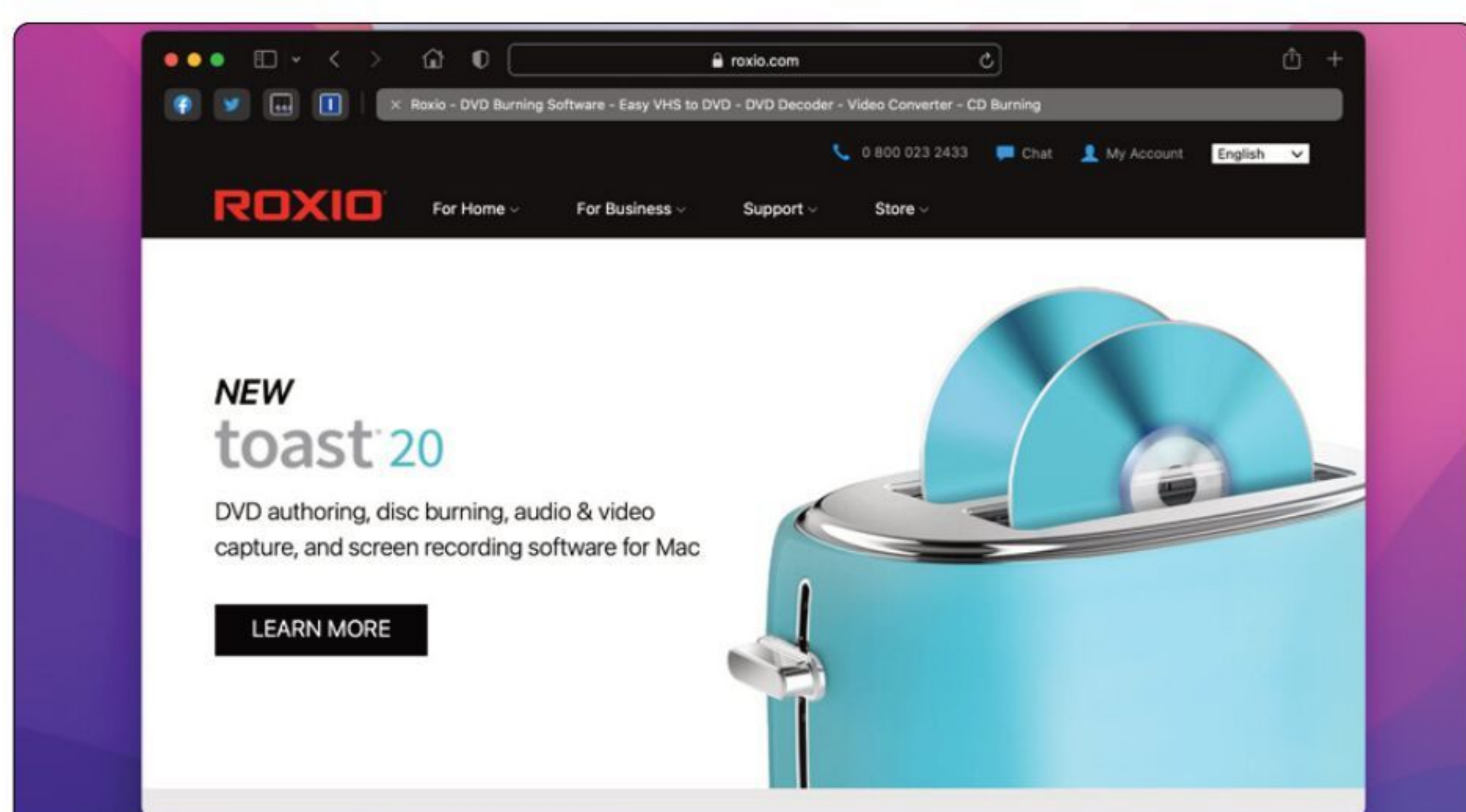


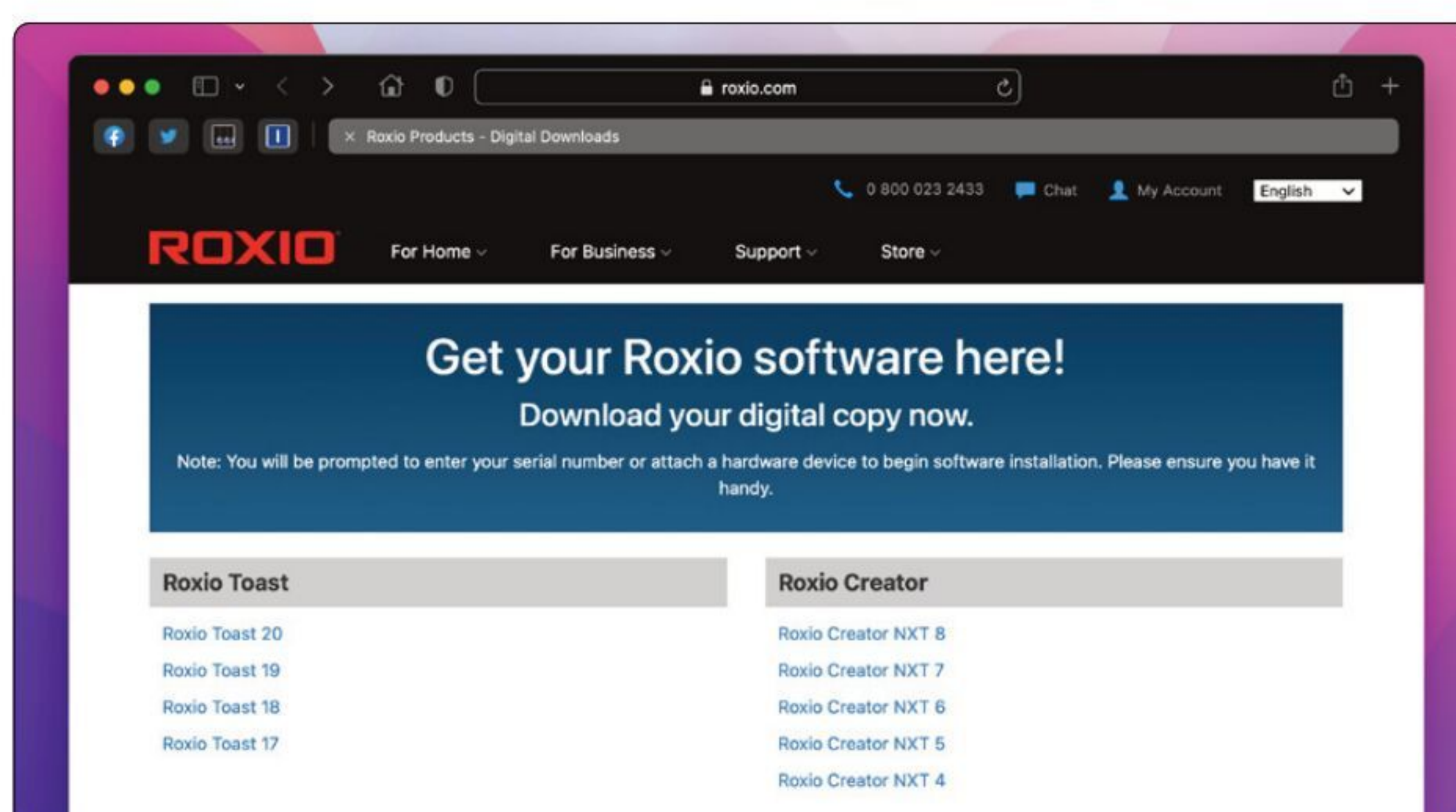


Third-party Apps On Your Mac

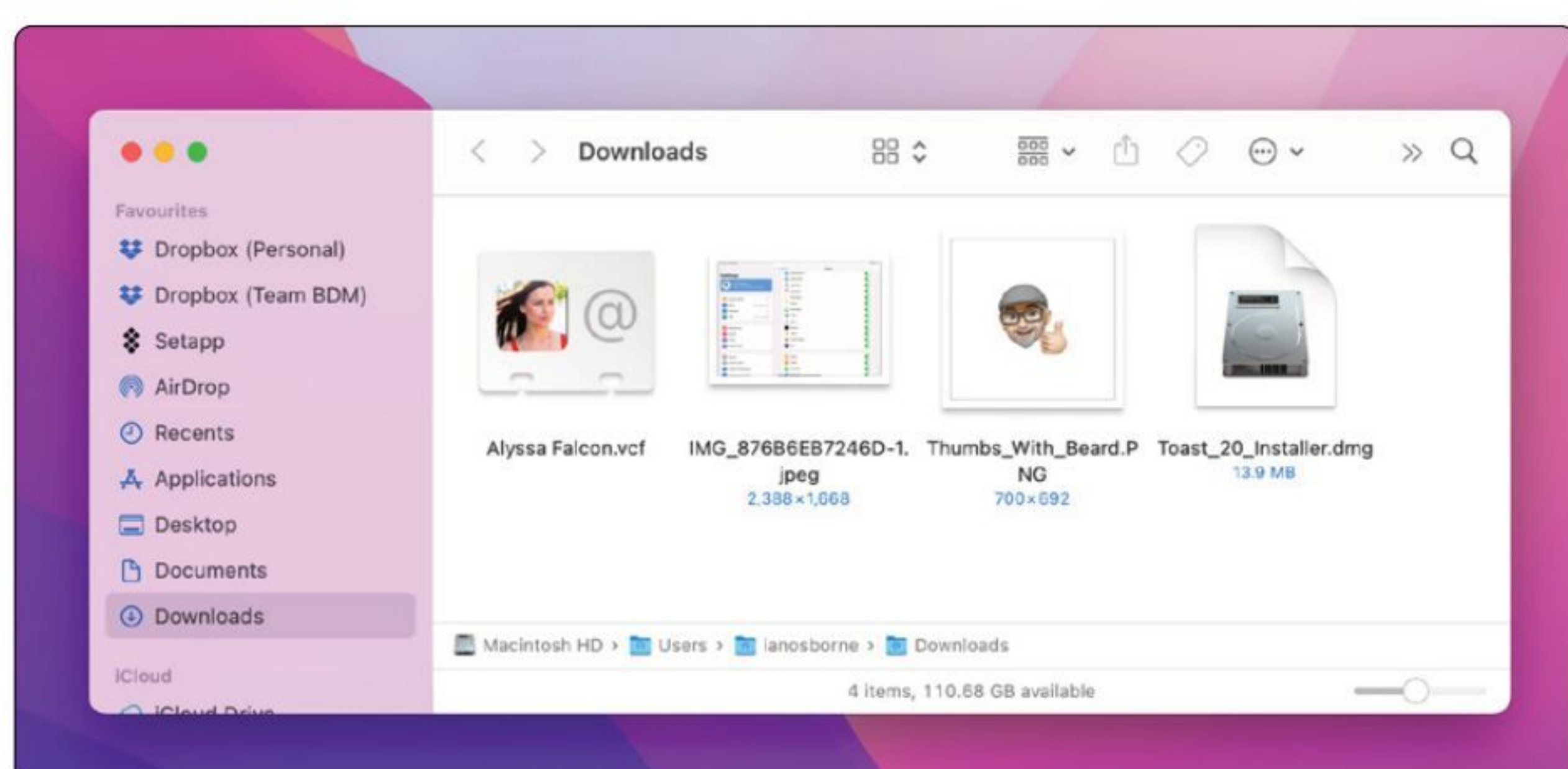
Installing from developers' websites does carry some baggage. For one, you're not going to get updates from the Mac App Store, which may lead to an unresponsive app as the core macOS system is updated. Secondly, there's a potential security risk, as you've no way of knowing if the app you're installing has any form of malware hidden deep within it. And thirdly, it's not often quite as simple as a single click.



1 Begin by locating the app you want to install – as previously mentioned, look for a reputable site. Ensure that it actually has a macOS version available, as Windows or Linux developed apps won't work on a Mac (unless you do some clever work in the background).

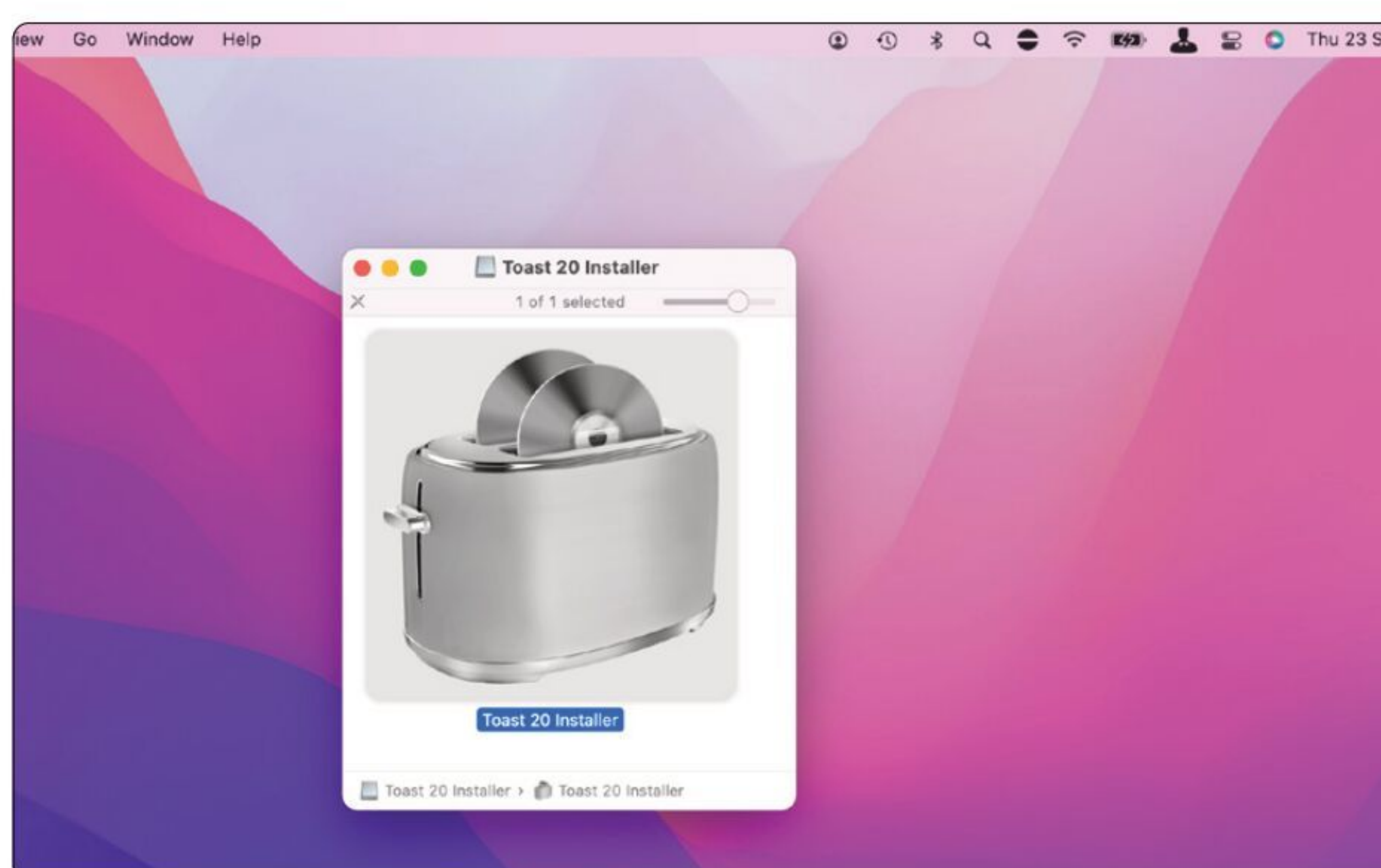


2 There's usually a Downloads section to any site where there's apps available from the developer. In there you can find the macOS specific installation file you need for the app in question. Click the link to it or button, to begin the download of the app's installer.

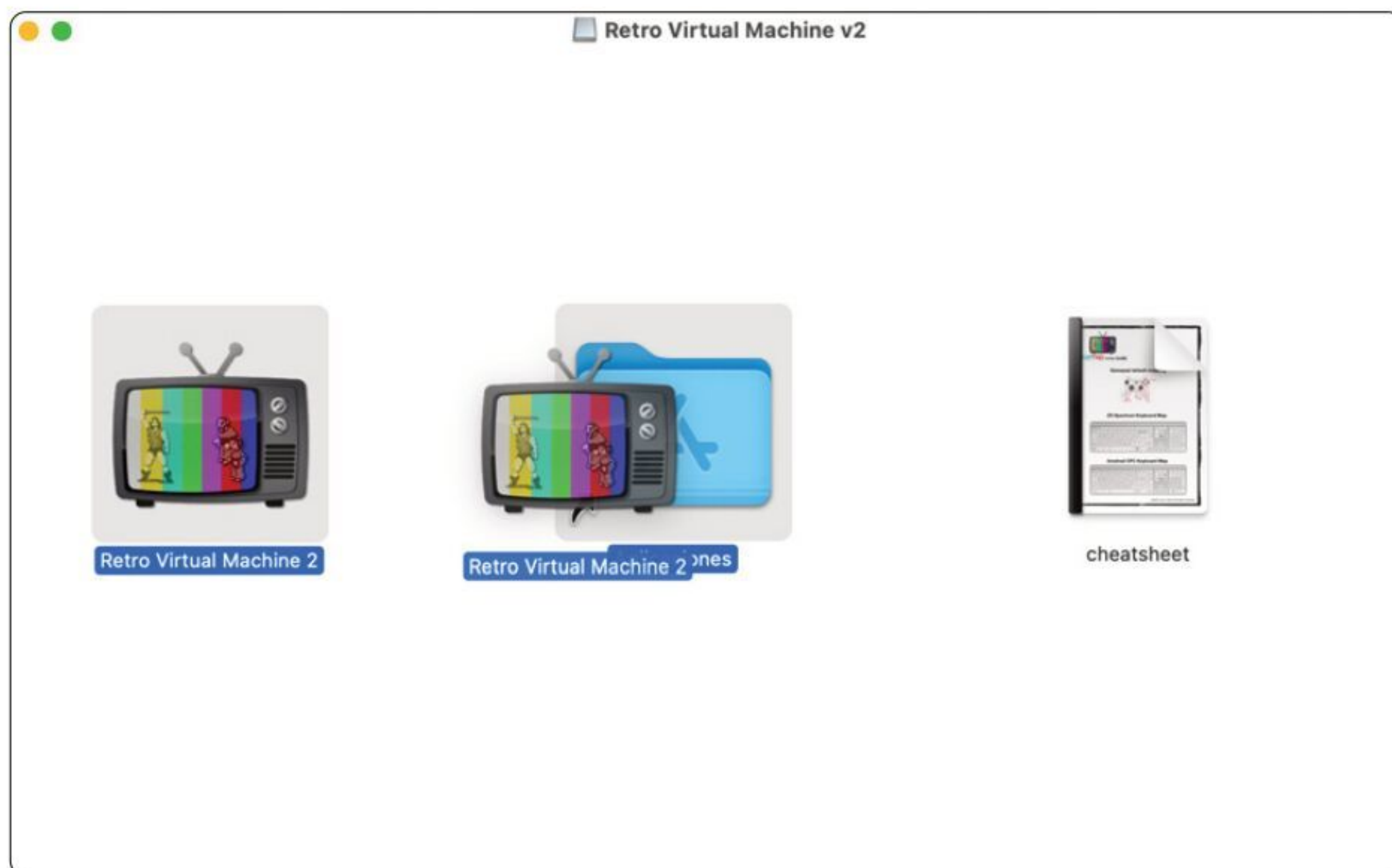


3 Most macOS downloaded app installers come as DMG files. A DMG file is an Apple Disk Image file or a Mac OS X Disk Image file. It's basically a digital reconstruction of a physical disk and stores compressed software installers instead of having a physical medium. These DMG files can therefore be mounted as virtual disk images.

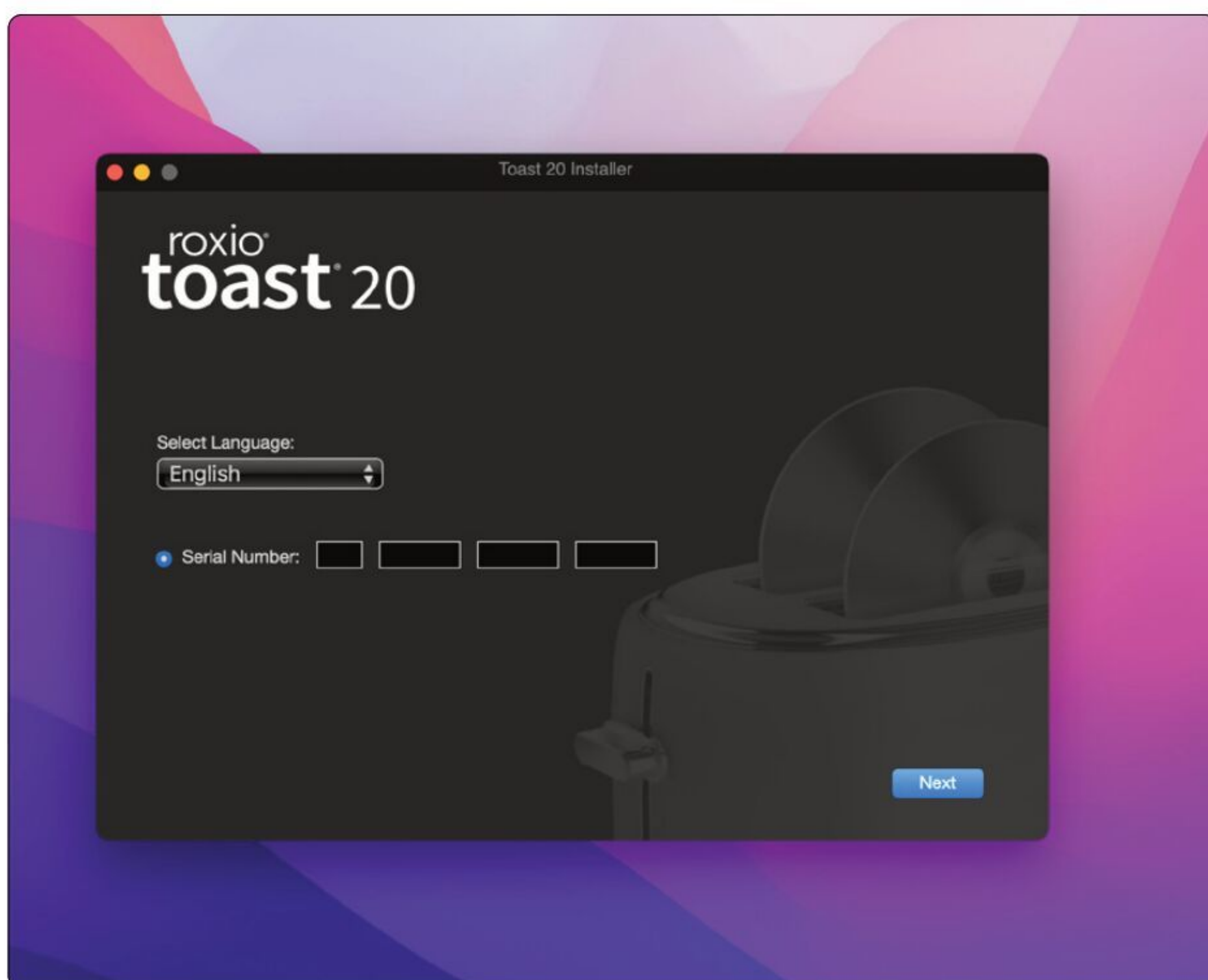
All downloads from Safari are stored in the Downloads folder in Finder. Locate the folder and the DMG file you've downloaded, then double-click to mount the virtual disk image.



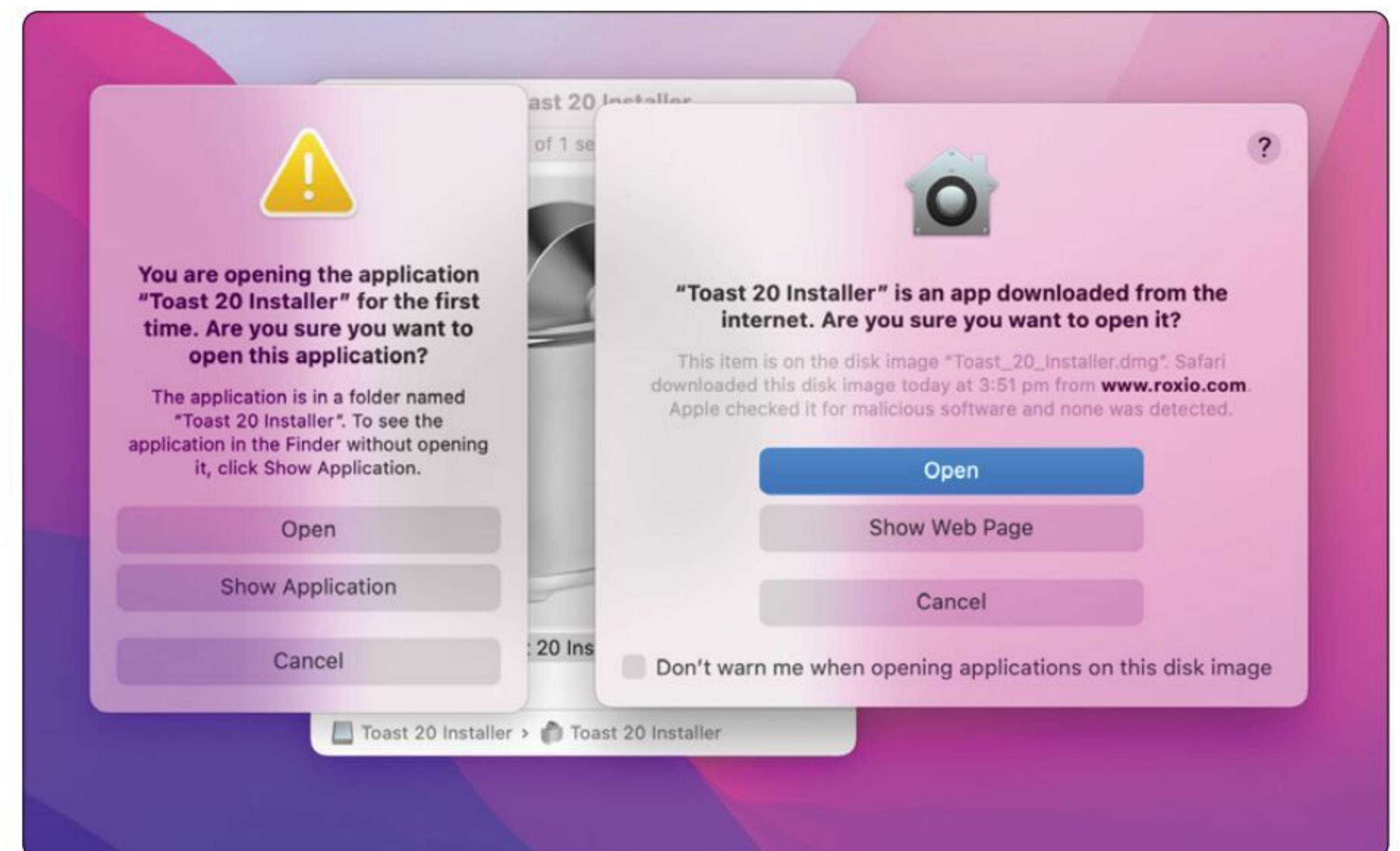
4 This does one of several operations: first, macOS will scan the DMG file and ensure it's all there and in the right order to read from. Secondly, it will open a virtual disk image both on the desktop and within Finder as a new external drive. Thirdly, you'll get a brief notice indicating how to install the chosen app on to your system.



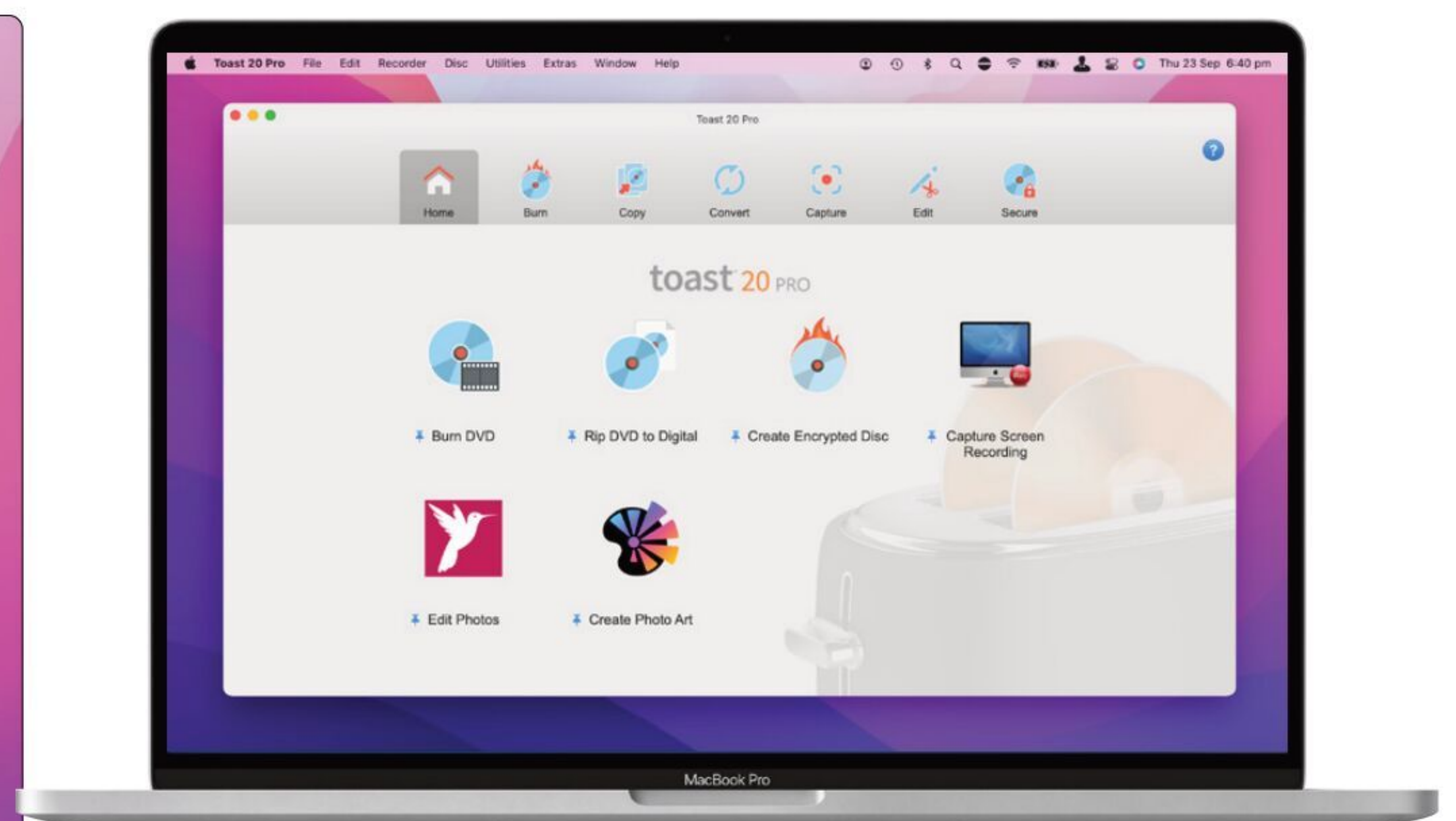
5 If there's an Applications folder in the window with a small arrow in its bottom-left corner, drag the application into this folder to install it. If the folder contains a file with a name that ends 'installer', double click on that file to start the installation process. Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the installation. You'll then find the installed software in your Applications folder where you can choose to add to your Dock if you want to access it quickly.



7 If you bought the app from the developer's web store, you might have received a registration code by email. This might be required during the installation process, or you might be able to use the application for free for a set period of time before a code is needed. If you're asked to input a code during the installation, copy and paste it from the email into the fields provided. Having done so, continue to follow the on-screen instructions.



6 Because the application was downloaded from a third-party site, you might get warnings such as the ones shown here. If you're sure you downloaded the app from a reputable site, click on Open to proceed. You might also have to open System Preferences > Security & Privacy > General, click the lock (bottom left) and enter your admin password and make sure the lower option is set to 'App Store and identified developers'.



8 The app should launch as expected. If you come across any problems, it's often down to the fact that you are running a more recent version of macOS than the app was designed for, or the app is 32-bit, whereas macOS Monterey will only execute 64-bit apps. If this happens, it's worth checking with the site you downloaded it from; perhaps there's a more recent version to download. Otherwise, you could Google the error and see what other users have to say about the matter. Most apps often produce unique errors depending on the developer and the app, so don't always expect the same solution to work all of the time.

What are PKG Files?

One other popular file type for macOS installations is the PKG file. Although it's not as popular as DMG files. Simply put, a PKG file are installation packages that generally contain automated scripts that will direct the installation of the app in question. They will take you through a kind of setup wizard and create a multi-step installation process.

They are usually only used where multiple additional components are required by the app but also when different

services are required from macOS or the installation files will be placed in different areas of the Mac's file system.

One more note: Once you've installed any DMG or PKG file, you can delete it from the system. Its job is finished now, and the app is installed. Unless you'd like to keep it in case you install it on another Mac, there's no need to keep hold of it in the Downloads folder. Simply drag it into the bin and then empty the bin to delete it from your system.