

# Markdown Editors and Plugins

In this article, we will discuss markdown editors and plugins. First, we will discuss the basic and dedicated editor for markdown and then we will discuss some markdown plugins which can be used in popular programming IDE. For this article, we will consider only open-source, multiplatform, easier to use.

## [Markdown Editor](#)

### [Typora](#)

[pros](#)

[Cons](#)

### [Zettlr](#)

[Pros](#)

[Cons](#)

[Vs code](#)

[Pros](#)

[Cons](#)

[Extension](#)

### [Atom](#)

[Pros](#)

[Cons](#)

[Extensions](#)

### [Macdown](#)

[Pros](#)

[Cons](#)

## Typora

Typora is a markdown editor which is still free at the time of writing this article. It is a multiplatform editor which not only works in windows but also works in Linux and Mac.

### pros

- It's very simple and easy to use. People from non-tech backgrounds can easily use it.
- Support custom themes that include GitHub themes as well.

- Cross-platform.
- Has a focus mode that only highlights the active working paragraph.
- Typora has pandoc integration that helps to convert different forms of documents.
- Until now at the time of writing this document Typora is in beta version and free to use.
- Support math and chemistry expressions.
- Export file as pdf, HTML, Epub, .docx, LaTeX, Image etc.

## Cons

- The search option is not that strong.
- The beta version is a little bit buggy, however when they release the main version we might have to pay for the subscription.
- No documentation for custom keyboard shortcuts
- No citation support and no Zotero integration

## Zettlr

Zettlr is another open-source cross-platform Markdown editor. Zettlr is designed for writers who love to write in markdown.

## Pros

- Free and open-source
- Supports mac, windows, Linux, and macOS.
- Citation support and Zotero and Mendeley integration.
- Export file as pdf, HTML, Epub, .docx, LaTeX, Image etc.
- Can Render math.
- Can import plugins like Zettelkasten, footnote support, and writing statistics.
- Pandoc Integration.

## Cons

- Slow while opening large file
- editing table or resizing images some time buggy
- The windows version is still buggy
- Can not open a single .md file, have to browse the full directories which might be slow sometimes

## Vs code

Vs code is not a dedicated markdown editor; rather, it is an IDE for multipurpose. However, Vs code can also be used as a markdown editor. There are several plugins and extensions dedicated for the markdown editor

## Pros

- Free and supports cross-platform.
- Easy to use.
- Very fast and able to handle large files.
- Actively in development so always offer better tools and fix bugs quickly
- Git control integrated
- Custom CSS style can be loaded

## Cons

- Since it's not a markdown editor originally, so we have to install an additional plugin to use markdown
- Autocomplete check is not very powerful
- File search is extremely slow

## Extension

- [markdownlint](#)
- [Markdown theme kit](#)
- [Markdown shortcuts](#)
- [Markdown extension pack](#)

for further reading, we can check out [this](#) page

## Atom

Like Vs code atom is another open-source IDE that also supports markdown editing. However, it is not intentionally a markdown editor, so we have to install a plugin to use markdown.

## Pros

- Easy access to lots of plugins which maintain regularly
- Cross-platform
- Github integration and vim supports
- User friendly.
- Screen split preview

## Cons

- Not made dedicatedly as a markdown editor
- Large size and slow.
- Installation is not very easy for beginners.
- Use lots of memory.

## Extensions

- [markdown-writer](#)
- [atom-csv-markdown](#)
- [markdown-scroll-sync](#)
- [markdown-folding](#)

If anyone wants to use the atom as a markdown editor this [link](#) is helpful for them.

## **Macdown**

Macdown is an open-source markdown editor dedicated to macOS.

## Pros

- Free and open-source
- Markdown previews are customizable with CSS
- Auto completion
- Linking between pages.
- Syntax highlighting.

## Cons

- Only for mac, not a multiplatform editor.
- Opening folder not supported
- No citation support

## References

1. "34 Best Open Source Markdown Editors for Linux as of 2021 - Slant." Accessed August 3, 2021. <https://www.slant.co/topics/1852/~best-open-source-markdown-editors-for-linux>.
2. "Atom Is the Best Markdown Editor for Me | by Naoki Takezoe | Medium." Accessed August 3, 2021. <https://medium.com/@takezoe/atom-is-the-best-markdown-editor-for-me-76eec18d8185>.

3. "Markdown Editing with Visual Studio Code." Accessed August 3, 2021.  
<https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/languages/markdown>.
4. Atom. "Markdown-Preview." Accessed August 3, 2021.  
<https://atom.io/packages/markdown-preview>.
5. "Typora — a Markdown Editor, Markdown Reader." Accessed August 3, 2021.  
<https://typora.io/>.
6. Zettlr. "A Markdown Editor for the 21st Century." Zettlr. Accessed August 3, 2021.  
<https://www.zettlr.com>.