A First Time Install of cocoAspell in Yosemite or El Capitan

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2016/01/11

1 Introduction

NOTE: Version 2.5 of cocoAspell installs and works properly under El Capitan and Sierra so the enclosed solution is not necessary (unless you are a Terminal lover). It is available at http://people.ict.usc.edu/~leuski/cocoaspell/.

CocoAspell is a LaTeX-aware Spell Checker that operates through Apple's Spell Checking System. It is available at http://people.ict.usc.edu/~leuski/cocoaspell/ or as part of MacTeX-tras available at http://www.tug.org/mactex/mactextras.html.

If you've never installed cocoAspell before *and* you are using OS X 10.10.x (Yosemite) or later (e.g., OS X 10.11.x (El Capitan)) the install partially fails; it's impossible to open the Spelling pane in System Preferences to configure cocoAspell. It turns out the dictionaries are not completely built under those OS versions. There is a fix, provided by Thaddeus Perala, but it involves using the Command Line (CL) tool called make.

2 First Check for make

First run the command

make --version

in Terminal. If make is already installed you will get a short paragraph that looks like

GNU Make 3.81

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This program built for i386-apple-darwin11.3.0

which means all is well and you can continue with the fix for the cocoAspell installation below.

If it comes up with a dialog box you don't have the CL tools installed. To install the CL tools click on the install button in that dialog box. Note: unless you *really* want to use XCode in the future don't click on the XCode button since that is a very large download and application while the CL tools take very little space. Once those tools are installed run

make --version

in Terminal again and you should get the short paragraph given above.

3 Building the cocoAspell Dictionaries

Once you know you have the make tool installed simply run the two commands

cd "/Library/Application Support/cocoAspell/aspell6-en-6.0-0" sudo make install $\,$

in Terminal. You will have to give your administrator password to run the second command. After some output the prompt should return and you can open the cocoAspell Spelling pane in System Preferences to finish your configuration.