LaTeX for Luddites
(An Ancient Philosopher's Guide)
Installation & Setup Instructions

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1   Install the most recent TeXLive distribution

- To work in LaTeX, you need to have certain (free!) software installed on your computer, what's called the "TeXLive distribution". The easiest way to make sure you have this is simply to download the most recent distribution.

- If using a Mac, this can be downloaded by going to tug.org/mactex/ and downloading the MacTeX.pkg file. (It's a big file (approximately 2 GB), so give yourself some time and a good internet connection to do it.)

- Once this file downloads, open it and follow the installation instructions.

- (If using a Windows or Unix-based computer, search the internet for where to download the appropriate TeXLive distribution and follow the installation instructions there.)

2   Install TeXShop

- Any text editor (even NotePad or TextEdit) is good enough to work on LaTeX documents. However, things are made much much simpler if you write your documents using a LaTeX text editor, which will highlight key elements of your code and easily compile your document for you, right from its interface.

- If using a Mac, I recommend you install TeXShop, which can be downloaded for free from their website here: pages.uoregon.edu/koch/texshop/obtaining.html. (The rest of this guide will proceed assuming that you are working with TeXShop.)

3   Compile a simple LaTeX document

- Once you have TeXShop and the TeXLive distribution installed, open TeXShop and choose to open a file.

- Locate the folder containing this document (the LaTeX for Luddites package you downloaded from my website), open the subfolder named "1 – Simple LaTeX document", and open the file named "simplelatex.tex" contained therein.

- TeXShop will open this file, and you will see a few lines of code. Don't worry if this code doesn't make sense yet; all we're doing at this point is ensuring that LaTeX has been installed correctly.

- In TeXShop, go to the Typeset menu bar, make sure the LaTeX option is checked, and select Typeset, or simply press Command+T.

- TeXShop will now try to compile your document. If everything is installed correctly, a compiled PDF document will pop up which says, "Congratulations! You've successfully installed and compiled a simple LaTeX document."

- If this does not happen, type whatever error message you received into Google and see what it tells you to do. Good luck!

4   Compile a simple XeLaTeX document

- To compile documents with Greek characters, we need to compile them with a special LaTeX counterpart called XeLaTeX. You should already have everything you need installed; now we just to confirm it's all working correctly.

- Find the subfolder named "2 – Simple XeLaTeX document" in the LaTeX for Luddites package, and open the file named "simplexelatex.tex" in TeXShop.

- As before, in TeXShop go to the Typeset menu bar and select Typeset, or simply press Command+T.

- TexShop will now try to compile your document, and a compiled PDF document should pop up again, with a similar congratulatory message.

- Again, if this does not happen, type whatever error message you received into Google and see what it tells you to do. Good luck!

5   Download some special fonts

- There are two fonts you should have when working in LaTeX: Linux Libertine for all regular text and GFS Porson for Greek text. (I recommend these fonts because they're the prettiest.)

- To install Linux Libertine, go to the Linux Libertine website at www.linuxlibertine.org, find the download link, and download the Linux Libertine OTF package. It is important that you download the OTF package (rather than the TTF or any other option) in order for the rest of this guide to work.

- To install GFS Porson, go to the Greek Font Society website at www.greekfontsociety.gr, scroll down to GFS Porson, and download the GFS Porson OT package. It is important that download the OT package (rather than the TT or Specimen package) in order for the rest of this guide to work.

- When these two fonts have downloaded, install them as you would any other font. If you're using a Mac, you should be able to simply double click on the .otf file and click "Install Font" from there.

6   Compile a document with your new fonts

- Now let's make sure that these fonts work with LaTeX.

- Find the subfolder named "3 – XeLaTeX document with fonts" in the LaTeX for Luddites package, and open the file named "xelatexwithfonts.tex" in TeXShop.

- Try to compile this document, as before: go to the Typeset menu bar in TeXShop and select Typeset, or simply press Command+T.

- If everything worked, you'll now see a compiled PDF document with the English text in Linux Libertine O and a little bit of Greek text at the end in GFS Porson.

- If you experience any problems, see what Google says.

7   Install BibDesk

- LaTeX is really amazing at handling bibliographies, but you need a little extra machinery in place to take advantage of its features.

- To this end, download BibDesk, a citation management program which helps you to create and maintain a database of all the works you cite. BibDesk can be downloaded from http://bibdesk.sourceforge.net.

- Once installed, open BibDesk. You will see a big empty screen with some unfamiliar buttons and such. That means BibDesk is working!

- Open the little toy bibliography included in this package: Find the subfolder named "4 – Document with bibliography" and open the file named "toybiblio.bib" in BibDesk. You will now see a very simple, one-item bibliography.

- You can experiment with adding new bibliography entries and such if you want, or move on to the next step. (More instructions on BibDesk and LaTeX bibliographies are included in the LaTeX for Luddites guide.)

8   Compile a document with a bibliography

- Now let's try compiling a document with a bibliography.

- In TeXShop, open the file "bibliography.tex" in the "4 – Document with bibliography" subfolder.

- First, compile this document as you normally would: Command+T, or Typeset > Typeset.

- Second, run a BibTeX build, pressing Shift+Command+B, or Typeset > BibTeX.

- Finally, compile the document normally (Command+T). Do this twice, for good measure (it actually is often necessary to do this twice to get everything working properly).

- You should now see a compiled PDF document with a "References" section and citation at the end of the main paragraph that shows up as "(Plato (350BCE))".

9   Compile a full document

- You're now all set to begin working in LATEX! I have written a guide that will take you through all you need to know about writing in LATEX, and you now have everything you need in order to compile this guide yourself.

- Open the file "lfl.tex" in the "Guidebook" subfolder.

- Compile this document (Command+T).

- Now read through this guide, switching back to look at the source code (the original lfl.tex document) as necessary. (Pro tip: You can easily switch between your source code and the compiled PDF by clicking while holding down the Command key.)

10   Start working on your own documents!

- With the LATEX for Luddites guide, you should have all the tools you need to start writing in LATEX on your own. To this end, I have provided you with a simple blank document with all the necessary techie stuff you'll need already written in there. You can find this in the subfolder named "Blank Document". Simply scroll down to the bottom of the document, fill in your title and name and such, and then get to writing. Cheers!