

How to run Ersatz and MetaXL on a Mac

Method 1: Boot Camp

Boot Camp is a free tool offered by Apple. Boot Camp makes it possible to run Windows natively on Mac hardware. Boot Camp creates a Windows partition on your OSX hard-drive, which works completely independent from the other software installed on your system. This also means that using this method, you won't be able to share documents between your Windows installation, and OSX (this is possible using virtualization software, discussed in the next section). More information on installing Boot Camp can be found on the following location: <http://www.apple.com/support/bootcamp/>.

After installing Boot Camp and a recent version of Windows within your Boot Camp partition (instructions to do this can be found on the website mentioned above), you can start using your Windows partition just like any other Windows computer. Since Boot Camp communicates directly with the underlying hardware, this method lets you use Windows just like you would on any other PC.

Advantages of running Ersatz & MetaXL in Boot Camp:

- Boot Camp runs natively on your Mac hardware. This results in very good performance.
- Switching between OSX and Windows is just as easy as doing a reboot of your Mac, holding down the Option key on the keyboard, and picking your desired operating system (either Windows or OSX).
- Installing Microsoft Office and Ersatz & MetaXL is just as easy as installing software on any regular PC.

Disadvantages of running Ersatz & MetaXL in Boot Camp:

- Since Boot Camp installs Windows on a completely different partition (physical location of the hard-drive) than OSX, it becomes more difficult to easily share files between the two systems. Files can still be copied using portable memory sticks, as an attachment in email, ... but this might become a problem if you are planning on switching a lot between OSX and Windows while using Ersatz & MetaXL.

If you are planning on using Windows on a regular basis on your Mac, and if you do not want to compromise on performance, running Ersatz & MetaXL on a Windows installation within Boot Camp might be the best solution for you. Remember, Boot Camp is a free tool provided by OSX (this tool does the actual partitioning for you) but you still need a legal copy of Windows (this is always the case if you want to run software on a Windows installation, and is independent of the method you use to install Windows) and of Excel for Windows.

Installing Ersatz & MetaXL using Boot Camp

Step-by-step instructions to install Windows using Boot Camp can be found in the Boot Camp installation manual.. After installing Windows and Excel for Windows, you can install Ersatz & MetaXL as you would on any other PC.

If you run into problems while installing Boot Camp, you can visit Apple's Boot Camp support website for help.

Method 2: Virtualization software

A second possible way of running Ersatz & MetaXL on a Mac is by using virtualization software.

In this approach, a Windows environment runs virtually within OSX. If you are not familiar with virtual machines, you can think of it as running an operating system within another operating system (the host). Just as with our previous approach, Windows and Excel for Windows needs to be installed before being able to use Ersatz & MetaXL, but this time we do not use Boot Camp but a virtualization tool called VMWare ©Fusion. This software makes it possible to run Windows applications side-by-side within OSX.

Advantages of running Ersatz & MetaXL in VMWare Fusion:

- VMWare runs within OSX, which makes it very easy to share files between your OSX and Windows installations. This is very handy if you are planning on switching often between these two systems for file sharing.
- Since VMWare runs just like any other application in OSX, you are offered a lot of different options to configure and tweak your Windows installation - you are completely free to decide how much actual disk space the Windows installation can use (depending on how often you are planning on using Windows), and reinstalling Windows and Ersatz & MetaXL within VMWare is a matter of a few clicks.

Disadvantages of running Ersatz & MetaXL in VMWare Fusion:

- The above-mentioned virtualization software VMWare Fusion is not free. The current version (version 3) costs \$79.99. This cost (as opposed to Boot Camp, which is free) adds up to your Windows and Excel for Windows license (XP, Vista or Windows 7 all support Ersatz & MetaXL).
- Since virtualization software does not use your hardware natively (all your Windows activity is first translated to OSX operations), this results in a performance penalty. Depending on your hardware configuration, this performance penalty may vary between a very small performance delay, and a noticeable delay while using the user interface. We recommend at least a Macbook Pro or an equivalent desktop system (Mac Pro) for running Ersatz & MetaXL using virtualization software.

Installing Ersatz & MetaXL using VMWare Fusion

Instructions to install VMWare Fusion on OSX can be found in the Fusion guide. Once you have successfully installed VMWare Fusion, you are ready to perform a Windows installation within VMWare. These instructions can be found in the same guide.