

# Getting started

*Let's get this party sta-a-a-rted!*

# Tools

To program, you will need:

- a computer
- a text editor (not a text *processor* like Word)
  - Notepad theoretically ok but...
  - Notepad++
  - Sublime Text
  - ...
- a compiler/interpreter for your language of choice
- (optional) some libraries written for your language of choice
- documentation for your tools and languages
  - lots of it on the web
  - books

# Lua 5.1

<http://www.lua.org>

- interpreted (no separate compiling)
- dynamic (most checks happen at runtime)
- lightweight (few, sufficient features)
- simple syntax
- fast (for an interpreted language)
- very expressive/extensible
- widely used (Angry Birds, World of Warcraft UI, scripting of many very big games...)



# ZeroBrane Studio

A Lua integrated development environment (IDE):

- Lua interpreter
- text editor with Lua syntax highlighting
- debugger
- some useful libraries
- free and open source
- written in Lua!

## [ZeroBrane download](#)

- Windows:
  - pick the zip archive, unzip it, copy the directory to eg. C:\Program Files
  - right click zbstudio.exe -> Pin to Start Menu
- Mac OS X:
  - pick the dmg archive, open it, copy ZeroBrane Studio to eg. Home -> Applications
  - drag ZeroBrane Studio to dock

# ZeroBrane "project"

- create directory LuaCourse (or something) in Documents (or where you want)
- menu Project -> Project Directory -> Choose, pick your directory
- save all your exercices there
- they show up in the "Project" pane on the left

# Checking the install

A good old "Hello World" program:

- open new file (ctrl-n)

```
print("Hello, world!")
```

- save it in a file `hello.lua` (ctrl-s)
- run it (F6)

Should output:

Hello, world!

# Editor tweaks

Menu Edit -> Preferences -> Settings: User

```
styles.indicator = {}  
editor.tabwidth = 4  
editor.usetabs = true
```

Save, restart ZeroBrane

# Lua resources

- [Reference manual](#): **all** there is to know. The entire definition of the language and its standard library.
- [Programming in Lua 1st ed.](#): text book by the author of the language. Just as complete, but more accessible as learning material.
- [lua-users wiki](#): snippets, FAQ, libraries...
- [Google](#) is your friend.