Search the Flight Manual

💻 MAC   WINDOWS   LINUX   ✏ Improve this page
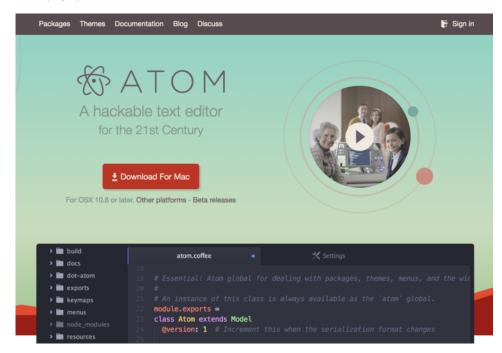
Installing Atom

To get started with Atom, we'll need to get it on your system. This section will go over installing Atom on your system as well as the basics of how to build it from source.

Installing Atom should be fairly simple. Generally, you can go to https://atom.io and at the top of the page you should see a download button as shown here:

The button or buttons should be specific to your platform and the download package should be easily installable. However, let's go over them here in a bit of detail.

Installing Atom on Mac

Atom follows the standard Mac zip installation process. You can either press the download button from the https://atom.io site or you can go to the Atom releases page to download the `atom-mac.zip` file explicitly. Once you have that file, you can click on it to extract the application and then drag the new `Atom` application into your "Applications" folder.

When you first open Atom, it will try to install the `atom` and `apm` commands for use in the terminal. In some cases, Atom might not be able to install these commands because it needs an administrator password. To check if Atom was able to install the `atom` command, for example, open a terminal window and type `which atom`. If the `atom` command has been installed, you'll see something like this:

```
$ which atom
/usr/local/bin/atom
$
```

If the `atom` command wasn't installed, the `which` command won't return anything:

```
$ which atom
$
```

To install the `atom` and `apm` commands, run "Window: Install Shell Commands" from the Command Palette, which will prompt you for an administrator password.

Portable Mode

Atom stores configuration and state in a `.atom` directory usually located in your home directory . You can however run Atom in portable mode where both the app and the configuration are stored together such as on a removable storage device.

To setup Atom in portable mode download the zip/tar.gz package for your system and extract it to your removable storage.

Then create a `.atom` directory alongside the Atom.app application, for example:

```
/MyUSB/Atom.app
/MyUSB/.atom
```

Portable Notes

- The `.atom` directory must be writeable
- You can move an existing `.atom` directory to your portable device
- Atom can also store its Electron user data in your `.atom` directory - just create a subdirectory called `electronUserData` inside `.atom`
- Alternatively you can set the `ATOM_HOME` environment variable to point wherever you want (you can write a .sh or .cmd script to temporarily set it and launch it from that)
- Portable mode installations will not automatically update

Building Atom from Source

The Hacking on Atom Core section of the flight manual covers instructions on how to clone and build the source code if you prefer that option.

Proxy and Firewall Settings

Behind a Firewall?

If you are behind a firewall and seeing SSL errors when installing packages you can disable strict SSL by running:

```
$ apm config set strict-ssl false
```

Using a Proxy?

If you are using a HTTP(S) proxy you can configure `apm` to use it by running:

```
$ apm config set https-proxy YOUR_PROXY_ADDRESS
```

You can run `apm config get https-proxy` to verify it has been set correctly.