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## 5 markdown editors I recommend trying

Everyone has their favorite markdown editor. Here are a few I have tried.

By [Don Watkins \(Correspondent\)](#)

October 13, 2021 | [11 Comments](#)



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What is your favorite markdown editor?

751 votes tallied

Abricotine



2% (18 votes)

Mark Text



9% (70 votes)

Ghostwriter



8% (57 votes)

Atom



7% (51 votes)

VSCodium



14% (104 votes)

Vim



19% (140 votes)

Eclipse



0% (3 votes)

Emacs markdown-preview-mode



5% (37 votes)

Notepad++



10% (77 votes)

Something else (tell us in the comments)

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## Programming and development

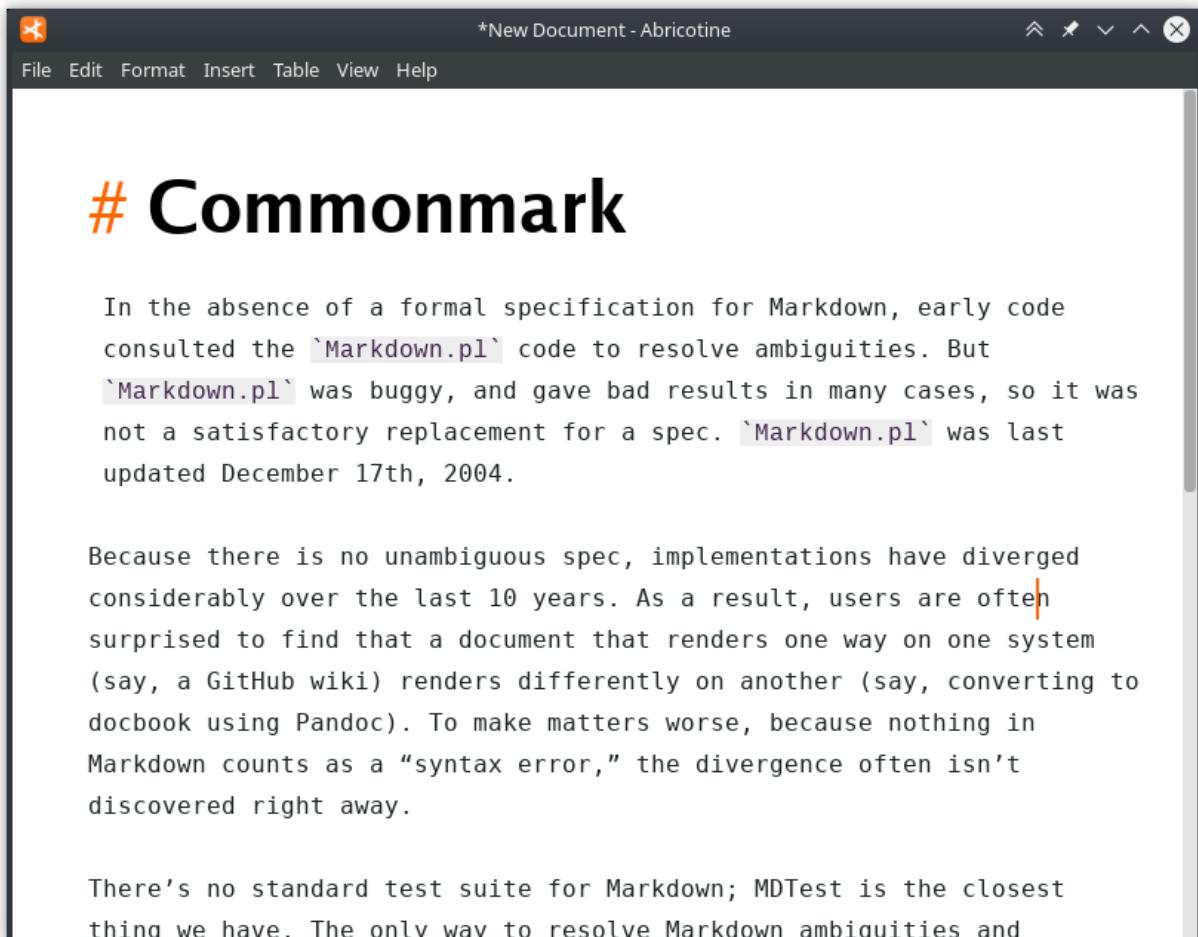
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You can use markdown for anything—formatting websites, authoring books, and writing technical documentation are just some of its uses. I love how easy it is to create rich documents. Everyone has their favorite markdown editor. I have used several on my markdown journey. Here are five markdown editors I have considered.

1. [Abrisotine](#) is an open source editor released under the [GPL v.3.0](#). You can enter formatting by hand or use the menu to insert [Github flavored Markdown](#). Abrisotine allows you to preview text elements like headers, images, math, embedded videos, and to-do lists as you type. The editor is limited to exporting documents as HTML. You can use Abrisotine on Linux, macOS, and Windows.

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The screenshot shows a terminal window titled '\*New Document - Abricotine'. The window has a dark theme with white text. It contains the following text:

# # Commonmark

In the absence of a formal specification for Markdown, early code consulted the `Markdown.pl` code to resolve ambiguities. But `Markdown.pl` was buggy, and gave bad results in many cases, so it was not a satisfactory replacement for a spec. `Markdown.pl` was last updated December 17th, 2004.

Because there is no unambiguous spec, implementations have diverged considerably over the last 10 years. As a result, users are often surprised to find that a document that renders one way on one system (say, a GitHub wiki) renders differently on another (say, converting to docbook using Pandoc). To make matters worse, because nothing in Markdown counts as a “syntax error,” the divergence often isn’t discovered right away.

There’s no standard test suite for Markdown; MDTest is the closest thing we have. The only way to resolve Markdown ambiguities and

(Seth Kenlon, CC BY-SA 4.0)

2. [MarkText](#) is a simple markdown editor. It has many features, and it does a good job of handling documents formatted in markdown. MarkText also supports Github flavored Markdown, which allows you to add tables and blocks of code with syntax highlighting. It supports real-time preview and has a simple interface. MarkText is licensed under [MIT](#). It supports output in HTML and PDF. MarkText is available on Linux, macOS, and Windows.

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The screenshot shows a window titled 'Untitled-1' with the file name 'W 86'. The main content is a document titled 'The mines of Delthorne' which describes a mini dungeon for four player characters level 1 to 3, using Pathfinder or D&D rules. Below the title is a section header 'Area 1: Entrance'. The text states: 'The dungeon's entrance is a large stone door with three recesses in it. Each recess holds a small statuette.' followed by a bulleted list: '• Left: A cerberus statue with a missing right ear' '• Middle: An octopus statue with a missing leg on the far left' '• Right: An ivory gorilla statue with both arms missing'. At the bottom of the document, there is a note: 'The door is locked. An extremely difficult STP check' followed by a toolbar with icons for bold, italic, underline, strikethrough, etc.

(Seth Kenlon, CC BY-SA 4.0)

3. [Ghostwriter](#) Is a markdown editor for Linux and Windows. According to users of its website: "Enjoy a distraction-free writing experience, including a full-screen mode and a clean interface. With markdown, you can write now and format later." It has built-in light and dark themes that come by default, or you can write your own. You can preview documents as live HTML that you can copy and paste directly into a blog or export into another format. Ghostwriter is released under the [GPL v.3.0](#).

The screenshot shows the Ghostwriter application window with a dark theme. The title bar says 'Lorem Markdownum.md - ghostwriter'. The menu bar includes File, Edit, Format, View, Settings, and Help. On the left, there is a sidebar with a table of contents showing sections like '# Lorem Markdownum', '## Duo tempora', '## Quilibet ignibus quae', and '## Fortibus pignora'. The main content area displays the following text:

```

# Lorem Markdownum

## Duo tempora

Lorem markdownum sertaque [frondes] corpora exaestuat
creati adiectoque at mihi, per est respondet possent, et
vasti se. [Aut] his nam peperisse fugit quae ignis, fetus
te ut cura, Tartara, duratos soli valeat!

- Aut servat ut suis instantiaque fama praebita
- Omnes nec ut Est respondit notatam suum
- Labens unda refert hiatus
- Stridores corpore speciem

## Quilibet ignibus quae

Saturnia vires plectrumque **sorores** Thisbe. In *vero*, qui
suus natura tutius mirum aditus moenia quibus. Albet
Parcite lilia, me sit et iubet sive sacra, votis ipse
testata admissi restor de, tumulo! Et Agave portante

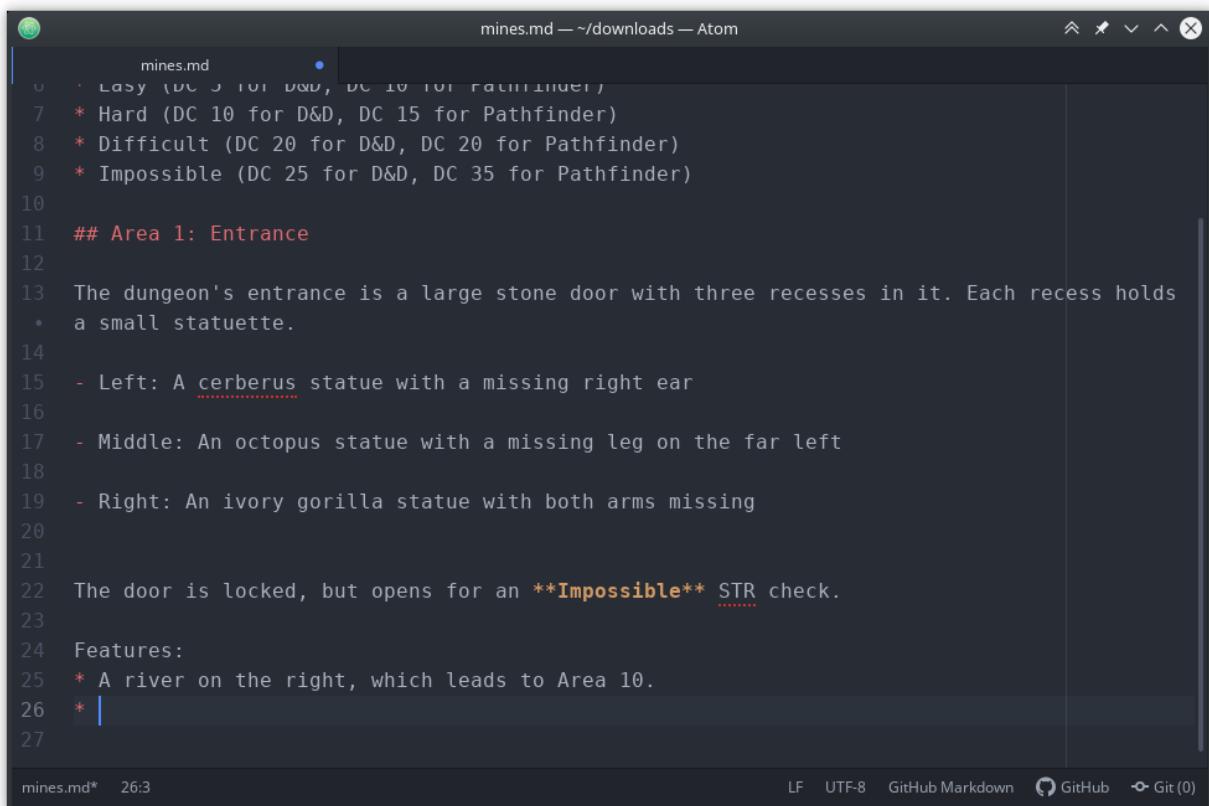
```

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X

(Seth Kenlon, CC BY-SA 4.0)

4. [Atom](#) is billed as a hackable text editor for the twenty-first century. It can function as a markdown editor too. It runs on Linux, Windows, and macOS and is released with an [MIT](#) license. It supports Github flavored Markdown, and Ctrl+Shift+M opens a preview panel so you can easily see the HTML preview. You can get started easily by creating a file and saving it with the `.md` file extension. This tells Atom that it is a markdown file. Atom automatically applies the right packages and syntax highlighting.



```
mines.md — ~/downloads — Atom
1
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7
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22
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24
25
26
27
mines.md* 26:3
LF  UTF-8  GitHub Markdown  GitHub  Git (0)
```

The screenshot shows the Atom text editor interface. The title bar says "mines.md — ~/downloads — Atom". The main window displays the following markdown content:

```

mines.md
1. Easy (DC 5 for D&D, DC 10 for Pathfinder)
2. Hard (DC 10 for D&D, DC 15 for Pathfinder)
3. Difficult (DC 20 for D&D, DC 20 for Pathfinder)
4. Impossible (DC 25 for D&D, DC 35 for Pathfinder)
5.
6. ## Area 1: Entrance
7.
8. The dungeon's entrance is a large stone door with three recesses in it. Each recess holds
9. a small statuette.
10.
11. - Left: A cerberus statue with a missing right ear
12.
13. - Middle: An octopus statue with a missing leg on the far left
14.
15. - Right: An ivory gorilla statue with both arms missing
16.
17.
18.
19. The door is locked, but opens for an **Impossible** STR check.
20.
21.
22. Features:
23. * A river on the right, which leads to Area 10.
24. *
25. *
26. *
27.

```

The status bar at the bottom shows "mines.md\* 26:3" and icons for LF, UTF-8, GitHub Markdown, GitHub, and Git (0).

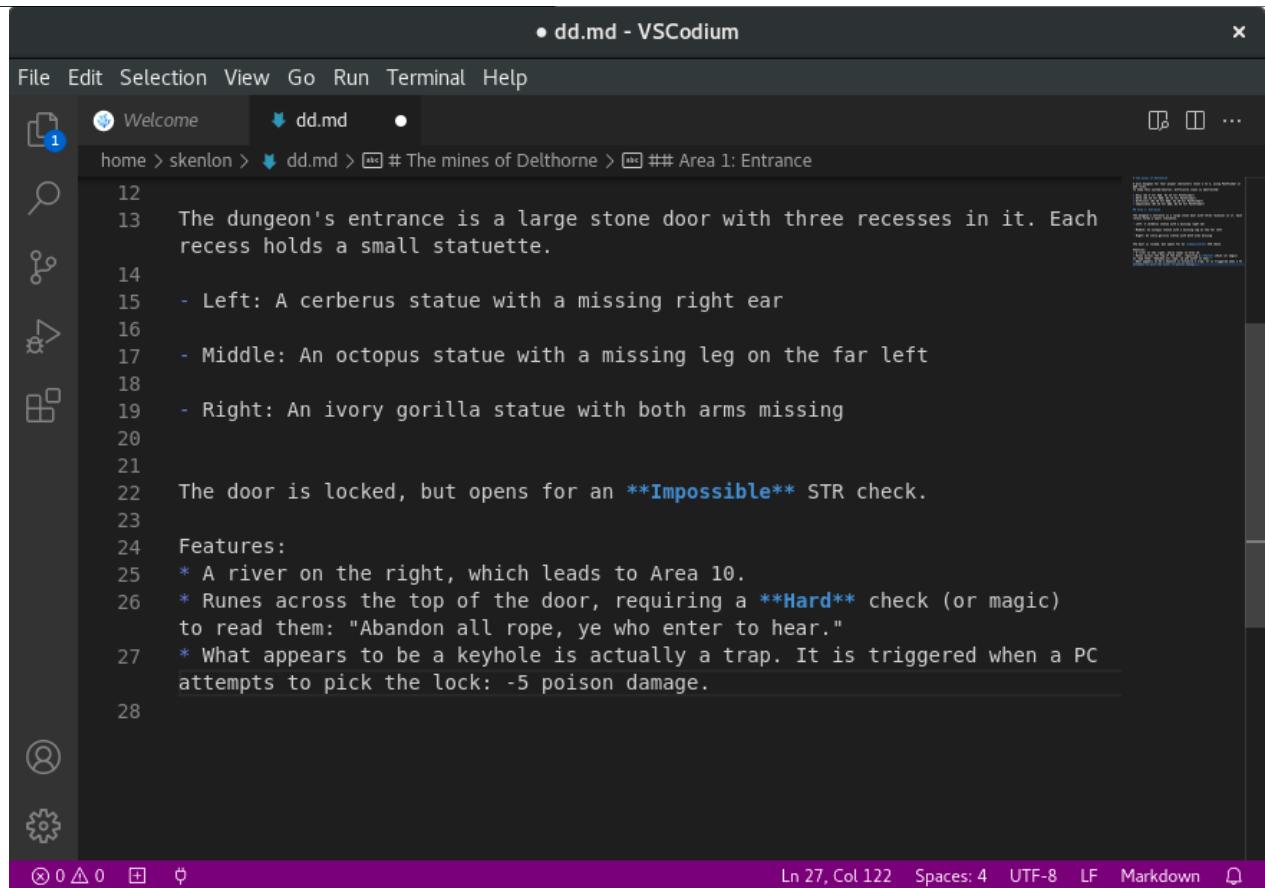
(Seth Kenlon, CC BY-SA 4.0)

5. [VSCodium](#) is the free open source code release of Microsoft's VSCode editor without the telemetry built into the stock Microsoft product. It is released with an [MIT](#) license and provides all the functionality of VSCode without the proprietary features. In addition to its other features, VSCodium can function as a markdown editor. Create a new file, click Select a Language, choose *Markdown* and begin writing your code. Easily preview the text by pressing Ctrl-Shift+V and then toggle back to the editor. You can also easily extend the

markdown editor by adding an extension. This is my favorite is [markdown](#)

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The screenshot shows the VSCode interface with the title bar "dd.md - VSCode". The left sidebar has icons for Welcome, dd.md, and a file named "dd.md". The main editor area contains the following text:

```

12
13 The dungeon's entrance is a large stone door with three recesses in it. Each
14 recess holds a small statuette.
15 - Left: A cerberus statue with a missing right ear
16 - Middle: An octopus statue with a missing leg on the far left
17 - Right: An ivory gorilla statue with both arms missing
18
19
20
21
22 The door is locked, but opens for an **Impossible** STR check.
23
24 Features:
25 * A river on the right, which leads to Area 10.
26 * Runes across the top of the door, requiring a **Hard** check (or magic)
27 to read them: "Abandon all rope, ye who enter to hear."
28

```

At the bottom, status indicators show Ln 27, Col 122, Spaces: 4, UTF-8, LF, Markdown, and a bell icon.

(Seth Kenlon, CC BY-SA 4.0)

What's your favorite markdown editor? Let us know in the comments.

## What to read next

# Cheat Sheet

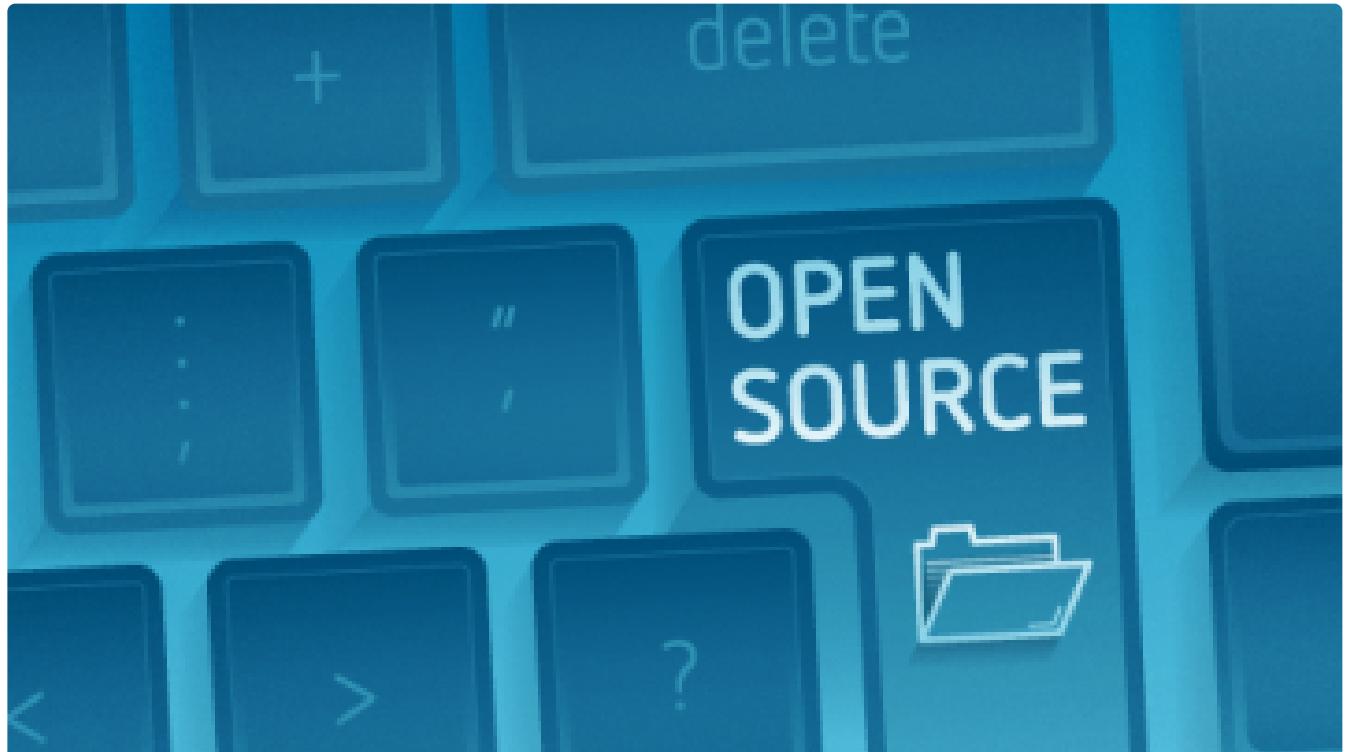
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Learn Markdown syntax to be ready to contribute to open source software.



Matthew Broberg (Red Hat)



## 31 open source text editors you need to try

Looking for a new text editor? Here are 31 options to consider.



Seth Kenlon (Team, Red Hat)

Tags:

TEXT EDITORS



Don Watkins  
Educator, entrepreneur, open source advocate, life long learner,  
Python teacher. M.A. in Educational Psychology, MSEd in  
Educational Leadership, Linux system administrator, Follow me at  
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## 11 Comments

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[Alan Formy-Duval](#) | October 13, 2021

Great list! I've been using Ghostwriter for a while now.

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[lago\\_OM](#) | October 13, 2021

I'm use typora.



[Humberto Sanchez ii](#) | October 26, 2021

Go Typora

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[Dragomir Draganov](#) | October 13, 2021

For long heavy text - Typora; previously - texts.io

For light markdown - VS Code.



[DansLeRuSH](#) | October 13, 2021

Apostrophe (GNOME), minimal/simple and do the job

*Image by:*

[opensource.com](#)

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[Scott Nesbitt](#) | Octo





Image by:  
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Over the last while, I've become a huge fan of Apostrophe. That said, I do have a soft spot for Mark Text and used Quilter rather extensively when I first moved to elementary OS in 2020.



Heiko Staudt | October 13, 2021

I can recommend Zettlr ([www.zettlr.com](http://www.zettlr.com))

Image by:  
opensource.com



tonhou | October 14, 2021

The article says Abricotine can only export to html. This is not correct. It has the most comprehensive and flexible export of any markdown editors I have used. To me markdown is all about export options - with one lot of text one can output to epub, pdf or other with eg double columns and table of contents - this is what makes markdown magical. Abricotine enables setting up of flexible outputs that others don't.



Marco Bravo | October 18, 2021

I use Joplin, it's available for desktop and mobile.

Image by:  
opensource.com



skorrm | October 26, 2021

I luv Joplin. While it is much more than just a markdown editor, its editing functionality is quite good. I take a LOT of notes for work and some for personal use. All my notes are in markdown. Most of my notes contain code and command line snippets and you obviously know about markdown's capabilities there. Joplin is a great open source markdown note taking app that works on Linux, Mac and Windoze. All my voluminous notes are encrypted and automatically sync to the cloud in DropBox.

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Novid Emami | October 26, 2021



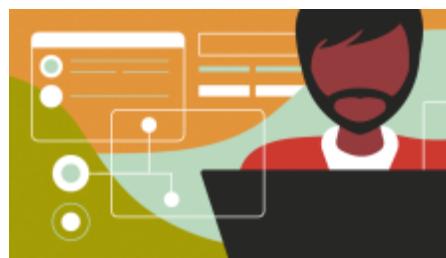


Apostrophe is my favorite and its recently added to the GNOME

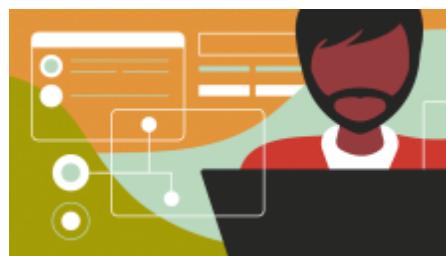
*Image by:* Circle Apps selection.

[opensource.com](https://opensource.com)

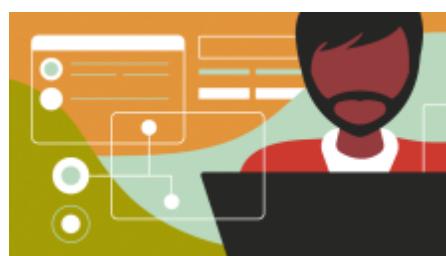
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to improve  
productivity



Edit text on Linux with  
KWrite and Kate



How I configure Vim

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