



**WYNNE'S**  
coding pros

# Top 5 Javascript IDEs / Editors

Hi, Wynne Pirini here. I founded Wynne's Coding Pros to share everything I have learned about the *process* of learning to code.

I never started out as a coder. Originally I was a Chemical Engineer. Later, I became a project manager. And then entrepreneur.

After making 100's of websites, I decided I should learn to code also.

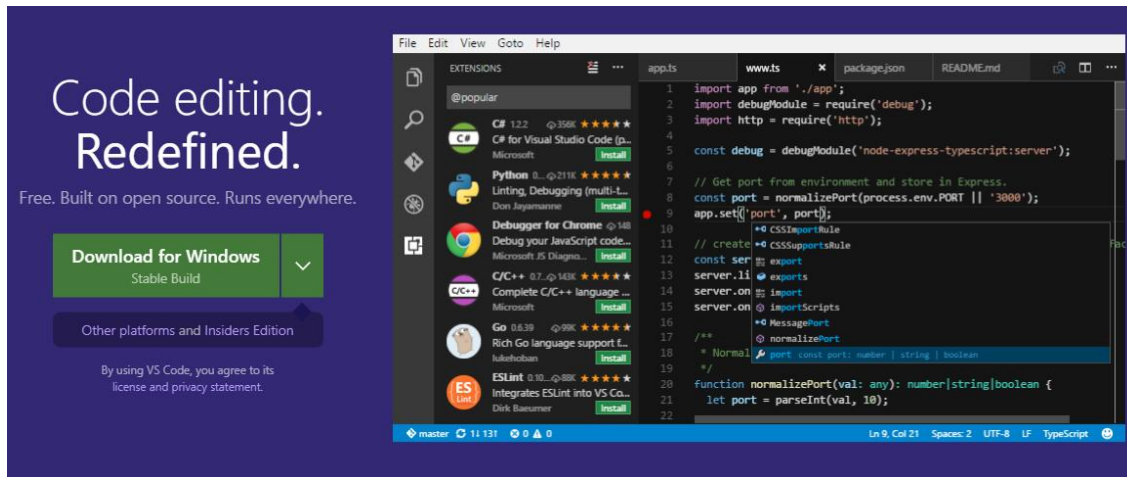
One decision that will really speed up your coding, is which IDE or editor to use. There are a lot of great choices, and most of them are FREE. You can't beat that.

I've put my list of recommended IDEs / editors, along with some observations to help you make your choice.

Be sure to also visit Wynne's Coding Pros ([wynnescodingpros.com](https://wynnescodingpros.com)) – where I use my combined experience as an engineer, project manager, and entrepreneur – to steer you in the right direction in your coding career.

Wynne Pirini

## Visual Studio Code



Microsoft created Visual Studio Code specifically for web development - supporting almost every major programming language including HTML, CSS, Javascript, Typescript, and Node.js.

It runs on PCs, Macs, and Linux machines.

Features include syntax highlighting, auto-complete with IntelliSense based on variable types, function definitions, and imported modules. Debugging is a breeze with the built-in debugger.

Another useful feature is TaskRunner. This allows you to create tasks with Grunt, Gulp, and MSBuild from within the editor.

Visual Studio Code integrates with Git for version control.

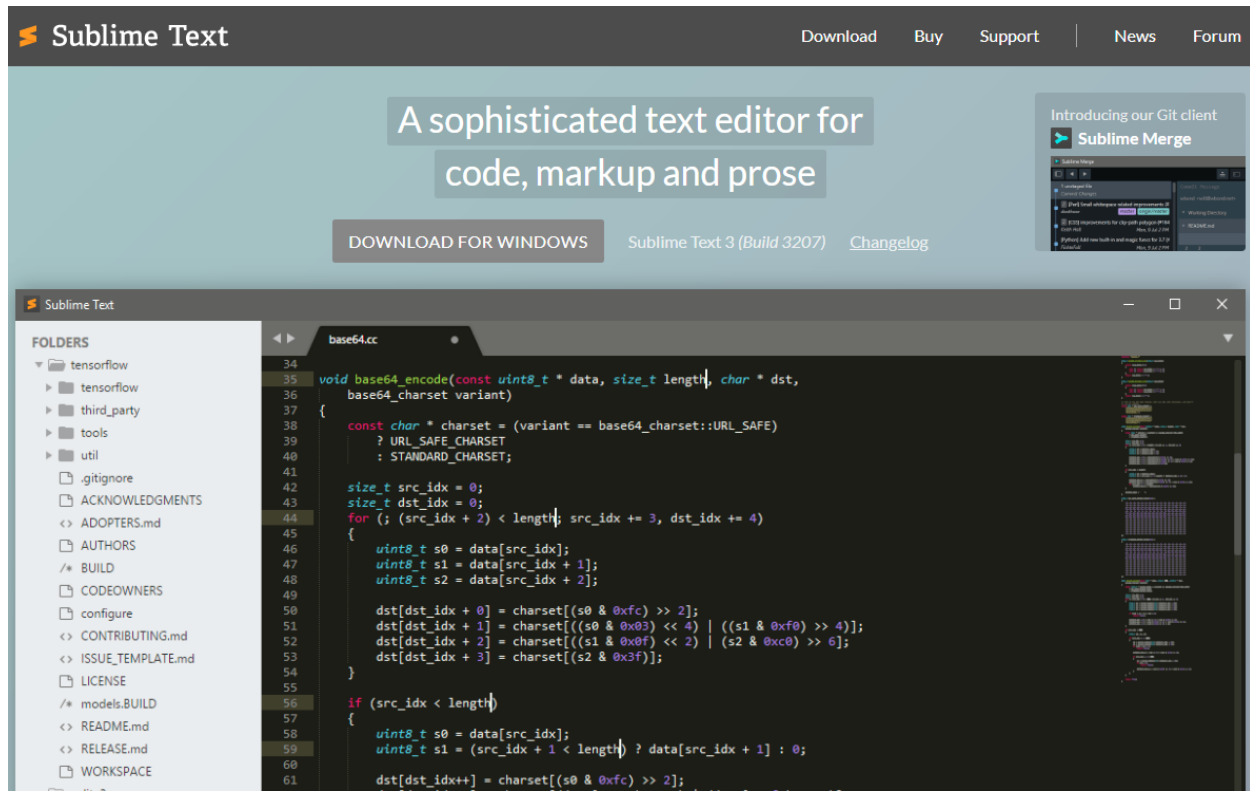
These are just a handful of the reasons why Visual Studio Code is the most widely used Javascript text editor, with 14k out of the 20k survey participants using it (State-of-JS survey 2018).

It's the tool I personally use in my day-to-day Javascript development.

Cost - Free

[Download Visual Studio Code](#)

## Sublime Text



The latest version of Sublime Text (version 3), takes the editor from being a glorified text editor to an IDE (integrated development environment).

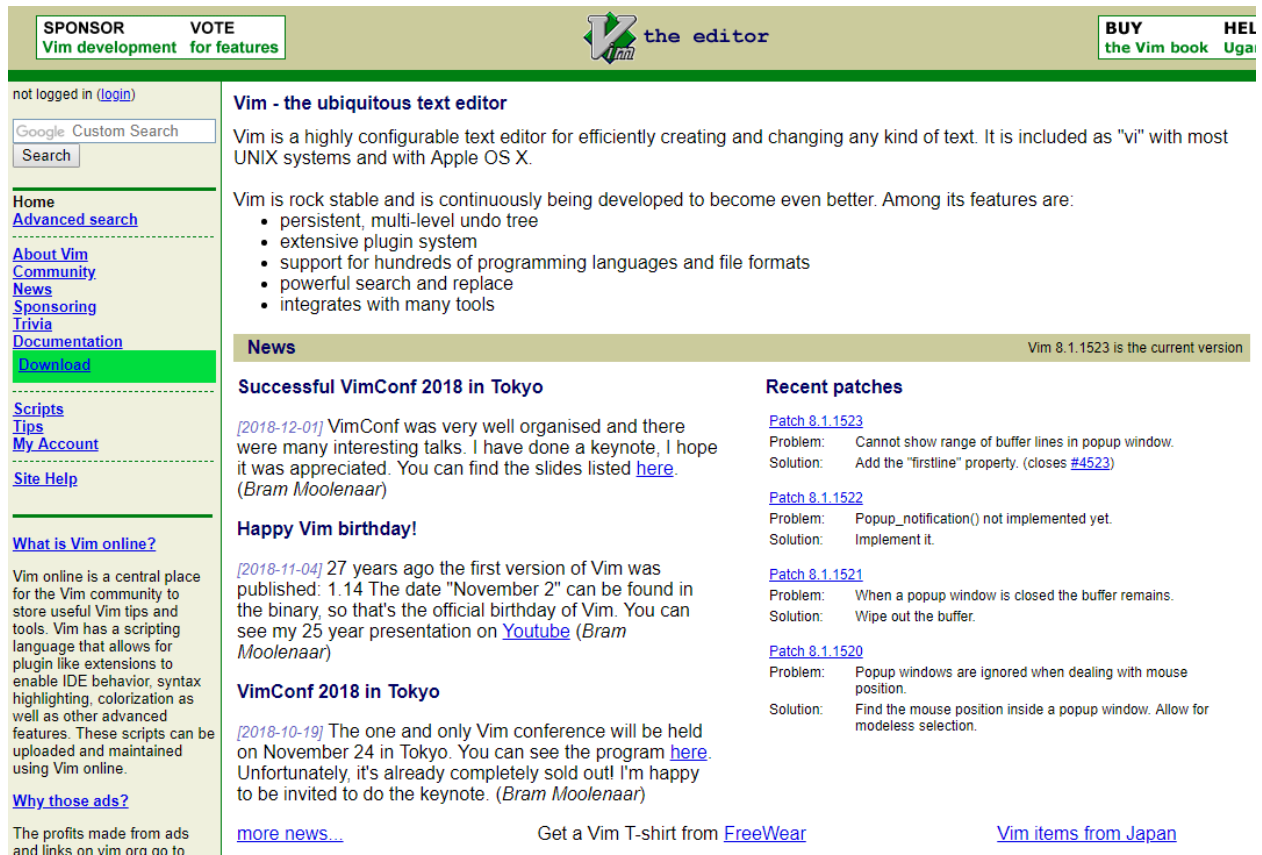
For years, it has been the go-to editor for serious developers of all walks of life. The community that's built around it is MASSIVE.

You can customize it to do whatever you want with one plugin or another.

Cost - Free evaluation period then \$80

[Download Sublime Text](#)

## Vim



The screenshot shows the Vim website homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'SPONSOR Vim development', 'VOTE for features', 'the editor' logo, 'BUY the Vim book', and 'HELP'. Below this, the main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there's a sidebar with links for 'Home', 'Advanced search', 'About Vim', 'Community', 'News', 'Sponsoring', 'Trivia', 'Documentation', 'Download', 'Scripts', 'Tips', 'My Account', and 'Site Help'. The main content area starts with the title 'Vim - the ubiquitous text editor' and a brief description. It then lists features of Vim, such as persistent multi-level undo tree, extensive plugin system, support for hundreds of programming languages, and powerful search and replace. Below this, there's a 'News' section with articles about 'Successful VimConf 2018 in Tokyo' and 'Happy Vim birthday!'. To the right of the news, there's a 'Recent patches' section listing several patches and their solutions. At the bottom, there are links for 'more news...', 'Get a Vim T-shirt from FreeWear', and 'Vim items from Japan'.

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[What is Vim online?](#)

Vim online is a central place for the Vim community to store useful Vim tips and tools. Vim has a scripting language that allows for plugin like extensions to enable IDE behavior, syntax highlighting, colorization as well as other advanced features. These scripts can be uploaded and maintained using Vim online.

[Why those ads?](#)

The profits made from ads and links on vim.org go to

**Vim - the ubiquitous text editor**

Vim is a highly configurable text editor for efficiently creating and changing any kind of text. It is included as "vi" with most UNIX systems and with Apple OS X.

Vim is rock stable and is continuously being developed to become even better. Among its features are:

- persistent, multi-level undo tree
- extensive plugin system
- support for hundreds of programming languages and file formats
- powerful search and replace
- integrates with many tools

**News** Vim 8.1.1523 is the current version

**Successful VimConf 2018 in Tokyo**

[2018-12-01] VimConf was very well organised and there were many interesting talks. I have done a keynote, I hope it was appreciated. You can find the slides listed [here](#). (Bram Moolenaar)

**Happy Vim birthday!**

[2018-11-04] 27 years ago the first version of Vim was published: 1.14 The date "November 2" can be found in the binary, so that's the official birthday of Vim. You can see my 25 year presentation on [Youtube](#) (Bram Moolenaar)

**VimConf 2018 in Tokyo**

[2018-10-19] The one and only Vim conference will be held on November 24 in Tokyo. You can see the program [here](#). Unfortunately, it's already completely sold out! I'm happy to be invited to do the keynote. (Bram Moolenaar)

[more news...](#) [Get a Vim T-shirt from FreeWear](#) [Vim items from Japan](#)

**Recent patches**

[Patch 8.1.1523](#)  
Problem: Cannot show range of buffer lines in popup window.  
Solution: Add the "firstline" property. (closes [#4523](#))

[Patch 8.1.1522](#)  
Problem: Popup\_notification() not implemented yet.  
Solution: Implement it.

[Patch 8.1.1521](#)  
Problem: When a popup window is closed the buffer remains.  
Solution: Wipe out the buffer.

[Patch 8.1.1520](#)  
Problem: Popup windows are ignored when dealing with mouse position.  
Solution: Find the mouse position inside a popup window. Allow for modeless selection.

Vim is an old relic that's been around since 1988. Just look at their website - it *looks* like it hasn't been updated since it was created.

Personally, I hate the darn thing. Everything is accomplished with short key combinations. Which, if you can remember them, makes your coding REALLY fast.

But, I forget the keystrokes and wind up doing all sorts of dumb things, then throw my hands up in frustration.

You might be wondering, if I dislike Vim so much, then why do I bother listing it here? Well... veteran developers who grew up with Unix swear that Vim is THE best way to write code. They say, if you take the time to learn it properly (like anything worth doing), you'll end *loving it*.

Plus, for years, it has appeared near the top of most loved code editors.

I'm not here to judge. I just present the facts. So, go ahead, download and taste the pain yourself!

Cost - free (you'd have to pay me to use it)

[Download Vim](#)

## WebStorm



WebStorm by JetBrains will set you back \$129. It's the Granddaddy of the IDE (integrated development environment) market - especially for Javascript.

But is it worth the cost?

Many WebStorm enthusiasts swear it's the best tool for the job.

WebStorm supports code completion, error identification, and refactoring. Thanks to the inbuilt debugger, JS developers are able to evaluate your code without leaving the IDE. The built-in testing tool generates one of the easiest-to-read error reports.

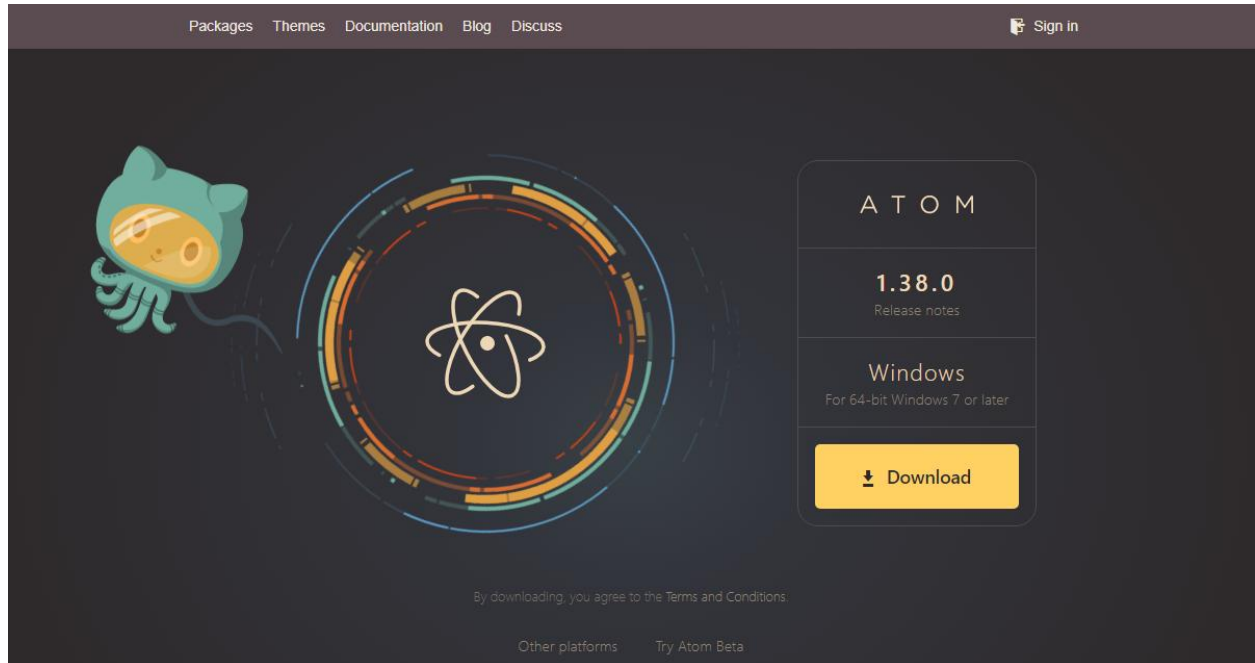
## Wynne's Recommended Javascript IDEs - Editors

Probably, the most distinguishing feature that sets WebStorm apart is the spy-js feature. It traces code to prevent actions that might create problems later.

Cost - \$129

[Download WebStorm](#)

## Atom



Atom was released by GitHub in 2014, and it's a very capable editor.

It has a lot of features in common with other editors already mentioned (because they all "borrow" ideas from each other).

The underlying technology behind Atom is a framework called "Electron" - a popular framework for building cross-platform desktop applications using Javascript.

Cost - Free

[Download Atom](#)