

# How to Setup Sublime Text as an Awesome L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Editor

(Guide oriented for Windows)

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## 1 Install Software

To setup Sublime for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X we need the following software:

1. [MiKTeX](#) – A Windows L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X installation.
2. [Sublime Text](#) – The editor.
3. [Sumatra PDF](#) – The PDF viewer.

*NOTE:* Download the portable version of Sumatra, as it fixes a popup message error discussed later.

I like to make a folder `~\Documents\Applications\` where I store my portable, non-installer applications.

**You will need to remember the path to Sumatra for later.**

## 2 Install Sublime Packages

Open Sublime Text. We first install **Package Control**. Type `ctrl+shift+p`. This shortcut opens the Sublime Text Command Menu. Type “Install Package Control” and press Enter. You will now have installed the Sublime Text package installer which we will use to install the remaining packages.

To install a package, enter the Command Menu by `ctrl+shift+p`, type “Install Package”, and press Enter. Then type the package name (see packages below) and press Enter.

You must install:

- LaTeXTools. This package allows Sublime Text to compile  $\LaTeX$  files and automatically update the PDF Viewer. It also offers suggestions when typing commands in  $\LaTeX$ .
- LaTeX-cwl. Technically not required, but it allows autocompletion of commands.

You can optionally install:

- LaTeXXYZ. This package adds nice shortcuts like `( (` in math mode becomes `\left( \right)`.
- AlignTab. Gives special commands to align text in source code.

### 3 Adjust LaTeXTools Settings

The LaTeXTools package was built for Sublime Text 3. Sublime Text is now on version 4, and as such some settings need to be adjusted to avoid unwanted behavior.

To open LaTeXTools’s settings, in Sublime’s toolbar, go to Preferences → Package Settings → LaTeXTools → Settings -- User. Make the following changes:

1. Change “builder” from “traditional” to “basic” and change “output\_directory” from the empty string to “<<cache>>”.
  - Without these changes, the project folder will be filled with auxiliary files whenever you compile your project, cluttering the directory.
  - Changing the builder to “basic” allows the choice of output directory to take effect, moving the auxiliary files to a separate directory.
  - “<<cache>>” over “<<temp>>” decreases render times by not constantly recreating the auxiliary files.

2. Set “sublime\_executable” under Windows to the path to Sublime Text’s `subl.exe`.

- For myself, this path is “C:\Program Files\Sublime Text\subl.exe”. You can find this path by pressing the Windows key, type “Sublime Text”, right click the result, and select `Open file location`.
- Without this change, whenever you compile your  $\text{\LaTeX}$  code, a blank Sublime window opens that needs to be closed. It’s very annoying, so this setting change is great!

## 4 Connect Sumatra PDF

It is now time to compile  $\text{\LaTeX}$  code and display it! Create or open a `.tex` file for testing. Here is an example file:

```
\documentclass[12pt]{article}

\begin{document}
    Hello World!
\end{document}
```

To compile your code, press `ctrl+b`. Likely, however, you will receive an error notification. This is because we need to add SumatraPDF to the PATH:

1. Press the Windows key and type “Edit environmental variables for your account” and press `Enter`.
2. Select the PATH and click “Edit...”.
3. Select New. Now type the path to SumatraPDF that you should have recorded earlier. Press `OK` and close out of the menus!

Now you can press `ctrl+b` to compile your files!

A couple of notes:

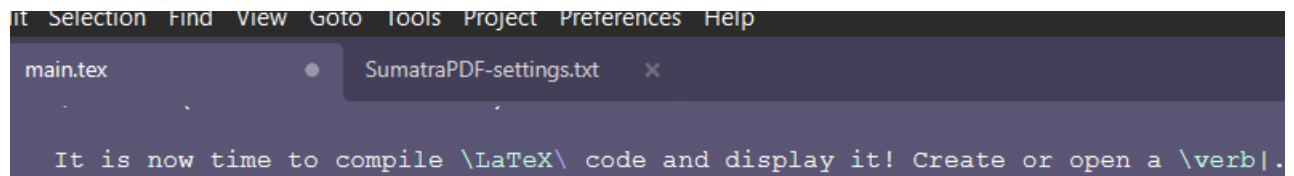
- If you did not install the portable version of SumatraPDF, an error message would appear in SumatraPDF every time you compile, but the compilation would still work.

- I like to put my Sublime and Sumatra windows side by side while I work to create a cohesive  $\text{\LaTeX}$  editing environment!

## 5 Make Sumatra not Ugly as Heck

SumatraPDF is extremely ugly by default. Let's fix that!

1. In SumatraPDF, click `Settings` and then “Advanced Options...”. A config file will open in your default text editor.
2. Using the Windows Snipping Tool (activated by `Windows+Shift+s`), screenshot, this region of your Sublime window:



3. Using MSPaint or other software, find the hex values for the main editor region's color and the tab color.
4. In the SumatraPDF opened settings, set “TextColor” to white or near white. I set mine to `#f9ebfa`.
5. Set “BackgroundColor” to the main Sublime editor region's color. I set mine to `#5A5475`.
6. Set “MainWindowBackground” to the Sublime tab color. I set mine to `#443F58`.  
And now SumatraPDF looks sleek! Lastly, to get rid of the top menu bar, press `F8`.

## 6 Congrats!

You now have a great  $\text{\LaTeX}$  editor! Give me suggestions on things to add to this guide. I hope it helps!