# Introduction to LyX
# or
# How to Use These Doc Files!

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## 1 Navigating the Documentation

Welcome to LyX!

To make it easier to answer your questions and describe all of the features of LyX, the documentation has been split up into several different files. Each one has its own purpose, as described below. Before you go plowing into any of those files, however, you should read this one thoroughly first, since it contains a lot of useful information and commentary that can save you some time.

WARNING!!!!! WARNING!!!!! WARNING!!!!
Danger, Will Robinson, Danger!

Although LyX now has a version number of 1.0 [or greater], some of the documentation may be incomplete or a version out of date. Like the rest of LyX, the manuals are the work of a group of volunteers who have "Real Jobs," families, dishes to clean, kitty litter to dispose of, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. We do our best to keep the manuals in tip-top shape, but we might not always succeed. [If you want to help remedy that situation, be sure to read section 4 in addition to the rest of this document.]

Also, please do us a favor—if anything in these manuals confuses you, is unclear, or wrong, don't hesitate to let us know! You can reach the current document maintainers by mailing to `lyxdoc@lyx.org`.

## 2 The Format of the Manuals

Some of you may have printed out the manual[s]. Others may be reading it online, within LyX as a file. For those reading online, there are some differences from the printed version. First, the title is simply at the top of the document, not formatted on a separate page as in some of the printed versions. Nor are any of the footnotes or the Table of Contents visible. There is a popup for viewing the Table of Contents. To open it, select Table of Contents from the Edit menu. To open a footnote, which looks like this,[1] click on it with the left mouse button.

Now that we've cleared up some of the differences between the printed and online versions of this file, we can start looking at the format of this document. You'll occasionally notice things in different fonts:

- *Emphasized Style* is used for general emphasis, generic arguments, book titles, names of sections of other manuals, and notes from the authors.
- `Typewriter` is used for program and file names, LaTeX code, and LyX code and functions.
- Sans Serif is used for menu, button, or popup names, and the names of keyboard keys.
- Noun Style is used for people's names.

For keys and keybindings, you'll probably get referred to the *Key Bindings* section of the "*Reference Manual*" [the file `Reference.lyx`]. When we do need to reference keys, we'll use the following prefixing convention:

- "C-" indicates the Control- key.
- "S-" indicates the Shift- key.
- "M-" indicates the Meta- key, which on some keyboards will be the Alt- key.
- "F1" ... "F12" are the function keys.
- "Esc" is the escape key.
- "Left" "Right" "Up" "Down": self-explanatory.
- "Insert" "Delete" "Home" "End" "PageUp" "PageDown": these are the 6 keys that appear above the cursor keys on many PC keyboards. "PageUp" and "PageDown" are called "Prior" and "Next" on some keyboards.
- Return and Enter both refer to the same key. Some keyboards label the Return key as "Return," others as "Enter," still others have two keys. LyX treats all of them as the same key, so we'll use Return and Enter interchangeably.

You'll also see something like "[See the '*Reference Manual*']" from time to time. We've listed the possible default keybindings for a function in its entry in the "*Reference Manual*," so check there, too.

[1] Hi!

## 3 The Manuals

The following list describes the contents of each of the files in the documentation:

***Introduction***
This file.

***Tutorial***
If you are new to LyX, and never used LaTeX before, or never even heard of LaTeX, then you should start here. If you *have* used LaTeX before, you should still read the section on "LyX for LaTeX users" [and skimming the rest of the document wouldn't hurt].

***User's Guide***
The primary documentation. We'll attempt to cover *most* of the basic operation and available features of LyX here. The main manual assumes that you have a passing knowledge of LaTeX, or that you've read the *Tutorial*.

***Extended Features***
Extension of the *User's Guide*. Documents additional layouts and special-purpose editing features, including some of the tricks of the LaTeX masters.

***Customization***
A description of advanced LyX features, including how to customize the overall behavior of LyX. This includes such things as keybindings, internationalization, and configuration files.

***Reference Manual***
This contains an exhaustive, detailed description of the features of LyX, but without the helpful usage hints and descriptions found in the *User's Guide* or other manuals.

***Known bugs***
This file contains a list of known bugs in LyX, and also information on what you should do if you find a bug in LyX.

***LaTeX configuration***
LyX investigates your system upon installation. This file contains info on what LyX learned about your installation. Check it to see if you're missing something you might like to have.

These files will reference one another as necessary. For example, the *User's Guide* contains *some* information on installation and customization, but refers the reader to the *Customization Manual* for more information.

We'll state again an important point:

If you've never used or even heard of LaTeX before, read the *Tutorial*. Now.

Otherwise, LyX will seem byzantine and unusable to you.

# 4 Contributing to the Documentation Project

## 4.1 Reporting Errors in the Manuals

That's easy enough to do. You could post a message to either the Developer's Mailing List or the User's Mailing List. The Documentation Team, however, would prefer you to send a message to `lyxdoc@lyx.org`. If the fixes are minor, someone will do them. If they're major, we suggest you join the mailing list and talk with us for a while before doing anything.

*Never make changes to any of the manuals without prior consent of the Documentation Team!*

Any such random changes won't make it into the documentation, anyways, since the Documentation Team maintains the master copies via the CVS tree.

## 4.2 Joining the Documentation Team.

The LyX Documentation Project, like anything else in the LyX project, can always use assistance! If you're interested in contributing to the Documentation Project, you need to do the following assignment *first*:

1. Get the latest LyX source code. Untar it. You will find a directory inside the main tree called `development`. Inside that directory is a file called `DocStyle.lyx`. Read it; it's the style sheet for the documentation.

2. Take a break for a day or two, then go read `DocStyle.lyx` again.

3. Next, read the *User's Guide* and the *Tutorial*.

   The point of this exercise is to give you ideas. The *Tutorial* and *User's Guide* will always be the most up-to-date of all of the documentation. You should be able to glean some insights into how we want the manuals to read and to look.

4. Read `DocStyle.lyx` again.

5. Lastly, contact the team at:

   `lyxdoc@lyx.org`

   We want to make sure that you understand the style sheet *before* you start writing. Otherwise, we'll make you rewrite your submissions.

*Don't* even think about starting to write anything until we chat via email. You can review any current activity with the documents on the Documentation Team web page [once we get it up] or through the mailing list archives at `www.lyx.org`.