Understanding the iMac Dock

The dock is the bar on the left, right or most commonly bottom of the screen that contains icons for the most used applications. You can figure out what icon stands for what application by placing the mouse over the icon. A text tag will pop up with the application name. Clicking once on an icon will launch that application. A small black triangle next to an icon indicates that that application is currently open. When an icon appears to bounce, that application is trying to get your attention (you may need to verify something or the application may be having trouble locating something it needs).

You can make changes to the size, location, and other properties of the dock by clicking on the System Preferences icon (the light switch) and then clicking on the dock icon in the pop-up window.

You might want to make changes if you need more screen room (you can "hide" the dock so it only appears when you put the mouse to far edge of the screen where it is located) or if its current location interferes with the layout of a given application.

Additional icons can be placed in the dock by opening the hard drive and the applications folder and dragging the new application over the top of the dock.

If you cannot find an application you know is installed on a particular machine, open the Applications folder on the Hard Drive to locate it.