

# LECTURE 4: TOOLS TO GET STARTED

*Hey everybody! Welcome back to Code Dynamic Websites with PHP. This lecture is called "Tools to Get Started".*

As I mentioned before, because PHP is a "server-side programming language" it requires a server in order to run. Now, I don't mean a physical server that costs thousands of dollars and takes up an entire closet — I mean a virtual server that can run on your computer. The great thing about this is that there are a number of great free options out there.

If you're on a Mac, I suggest using [MAMP](#). MAMP stands for "Mac Apache - MySQL - PHP" — however, they've recently developed a Beta version for Windows, so the Windows version stands for "My Apache - MySQL - PHP". If you're on a Windows machine, I recommend trying the [Windows-version of MAMP](#) as well — keep in mind that it's in Beta at the time of the recording of this video, so there may be some bugs they're working out.

Alternatively, both Mac & PC users can try something like [AMPSS](#), but I will be using MAMP so it may be easier for you to follow along.

In the interest of full disclosure: Please keep in mind that some of the following resources are my affiliate links, and I'll earn a small commission should you decide to make a purchase — at absolutely no cost to you! Keep in mind that I either have thorough experience with the following tools & websites, or have heard great things about them, and I am only recommending them because they have helped me succeed in my business, or are incredibly useful. Don't spend your money on any products or resources unless you think they will help you, or further you in your learning experience.

## My Most Recommended Tool

The next tool you're going to need is a code editor. If you're serious about coding, or you want to start out with a solid tool to code with, I strongly recommend [Coda 2 for Mac](#). A beautiful User Interface with tabbed navigation, a super sidebar, and a simple layout. The features are outrageous and extensive, with code folding, smart complete, auto indentation, GIT integration, a built-in terminal, iCloud support — to name a few. The features seem to be endless. I use Coda 2 for all of my courses & tutorials, and if you decide to use Coda 2 as your editor of choice, it would greatly benefit you when taking my courses. The price of the editor weighs in at \$75, but there is a 7-day unlimited trial — which is plenty of time to complete this course!

However, there are more options out there. Here are a few you might consider:

## For both Mac & Windows

- [Sublime Text](#)
  - A full fledged code editor that features side-by-side mode for comparing documents, full screen mode, and a whole bunch of other great features. One of the best editors out there, and if I didn't love Coda 2 so much I would use this one. The price tag for Sublime Text is \$70, but comes with a free trial.

## For Windows

- [Notepad++](#)
  - Notepad++ is a free (as in "free speech" and also as in "free beer") source code editor and Notepad replacement that supports several languages. A solid Windows-based code editor!

## For Mac

- [Espresso](#)
  - A sexy code editor that looks beautiful, and performs just as beautifully. Espresso claims to "turbo-charge your workflow". It features extensive language support, powerful smart snippets, code folding, real-time live styling, and so much more. I used to use Espresso exclusively, and I strongly recommend it. Espresso's price tag is \$75, but also has a free trial.
- [TextWrangler](#)
  - TextWrangler is a simple, barebones, text editor. It handles code well, but is meant for hand-coding with no frills. It's a good practise to learn how to hand code the "no frills" way if you're just starting out with learning how to code. It's free, too!
- [BEdit](#)
  - The big brother to TextWrangler, BEdit has a much more impressive feature set, much like the features listed in the code editors I previously mentioned. Price: \$49.99, but free to try.
- [Textastic](#)
  - A minimal code editor that allows multitasking, auto-code completion, syntax highlighting and more. I've never used it personally, but it seems to be a popular choice. The great thing about this one is it's only \$5.99.

## Browsers

I suggest using a modern browser, like Google Chrome, Apple Safari or Firefox. I will be using Chrome throughout this course.

## Domain Names & Web Hosting

It's not required for this course, but it's a good idea to have a domain name & hosting account ready as later in the course we will be touching on how to upload your website live on the web.

My most recommended hosting provider is [Justhost](http://Justhost). I use them for all of my websites, and have been a happy customer for nearly 7 years. I recommend these guys to all of my clients, my students, my family and friends. If you're looking to start your very first website, or are looking for a reliable hosting provider — look no further. You get a free domain name for life, great customer service, unlimited domains, unlimited email accounts, unlimited GBs of space, an anytime money back guarantee and my favourite part: You can set up a blog website in minutes with 1-click WordPress Install. These guys are awesome!

If you're looking to purchase a domain name, I recommend [GoDaddy](http://GoDaddy). I use GoDaddy to purchase all of my domain names, as it's one of the best (if not, the best) website to find & purchase your domain names.

## Learning HTML & CSS

If you're unfamiliar with HTML & CSS, I strongly recommend you pick up some basic skills before going forward with this course, as you might get lost in some of the concepts without HTML knowledge. Lucky for you, I have a total beginner's course called "Build a Website from Scratch with HTML & CSS" and it will get you up and running quickly. **I'll also give you 50% off if you use the Coupon Code "DYNAMICPHP"**.

That's all for important tools & resources at this point. I recommend bookmarking my Resources page at [bradhussey.ca/resources](http://bradhussey.ca/resources) for reference, as I frequently update that page with the helpful tools I use to make my life a little easier.

Thanks for hanging in there! Next up, we're diving into PHP basics!

See you there.

