Why You Need Access to a Mac

iOS development requires you to use a tool called Xcode, which runs natively on Apple hardware, NOT on Windows or Linux. Consequently, you will need reliable access to a Mac computer in order to work on homework assignments and projects for my iOS classes.

Students have attempted using an Apple emulator, or running Xcode on an application server, neither with any real success. Xcode is big and slow, even on a relatively new Macbook, so trying to run it over an emulator or on an app server leads to absolutely horrible performance. There are delays after every character you type, and dragging/dropping is very awkward. So I do not recommend trying anything like that.

The best case is that you either own your own Mac, or can borrow one all semester from a friend or relative. You will need to install Xcode on it. The "Xcode Download" link on my website will take you to the Apple App Store where you can find the latest version of Xcode.

The Mac Lab

If you don't have a Mac, there are a number of Macs in GDC available for use by students in my classes. There is a lab in the basement of the north side of the building, in GDC 1.310. (If you go to where the two elevators are just off the GDC lobby, and go down to the first floor, the lab is an open square room immediately opposite the elevators and slightly to the left.)

The workstations in that lab look like the Linux machines on the third floor, but ~20 of them are dual-boot Mac systems. Look for a switch (some of them are actually labeled "switch") right under the monitor. If you push the button, it toggles between Linux and Mac.

How to Get Authorization to Use the Macs

You must have explicit authorization from me to use the Lab Macs. Having a UTCS ID is not sufficient.

1. You need a UTCS ID.

    • If you already have one (because you're a CS major, or you previously created one for another CS class), you can use the same one. You might have to try logging in to see if it's still active; if not, you can ask to have it reactivated.

    • If you don't have a UTCS ID yet, you can create one here: https://accounts.cs.utexas.edu/newaccount/.

2. Send me a note (either by Canvas Mail or at bulko@cs.utexas.edu) containing your name, EID, and UTCS ID, and I'll submit the request to have your access granted. Do not send me any passwords.