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Atom (text editor)

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Atom is a [free and open-source text](#) and [source-code editor](#) for [macOS](#), [Linux](#), and [Windows](#) with support for [plug-ins](#) written in [JavaScript](#), and embedded [Git](#) control. Developed by [GitHub](#), Atom was released on June 25, 2015.^[8]

Atom



Atom with an open project on [Windows 10](#)

Developer(s) [GitHub](#) (subsidiary of [Microsoft](#))^[1]

Initial release February 26, 2014; 10 years ago^[2]

Final release 1.63.1^[3] [Edit this on Wikidata](#) / 23 November 2022

Preview release 1.61.0-beta0^[4] [Edit this on Wikidata](#) / 8 March 2022

Repository	github.com/atom/atom  Edit this at Wikidata
Written in	CoffeeScript , JavaScript , Less , HTML (front-end/UI)
Operating system	macOS 10.9 or later, Windows 7 and later, and Linux ^[5]
Size	87–180 MB
Available in	English
Type	Source-code editor
License	MIT License (free software) ^{[6][7]}
Website	atom.io  Edit this on Wikidata

On June 8, 2022, GitHub announced Atom's [end-of-life](#), occurring on December 15 of the same year, justifying its need "to prioritize technologies that enable the future of software development", specifically its GitHub Codespaces and [Visual Studio Code](#), developed by Microsoft which had acquired GitHub in 2018. ^{[9][10]}

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Features

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Atom is a "hackable" text editor, which means it is customizable using [HTML](#), [CSS](#), and [JavaScript](#).^[11]

Atom is a [desktop application](#) built using [web technologies](#).^[12] It is based on the [Electron framework](#), which was developed for that purpose, and hence was formerly called Atom Shell.^[13] Electron is a [framework](#) that enables [cross-platform](#) desktop applications using [Chromium](#) and [Node.js](#).^{[14][15]}

Atom was initially written in [CoffeeScript](#) and [Less](#), but much of it was converted to [JavaScript](#).^[16]

Atom uses [Tree-sitter](#) to provide [syntax highlighting](#) for multiple programming languages and [file formats](#).^[17]

Packages

[edit](#)

Like most other configurable text editors, Atom enabled users to install third-party packages and themes to customize the features and looks of the editor. Packages could be installed,

managed and published via Atom's package manager apm. All types of packages, including but not limited to: Syntactic highlighting support for languages other than the default, debuggers, etc. could have been installed via apm. ^{[[citation needed](#)]}

History

[edit](#)

Atom was developed in 2008 by [GitHub](#) founder [Chris Wanstrath](#) as a text editor using the [Electron Framework](#) (originally called Atom Shell), a framework designed as the base for Atom.^{[[18](#)]}

Between May 2015 and December 2018,^{[[19](#)]} [Facebook](#) developed Nuclide^{[[20](#)]} and Atom [IDE](#) projects to turn Atom into an [integrated development environment](#) (IDE).^{[[21](#)][[22](#)][[23](#)][[24](#)]}

In 2018 when [Microsoft](#) announced they would be acquiring GitHub, users expressed concern that Microsoft might discontinue Atom, as it competed with Microsoft's [Visual Studio Code](#). The future GitHub CEO assured users that development and support for Atom would continue.^{[[25](#)]} However, within four years, development ceased. On June 8, 2022, [GitHub](#) announced shutdown of Atom development and archival of all development repositories of Atom by December 15, 2022.^{[[9](#)]}

A former developer on Atom, Nathan Sobo, announced that he was building the "spiritual successor" to Atom, titled Zed.^{[[26](#)][[27](#)][[28](#)]} Unlike Atom, Zed would be written in [Rust](#) and not use [the Electron framework](#).^{[[29](#)]}

On January 30, 2023, GitHub announced a breach which exposed "a set of encrypted code signing certificates" some of which were used to sign Atom releases. GitHub advised users to downgrade to earlier versions of Atom signed with a different key.^{[[30](#)]}

Following Atom's end-of-life, development continued on a community [fork](#) named Pulsar.^{[[31](#)]}

License

[edit](#)

Atom was made fully [open source](#) in May 2014 under the [MIT License](#), including its desktop framework [Electron](#).^{[[32](#)]}

See also

[edit](#)

- [List of text editors](#)
- [Comparison of text editors § Programming features](#)
- [Comparison of HTML editors](#)
- [List of formerly proprietary software](#)

<i>Free and open-source software portal</i>

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External links

[edit](#)

- [Official website](#) _

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