

What is IDE

A C IDE (Integrated Development Environment) provides a comprehensive set of tools for software development with C language. It provides several useful features like code editor, debugging support, compiler, auto code completion, and many others.

Types of IDE

Visual Studio

The Visual Studio by Microsoft leverages with several remarkable features such as intelligent code completion, code refactoring, syntax highlighting, support for multiple languages, and many others. Visual Studio comes up with three editions – Community, Professional, and Enterprise; where the Community Edition is available free of cost and the rest two are paid ones.

- Compatible with: Windows, macOS, and Linux
- Code completion using IntelliSense
- Built-in Git Integration
- Easy Azure Development
- Integrated Debugger and VCS support

Eclipse

It provides with several useful features for C development such as auto-completion of code, code refactoring, visual debugging tools, remote system explorer, and many others. In addition, you can extend the functionalities of Eclipse IDE by integrating various external plugins as per your requirements. Functionalities are

- Open-source & Rich Community
- Compatible with: Windows, macOS, and Linux
- Easier Project Creation
- Supports Static Code Analysis
- Easy Debugging

4. Code::Blocks

Code::Blocks provides all the features required for C development such as syntax highlighting, tabbed interface, code completion, code coverage, easy navigation, debugging support, etc.

- Compatible with: Windows, macOS, and Linux
- Supports multiple compilers – GCC, Clang, and Visual C++
- Extensible via plugins
- Full Breakpoints Support
- Open-source & Rich Community

5. CodeLite

CodeLite is another open-source C Integrated Development Environment (IDE) that is being preferred by many of the developers. It provides better support for compilers with built-in support for GCC etc. CodeLite leverages you with numerous enriching features such as code refactoring, project management, source browsing, syntax highlighting, unit testing, and many others.

- Compatible with: Windows, macOS, and Linux
- Project Management
- Interactive Debugger
- Supports Static Code Analysis

6. NetBeans

NetBeans, developed by Apache Software Foundation – Oracle Corporation, is also one of the most widely used IDE by the C developers. This free and open-source Integrated Development Environment allows you to create C applications with dynamic and static libraries. NetBeans offers numerous enriching features for C development such as code refactoring, bracket matching, automatic indentation, unit testing, and many others.

- Free and Open Source
- Compatible with: Windows, macOS, Linux, and Solaris
- Toolkit Support
- Supports Remote Development
- Efficient Project Management