

| Alternative of existing solutions | Main features | Advantages | Disadvantages |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Visual Studio Code | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syntax highlighting Extensive plugin ecosystem Cross-platform compatibility Integrated terminal and Git support Customizable interface | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly extensible through extensions Active open-source community Frequent updates and feature improvements Integrated debugging and development tools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Built on Electron, leading to higher memory usage Slower performance compared to lightweight editors |
| Sublime Text | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syntax highlighting Cross-platform support Extensive plugin system via Package Control Fast startup and performance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extremely fast and responsive Rich ecosystem of plugins Highly customizable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed-source, limiting community involvement Paid license after trial period |
| Notepad++ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syntax highlighting Open-source Plugin support Lightweight and fast Windows-focused | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lightweight and efficient Active open-source community Supports many programming languages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited native support on non-Windows platforms Outdated UI compared to modern editors |
| Atom | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syntax highlighting Cross-platform Plugin and theme support GitHub integration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open-source and hackable Good for customization and prototyping Rich plugin ecosystem | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discontinued as of 2022 Slower performance (Electron-based) No longer actively maintained |
| Windows Notepad | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic text editing Included with Windows Fast startup | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very lightweight and simple to use Instant startup time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed-source, limiting community engagement No syntax highlighting or advanced features <p>Windows-only</p> |
| Gedit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syntax highlighting Plugin support Open-source Cross-platform (Linux, Windows, macOS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple and user-friendly Open-source and community-driven Integrates well with GNOME desktop | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacks advanced developer tools Not as customizable as other editors |

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|-----------------|--|---|---|
| Kate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syntax highlighting • Multiple document interface • Plugin support • Open-source • Cross-platform | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feature-rich for an open-source editor • Strong community support • Good performance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interface may be overwhelming for beginners • Less popular on Windows and macOS |
| Obsidian | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Markdown-based text editing • Cross-platform (Windows, macOS, Linux, mobile) • Plugin and theme support • Graph view for linking notes • Offline support • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powerful organization and linking features • Large and active user community • Plugin system allows customization • Excellent for note-taking and knowledge management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed-source (limits community engagement with the core) • Heavier and slower startup than lightweight editors • Focused more on note management than pure text editing |
| Notion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online collaborative editor • Cross-platform (web, desktop, mobile) • Rich-text editing with databases, tables, and media embedding • Real-time synchronization and collaboration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent for structured content and team collaboration • Clean and modern interface • Integrates with many external services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed-source • Requires an internet connection for most use cases • Slower and heavier than traditional text editors • Not optimized for code or plain-text editing |
| VIM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modal text editing (normal, insert, visual, command modes) • Syntax highlighting • Cross-platform (Linux, macOS, Windows) • Highly configurable via scripts and plugins • Open-source and terminal-based | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremely lightweight and fast • Fully open-source with a large, active community • Runs efficiently even on low-end systems • Highly customizable and extensible | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steep learning curve for new users • Minimal GUI (primarily terminal-based) • Configuration and plugin management can be complex |

Conclusions

The analysis of existing text editors highlights a diverse ecosystem from minimalistic ones like Notepad and Vim to feature-rich, extensible platforms such as Visual Studio Code, Obsidian, and Notion.

Most mainstream editors prioritize flexibility and integration over performance, often relying on heavier frameworks (like Electron) that increase memory usage.

In contrast, our project's focus on being fast, lightweight, and written in C. Positioning it uniquely as an efficient alternative for users who value speed and simplicity over extensive add-ons.

Open-source projects (like Vim, Notepad++, Gedit, and Kate) demonstrate the benefits of strong community engagement and long-term sustainability. This reinforces the advantage of keeping your editor open-source to encourage contributions, transparency, and user-driven improvements.

Closed-source editors (like Sublime Text, Notion, Obsidian, and Windows Notepad) often deliver polished experiences but restrict community innovation and adaptability — a significant opportunity for your project to differentiate itself.