

Intro to QGIS Workshop: Make a Map

Installing QGIS

Introduction: QGIS is a free and open source software (FOSS) alternative to commercial GIS software. QGIS is a project of the Open Source Geospatial Foundation, a community of developers dedicated to collaborative development. QGIS downloads are available online and can be installed in both a Windows and Mac environment (there are Linux and Unix versions too.) The process for installing QGIS is different depending on the operating system. See the following for details. The workshop will be hands on, we encourage you to install QGIS on your machine.

Download: All platforms can be accessed at the centralized QGIS project download page:

<http://www.qgis.org/en/site/forusers/download.html>

Details: To run the software, QGIS requires a few dependencies, these dependencies are the Geospatial Data Abstraction Library (GDAL), and two python libraries (Matplotlib and Numpy). Once these dependencies are ready, QGIS will properly function.

Installing on Windows: The QGIS project team has created a convenient standalone installer for Microsoft Windows. I recommend the standalone installer over the network version. It includes all aforementioned dependencies. Download your respective 32-bit or 64-bit version, depending on your computer. The installation will include GDAL, Python libraries, and GrassGIS, in addition to QGIS.

Installing on Mac OS: Installing on Mac OS is a bit more complicated, there is no standalone installer that includes all dependencies. Installation is still straightforward, but requires a four steps, installing GDAL, Matplotlib, and NumPy, then installing the Mac version of QGIS. There is a link to KyngChaos, a wiki, from the QGIS website.

Important note: When installing the dependencies, going out of order will confuse the installation.

1. GDAL Complete 1.11 framework package
2. Matplotlib Python Module
3. Other Optional Python Modules (NumPy is recommended)
4. QGIS 2.6

Other Platforms: At your own risk.

Questions/Comments please contact Mike Foster at mjfoster@mit.edu.