

For MS-Windows/MS-DOS Users

Doug Arnold
(\LaTeX for Linguists)

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I don't use MS-Windows myself (well, I use it as little as I possibly can), but I know some people do. This document provides some hints about where a Windows user might get information about starting to use \TeX / \LaTeX .

Despite the neat editing facilities that are available (e.g. Word), there is nothing to match \TeX / \LaTeX for flexibility and quality of output, and in some areas of Linguistics (e.g. Computational Linguistics), use of \TeX / \LaTeX is almost universal and unavoidable (e.g. some conferences require submission in this format).

You need two things:

- A \TeX / \LaTeX system. You need this to format the documents that you write and make them printable, allow you to preview them on-screen, etc. Try MikTeX: <http://www.miktex.org/>.
- An editor. You need this to create your document. You could use Emacs (Emacs for windows), or even a normal Windows application like Notepad or Wordpad, but there are a few much better alternatives (I think these are all free):
 - *WinEdt*: <http://winedt.com/>.
 - *TeXnicCenter*: <http://www.toolscenter.org/products/texniccenter/> (thanks to Arthur Pagani for pointing this out to me, it looks very good).
 - Julia Neu recommends *WinShell*: <http://www.winshell.de>.
 - Diogo Almeida suggests *Crimson Editor*: <http://www.crimsoneditor.com/>, which is described as a Notepad replacement, but which provides things like syntax highlighting for LaTeX and spelling correction.

Scientific Word (and related products) provides both these things: a \TeX / \LaTeX system and an nearly WYSIWYG editor — but bear in mind that for doing linguistics, you will eventually also need to employ some plain TeX or \LaTeX stuff directly, and Scientific Word will not be able to render this WYSIWYG (not that this is a problem, of course).

If you go for separate \TeX / \LaTeX system and editor, you may think that getting the editor working is logically the first thing to do, but I would recommend that you first get the \TeX / \LaTeX system working.

There is an excellent site at <http://www.math.auc.dk/~dethlef/Tips/> which provides excellent, detailed, and (I think) nearly complete instructions

on what you need to do to get going with what I think is the standard approach (Emacs, MikTeX, Ghostview) under Windows.