

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 access to all the necessary software and data via a UMN “virtual computer”. This “virtual computer” is called [Apps To Go](#).

From home you can also use this 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 1st need to install a small program (one time) on your computer. This software is called a Citrix Receiver. [See Quick Start 2020-Citrix](#).

At home, 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](#).*