

# **working with El Capitan:**

an overview with optional audio guides

Sarah Alawami

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# 1. Introduction

el capitan was introduced at the 2015 apple world wide developer's conference (from here on out known as wwdc) on June 8. They discussed what was new in el capitan and all it had to offer. Through out this guide we will attempt to go over all of the features and how to accomplish most things. Optional audio guides will also be included for those who want to hear the steps as well as read them. See the book's website for extras.

## 1.1 Thanks.

I would like to personally thank all of the growing number of developers who have worked hard to make osx faster and more accessible over the years. You guys are doing a fantastic job and i cannot 'recommend osx highly enough because of this. All of you are fantastic. Also the beta testing teams who worked around the clock submitting feedback both publicly and privately to apple's accessibility team. If you have any comments regarding osx el capitan (from here on out known as osx 10.11) Please send an email with step by step instructions on how to reproduce the bug, the change, the suggestion etc to >accessibility@apple.Com> they might, if you are lucky,reply back with feedback regarding your bug, change or suggestion. You can also call them from the us at (877) 204-3930. The accessibility staff will be sure to submit your feedback.

Next, I'd like to thank the folks at leanpub for providing a flexible publishing platform that is easy to use. I should note that I'm visually impaired and their platform is fully accessible for publishing. If I could give you guys a plate of cookies, I would.

Next I'd like to thank my friend and colleague Monti Icenogle for helping me with edits. You went over everything with a fine tooth comb and caught errors I would have otherwise missed.

third, I would like to thank the folks at apple for making a product the visually impaired and sighted can use alike. How many operating systems can one install with speech and by oneself? I can only think of one, for now.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the reader, and in some cases, the listener for letting me guide you via this short guide through El Capitan, and osx in general. Your feedback is invaluable, and I note each bit down to be used in a later eGuide. Weather this is your first time with a mac or you are a 20 year veteran, we are always learning. May we continue to do so, and may apple innovate us to raise the bar to go above and beyond. Now that the introduction is out of the way, let's focus on the next step, upgrading your system.



## 2. A note on some of the sources

Most of the procedures will be shown by me in both text and if possible audio, how ever some people explain better then I ever could. When this happens I will indicate when starting to explain something where the steps are taken from. The words “taken from” will be indicated at the bottom of the section in a foot note as well as the url(s) where you can read the blog post(s) indicated.

Also keep in mind that not all things demonstrated in text will be in audio. This is due to logistical reasons. I’ve done my best to include audio where it would be appropriate One option where it will not be included is the upgrade procedure as I’ve done demos on this with mavericks, mountain lion, Yosemite, and possibly lion.

### 3. additional notes

When keystrokes are given in the written portion of this eGuide they will be in *italic*. For example **control plus option plus shift plus down arrow** means to hold down all of the keys indicated on the keyboard. Numrow will refer to the numbers at the top of the keyboard from 1 to 0. Numpad will refer to the number pad if applicable.

In the audio portions of the book if any extra information is indicated it will be inserted as a foot note, that is a splice with in the audio itself. Very few of these will be attempted as it will interrupt the flow of the recording, however if they are necessary they will have to be done. Footnotes in the text will be at a minimum as well to keep the flow of the guide.

## 4. Upgrading

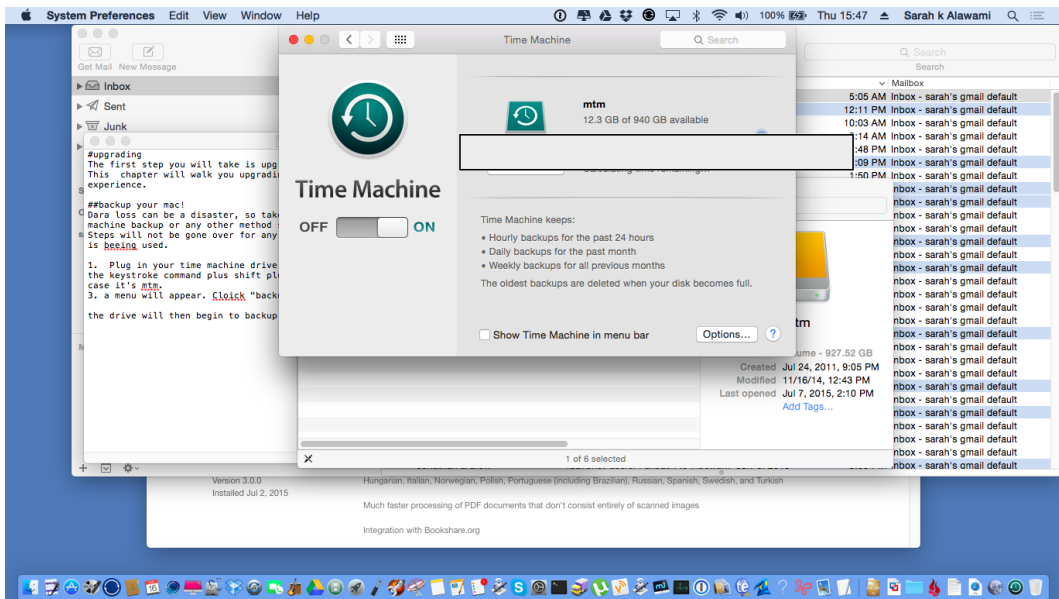
the first step you will take is upgrading. This is (or should be) both easy and painless. This chapter will walk you through the upgrade process for os10.11, and the suggested steps for an easy experience.

## 4.1 Backup your mac!

Data loss can be a disaster, so take the time to back up your system with either a time machine backup or any other method such as an offsite back up, a firesafe drive, etc. The following steps are for backing up using a time machine drive. Other methods such as [back blaze](#) and other offsite backups may be used.

1. Plug in your time machine drive. The volume will show up on your desktop. If not press the keystroke **command plus shift plus c**.
2. Control click the drive in question. In my case my time machine volume is called "Mtm."
3. A menu will appear. Click "Backup now"

the drive will then begin to backup the contents of your mac. Be patient; it might take a while.



The following shows a 709 megabyte backup in progress.

once your backup is done you may begin the next steps to upgrade your mac.

## 4.2 The upgrade

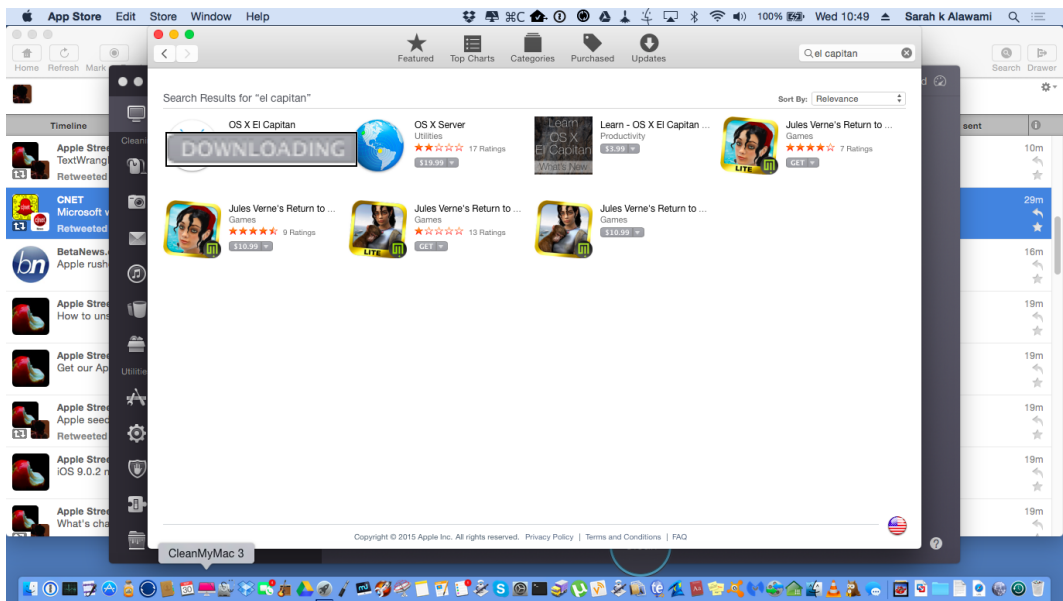
upgrading will take between 1-4 hours. This is not because of server overload. Files that need to be replaced and updated are numerous, and it takes time to upgrade and update said files. Luckily you don't need to do much but sit back and watch.

Once you are ready to upgrade your system, precede through the following steps making sure that you read each dialogue carefully.

1. Launch the app store. This is accomplished by either clicking the icon from the doc, or highlighting the app in the apps folder and double clicking it.
2. Check for updates. One can either click updates in the tool bar, or press the keystroke **command plus number row 5**.
3. Wait for the process to complete. This might take a few minutes.
4. Once the process finishes, click update all. The download is between 4-6 gigs in length, so be patient. If there is a license agreement before the download begins, click "agree."

Once the download completes you can, if you are ready, click continue once the install os 10.11 Window appears. If you don't want to install right away, because of a back up in progress for example, you can either close the window by clicking close or press the keystroke **command plus q**.

If you don't want to download via software update or it does not show up for you, you can instead search for "El Capitan" in the app store and proceed to download the app file that way. The following screenshows the app store's dimmed download butttn after clicking installl.



After you click install the button changes to a download button that is now dimmed.

The app, for that's what has been downloaded, will be located in your apps folder, located in the finder and gotten to with the keystroke **command plus shift plus a**. You can also get to the apps folder by navigating to your finder, clicking go, then clicking apps.

## 4.3 Next Steps.

Once you are ready to begin the install, you highlight the app called “install os10.11,” and double click it. You can also open the app with the keystroke **command plus down arrow**. Follow the on screen instructions. The computer will restart. It will take between 45 minutes to around 1.5 hours to complete the install at this point. Everything from here on out is automated. Keep an eye on the screen, or if you are visually impaired, turn on voice over with command plus f5. The voice will be Fred.<sup>1</sup>

Once your system reboots, follow the on screen instructions. If you are asked if you want to enable file vault uncheck the box. You can after set up if necessary (if you are for example doing this in an office setting) check file vault, but for now leave it unchecked. If you are visually impaired you can invoke Voiceover with the keystroke **command plus f5**. Every field is 100 percent accessible at this stage.<sup>2</sup>

Congratulations. You have successfully upgraded your mac to os10.11. Next comes looking at the various apps that ship with the operating system.

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<sup>1</sup>This cannot be changed, but the tone, volume and speech rate can be changed. See quick help for voice over found on every mac with option plus control plus H.

<sup>2</sup>Screenshots of these steps cannot be included in this text due to the fact that a reboot is required, however the instructions and automated nature of the install should not present any trouble.

## 5. creating a boot thumb drive for your brand new OSX El Capitan Installer

The following is modified from [this link](#).

Suppose you want to install from scratch and your mac's hard drive for some reason won't let you do it via the recovery console. Suppose you just want to reformat your mac and start over, or sell it. This final chapter will walk you through creating a bootable thumb drive that will help you do just that.



## **5.1 What you will need**

You will need a flash drive that is at least 8 gigs or higher. You will also need about 15-30 minutes on your hands to wait for the process to complete. You might also need a cup of coffee while you wait. Joking of corse.

## 6. steps.

First, you will need to if you did not already download the osx 10.11 installer from the app store. This is about a 6 gig download. See the upgrade chapter on how to do this. A side note to the reader here. If you have any important content on the flash drive, move it somewhere else. The drive will be erased of all of its content.

Next connect your USB flash drive to your mac. If you are using a different medium such as an external drive, connect that.

Next hit **command plus shift plus c** from the finder and hit enter on your new connected drive. After this, name it untitled. This is easier to type, and has no spaces. See the next step.

Now it comes time to launch the terminal. don't worry you don't have to know 100 percent what you are doing. This is going to be a simple copy and paste command.

- Launch the terminal. Type Command Shift u from the finder, navigate to the terminal and either click, or type command down arrow to open the app.
- paste in the following command. Remember we renamed the drive "untitled"
  - `sudo /Applications/Install\ OS\ X\ El\ Capitan.app/Contents/Resources/createinstalln`
  - `-volume /Volumes/untitled -applicationpath /Applications/Install\ OS\ X\ El\ Capitan.app -nointeraction`
- Hit enter, then enter in your admin password. The sudo command tells the computer you are temporarily God and it is doing things your administrator account is not normally aloud or in most cases able to do.
- Hit after you enter in your password, hit enter. and wait. Now would be the time to grab that cup of coffee and finish it in about 15 minutes.

When your prompt comes back, that is, when you see for example Sarah's' mac or what ever you saw before pasting in the command you are done. Feel free to rename the flash media to something useful, but remember to rename it untitled if you ever want to update your boot disk. for the convenience of the reader I've included a script with this guide. You can download the script and paste it in to your home directory, launch the terminal and simply type a period, then a slash followed by the script name. Remember to include the extension at the end or the command will die a violent death. and you will need to reenter the command again. You will be asked

for your admin password once you type in the command and hit enter. just as if you typed in the command from above. Note should the script fail type the following in to the terminal.

```
1  chmod 755 ./updateos10.11.sh
```

Then press enter. After that try the script again. You will get your password prompt after which the script should work.

## **7. exit**

The above steps might seem daunting to the beginner but I promise that these steps are as easy as pie, or what ever you want to have while you wait for this process to complete. This is my 100 percent promise.