

OTWorkplace Installation FAQ

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What is OTWorkplace?

OTWorkplace is an interactive environment for OT research, based on modern understanding of the theory. It consists of a suite of programs running inside Excel, which are written in the advanced language Ruby and the backward language VBA. OTWorkplace performs a range of calculations essential to the pursuit of OT. It is completely open-source and user-expandable.

What systems does OTWorkplace run on?

OTWorkplace runs under Windows XP and Windows 7. It has not yet been tested on Windows 8. It operates through Excel (2003→2010). It uses the standard 32-bit version of MS Office. Currently, it **will not run on 64-bit Office** (but then what will?). NB. It runs fine on 64-bit Windows.

I have a Mac. What can I do?

Two choices present themselves, both of which have proven effective.

(1) Install a Windows emulator. A favorite is VirtualBox, which is free. Many people like *Parallels*, of which version 8 is the most recent at this writing. It costs \$80 or so, and may have a student discount.

(2) Or when installing your operating system, go for the Bootcamp option. Under either option, you will still need copies of Windows and MS Office.

How come you guys didn't write it in a platform-independent manner?

Basically because this is very difficult if you want to have a flexible, responsive work environment, with the capacity to create usable research records in the form of notebooks. Excel already provides a splendid environment for OT, and linguistic research in general, with many, many tools for manipulating worksheets, undertaking analysis, and preparing things for presentation. Rebuilding Excel is a daunting task.

How do I learn to use OTWorkplace?

Documentation is in a state of flux, due to extensive improvements in the program over the last several years. We expect good documentation to emerge soon. However, the interface isn't that hard and shouldn't provide great difficulties, learning-curve-wise, to those who are familiar with OT.

How do I upgrade OTWorkplace?

Very easy. Simply replace existing OTWorkplace(...) .xls(m) file, and (if updated) the RUBOT19 folder, and start up OTWorkplace from the new file. Changes will automatically be made to Excel when you do this.

What software do I need on my computer to run OTWorkplace?

1. OTWorkplace the excel workbook.
Currently otwpl_X_49.xls and otwpl_X_49.xslm, the latter for Excel 2007-2010.
2. RUBOT the software, called from Excel, that runs in the programming language Ruby
Currently will be placed in a directory RUBOT19.
3. Ruby the programming language.
4. Graphviz the graph-rendering software.
5. Excel — any version from 2003-2010 (32 bit only).
6. Windows — any version XP to Win7 (as many or as few bits as you want).

This sounds like a lot. Where do I find all this?

It (minus Excel & Windows) is all assembled into one grand Installer Package at <http://ruccs.rutgers.edu/~prince/>, holding first place among the downloadables there.

How do I deal with the files there assembled?

There are 2 ways. Automatically and by hand. See AAA_README_April_2_2013.pdf for complete instructions. Here the automatic procedure is outlined.

Using OTWorkplaceInstallerPackage_ver6.zip on the page mentioned above:

1. Download to a temp directory of some sort.
2. Extract the zip archive.
3. Go to the folder named OTWorkplaceInstallerPackage. *Read AAA_README_DATE.pdf.* (DATE is a variable.)
4. Double click on the file SetUp_OTWorkplace_1.bat. When done, do next step.
5. Double click on the file SetUp_OTWorkplace_2.bat. When done, do next step.
6. Double click on the file SetUp_OTWorkplace_3.bat.

• **Important:** uninstall all previous versions of Graphviz, Ruby, RUBOT, OTWorkplace before starting.

Will this actually work?

It has a good track record. If you hit problems, try it by hand, as detailed in the README file.