

Create Office Add-in projects using the Yeoman Generator

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The [Yeoman Generator for Office Add-ins](#) (also called "Yo Office") is an interactive Node.js-based command line tool that creates Office Add-in development projects. These projects are Node.js-based. When you want the server-side code of the add-in to be in a .NET-based language (such as C# or VB.Net) or you want the add-in hosted in Internet Information Server (IIS), [use Visual Studio to create the add-in](#).

ⓘ Note

Office add-ins can also be created with the [Microsoft 365 Agents Toolkit](#) or the [Office Add-in Development Kit](#).

The projects that the tool creates have the following characteristics.

- They have a standard [npm](#) configuration that includes a **package.json** file.
- They include several helpful scripts to build the project, start the server, sideload the add-in in Office, and other tasks.
- They use [webpack](#) as a bundler and basic task runner.
- In development mode, they are hosted on localhost by webpack's Node.js-based webpack-dev-server, a development-oriented version of the [express](#) server that supports hot-reloading and recompile-on-change.
- By default, all dependencies are installed by the tool, but you can postpone the installation with a command line argument.
- They include a complete add-in manifest.
- They have a "Hello World"-level add-in that is ready run as soon as the tool has finished.
- They include a polyfill and a transpiler that is configured to transpile TypeScript, and recent versions of JavaScript, to ES5 JavaScript. These features ensure that the add-in is supported in all webview runtimes that Office Add-ins might run in, including Trident (Internet Explorer).

💡 Tip

If you want to deviate from these choices significantly, such as using a different task runner or a different server, we recommend that when you run the tool you choose the [Manifest-only option](#).

Prerequisites

ⓘ Note

If you aren't familiar with Node.js or npm, you should start by [setting up your development environment](#).

- Node.js (the latest LTS version). Visit the [Node.js site](#) to download and install the right version for your operating system.
- The latest version of Yeoman and the Yeoman generator for Office Add-ins. To install these tools globally, run the following command via the command prompt.

command line

```
npm install -g yo generator-office
```

ⓘ Note

Even if you've previously installed the Yeoman generator, we recommend you update your package to the latest version from npm.

- Office connected to a Microsoft 365 subscription (including Office on the web).

ⓘ Note

If you don't already have Office, you might qualify for a Microsoft 365 E5 developer subscription through the [Microsoft 365 Developer Program](#); for details, see the [FAQ](#). Alternatively, you can [sign up for a 1-month free trial](#) or [purchase a Microsoft 365 plan](#).

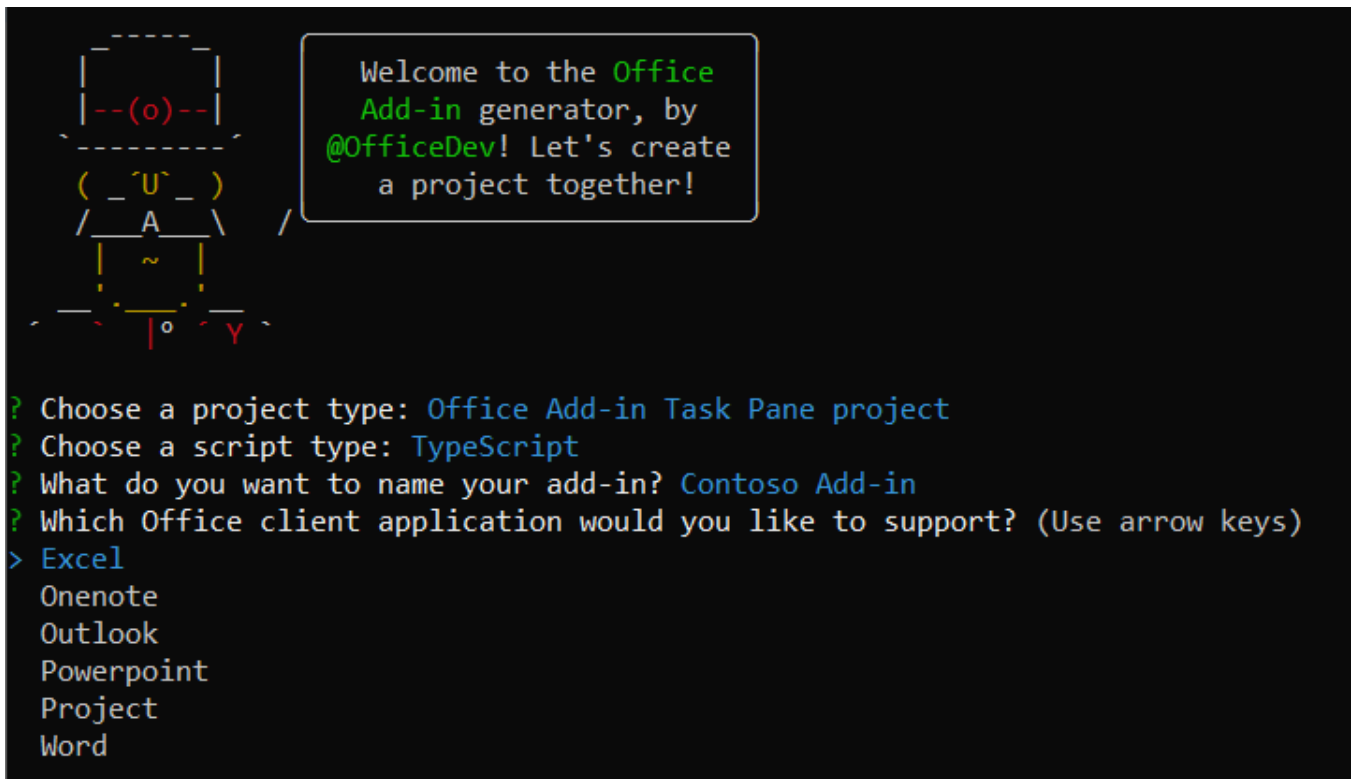
Use the tool

Start the tool with the following command in a system prompt (not a bash window). This will create a new project in a new folder in the current directory.

command line

```
yo office
```

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- The screenshot shows the terminal output of the 'Office Add-in generator' command. On the left, there's a stylized ASCII art logo consisting of dashed lines forming a shape with a circle at the top, a 'U' in the middle, and a tilde '~' below it, all enclosed in a larger dashed frame. To the right of the logo, a white rectangular box contains the text: "Welcome to the Office Add-in generator, by @OfficeDev! Let's create a project together!". Below this, the prompt "Choose a project type: (Use arrow keys)" is shown. A list of options follows: "Office Add-in Task Pane project" (highlighted in blue), "Excel, PowerPoint, amd/or Word Task Pane with unified manifest for Microsoft 365 (preview)", "Office Add-in Task Pane project using React framework", "Excel Custom Functions using a Shared Runtime", "Excel Custom Functions using a JavaScript-only Runtime", "Office Add-in Task Pane project supporting single sign-on", "Office Add-in Task Pane project supporting Nested App Auth single sign-on (preview)", and "ove up and down to reveal more choices)". The first option is currently selected.



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Welcome to the Office
Add-in generator, by
@OfficeDev! Let's create
a project together!

? Choose a project type: Office Add-in Task Pane project
? Choose a script type: TypeScript
? What do you want to name your add-in? Contoso Add-in
? Which Office client application would you like to support? (Use arrow keys)
> Excel
  Onenote
  Outlook
  Powerpoint
  Project
  Word

```

If you choose **Outlook** as the Office application, you get an additional question asking you which type of manifest you want to use. We recommend that you choose **unified manifest for Microsoft 365** unless your add-in will include an extensibility feature that isn't yet supported by the unified manifest.

ⓘ Note

For information on clients and platforms that *directly* support Office Add-ins that use the unified manifest for Microsoft 365, see [Office Add-ins with the unified app manifest for Microsoft 365](#).

After you've answered all questions, the generator creates the project and installs the dependencies. You may see **WARN** messages in the npm output on screen. You can ignore these. You may also see messages that vulnerabilities were found. You can ignore these for now, but you'll eventually need to fix them before your add-in is released to production. For more information, see [Warnings and dependencies in the Node.js and npm world](#).

If the creation is successful, you'll see a **Congratulations!** message in the command window, followed by some suggested next steps. (If you're using the generator as part of a quick start or tutorial, ignore the next steps in the command window and continue with the instructions in the article.)

💡 Tip

If you want to create the scaffolding of an Office Add-in project, but postpone the installation of the dependencies, add the `--skip-install` option to the `yo office` command. The following code is an example.

command line

```
yo office --skip-install
```

When you're ready to install the dependencies, navigate to the root folder of the project in a command prompt and enter `npm install`.

Warning

If you choose **Office Add-in Task Pane project supporting single sign-on** and **TypeScript**, and you are using a Node.js version greater than 18.16.0, then a bug in Node.js may cause the project file `<root>\src\middle-tier\ssoauth-helper.ts` to be corrupted. To fix it, copy the contents of the file from the repo, [ssoauth-helper.ts](#), over the contents of the file in the generated project.

Manifest-only option

This option creates only a manifest for an add-in. The resulting project doesn't have a Hello World add-in, any of the scripts, or any of the dependencies. Use this option in the following scenarios.

- You want to use different tools from the ones a Yeoman generator project installs and configures by default. For example, you want to use a different bundler, transpiler, task runner, or development server.
- You want to use a web application development framework, other than React, such as Vue.

Word, PowerPoint, or Excel with unified manifest option

The unified manifest for Microsoft 365 is in preview for Excel, PowerPoint, and Word add-ins. It should not be used for production add-ins, but you can select this option in Yo Office to create an add-in for one (or all three) of those Office applications. You'll be asked to choose which Office application. You can also choose **All** to create an add-in that is installable on all three Office applications. The project that is created uses TypeScript.

Use command line parameters

You can also add parameters to the `yo office` command. The two most common are:

- `yo office --details`: This will output brief help about all of the other command line parameters.
- `yo office --skip-install`: This will prevent the generator from installing the dependencies.

For detailed reference about the command line parameters, see the readme for the generator at [Yeoman generator for Office Add-ins](#).

Troubleshooting

If you encounter problems using the tool, your first step should be to reinstall it to be sure that you have the latest version. (See [Prerequisites](#) for details.) If doing so doesn't fix the problem, search the [issues of the GitHub repo for the tool](#) to see if anyone else has encountered the same problem and found a solution. If no one has, [create a new issue](#).