Getting Started in the Mathematics Computer Lab

Using this document, you will be able to:

- Log in.

- Customize the desktop with icons for Maple, Firefox and a shell window.

- Change the desktop theme (optional).

- Use the shell window to change your password.

- Open Maple for the first time and set some options.

- Navigate using the File Browser.

  NOTE: If you don't have a lot of experience with computers, you might do this when a Math Lab assistant is available- Hours are posted next to the lab's door.

Log in and out

Log in using your usual Whitman login name, and your assigned password. **Be sure to log out** after every session! Use the button in the upper right corner of your desktop next to your name.

Set up your Desktop

The most commonly used software in the lab is Firefox (a free internet browser), Maple (this is mathematics software we will use), and Tex-Maker (a LaTeX editor for Calc Lab). Find each of these icons in the drop down menu and drag them over to the toolbar using the mouse (then they will be easily available).

Go to:

`Applications -> Math Lab -> Maple`

(You'll also see Matlab and Tex-Maker). We'll also need a command window, so go to:

`Applications -> Accessories -> Terminal`

and drag that icon to your toolbar.

Change the Desktop Theme

If you're used to using Windows, then you may not like to have the button that closes the windows on the left hand side of the window. You can change the style to be more like you are used to- One set of themes is available by going to

`System -> Preferences -> Appearance`

You might try out the themes available online- There is an option for that on the `Appearance` dialog box. You'll want to change the **Window Borders**. The most popular one there is called `Vista Basic`, and it is very Windows-like.

Change Your Password

Click on the `Terminal` icon on your toolbar and type the following to change your password to something more memorable:

    kpasswd

The first password asked for is your current password, then follow the instructions.

Be sure that you can log in using your new password- At this step, log out, then log back in.

First Time Opening Maple

When you open Maple for the first time, choose the **Worksheet** mode (the other option is document mode, which I think is a little harder to use). Next, set up the Maple options to be easiest to type: Go to

```
Tools -> Options
```

Under the **Display** tab, the `Input display` should be set to `Maple Notation`. Under the **Interface** tab, choose the `Default format for new worksheets` as `Worksheet`.

Press the **Apply Globally** button at the bottom of the dialog box . If you were successful in changing the options, the command window in Maple should begin with:

```
[>
```

and when you type, it should be in red typeface. Now you are ready to proceed to the Maple guide on the class website to learn more about Maple itself.

Files and Folders

For practice, try using the *File Browser* to create a file folder called *Temp*, then be sure you can delete it (go ahead and delete). Next, you might create a folder for your Maple work.

HINT: Do not use whitespace in folder or file names! That is, these are BAD folder or file names:

<div align="center">

Math Lab   File 1   my document

</div>

These are GOOD folder or file names:

<div align="center">

MathLab   File01   my_document

</div>