

TextEdit

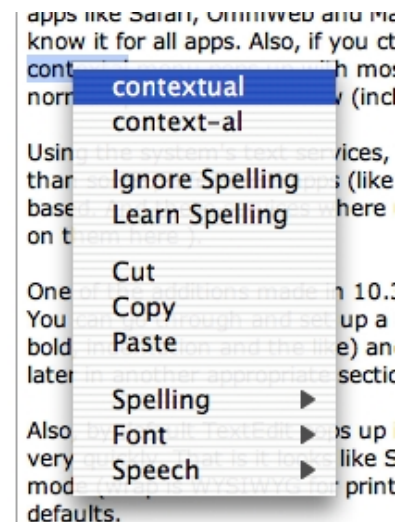
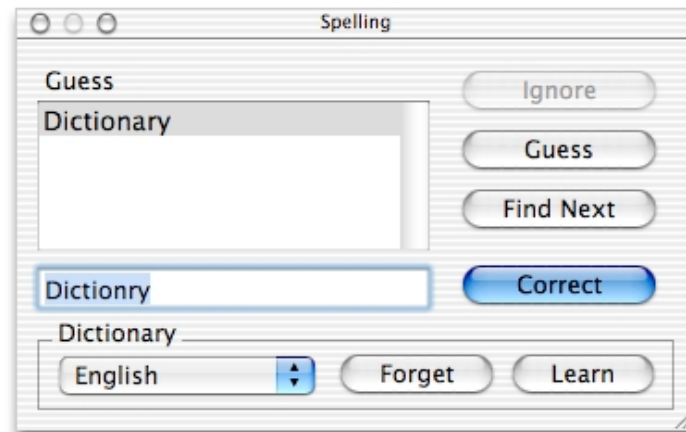
in Mac OS X

This is an outline of some of the things that can be done to my system to make the most of TextEdit. TextEdit is that it is a Cocoa application

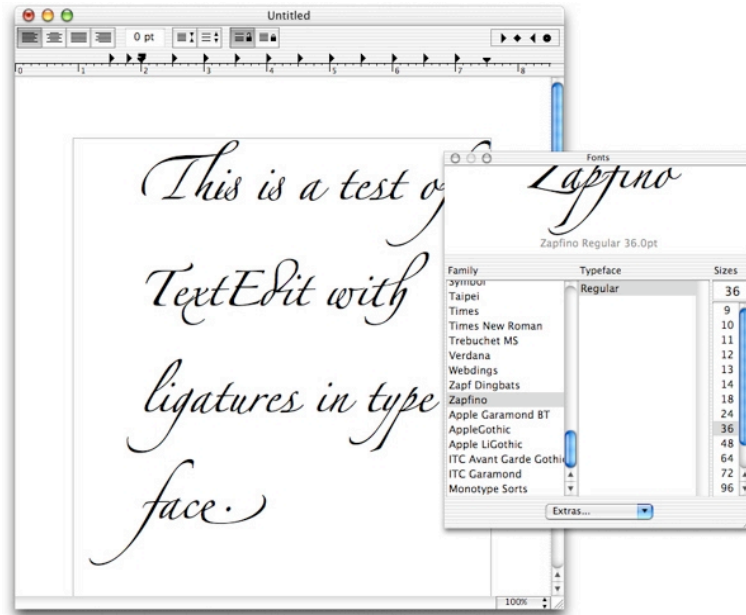
The Basics:

TextEdit is gifted with Services provided by Mac OS X (and other Cocoa apps). That means that you have access to things like spell checking, speech and text services.

The system wide spell checker uses the same spelling dictionary used in other apps like Safari, and Mail. So if you teach it a word in one app, it'll know it for all apps. Also, if you ctrl-click (or right click) on a misspelled word a contextual menu pops up with most of the options you would find in the normal spell checker window (including it's guess at the word).



Using the system's **text services**, **TextEdit** actually handles ligatures better than some professional apps which are Carbon based.

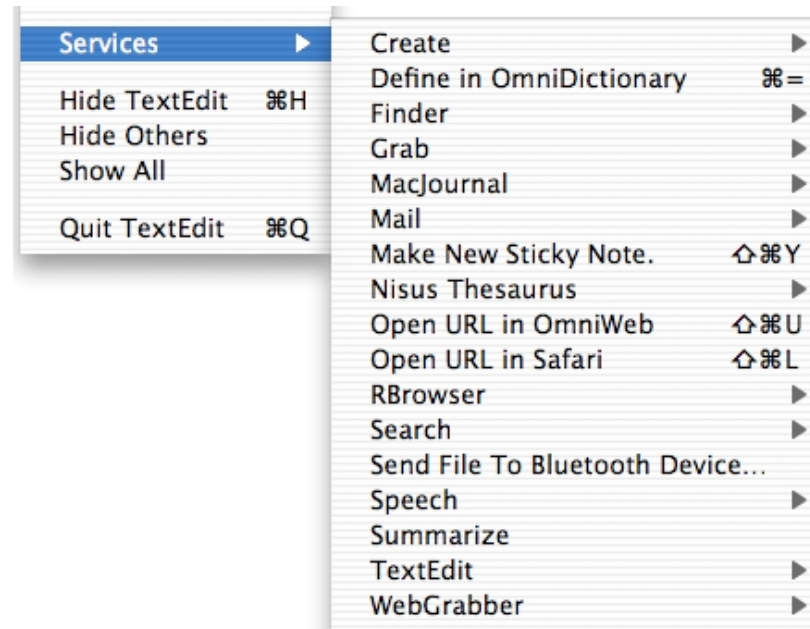


TextEdit uses a styles pull down menu on the tool bar. You can go through and set up a section of text (for example: font, size, italic, bold, indentation and the like) and save it as a style you can use over again later in another appropriate section or similar document. Also, by default TextEdit pops up in a mode which makes people dismiss it very quickly. That is it looks like SimpleText (the text editor used in earlier systems) because it is not in wrap window mode (wrap is WYSIWYG for printing). This can be fixed by a check box in the defaults.

TextEdit can handle images (PDF, TIFF, JPEG and GIF as well as, sounds and/or movies) within the body of a document. There is also quite a bit of content formatting available in it. A hidden feature of TextEdit is it's ability to add page breaks. This is most likely because it can't actually save the page breaks in finished documents (I've only tried rich text format though), but it can be used for printing and saving as a PDF. You click on the document at the place you want the page break and then **press *ctrl-q-ctrl-l* (where *l* is the lower case version of *L*)**. This should be used for preparing a document for printing (or saving to PDF) as it is not saved within TextEdit's RTF/RTFD format.

File Types

TextEdit can work with a number of file types. It can read RTF/RTFD, TXT, HTML and DOC (in the 10.4 version) formats. It can save to RTF/RTFD, TXT, PDF (via print services) and DOC (also in the 10.4 version) formats.



Helpers for TextEdit

TextEdit can get help from any number of apps that are willing to share their abilities via Mac OS X's services system.