Sideload Office Add-ins to Office on the web

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When you sideload an add-in, you're able to install the add-in without first putting it in an add-in catalog. This is useful when testing and developing your add-in because you can see how your add-in will appear and function.

> ⓘ Note
>
> - This article applies to **Excel**, **OneNote**, **PowerPoint**, and **Word** add-ins. For information on sideloading **Outlook** add-ins, see the article Sideload Outlook add-ins for testing.
> - This article applies to add-ins that use the add-in only manifest. For information about sideloading add-ins that use the unified manifest for Microsoft 365, see Sideload Office Add-ins that use the unified manifest for Microsoft 365.

When you sideload an add-in on the web, the add-in's manifest is stored in the browser's local storage, so if you clear the browser's cache, or switch to a different browser, you have to sideload the add-in again.

The steps to sideload an add-in on the web vary based on the following factors.

- The host application (for example, Excel, Word, Outlook)
- What tool created the add-in project (for example, Visual Studio, Yeoman generator for Office Add-ins, or neither)
- Whether you are sideloading to Office on the web with a Microsoft account or with an account in a Microsoft 365 tenant

In the following list, go to the section or article that matches your scenario. Note the first scenario in the list applies to Outlook add-ins. The remaining scenarios apply to non-Outlook add-ins.

- If you're sideloading an Outlook add-in, see the article Sideload Outlook add-ins for testing.
- If you created the add-in using the Yeoman generator for Office Add-ins, see Sideload a Yeoman-created add-in to Office on the web.

- If you created the add-in using Visual Studio, see Sideload an add-in on the web when using Visual Studio.

- For all other cases, see one of the following sections.
  - If you're sideloading to Office on the web with a Microsoft account, see Manually sideload an add-in to Office on the web.
  - If you're sideloading to Office on the web with an account in a Microsoft 365 tenant, see Sideload an add-in to Microsoft 365.

Sideload a Yeoman-created add-in to Office on the web

This process is supported for **Excel**, **OneNote**, **PowerPoint**, and **Word** only. This example project assumes you're using a project created with the Yeoman generator for Office Add-ins.

1. Open Office on the web or OneDrive. Using the **Create** option, make a document in **Excel**, **OneNote**, **PowerPoint**, or **Word**. In this new document, select **Share**, select **Copy Link**, and copy the URL.

2. Open a Command Prompt as an administrator. In the command line starting at the root directory of your project, run the following command. Replace "{url}" with the URL that you copied.

   > ⓘ Note
   >
   > If you are developing on a Mac, enclose the `{url}` in single quotation marks. Do *not* do this on Windows.

   command line

   ```
   npm run start -- web --document {url}
   ```

   The following are examples.

   - `npm run start -- web --document https://contoso.sharepoint.com/:t:/g/EZGxP7ksiE5DuxvY638G798BpuhwluxCMfF1WZQj3VYhYQ?e=F4QM1R`
   - `npm run start -- web --document https://1drv.ms/x/s!jkcH7spkM4EGgcZUgqthk4IK3NOypVw?e=Z6G1qp`

- `npm run start -- web --document https://contoso-my.sharepoint-df.com/:t:/p/user/EQda453DNTpFnl1bFPhOVR0BwlrzetbXvnaRYii2lDr_oQ?e=RSccmNP`

If your add-in doesn't sideload in the document, manually sideload it by following the instructions in Manually sideload add-ins to Office on the web.

3. The first time you use this method to sideload an add-in on the web, you'll see a dialog asking you to enable developer mode. Select the checkbox for **Enable Developer Mode now** and select **OK**.

4. You'll see a second dialog box, asking if you wish to register an Office Add-in manifest from your computer. Select **Yes**.

5. Your add-in is installed. If it has an add-in command, it should appear on either the ribbon or the context menu. If it's a task pane add-in without any add-in commands, the task pane should appear.

Sideload an add-in on the web when using Visual Studio

If you're using Visual Studio to develop your add-in, press `F5` to open an Office document in *desktop* Office, create a blank document, and sideload the add-in. When you want to sideload to *Office on the web*, the process to sideload is similar to manual sideloading to the web. The only difference is that you must update the value of the **SourceURL** element, and possibly other elements, in your manifest to include the full URL where the add-in is deployed.

1. In Visual Studio, choose **View** > **Properties Window**.

2. In the **Solution Explorer**, select the web project. This displays properties for the project in the **Properties** window.

3. In the Properties window, copy the **SSL URL**.

4. In the add-in project, open the manifest XML file. Be sure you're editing the source XML. For some project types, Visual Studio will open a visual view of the XML which won't work for the next step.

5. Search and replace all instances of **~remoteAppUrl/** with the SSL URL you just copied. You'll see several replacements depending on the project type, and the new URLs will appear similar to `https://localhost:44300/Home.html`.

6. **Save** the XML file.

7. In the **Solution Explorer**, open the context menu of the web project (for example, by right clicking on it) then choose **Debug** > **Start new instance**. This runs the web project without launching Office.

8. From Office on the web, sideload the add-in using steps described in Manually sideload an add-in to Office on the web.

Manually sideload an add-in to Office on the web

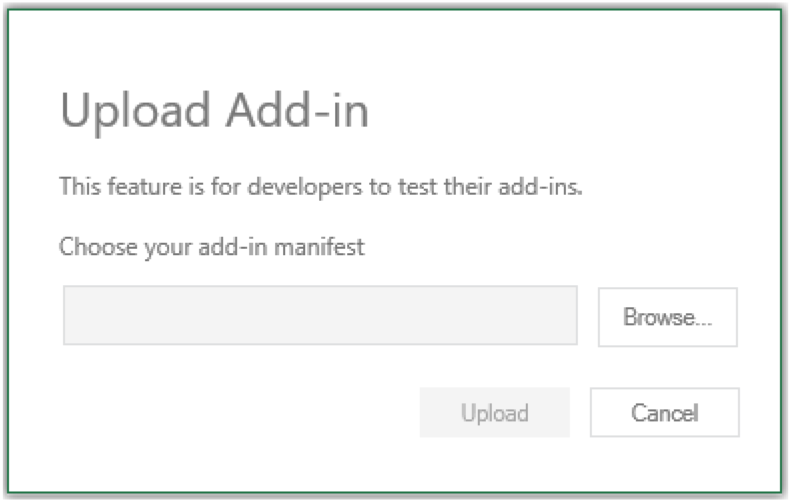
This method doesn't use the command line and can be accomplished using commands only within the host application (such as Excel).

1. Open Office on the web. Open a document in **Excel**, **OneNote**, **PowerPoint**, or **Word**.

2. Select **Home** > **Add-ins**, then select **More Settings**.

3. On the **Office Add-ins** dialog, select **Upload My Add-in**.

4. **Browse** to the add-in manifest file, and then select **Upload**.



Upload Add-in

This feature is for developers to test their add-ins.

Choose your add-in manifest

5. Verify that your add-in is installed. For example, if it has an add-in command, it should appear on either the ribbon or the context menu. If it's a task pane add-in that has no add-in commands, the task pane should appear.

> ⓘ Note
>
> To test your Office Add-in with EdgeHTML (Microsoft Edge Legacy), an additional configuration step is required. In a Windows Command Prompt, run the following line: `npx office-addin-dev-settings appcontainer EdgeWebView --loopback --yes`. This isn't required when Office is using the Chromium-based Edge WebView2. For more information, see Browsers and webview controls used by Office Add-ins.

ⓘ Important

The office-addin-dev-settings tool is not supported on Mac.

Sideload an add-in to Microsoft 365

1. Sign in to your Microsoft 365 account.
2. Open the App Launcher on the left end of the toolbar and select **Excel**, **OneNote**, **PowerPoint**, or **Word**, and then create a new document.
3. Follow steps 2 - 5 of the section Manually sideload an add-in to Office on the web.

Remove a sideloaded add-in

If you ran the `npm start` command and your add-in was automatically sideloaded, then run `npm stop` when you're ready to stop the dev server and uninstall your add-in.

Otherwise, to remove an add-in sideloaded to Office on the web, simply clear your browser's cache. If you make changes to your add-in's manifest (for example, update file names of icons or text of add-in commands), you may need to clear your browser's cache and then re-sideload the add-in using the updated manifest. Doing so allows Office on the web to render the add-in as it's described by the updated manifest.

See also

- Sideload Office Add-ins on Mac
- Sideload Office Add-ins on iPad
- Sideload Outlook add-ins for testing
- Clear the Office cache

Debug add-ins in Office on the web

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This article describes how to use Office on the web to debug your add-ins. Use this technique:

- To debug add-ins on a computer that isn't running Windows or the Office desktop client—for example, if you're developing on a Mac or Linux.
- As an alternative debugging process if you can't, or don't wish to, debug in an IDE, such as Visual Studio or Visual Studio Code.

This article assumes that you have an add-in project that needs to be debugged. If you just want to practice debugging on the web, create a new project using one of the quick starts for specific Office applications, such as this quick start for Word.

Debug your add-in

To debug your add-in by using Office on the web:

1. Run the project on localhost and sideload it to a document in Office on the web. For detailed sideloading instructions, see Manually sideload Office Add-ins on the web.

2. Open the browser's developer tools. This is usually done by pressing `F12`. Open the debugger tool and use it to set breakpoints and watch variables. For detailed help in using your browser's tool, see one of the following:

   - Firefox
   - Safari
   - Debug add-ins using developer tools in Microsoft Edge (Chromium-based)
   - Debug add-ins using developer tools for Edge Legacy

   > ⓘ Note
   >
   > - Office on the web won't open in Internet Explorer.
   > - The new Outlook on Window desktop client (preview) doesn't support the context menu or the keyboard shortcut to access the Microsoft Edge developer tools. Instead, you must run `olk.exe --devtools` from a command prompt. For more information, see the "Debug your add-in" section of Develop Outlook add-ins for the new Outlook on Windows.

Potential issues

The following are some issues that you might encounter as you debug.

- Some JavaScript errors that you see might originate from Office on the web.
- The browser might show an invalid certificate error that you'll need to bypass. The process for doing this varies with the browser and the various browsers' UIs for doing this change periodically. You should search the browser's help or search online for instructions. (For example, search for "Microsoft Edge invalid certificate warning".) Most browsers will have a link on the warning page that enables you to click through to the add-in page. For example, Microsoft Edge has a "Go on to the webpage (Not recommended)" link. But you'll usually have to go through this link every time the add-in reloads. For a longer lasting bypass, see the help as suggested.
- If you set breakpoints in your code, Office on the web might throw an error indicating that it's unable to save.

See also

- Best practices for developing Office Add-ins
- Troubleshoot user errors with Office Add-ins