

Installing & Using XQuartz

Arnon Erba
Agricultural & Resource Economics

Updated August 27, 2019

Contents

1	Installation	2
2	Usage	2

Abstract

XQuartz is an Apple-supported open-source X server designed to allow apps requiring the X Window System to run on macOS. When paired with the built-in Terminal app, XQuartz allows macOS users to run graphical (GUI) applications on remote servers over SSH. XQuartz replaces the old `X11.app` application that was removed from macOS in version 10.8.

1 Installation

1. Download the XQuartz installer from www.xquartz.org. At the time of this writing, the latest version was `XQuartz-2.7.11.dmg`.
2. Open the downloaded `.dmg` file.
3. Double-click on `XQuartz.pkg` to launch the installer.

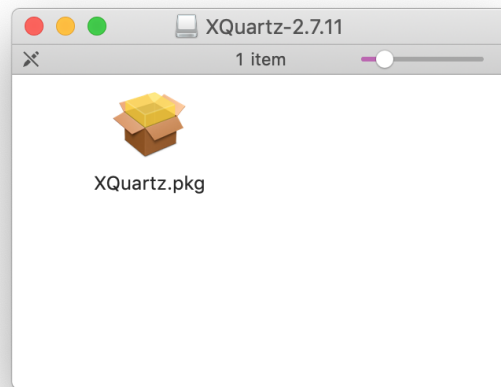


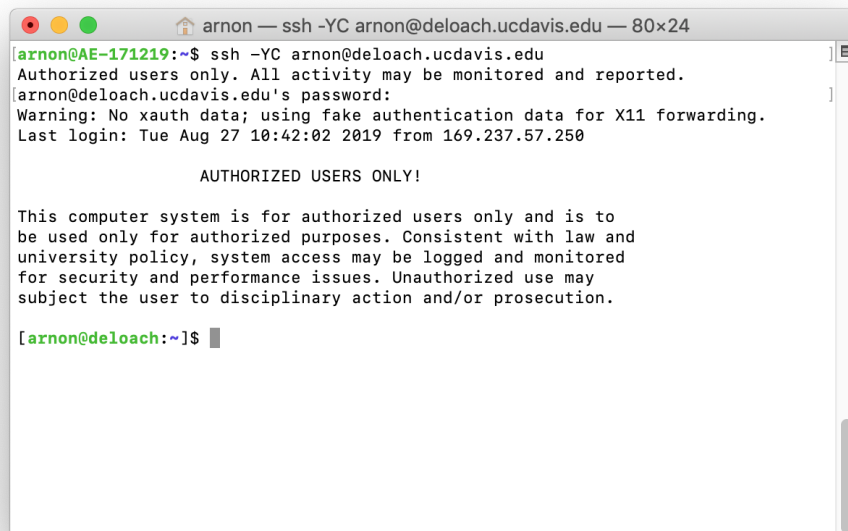
Figure 1: `XQuartz.pkg` ready to be launched.

4. Follow the prompts to install XQuartz.
5. Log out and back in or reboot to ensure XQuartz is set as your default X server.

2 Usage

1. Launch the built-in Terminal app. Terminal can be found in `/Applications/Utilities`.
2. In Terminal, enter the following command: `ssh -YC username@server`. Replace `username` with your username and `server` with the full hostname (e.g. `deloach.ucdavis.edu`) of the server you are trying to reach.

3. **Note:** If presented with a warning that “The authenticity of [the] host can’t be established”, type **yes** at the prompt and press Enter to cache the server’s host key.
4. Type your password and press Enter. Your keystrokes will not be displayed.



```
arnon — ssh -YC arnon@deloach.ucdavis.edu — 80x24
[arnon@AE-171219:~]$ ssh -YC arnon@deloach.ucdavis.edu
Authorized users only. All activity may be monitored and reported.
[arnon@deloach.ucdavis.edu's password:
Warning: No xauth data; using fake authentication data for X11 forwarding.
Last login: Tue Aug 27 10:42:02 2019 from 169.237.57.250

      AUTHORIZED USERS ONLY!

This computer system is for authorized users only and is to
be used only for authorized purposes. Consistent with law and
university policy, system access may be logged and monitored
for security and performance issues. Unauthorized use may
subject the user to disciplinary action and/or prosecution.

[arnon@deloach:~]$
```

Figure 2: A successful SSH session in Terminal.

5. Once connected to the server via SSH, you may launch a GUI application. XQuartz should open automatically and appear in the dock.