XƎTEX: blending the best of OS X and TEX

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TEX has a well-deserved reputation for power, flexibility, and typographic excellence in many areas of use. However, it also has a reputation for being difficult to configure and use, especially with regard to fonts. Many users are effectively restricted to using a small number of typefaces provided with their TEX system, and may find it difficult to be creative with document appearance, or to meet the varying requirements of publishers today.

XƎTEX integrates the strengths of TEX as a typesetting system with the font and graphics support of Mac OS X, highly regarded in the world of design, publishing, and typography. By making it simple to use the extensive font library of OS X, including professional Open-Type fonts for Latin and many other scripts, together with the robust and programmable formatting capabilities of TEX, new and richer design possibilities are available to even the most basic of TEX users.

This talk will explain and demonstrate how the XƎTEX engine makes it trivial to use any font available in the Mac font library within a TEX or LATEX document, including access to the advanced typographic features of AAT and OpenType fonts, and support for the full range of Unicode characters and scripts. Unlike traditional TEX systems, XƎTEX needs no technical configuration or setup for new fonts or for non-Latin scripts, so one of the great "usability barriers" in the old TEX world is swept away.