

Pseudocode Library

Installation and setup

This is a guide to installing and setting up the pseudocode plug-in for Notepad++.

[Notepad++](#) is a text editor and source code editor for use with Microsoft Windows. It supports tabbed editing, which allows working with multiple open files in a single window. The project's name comes from the C increment operator. Notepad++ is distributed as free software.

Notepad++ makes it possible to define "languages", or more precisely highlighting schemes. This pseudocode plug-in is a custom-defined-language that provides syntax highlighting. It has been built for the *Computer Science* syllabuses of *Cambridge International Assessment Education*, specifically for the following.

- [2017-2020] [Cambridge International AS & A Level Computer Science 9608](#)
- [2017-2019] [Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science 0478](#)

NOTE

While all reasonable efforts have been made to ensure full compatibility with the syllabuses, this is not an official resource nor has it been endorsed by Cambridge International Assessment Education for any syllabus. Please use it at your own discretion. The author will not be responsible for any syllabus mismatches.

All instructions and other data mentioned here has been tested with Notepad++ v7.5.9 on a computer running Windows 10. The languages tested are Python 2.7.13, Python 3.7.3 and Arduino 1.8.9 C++.

Downloading and installing Notepad++

1. Download Notepad++ from the link below
<https://notepad-plus-plus.org/download/>
2. Install the software to your computer. Follow the instructions shown on the installer window. You might need administrator access to your computer system. Follow this link for further assistance:
<https://www.wikihow.com/Install-Notepad%2B%2B>
Take note of the install location of the application. You may need this later.
3. Restart your system after installing the application

Change settings

Notepad++ ships with settings aimed at programmers and you might not be comfortable with these. Follow the steps below to change them, if that is the case.

1. Launch Notepad++
2. Click the *Preferences* option under the *Settings* menu. This should open a new window
3. Under the **Editing** preferences set the *Line wrap* option to *Aligned*

4. Under the **Language** preferences set the *Tab Settings* so that the *Tab Size* is 4 and the *Replace by space* checkbox is checked¹
5. Under the **Print** preferences, make sure the *Print line number* checkbox is checked
6. Click *Close* to exit.
7. Restart the Notepad++ application

Instead of `Pseudocode Add-in.xml`, you can also use `Pseudocode Dark Add-in.xml` to support a dark theme (if you have one installed)

Installing the Pseudocode Library

1. Download the `Pseudocode Add-in.xml` and `Pseudocode.xml` files to your computer. These contain the formatting properties and autocomplete properties to be used for pseudocode.
2. Launch Notepad++
3. Click on the *Define your language* option under the *Language* menu. This should bring up a language editor window.
4. Click *Import...*
5. Locate the `Pseudocode Add-in.xml` file and click *Open*
6. You should get a pop-up informing you that the import was successful. Close it by clicking *OK*.
7. Close the language editor window using the 'cross button' on the top-right corner of the window.
8. Close the Notepad++ application
9. Navigate to the install folder of Notepad++. Go to `/autoCompletion` (create it if it doesn't exist).
10. Copy and paste the `Pseudocode.xml` file in this folder. You may need administrator access to your computer system.
11. Restart the Notepad++ application
12. Click on the *Language* menu. If **PseudoCode** appears on the list, the add-on has successfully been imported.

Set Notepad++ as the default application for pseudocode files

Pseudocode files are saved with the file extension `.psu`. Since you are not likely to have another editor for pseudocode, it is recommended to set Notepad++ as the default application to use pseudocode files.

1. Download the file `Pseudocode Syntax.psu` to your computer
2. In File Explorer, select the file, right-click on it and click *Properties*
3. Click the *Change* button
4. You should see Notepad++ as an option; click on it. If not, follow these instructions
 - a. Click *More apps*
 - b. Scroll to the bottom and click *Look for another app on this PC*
 - c. Navigate to the install location of Notepad++
 - d. Open `notepad++.exe`
5. Click *Apply* followed by *OK*
6. Open `Pseudocode Syntax.psu` by double-clicking it in the File Explorer. You should see a file similar to `Colouring Scheme and Syntax.pdf`.

Notepad++ is a flexible software for any kind of programming. It supports various languages and has many tools and features you can discover only through experience. I encourage you to try and experiment with the software; if you go wrong, you can always reset to defaults. Try building your own language or theme – such exercises lead you to explore and learn a lot. Finally, good luck and enjoy the experience.

¹ This is necessary if you are using the Python programming language with the official IDLE. For other languages, please check your IDE settings before setting this option.