

MODULE 2: HTML EDITORS

Lesson 2.1: HTML Editors (Part 1)

Introduction

HTML code is written using a program called an **HTML editor**. An HTML editor allows web developers to create, edit, save, and manage HTML files.

Although HTML code can be written using a simple text editor such as **Notepad**, many web developers prefer more advanced editors because they provide useful features such as syntax highlighting, automatic code completion, and error detection. These features make writing HTML code faster, easier, and more accurate.

In this lesson, you will learn about different types of HTML editors, their advantages, and how to choose the right editor for web development.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this lesson, learners should be able to:

- Define an HTML editor.
 - Explain the purpose of an HTML editor.
 - Identify different types of HTML editors.
 - State examples of common HTML editors.
 - Compare simple text editors and Integrated Development Environments (IDEs).
 - Choose an appropriate HTML editor for creating web pages.
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What is an HTML Editor?

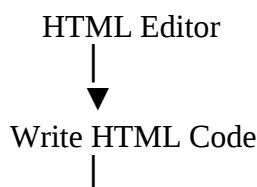
Definition

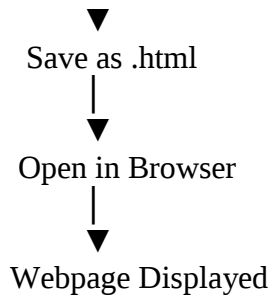
An **HTML editor** is a software application used to create, edit, and save HTML documents.

It enables users to write HTML code that can later be displayed as a webpage in a web browser.

An HTML editor does not display the webpage itself; instead, it is used to write and modify the HTML code.

Illustration





Purpose of an HTML Editor

An HTML editor is used to:

- Write HTML code.
- Edit existing HTML documents.
- Save HTML files with the **.html** extension.
- Organise and manage website files.
- Help programmers identify coding errors.
- Improve coding speed and accuracy.

Types of HTML Editors

HTML editors can be grouped into two main categories:

1. **Text Editors**
2. **Integrated Development Environments (IDEs)**

1. Text Editors

Definition

A **text editor** is a simple program used to create and edit plain text files, including HTML documents.

Text editors do not automatically check HTML code or provide advanced coding features. They are suitable for beginners because they help learners understand and write HTML code manually.

Examples of Text Editors

- Notepad (Windows)
- Notepad++
- TextEdit (Mac)

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TEXT EDITOR

Write HTML Code

Save File

Open in Browser

Advantages of Text Editors

- Easy to use.
 - Free or inexpensive.
 - Opens quickly.
 - Helps learners understand HTML syntax.
 - Suitable for beginners.
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Limitations of Text Editors

- Limited coding features.
 - No automatic code completion.
 - Does not highlight coding errors (basic editors like Notepad).
 - Less efficient for large websites.
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2. Integrated Development Environments (IDEs)

Definition

An **Integrated Development Environment (IDE)** is advanced software that provides tools for writing, editing, testing, and managing programs.

IDEs include features that make coding easier and help reduce errors.

Examples of IDEs

- Visual Studio Code (VS Code)

- WebStorm
 - Adobe Dreamweaver
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IDE

Write HTML Code

Syntax Highlighting

Auto-completion

Error Detection

File Management

Advantages of IDEs

- Highlights HTML code using different colours.
 - Automatically completes tags and code.
 - Helps identify coding errors.
 - Makes coding faster.
 - Suitable for creating large websites.
 - Supports many programming languages.
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Limitations of IDEs

- Requires more computer memory.
 - May take longer to learn.
 - Some IDEs require installation and configuration.
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Difference Between a Text Editor and an IDE

Text Editor	IDE
Simple program for writing text.	Advanced software for software development.
Few features.	Many advanced features.
Suitable for beginners.	Suitable for beginners and professionals.

Little or no code assistance.	Provides code completion and error detection.
Example: Notepad	Example: Visual Studio Code

Common HTML Editors

The following are some of the most commonly used HTML editors.

HTML Editor	Description
Notepad	A simple text editor included with Microsoft Windows.
Notepad++	A free text editor with syntax highlighting and additional features.
Visual Studio Code (VS Code)	A popular, free code editor used by professional web developers.
Adobe Dreamweaver	A professional web development application with visual design tools.

Which HTML Editor Should Beginners Use?

For learners who are new to HTML:

- **Notepad** is useful for understanding the basic structure of HTML.
 - **Notepad++** is suitable for learners who want additional features while keeping the editor simple.
 - **Visual Studio Code (VS Code)** is recommended for learners who plan to continue studying web development because it provides many useful tools.
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Real-Life Example

Imagine writing an assignment.

You can write it using:

- A sheet of paper and a pen.
- A word processor such as Microsoft Word.

Both methods produce the same assignment, but Microsoft Word provides additional tools such as spell checking, formatting, and grammar checking.

Similarly:

- **Notepad** is like writing with a pen and paper.
 - **Visual Studio Code** is like using Microsoft Word because it provides many helpful features.
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Did You Know?

- HTML editors only help you write code; they do not display webpages.
- After writing HTML code, you must open the saved HTML file in a web browser to see the webpage.

- Many professional web developers use **Visual Studio Code** because it is free, fast, and supports many programming languages.
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End of Part 1

In **Part 2**, we will cover:

- Features of a good HTML editor.
- Why Visual Studio Code is popular.
- Installing and opening an HTML editor.
- Creating and saving an HTML file using an editor.
- Viewing the webpage in a browser.
- Practical examples and illustrations.

This practical section will help learners move from understanding HTML editors to using one to create their own HTML documents.