

## QUICK START – Mac or PC?

ESRI's ArcGIS software only operates on **Windows computers**.  
ESRI's ArcGIS software **DOES NOT HAVE** native Mac OS client.

This means you CANNOT install ArcGIS software on your Mac OS computer directly. *(You can, via software like BootCamp or Parallels, install Windows on the Mac; with this approach ArcGIS software can then install and use software on the Mac.)*

Only if you have a modern (64 bit) Windows computer do we recommend you install ArcGIS software on your personal computer. (See ArcGIS Pro Installation Instructions-Home).

The University of Minnesota provides Computer Labs (Windows) with the software installed AND provides access to all the necessary software and data via a UMN “virtual computer”. This “virtual computer” is called [Apps To Go](#).

Outside of a UMN Computer lab you can also use the UMN “virtual computer” by using a browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari) on your Mac OS, Windows or Unix computer. Basically, this allow students to always use a very powerful and update computer for their assignments.

To use the “virtual computer” you 1<sup>st</sup> need to install a small program (one time) on your computer. This software is called a Citrix Receiver. See [Quick Start – Citrix \(Apps To Go 2019\)](#).

When in a UMN Computer Lab you can CHOOSE to run ArcGIS software locally (on that computer) or use the “virtual computer” via <http://apps.umn.edu>. In a UMN Computer Lab either way works.

At home, just use <http://apps.umn.edu> for access to the software and data needed for class.

***RECAP NOTE:*** *At home you really have two options if you have a Windows computer; use [Apps To Go](#) or install the software directly on your computer. Mac OS users only have one choice at home, use [Apps To Go](#).*