The **Haskell platform** is the single, easily installable package for setting up your Haskell development environment.

The Haskell Platform includes the following:

* The Glasgow Haskell Compiler (GHC)
* An interactive interpreter (GHCi)
* The stack tool for managing Haskell projects
* A bunch of useful Haskell packages

The Haskell Platform can be downloaded from [www.haskell.org/downloads#platform](www.haskell.org/downloads%23platform).

You can use any text editor or IDE, the recommendation is that you install a Haskell plugin/extension for that editor.

The Glasgow Haskell Compiler is the main compiler for Haskell. The job of the compiler is to transform human-readable source code into machine-readable binary. The main benefit of a compiler over an interpreter is that because the compiler transforms code in advance, it can perform analysis and optimization of the code you’ve written.

Haskell is strongly typed; this ensures that a program will throw errors when there is a wrong expression during compilation. There’s an adage that if it compiles, it works.

The interactive mode of GHC is GHCi. We use the command ghci to start it and :q to exit on terminal.

Note: Prior to version 8 of GHCi, function and variable definitions needed to be prefaced with a let keyword. This is no longer necessary, but many Haskell examples on the web and in older books still include it:

GHCi> let f x = x + x

GHCi> f

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