Welcome to Qt!

Congratulations! If you're new to Qt then you are going to be amazed by how much easy-to-use power it gives you. And if you're an experienced Qt user, this version of Qt gives you what you'd expect: more ease-of-use, more power, more functionality and more programming pleasure than ever before.

The Qt Application Development Toolkit is an internationally renowned C++ class library and toolset. Qt helps you design cross-platform graphical user interfaces quickly and easily. Qt includes *Qt Designer*, our visual design tool that uses layouts to produce beautiful scalable cross-platform GUIs. Qt comes with tools to help you make your applications multi-lingual as well as cross-platform, to ensure the widest possible audience for your applications. At the heart of Qt is the C++ library itself, which provides consistency, ease-of-use, power and extensive functionality, to help you build your own world-class applications. We're so proud of Qt's quality that we include our source code so that you can see it for yourself.

We've included a flyer that explains how to install Qt for each version supplied on the CD. Pick the installation flyer for your operating system and follow the instructions to get Qt installed on your machine.

If you're new to Qt we have some suggestions for where to begin, since Qt introduces some innovations to C++ programming, especially its signals and slots mechanism, which provides a type-safe alternative to the crude callbacks used in older toolkits.

Qt is extensively documented and comes with numerous examples. Run the *Qt Assistant* application to launch Qt's on-line help system. *Qt Assistant* presents the Qt Reference Documentation on start up.

The easiest way to get started with Qt programming is to work through the first two chapters of the *Qt Designer* tutorial (included in the *Qt's Graphical Development Tools* book, and also in the on-line help).

Once you're familiar with *Qt Designer* you might like to try working through the on-line tutorial (in the Getting Started section) to get more of a feel for Qt programming in pure C++. We also recommend that you read the Signals and Slots overview. At this point you should be able to make productive use of Qt, learning everything else as you go along. The overviews and some of the modules contain lots of practical information. Qt also comes with a large collection of examples in the `examples` folder, which you can use for ideas and inspiration. Qt has a supportive on-line user community, which uses the `qt-interest` mailing list. And as a registered Qt licensee you can use Trolltech's professional support service.

We hope that you have fun creating great applications with Qt!

— The Trolltech Team