

# Ansible tools to improve quality

Ansible (<https://github.com/ansible/ansible>) is [easy to learn](https://www.ansible.com/blog/getting-started-writing-your-first-playbook) (<https://www.ansible.com/blog/getting-started-writing-your-first-playbook>), but [difficult to master](http://yaml.org/) (<http://yaml.org/>). You'll save time if you invest a little time to setup your development environment.

There are quite a few tools that help improve the quality of [Ansible](https://github.com/ansible/ansible) (<https://github.com/ansible/ansible>) code. Some can be used when writing code, others on integration.

## Writing Ansible code

Although [vi is a great editor](http://www.viemu.com/a-why-vi-vim.html) (<http://www.viemu.com/a-why-vi-vim.html>) and can be [setup to work with Ansible](https://github.com/pearofducks/ansible-vim) (<https://github.com/pearofducks/ansible-vim>), when writing [Ansible](https://github.com/ansible/ansible) (<https://github.com/ansible/ansible>) code, multiple files are used. This makes an IDE useful.

## Atom

1. [atom](https://atom.io/) (<https://atom.io/>) because it renders YAML nicely out of the box.
2. [atom](https://atom.io/) (<https://atom.io/>) in combination with [language-ansible](https://atom.io/packages/language-ansible) (<https://atom.io/packages/language-ansible>).
3. [atom](https://atom.io/) (<https://atom.io/>) in combination with [autocomplete-ansible](https://github.com/h-hiroakawa/atom-autocomplete-ansible) (<https://github.com/h-hiroakawa/atom-autocomplete-ansible>).

## Automatic tests for Ansible code

1. [ansible-lint](https://github.com/ansible/ansible-lint) (<https://github.com/ansible/ansible-lint>).
2. [ansible-lint](https://github.com/ansible/ansible-lint) (<https://github.com/ansible/ansible-lint>) in combination with [galaxy-lint-rules](https://github.com/ansible/galaxy-lint-rules) (<https://github.com/ansible/galaxy-lint-rules>).
3. [molecule](https://molecule.readthedocs.io/en/latest/) (<https://molecule.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>) for testing Ansible code. Most people use it to spin up Docker or Vagrant instances and apply their code, but it can even be used to only lint: `molecule lint`.