

# Installing and Setting Up Emacs

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Emacs is a text editor used widely by many developers. The most commonly used version is GNU Emacs created by the GNU Project. Emacs is renowned for its extensibility that allows the user to do almost everything within Emacs. Getting started with Emacs is fairly simple and requires a simple installation to get started.

The first step is downloading GNU Emacs from its homepage at <https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/>. On the homepage, select the Operating System you use. To download for:

1. Windows

From the download page, use either the GNU mirror or the main GNU FTP server links. From there simply select the latest version (25.3.1 as of time of writing). The file name should look something like “`emacs-25.3_1-x86_64.zip`”. After downloading this zip, extract it to a preferred location. Then run the Emacs executable which is “`bin\runemacs.exe`”. For convenience, you can create a shortcut of this file to your desktop.

2. OSX

Emacs can be installed from Homebrew, MacPorts, or from <https://emacsformacosx.com/>. Then simply run Emacs to start it.

3. Linux

Emacs can be downloaded from the package manager. After installing, Emacs can be run like any other program.

After installing and running, the Emacs tutorial can be accessed. Instructions on using and configuring Emacs are located entirely within Emacs itself. Following the tutorial provides enough information to be able to use Emacs and access its manual. The manual inside Emacs contains documentation on everything within Emacs.