

BYOD: Bring Your Own Device

Developing C on Your Own Machine Computer Science I

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Introduction

Using the lab computers will always be an option. However, you may want to untether yourself from the lab and develop on your own machine, either desktop or laptop. There are many options for doing this, the following are only a few suggestions.

Both of these suggestions have you make a connection to your “Z-drive” on the CSE server. This is a remote file system where you can store all of your files, but interact with them as if they were on your computer. It is similar to plugging in a memory stick: it will appear as yet another drive on your computer that you can drag-drop files from/to and open/save files on. These suggestions still have you compiling and running from the command line though. This saves you from having to install your own C compiler/development stack. If you do want to do this, see the Alternatives section below.

Windows

1. Connect to your Z: drive using the following FAQ:
<https://cse.unl.edu/faq-section/windows#node-290>
This only works on campus; off campus you’d need to setup a VPN.
2. Install Atom IO <https://atom.io/>, a free code/text editor. Use this editor to edit files on your Z drive once connected.
3. Download and install Putty, a “Secure Shell Client”:
<http://www.putty.org/>

Once you've written your program(s), login to the CSE server using Putty and compile and run your programs on the CSE server.

Mac

1. Connect to your Z: drive using the following FAQ:
<https://cse.unl.edu/faq-section/macintosh#node-295>
This only works on campus; off campus you'd need to setup a VPN.
2. Install Atom IO <https://atom.io/>, a free code/text editor. Use this editor to edit files on your Z drive once connected.
3. Use Terminal (Apps → Utilities → Terminal) to login to the CSE server and compile and run on the CSE server. To login, type `ssh login@cse.unl.edu` where `login` is replaced with your CSE login.

Alternatives

The following are some alternatives if you want to explore further. All of them are cross-platform solutions.

- Eclipse for C/C++ is a full Integrated Development Environment (IDE): <https://www.eclipse.org/downloads/eclipse-packages/>
- Code::Blocks is another IDE for C/C++: <http://www.codeblocks.org/>
- Sublime Text is an excellent code editor but is commercial: <https://www.sublimetext.com/>
- If you are off campus and need to transfer files between your own machine and the CSE server, you can use an SFTP (Secure File Transfer Protocol) client. We recommend FileZilla: <https://filezilla-project.org/> (download the *client*, not the server). For the host, use `sftp://cse.unl.edu` and use your cse login and password.