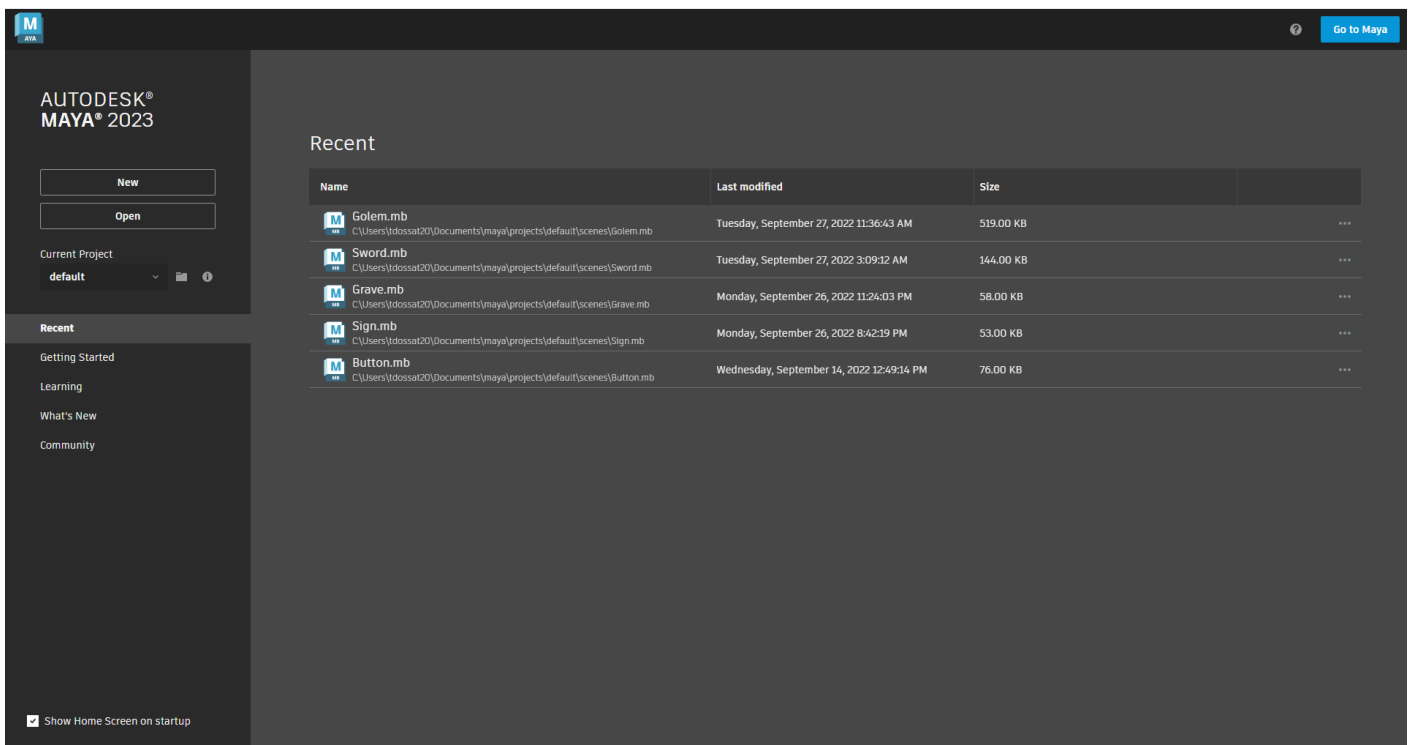
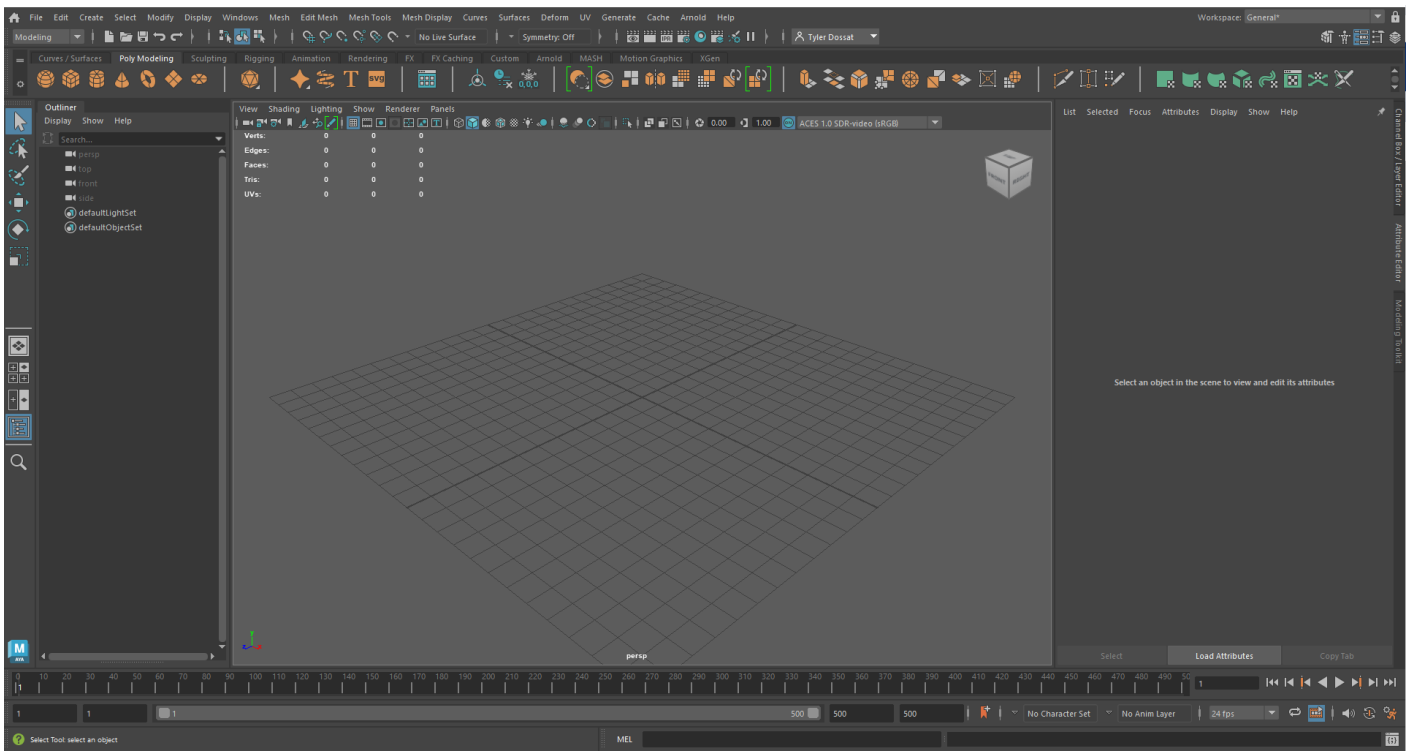


Basics of Maya

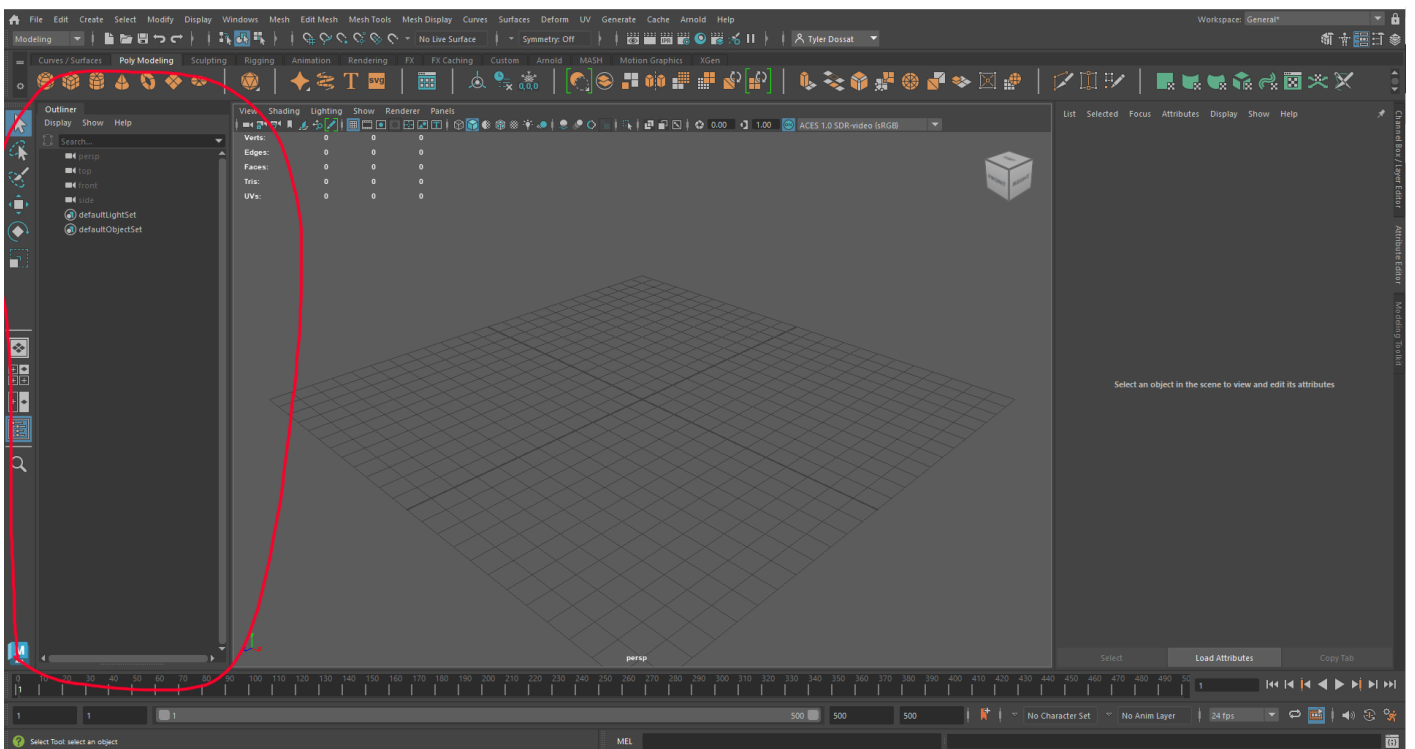
When you boot up Maya, You will see a similar screen. On the left side of the screen you can find a few buttons. New, Which creates a new Maya file, Open which opens a existing file, and a drop down menu called current project. This drop down menu is basically the folder where your Maya files are stored. Creating a project is helpful for when you need to organize a project. You will see your recent files taking up most of your screen.



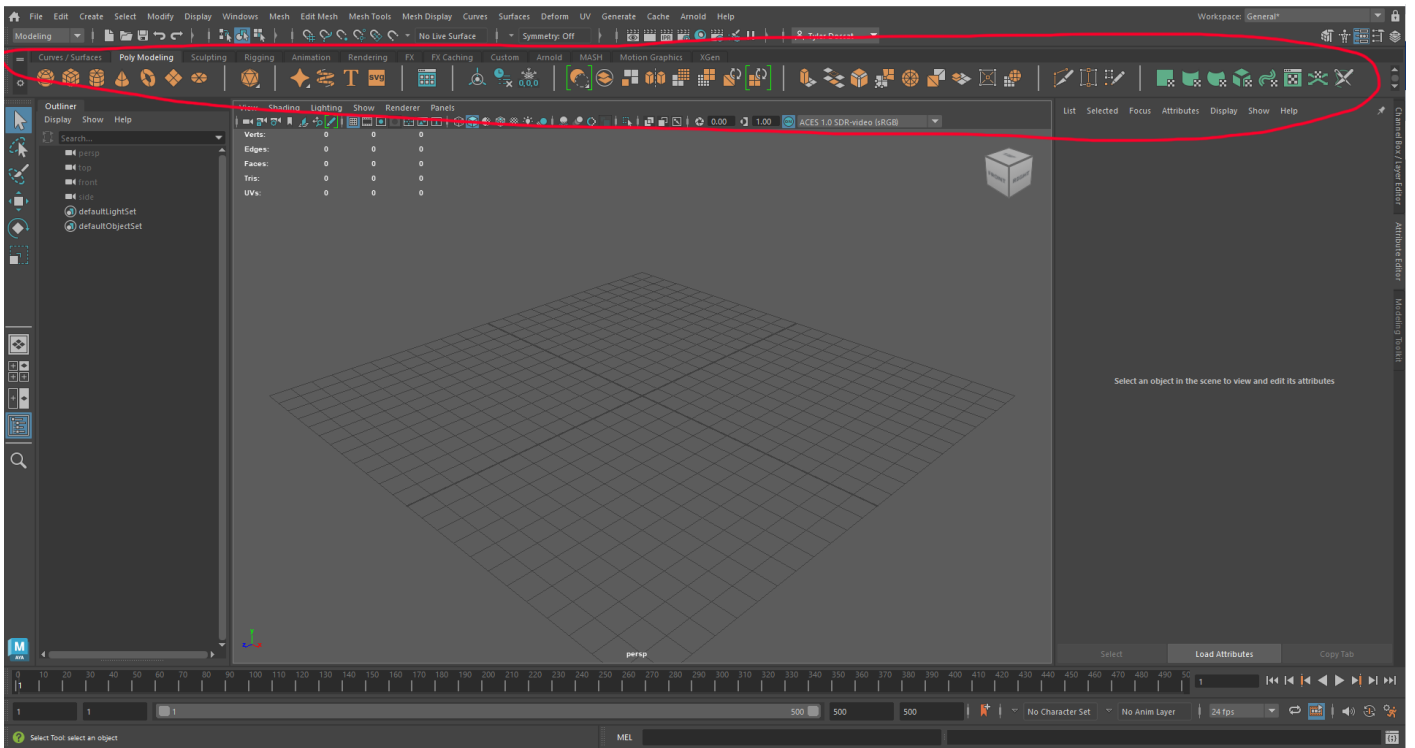
Once you open a new file, you will see this scene by default.



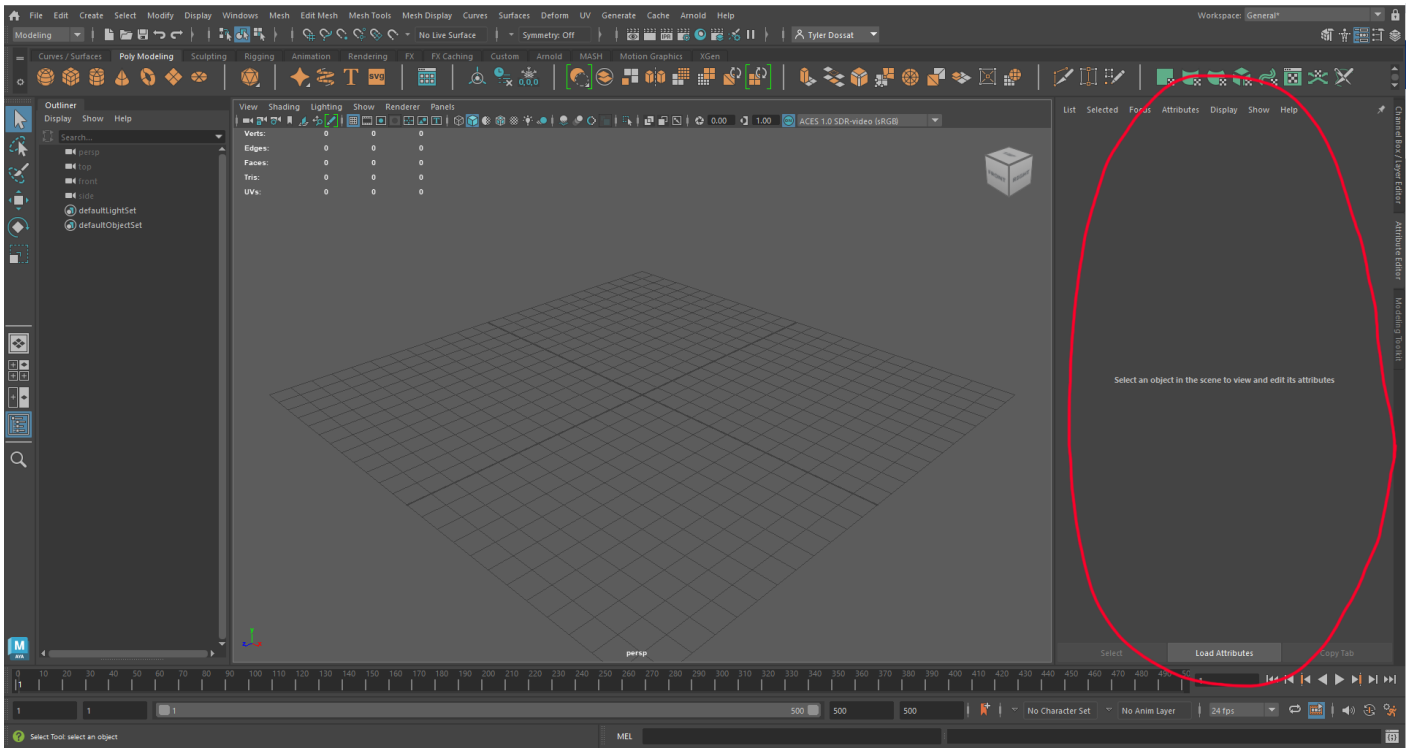
On the left side you will see the outline. The outline is where all of your meshes are. It is where you can organize all of the parts of your scene. All the things you add will appear here.



The top is your short cut bar. A lot of the basic things that you want to do you can find up top. Most of the time you will have the Poly Modeling tab selected as that is where you can add a cube, sphere, etc. The other tabs have useful short cuts to help you out. The bar above are useful and have alternate ways to get what your looking for. Exploring these features is recommended.



The right side of this is the attribute editor. This is for editing the small details of your mesh. When you click your mesh you can find ways to edit, position, scale, rotation, subdivisions, materials. If those terms mean nothing to you, there is a page on the attribute editor.

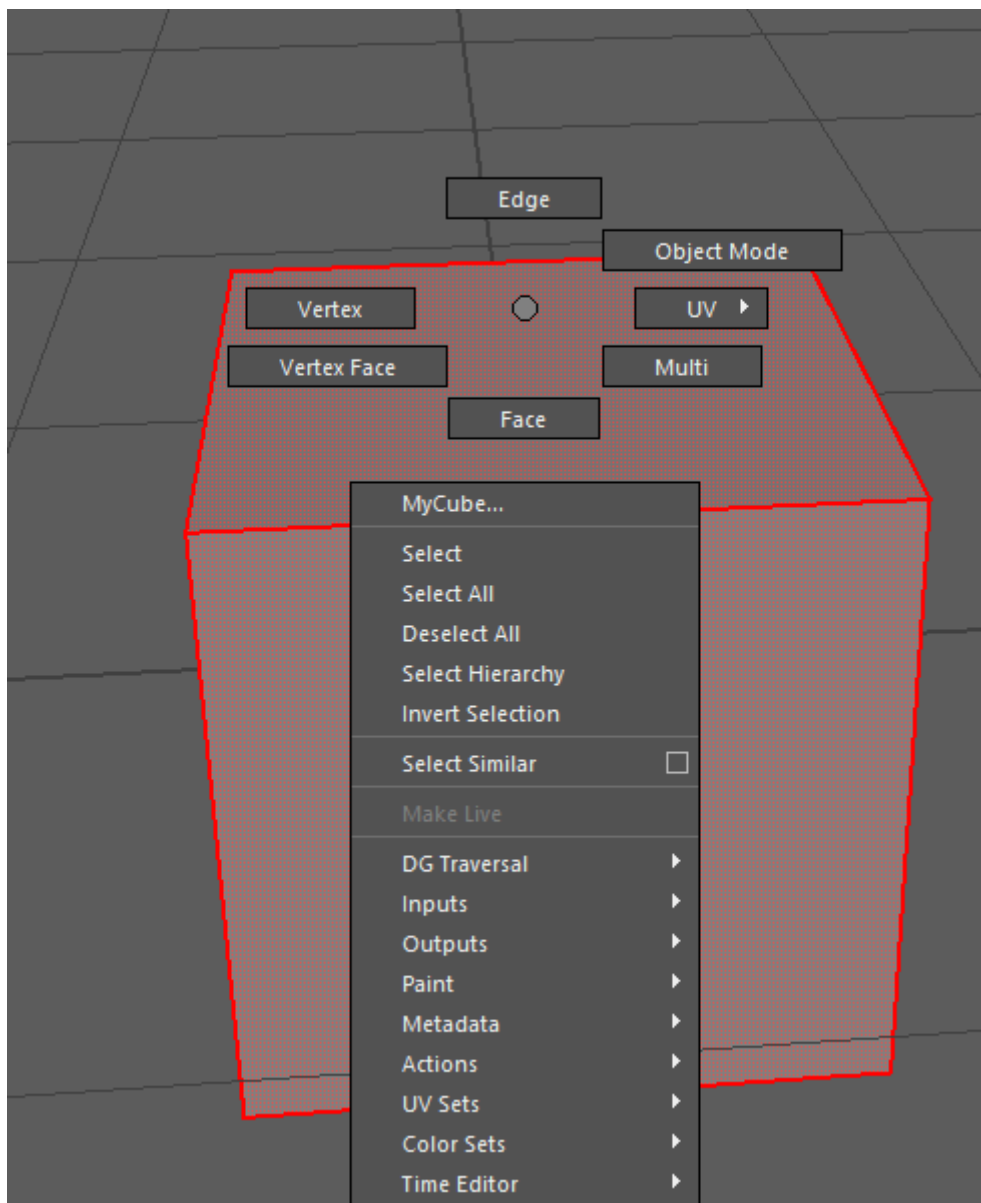


You can get to this menu by holding right click on your mouse. This menu is a super helpful short cut menu. This is where you can accesses certain modes to help you edit. The main to worry about

now being Face, Edge, and Vertex.

To understand what these mean you need to understand how a mesh is made. A vertex is a point in space. These points in space are then connected by lines which we call edges and when edges connect 3 or more vertex's together, we get a face. Put a bunch of faces together and you get the mesh. In the example photo below, you can see the cube. This cube is 6 faces. These faces are made up of edges connected by points called vertex's.

Armed with that knowledge, The face option will allow you to select faces individually. The Edge option will allow you to select edges individually. The vertex option will allow you to select the vertexes individually. You can use the transformations to edit each of these parts of your mesh. (Info on transformations found in Attribute Editor article)



That's the basics of Maya. Good Luck

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