Downloading the LaTex Editor onto your Computer

Instructions on downloading the editor from the TUG (Tex User's Group, I think) website (for both Mac and Windows users):

To download LaTex go to the site http://latex-project.org/ftp.html which I (actually "we", an IT fellow helped me) found by goggling "LaTex download." (It looks like there are lots of potentially helpful links for LaTex beginners at this website – I haven't tried any of them yet.)

This takes you to the site, "Obtaining LaTex" where there are various choices depending on your platforms and there is a link for Mac users. Since my office computer is a PC, I went the PC route and clicked ProTeXt in the windows section of "LaTex for the impatient" (yes that's us!) Mac users will branch off here to their own site.

This led me to http://www.tug.org/protext/ where I clicked "download the self-extracting protext.ext file." This led me to the site:

http://ctan.mackichan.com/systems/windows/protext/

where I clicked on ProTexi-3.1.3-060313.exe (the mac users will, of course, see something different). It is well over 1 gig and is closer to 2 gig (1.6 gig+ for just the big .exe file) so be prepared for the download to take some time depending on your internet speed. (It takes close to an hour with a medium speed linkage.) It downloaded the files to my computer's users\...\Downloads folder, though this will vary depending on your web browser settings (I used the default settings.)

When everything is downloaded run Pro TeXt…. (it's the 1.6+ gig file). I clicked it and a window came up, I clicked the install button next to "MikTex" and let the computer do its thing and wait. (I haven't opened the Manual yet but that looks potentially helpful.) Accept most of the recommended settings (unless you're a better IT aficionado than I am) EXCEPT the paper setting for the printer: the default setting is "A" size and almost all our local printers need the "letter" size so make sure to make that change in the pushdown menu when you get there. If you don't, everything will mess up or crash when you try to print something.

Once everything is installed "TexWorks" should appear in your program list. Click on it and the program comes up. In the upper right pushdown menu next to the green arrow select "pdfLaTex+MakeIndes+BiBTex". Then go to "file" and open a LaTex file (see below) and the file will appear in the big window and the compiled output of it should appear as a pdf file in a new window. You can edit the LaTex file that appears in the big TeXworks window; to compile the changes click the green arrow and it compiles the new file in the output window.

I've tried all this and it seems to work. I post the LaTex files of the class notes the class website – they will all have the .tex extensions and those are the files that the TeXworks

operates on. (You will have to save the .tex files, the web browsers don't know how to open those files.) So this will give you something to work on. I will also post a file (LaTexTemplate) on learning LaTex.

Good luck, I know you'll enjoy using LaTex once you get used to it.

-Dr. Smith