

# Which Editors can I use with the micro:bit?

Modified on: Tue, 10 Nov, 2020 at 1:38 PM

There are two official editors for Micro:bit; MakeCode and Python. They are **browser-based** (<https://support.microbit.org/en/support/solutions/articles/19000013991-which-browsers-work-with-the-coding-editors>), meaning they work on Windows, Mac, Chrome OS, Linux and no software installation is necessary. They are also **localisable into many languages**. (<https://support.microbit.org/en/support/solutions/articles/19000077999-translation>).

The **MakeCode editor can also be used offline** (<https://makecode.microbit.org/offline>) if needed.

## MakeCode

The **MakeCode editor** (<http://makecode.microbit.org>) provided by Microsoft makes it easy to program your micro:bit with blocks, JavaScript and MakeCode Python. It provides an introduction to structured programming via drag and drop coding blocks that snap together.

Check out how to **get started** (<https://makecode.microbit.org/#tutorial:tutorials/getting-started>) and find out more in the **MakeCode Editor reference** (<https://makecode.microbit.org/reference>).

## Python

Our **Python editor** (<http://python.microbit.org>) provides an introduction to Python programming using the micro:bit. You can add a range of common code snippets to your program and you can also create and use your own Python modules with it. It is based on MicroPython, a slimmed-down version of Python designed to run on microcontrollers like the micro:bit

Check out the **MicroPython reference to get started** (<https://microbit-micropython.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>).

## C++

The **micro:bit runtime** (<https://lancaster-university.github.io/microbit-docs/>) provides an easy to use environment for programming the BBC micro:bit in the C/C++ language, written by Lancaster University. It contains device drivers for all the hardware capabilities of the micro:bit, and also a suite of runtime mechanisms to make programming the micro:bit easier and more flexible. These range from control of the LED matrix display to peer-to-peer radio communication and secure Bluetooth Low Energy services. The micro:bit runtime is proudly built on the **Nordic Semiconductor** (<http://www.nordicsemi.com>) SDK platforms.

## Third Party/Alternative editors

There are a host of **editor environments developed by the micro:bit community** (<https://microbit.org/code-alternative-editors/>) that also work with micro:bit. They will each contain reference documentation on how to use them.

