**Sublime Text 3**



Sublime Text 3 Logo

*Available for Windows, Mac, Linux*

**Cost**: $70USD (but free to try indefinitely with pop-ups)

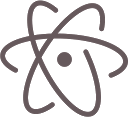
**Style**: GUI

**[Website](http://www.sublimetext.com/3" \t "_blank)**

Sublime Text is fast, lightweight and easily customizable. With tons of keyboard shortcuts, multiple cursors and a huge ecosystem of plugins, you can create the perfect workflow.

However, updates to Sublime Text have recently started to slow, which makes some developers concerned. Many are flocking to...

**Atom Editor**



Atom Editor Logo

*Available for Windows, Mac, Linux*

**Cost**: Free

**Style**: GUI

**[Website](https://atom.io/" \t "_blank)**

Made by GitHub and a relative newcomer on the text editor scene, Atom looks and feels similar to Sublime Text. Both feature multiple cursors and they share many of the same keyboard shortcuts. Also much like Sublime Text, Atom has a rich ecosystem of packages that you can use to customize your editor to your heart's content.

Both Atom and Sublime Text are hugely popular and the majority of web developers that you'll meet will probably be using one or the other.

**Nodepad++**



Notepad++ Logo

*Available for Windows*

**Cost**: Free

**Style**: GUI

**[Website](https://notepad-plus-plus.org/" \t "_blank)**

A classic lightweight text editor, Notepad++ has been around since 2000.

Notepad++'s plugin ecosystem is not as large as Atom's or Sublime Text's, but many people like its clean (perhaps old school?) presentation.

**Emacs**



Emacs Logo

*Available for Windows, Mac, Linux*

**Cost**: Free

**Style**: Command-Line or GUI

**[Website](https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/" \t "_blank)** or **[Aquamacs](http://aquamacs.org/" \t "_blank)** (for OS X)

Emacs is an open source text editor that's been around since the 1970s. Along with Vim, it's one of the most popular Linux text editors.

Emacs is often described as an operating system because even in a clean install there are several included applications that you wouldn't expect inside a text editor, like a news reader, several calculators, a number of games, file encryption/decryption, and a package manager for plugins written in **[Emacs Lisp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emacs_Lisp" \t "_blank)**.

All Emacs commands exist in the same namespace so it's not uncommon to differentiate commands by having chains of keystrokes like C-x C-f (Control - x, Control - f) to open a file. Because of the incredible customizability, it's among the editors with the steepest learning curves. You will most likely want to customize it: installing plugins, trying them, testing for conflicts, uninstalling the ones that have conflicts, and repeating.

**Vi/Vim**



Vim Logo

*Available for Windows, Mac, Linux*

**Cost**: Free and open source

**Style**: Command Line or GUI

**[Website](http://www.vim.org/index.php" \t "_blank)**

Vim, or Vi IMproved is the other text editor in the **[Unix Editor Wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Editor_war" \t "_blank)**.

Vim runs anywhere that standard C can run and is often in the base install for most Linux and non-Windows systems including Mac OS X. It also offers a fairly robust **[tutorial](http://www.openvim.com/" \t "_blank)** to learn how to use it. Learn it once and you can use it everywhere.

*For experienced students (everyone else, it's ok if you don't understand this right now):* Vim relies on modes, or scopes, when certain commands are applicable. In the command mode, the user can move around a file or execute commands. For instance, in insert mode, you can edit a file. While you are creating a HTML file (and are in HTML mode), you might be able to expand html:5 into the boilerplate for an empty HTML file.