. Remove large files to get more free space. Great graphics! <http://www.daisydiskapp.com/> \$19.95

See also:

Hazel, Default Folder X

Parallel Computing: Still using some stubborn software that only works on a PC? No problem! There are a few options for creating a parallel environment on your Mac.

- **BootCamp:** Comes with your computer. Partition your hard drive and run PC programs on your Mac. <http://www.apple.com/support/bootcamp/> Free
- **VMware Fusion:** Run Windows on your Mac (without having to restart your computer). <http://www.vmware.com/products/fusion/> \$49.99

Research: These programs help you research, organize, annotate and store publications. They also provide support for creating bibliographies.

- **Papers:** An absolutely fantastic PDF organizer that automatically adds PDFs to one or more central PDF libraries on your local hard drive using drag-and-drop. Even better, it automatically looks up and records bibliographic details with a simple mouse click. It can directly interface with those tools via the UW Libraries network even when you are off campus! The UW Medical Center offers a great tutorial at <http://healthlinks.washington.edu/howto/papers/> You can also retrieve PDFs directly from publishers if you know some of the bibliographic information and want to retrieve and article. <http://mekentosj.com> \$42
- **Bookends:** Excellent bibliography manager that works with every major word processor including Microsoft Office 2011 (and earlier) as well as the latest versions of Apple Pages, and OpenOffice. One very big advantage of Bookends over EndNote is that I can attach more than one PDF to each bibliographic entry and I can read any of them directly in the Bookends program. Bookends also provides advanced search mechanisms that are easier to use than those found in EndNote. <http://www.sonnysoftware.com/> \$69
- **Scrivener:** Write, take notes, and organize, all in the same program. There's a CSSCR class on Scrivener this quarter; see our website for details. <http://www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener.php> \$45
- **Dragon Dictate:** I have to take a moment to make a plug for Dragon Dictate. This is a cutting-edge program for speech recognition. It transcribes text from speech, and does a very good job overall. Worth it if you have to transcribe interviews. <http://www.macspeech.com/pages.php?plD=143> \$199.99

See also:

DevonAgent/DevonThink, EndNote, Zotero

Note Taking and Organization: Take notes and organize them.

- **NoteBook:** great if you take a lot of topical notes and would like to organize them under tabs. You can draw graphics, cut and paste jpgs and other graphic formats. You can also cut and paste PDF documents in part or in whole exactly where you want them to be. NoteBook automatically creates tables of contents and indices so that you can find your content quickly. The sticky notes and to-do list features are really cool too. <http://www.circusponies.com/> \$29

- Evernote: Capture, save and organize thoughts, websites, images etc. They claim you'll never forget anything again. That's useful. It also has text recognition software – so if you take a picture of the whiteboard, it'll be searchable later. Very cool. <http://www.evernote.com/> Free!
- OmniGraffle Professional: Graphics package for doing everything from simple drawing to advanced schematics, flow diagrams, office layouts, etc. Great for mind mapping. Expensive, but worth the price. <http://www.omnigroup.com> \$119
- Formulate Pro: Overlay text and graphics on secure PDFs. Scribble notes with a tablet, then save and print. Useful for taking notes on papers. <http://mac.brothersoft.com/formulate-pro.html> Free
- PDFpen: Recognizes characters to translate PDFs into editable form. Allows you to edit scanned documents. Other functions include removing secured information, convert websites to PDF, and easily create and edit a table of contents. <http://smilesoftware.com/PDFpen/> \$59.95 for basic, \$99.95 for Pro

See also:

Inspiration 9 (for mind mapping), Adobe Acrobat Pro (for PDF editing)

Analysis: How to analyze your data on a Mac.

- SpaceTime: Now available in the App Store. Powerful cross-platform mathematics software. Write scripts, compute equations, create and manipulate 2D and 3D graphs. It's a lot like Mathematica and MATLAB. <http://www.spacetime.us/mac/> \$9.99
- TAMS Analyzer: A great program for qualitative data analysis. TAMS allows you to easily assign codes to PDFs, images, and videos. There are also functions to extract and analyze coded information. There's a CSSCR class on TAMS this quarter; see our website for details. <http://tamsys.sourceforge.net/> Free

See also:

Microsoft Excel 2011 (free for UW students and staff), Numbers from iWork '09

Writing it up: Ready to write your thesis? Here are some useful programs to go about it. CSSCR's website also has great resources for thesis formatting. My favorite program right now is Microsoft Word 2011. Microsoft has made great improvements, and I'm finding that it meets all of my needs (you can make a table of contents with just one click, what more can you ask for?). For many reasons, I am not a fan of Pages from the iWork '09 suite, however, I have heard that the next version, iWork '11, has greatly improved. It should be available soon from the Mac App Store. Stay tuned.

- LaTeX: Document preparation software. More control over formatting, especially useful for equations etc. <http://www.latex-project.org/> Free

Image Capture and Manipulation: These programs are useful for screen capturing and general image manipulation, and the basic version of all of them is free!

- **Skitch:** Capture, annotate, and share images quickly and easily. <http://skitch.com/> The basic version is free, or pay \$14.95/year for Skitch Plus
- **Gimp:** an excellent substitute for PhotoShop. It can even read and write PhotoShop image files. <http://www.gimp.org/> Free
- **Sketchbook Express and Sketchbook Pro:** from the Mac App store. Image manipulation made easy. Express is free, Pro is \$79.99. A lot cheaper than Photoshop, and really, really good.

Presentation: When it comes time to present your project, there is software to help. I enthusiastically support **Keynote**; it gives you much more control over your presentation than other programs like PowerPoint.

- **Keynote, from the iWork '09 Suite:** I love Keynote. Gives you more control over graphics and animations than in PPT. It's so easy to use! Presenting graphs is much better than PPT: you can automatically animate each bar independently, and it is easy to input individual error bars. You also have more control over formatting. <http://www.apple.com/iwork/> At the Mac App Store for \$20
- **ScreenFlow:** Capture, integrate, edit and display the contents of your screen, iSight, microphone and your computer's audio. An excellent tool for screencasts. <http://www.telestream.net/screen-flow/overview.htm> \$99

See also:

Numbers from iWork '09, Screen Sharing through iChat (it comes with your computer)

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