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Quickstart: Atom Plug-In Server

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Quickstart: Atom Plug-In Server

1. Introduction

This quickstart guide shows how to install the Atom code editor and a simple plug-in server for Atom. The guide also shows how to start the plug-in server, create a simple html template, and render that template using the server.

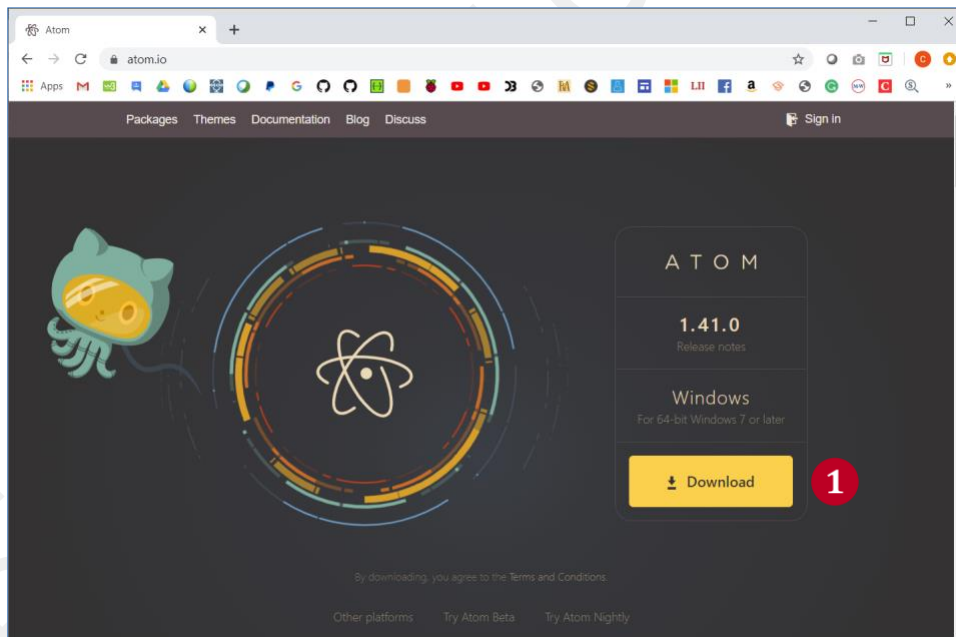
To use this guide, you will need [Google Chrome](#) running as the default browser on [Windows 10](#). The guide uses fonts and images to indicate different kinds of information:

- A red circle with a number in it (e.g., **1**) accompanies each key step in the guide.
- Labels, filenames, and menu options appear in *italics*.
- Buttons and key combinations appear in **bold**.
- Text that you must copy or type appears in **red**.

You should be familiar with basic web-development concepts to get the most out of this guide.

2. Download Atom

Go to the [Atom website](#).



- 1** a) Click the **Download** button on the Atom home page.
b) Save the installation file (*AtomSetup-x64.exe*).

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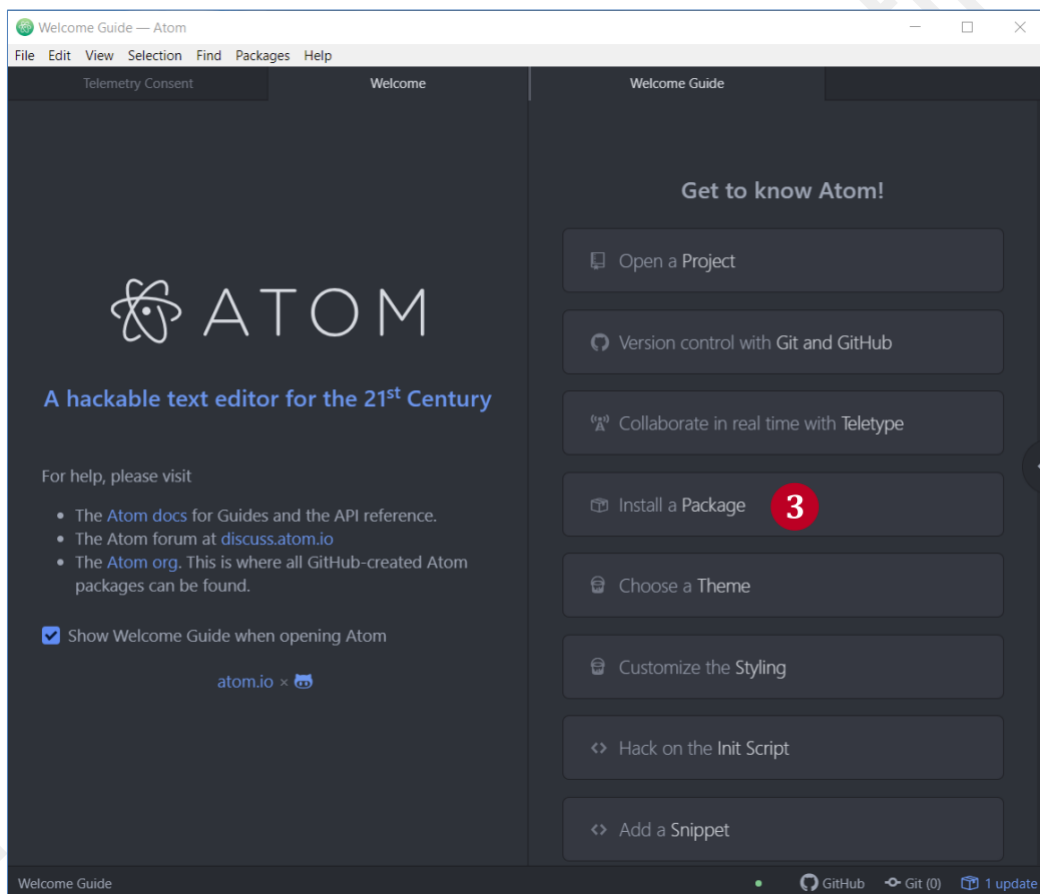
3. Install Atom

- 2 a) Go to the folder where you downloaded the *AtomSetup-x64.exe* file.
- b) Double-click the *AtomSetup-x64.exe* file to begin the installation

Atom opens automatically once the installation finishes.

4. Install the Atom plug-in server

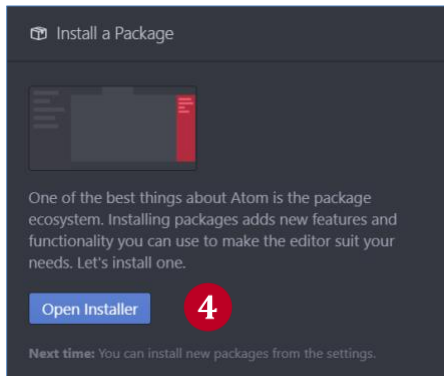
Find the **Install a Package** button in the Atom interface:



- 3 Click the **Install a Package** button.

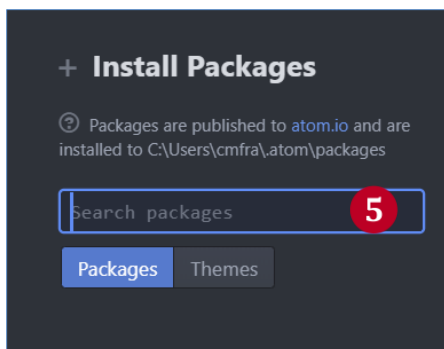
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The **Install a Package** button expands to show an **Open Installer** button:



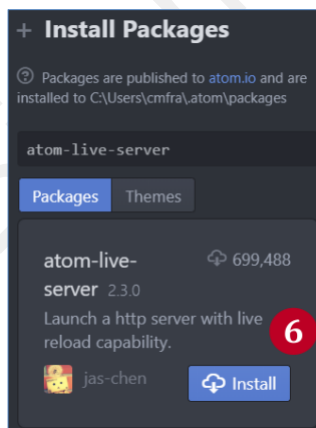
4 Click the **Open Installer** button.

Clicking on the **Open Installer** button opens the *Install Packages* panel in the upper left-hand side of the Atom interface:



5 Type **atom-live-server** (including hyphens) in the *Search packages* box.

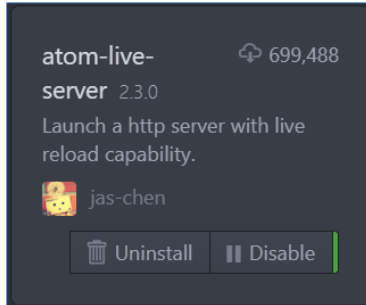
The *Install Packages* panel automatically expands to show the *atom-live-server* installation panel with an **Install** button:



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- 6 Click the **Install** button.

When the installation is finished, the *atom-live-server* installation panel looks like this:



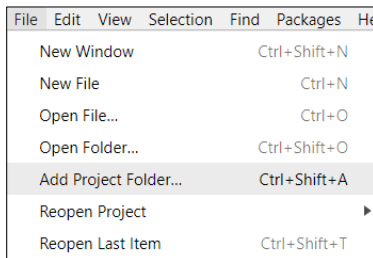
Before starting the server, you will need to create a new Atom project.

5. Create an Atom project

First:

- 7 Create a folder on your desktop.

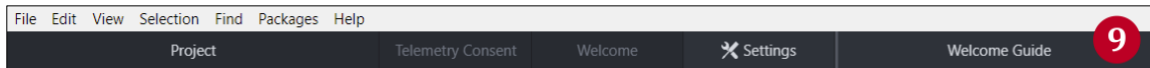
Now go to the *File* drop-down menu in Atom:



- 8
 - a) Click the *File* tab in Atom menu bar.
 - b) Click the *Add Project Folder...* submenu item.
 - c) Select the folder you just created.
 - d) Click the **Select Folder** button.

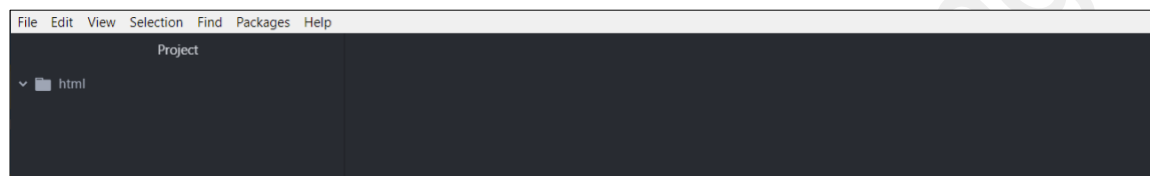
6. Organize the Atom interface

Remove the clutter from the Atom interface by closing most of the tabs (see the following page).



9 Hover your pointer over each tab (except the *Project* tab) and click the **x** that appears.

When you're done, the top of your Atom interface will show only the *Project* tab:



7. Start the plug-in server

Go to the *Packages* drop-down menu on the Atom menu bar:



- 10 a) Click the *Packages* tab.
- b) Hover your pointer over the *atom-live-server* menu option.
- c) Click the *Start server* menu option.

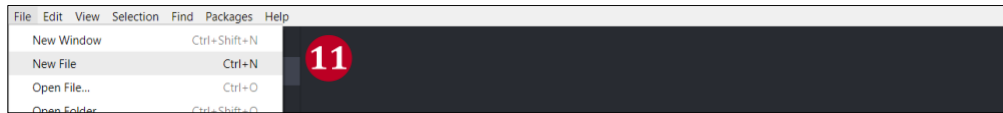
Chrome automatically opens to show the server home page, which is blank except for a home-directory symbol (~/).

Note the address for the server:

127.0.0.1:3000

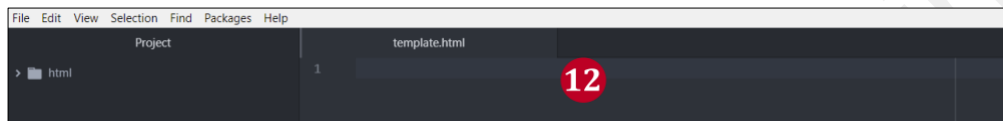
8. Create an HTML template

Create an HTML file called *template.html* using the *File* drop-down menu in Atom:



- 11 a) Click the *File* tab.
- b) Click the *New File* menu option.

Save the file:



- 12 a) Type **Ctrl+S**.
- b) Save the file as *template.html*.

Add the following HTML tags to *template.html*:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title></title>
  <style></style>
</head>
<body>
<script></script>
</body>
</html>
```

- 13 a) Copy and paste the tags into *template.html* (Atom automatically color-codes the tags and adds line numbers).
- b) Save *template.html* (by typing **Ctrl+S**).

Add a title to *template.html*:

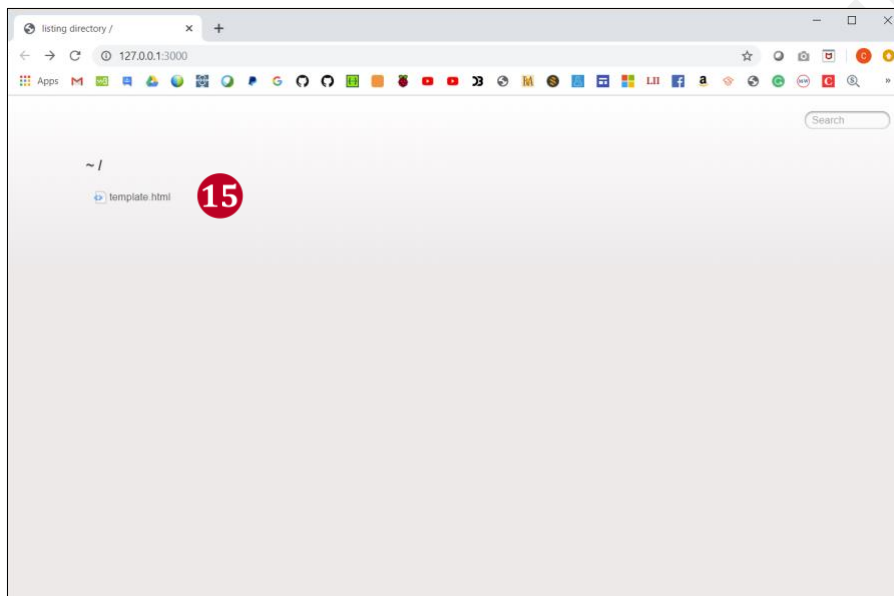
- 14 a) Insert **D3 HTML Template** between the `<title></title>` tags.
- b) Save *template.html*.

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The contents of *template.html*:

```
template.html
1  <!DOCTYPE html>
2  <html>
3  <head>
4    <title>D3 HTML Template</title>
5    <style></style>
6  </head>
7  <body>
8    <script></script>
9  </body>
10 </html>
11
```

Refresh the plug-in server home page in Chrome:



- 15 a) Reload the server page in your browser.
- 15 b) Click the *template.html* icon.

Add some page content for the browser to render:

- 16 a) Type **Hello, world!** just below the `<body>` tag in *template.html*.
- 16 b) Save *template.html*.

Hello, world! now appears on the *template.html* page.

Note: when you save *template.html*, the server automatically reloads the page (you only need to reload the server home page).

9. Additional resources

For information about Atom:

<https://atom.io/docs>

<https://flight-manual.atom.io/>

For information about the Atom plug-in server used in this guide:

<https://atom.io/packages/atom-live-server>

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