

LaTeX on Windows

Installing MikTeX and using TeXworks, as described on the main LaTeX page, is enough to get you started using LaTeX on Windows. This page provides further information for experienced users.

Tips for using TeXworks

Forward and Inverse Search

If you are working on a long document, forward and inverse searching make editing much easier.

- *Forward search* means jumping from a point in your LaTeX source file to the corresponding line in the pdf output file.
- *Inverse search* means jumping from a line in the pdf file back to the corresponding point in the source file.

In TeXworks, forward and inverse search are easy. To do a forward search, right-click on text in the source window and choose the option "Jump to PDF". Similarly, to do an inverse search, right-click in the output window and choose "Jump to Source".

Other Front End Programs

Among front ends, TeXworks has several advantages, principally, it is bundled with MikTeX and it works without any configuration. However, you may want to try other front end programs. The most common ones are listed below.

- [Texmaker](#). Installation notes:
 1. After you have installed Texmaker, go to the QuickBuild section of the Configuration menu and choose pdflatex+pdfview.
 2. Before you use spell-check in Texmaker, you may need to install a dictionary; see [section 1.3 of the Texmaker user manual](#).
- [Winshell](#). Installation notes:
 1. Install Winshell **after** installing MiKTeX.
 2. When running the Winshell Setup program, choose the pdflatex-optimized toolbar.
 3. Winshell uses an external pdf viewer to display output files. Adobe Reader does not work well for this task. I recommend [SumatraPDF](#). After you have downloaded and installed SumatraPDF, navigate the Winshell menus to the location Options->Program Calls->PDFView, and browse to the location of SumatraPDF. Once you have done this, Winshell automatically configures itself to do forward and inverse search with SumatraPDF.
 - Forward search: in the Winshell window, move the cursor to a point of interest, then hit the PDFView button.

- Inverse search: double-click in the SumatraPDF window. (Note: the SumatraPDF window must have been opened originally by clicking the PDFView button in Winshell.)

Legacy output formats

For historical reasons, the back end program called `latex` produces its output files in a format called `dvi`. Today, almost everyone wants a `pdf` file as output; the corresponding backend program is `pdflatex`. By default, TeXworks uses `pdflatex` to produce `pdf` files; other frontends (e.g. Texmaker, see above) may need configuration to set `pdflatex` as the default.