Sideload Office Add-ins on iPad for testing

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To see how your add-in will run in Office on iOS, you can sideload your add-in's manifest onto an iPad using iTunes. This action won't enable you to set breakpoints and debug your add-in's code while it's running, but you can see how it behaves and verify that the UI is usable and rendering appropriately.

> ① **Note**
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> Currently, an add-in that uses the **Unified manifest for Microsoft 365** cannot be sideloaded on the web, Mac, or iPad. To sideload an add-in with a unified manifest on Windows, see **Sideload Office Add-ins that uses the unified manifest for Microsoft 365**.

> ① **Note**
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> To sideload an Outlook add-in, see **Sideload Outlook add-ins for testing**.

Prerequisites for Office on iOS

- A Windows or Mac computer with iTunes ⧉ installed.

  > ① **Important**
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  > If you're running macOS Catalina, **iTunes is no longer available** ⧉, so you should follow the instructions in the section **Sideload an add-in on Excel or Word on iPad using macOS Catalina** later in this article.

- An iPad running iOS 8.2 or later with Excel ⧉ or Word ⧉ installed, and a sync cable.

- The **manifest.xml** file for the add-in you want to test.

> ① **Important**
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> You can't sideload an add-in on an iPad when it's running on localhost. You must *first* **deploy the add-in** to a non-local web server or web service. Then, update all

the URLs in the manifest to point to the new domain.

Sideload an add-in on Excel or Word on iPad using iTunes

1. Use a sync cable to connect your iPad to your computer. If you're connecting the iPad to your computer for the first time, you'll be prompted with **Trust This Computer?**. Choose **Trust** to continue.

2. In iTunes, choose the **iPad** icon below the menu bar.

3. Under **Settings** on the left side of iTunes, choose **Apps**.

4. On the right side of iTunes, scroll down to **File Sharing**, and then choose **Excel** or **Word** in the **Add-ins** column.

5. At the bottom of the **Excel** or **Word Documents** column, choose **Add File**, and then select the manifest.xml file of the add-in you want to sideload.

6. Open the Excel or Word app on your iPad. If the Excel or Word app is already running, choose the **Home** button, and then close and restart the app.

7. Open a document.

8. Select **Home** > **Add-ins**. In the dialog that opens, select **See all** under the **My Add-ins** heading, then select your sideloaded add-in from the array under **My Add-ins**.

Sideload an add-in on Excel or Word on iPad using macOS Catalina

> ⓘ **Important**
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> With the introduction of macOS Catalina, Apple discontinued iTunes on Mac and integrated functionality required to sideload apps into **Finder**. To learn more, see **Use the Finder to share files between your Mac and your iPhone, iPad, iPod touch** ⧉ .

1. Use a sync cable to connect your iPad to your computer. If you're connecting the iPad to your computer for the first time, you'll be prompted with **Trust This**

Computer?. Choose **Trust** to continue. You may also be asked if this is a new iPad or if you're restoring one.

2. In Finder, under **Locations**, choose the **iPad** icon below the menu bar.

3. On the top of the Finder window, click on **Files**, and then locate **Excel** or **Word**.

4. From a different Finder window, drag and drop the manifest.xml file of the add-in you want to side load onto the **Excel** or **Word** file in the first Finder window.

5. Open the Excel or Word app on your iPad. If the Excel or Word app is already running, choose the **Home** button, and then close and restart the app.

6. Open a document.

7. Select **Home** > **Add-ins**. In the dialog that opens, select **See all** under the **My Add-ins** heading, then select your sideloaded add-in from the array under **My Add-ins**.

Remove a sideloaded add-in

You can remove a previously sideloaded add-in by clearing the Office cache on your computer. Details on how to clear the cache for each platform and application can be found in the article Clear the Office cache.

See also

- Sideload Office Add-ins on Mac for testing
- Debug Office Add-ins on a Mac
- Sideload Outlook add-ins for testing