

**SynEdit**  
Programmer's Editing Environment  
Helpfile Version 1.6

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## What is SynEdit?

SynEdit is a 32-bit text editor for Windows. While it can serve as a good replacement for Notepad, it also offers many powerful features for Web page authors and programmers, and supports a good subset of the features found in other similar programs, like UltraEdit and EditPlus. It provides you with drag and drop editing, opens files of nearly unlimited size, and you can have over 255 files open at once in a tabbed workspace.

It has powerful and fully customisable keyword and delimiter highlighting for HTML, ASP, Perl, Java, C/C++ and many other programming languages, based on the pre-configured syntax profiles or user defined syntax profiles.

Additionally, SynEdit provides support for project/workspace saving and restoration, as well as supporting command-line compilers and viewers. No longer need you use just any old text editor to write the code for your your free command line C compiler. Other features include a cliptext window for commonly used keywords and phrases, and a convenient file browser for quickly navigating the directory tree to open files.

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## Basic Editing

SynEdit uses much the same editing interface as most popular text editors and word processing packages. It implements a multiple document interface, and lets you select text in one window and to drag and drop it into another. Additionally, it provides clipboard support and the usual set of search functions.

SynEdit color codes the files you open according to the scheme you have setup using the **Tools -> Options** dialog. If you have color coding set to automatic, SynEdit color codes as you type. However, color coding can take quite a while on large files, and it is recommended that you disable automatic color coding when you are editing large files, and that you use the manual color coding toolbar button to refresh the color coding only when you make substantial changes to your document.

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## Creating New Files

You can instantly create a new editing window for a new file by selecting the **Window -> New Window** menu command. Selecting the New File option from the **File** menu opens the "New File" dialog, which gives you the option of creating a blank file, or of using one of a number of templates. SynEdit comes with a number of simple code skeletons for a number of programming languages, and you can create your own templates in SynEdit and save them templates using the **Export as Template** command under the **File** menu.

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## Opening Files

You can open files of virtually any type in SynEdit, provided that they are in a plain-text type format. SynEdit does not support the editing of binary- type files. The source files for virtually every programming language are saved as plaintext files, and can be opened using SynEdit.

You can open files using the **File -> Open** menu command, or the Open File toolbar button. Additionally, you can use the file browser (to left of the workspace) to quickly open files by double-clicking on them.

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## Saving Files

SynEdit saves all files in plain text format. No color coding information is preserved when files are saved, although you can **Export as RTF** files for printing or formatting using word processor software.

The **Save** item under the **File** menu will save the changes to the current open file. **Save As** saves these changes to a different filename, and the **Save All** item saves the contents of all open documents.

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## Exporting Files for Printing

To print color coded hard copies of your code for addition to word-processor documents, you can use the **Export as RTF** menu item under the **File** menu. This saves your code in Rich Text Format (RTF), a common format used by all popular word processors. Note that this Rich Text formatted file is not compatible with the original source file [of course, you already knew that].

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## Exporting Files as Templates

To reuse a file as a template, save it using the **Export as Template** option under the **File** menu. You can then enter a meaningful description for your new template, which will be saved under the **\TEMPLATES\** directory in the SynEdit program directory.

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## Find and Find Next

To search for a certain piece of text, use the **Find** menu option under the **Search** menu. Clicking the Find button on the dialog will take you to the first occurrence of the text you wish to find, and Find Next will cycle through the next occurrences.

Selecting text in the current window and selecting the **Find Next** item under the **Search** menu (or pressing **F3**) will find the next occurrence of the selected text, so you don't have to use the **Find** function dialog box.

If you wish to search for an extended piece of text containing multiple lines, use the **Extended Find** menu command. It is otherwise identical to the **Find** command.

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## Searching and Replacing

The **Replace** item under the **Search** menu lets you search for a specific piece of text and replace it with another automatically. The **Extended Replace** menu command allows you to search for extended pieces of text containing carriage returns. It is otherwise identical to the **Replace** command.

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## Changing Text Case

The **Format** menu provides you with a number of commands that allow you to modify the case of selected text:

**To Upper Case** makes all letters in the selection upper case

**To Lower Case** makes all letters in the selection lower case

**Capitalize First** make all letters in the selection lower case, but the first letter a capital (sentence formatting)

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## Trimming Spaces

To remove unwanted spaces in text, there are a number of commands under the **Format** menu. These are:

**Trim Leading Spaces** will remove any spaces at the beginning of the selection

**Trim Trailing Spaces** will remove any spaces at the end of the selection

**Trim Spaces** will remove all spaces at the beginning and end of the selection

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## Tabs to Spaces

The **Tabs to Spaces** function will convert all tabs in your document to runs of spaces of a length that you specify.

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## Setting SynEdit up Using Default Profiles

The Default Profiles tab of the **Options** dialog lets you quickly set SynEdit up with preset options. You can use the presets that SynEdit is distributed with, or you can create your own. Each time you apply a Default Profile, you effectively overwrite the program's current settings for delimiters, you completely change the keyword lists, as well as the display font, etc. This function saves you having to set up SynEdit manually each time you want to use a different programming language. Additionally, if you've just configured SynEdit for a new language, I strongly suggest that you export the settings as a profile to preserve your efforts.

Selecting **Apply This Profile** will alter the program settings to the settings contained within the profile.

Selecting **Export Settings as Profile** will save the settings currently shown on the Options dialog as a profile. You should specify a meaningful name for your new profiles. All profiles are saved under the **\PROFILES\** directory in the SynEdit program directory.

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## Customizing Keyword Lists

SynEdit keeps three keyword lists for syntax highlighting.

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## Saving and Restoring a Workspace

SynEdit supports the saving and restoration of workspaces for project-based work. For example, you might have all of the pages for a web site open. Saving a workspace file lets you open all of these files automatically simply by selecting the **Restore Workspace** option in the **Advanced** menu.

The "Project" files are saved using this function are simply a list files. When these files are opened, SynEdit will attempt to open the filenames contained in the project file. If you have moved these files after saving a workspace file, the workspace file will no longer function correctly.

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## Configuring SynEdit for use with command-line compilers and viewers

To make SynEdit useful as a programmer's editing environment, it is able to function as a host for a command line compiler (or viewer). Configuring SynEdit to work with a command line compiler is simple. Simply specify the command line of the compiler, and insert the parameters the place of the file to be compiled in the **Configure Compiler/Viewer** dialog. When the **Run Compiler/Viewer** option is selected, these parameter tokens will be replaced by the filename of the file in the current window.

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## Load in Default Viewer

This opens the currently open file in the associated program on your system. For example, opening a .HTML file on your system might bring up Internet Explorer. Using this function on that system, selecting **Load in Default Viewer** would open the current file in Internet Explorer or whatever program is associated with .HTML files.

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## Contacting the Author

I'm 19 years old, and at university, so I am forced to use command-line compilers and freeware programming languages, and there were no **genuinely** free programmer's text editors out there (well, none that were any good, anyway), so here is SynEdit. It has been released for the benefit for students and developers alike, and I hope that it proves to be useful.

I, Matthew Inman, can be contacted at [developer@syned.com](mailto:developer@syned.com). If you have any queries, bug reports, suggestions or complements, I'd be glad to hear from you. While I do not request a registration fee, I'm really interested to find out where my software is going, and what you're using it for.

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## Reusing Files as Cliptext Libraries

You can export any text file as a cliptext library by selecting the **Export as Cliptext Library** command in the **File** menu. Once exported, the filename of the library appears in the "ClipText Libraries" list on the cliptext pane to the right of the main window, and will appear in the `\CLIPTEXT\` subdirectory of the SynEdit folder. Each line in a text file becomes one item in a cliptext library.

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## Indenting and Unindenting Text

To indent or unindent the selected text, use the **Indend Selection** and **Unindent Selection** commands in the **Format** menu. Indenting a selection adds four spaces to the beginning of each line spanned by the selection, or the current line if there is no selection. Unindenting a selection reverses this effect.


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## Opening Image Files

SynEdit lets you open image file for editing by passing the file to your currently associated editor for images of type **.BMP, .GIF and JPG**. For this menu item to function you must have a correctly associated image editor (eg. Windows Paint, Photoshop) installed on your computer system.

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## Accessing the Editor Options Dialog

The Editor Options dialog may be accessed from the **Preferences** submenu within the **File** menu. It can also be accessed from the **Editor Options** toolbar button (  ).

The **Editor Options** dialog contains all of the options governing the behavior of the editor. The various areas of the editor's operation are separated and spread over a number of tabs:

- [The Keywords Tab](#)
- [The Delimiters Tab](#)
- [The Editor Setup Tab](#)
- [The Color Setup Tab](#)
- [Setting SynEdit up Using Default Profiles](#)

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## The Keywords Tab

To specify which keywords you wish SynEdit to highlight, you must configure the Keyword lists. You can do this by adding individual keywords to the lists manually, using the **Add Keyword** button, which adds a keyword to the current list. To select which list you are currently working on, click on the matching sub-tab, which are marked **Keyword List 1**, **Keyword List 2** and **Keyword List 3**.

Alternatively, you can import **Keyword Lists** using the **Import Keyword List** function. These are files with the **.kwd** extension. They are plain text files, containing one keyword per line. As the import filter scan through the file, it adds each keyword or phrase on each line to a keyword list, starting with **Keyword List 1**. When the filter encounters the sequence **\NL\** in the file, it switches to the next keyword list. All items subsequent to this label are added to **Keyword List 2**, and the next **\NL\** encountered causes the following keywords to be added to **Keyword List 3**. Any extra **\NL\** labels are ignored.

SynEdit comes with a number of pre-generated keyword list files, and you can also export your own Keyword files using the **Export Keyword** button. This saves you the trouble of manually writing the keywords up in a keyword file if you want to use them later. Also, to reuse editor settings for various programming languages, see how to use [Default Profiles](#).

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## The Delimiters Tab

In much the same manner as SynEdit color codes identifiers using keywords, programmer's remarks can also be highlighted, as well as things like string literals and HTML tags. Checking a box for a specific type of delimiter specifies that you wish SynEdit to color everything between two delimiting characters a certain color (eg, for HTML tags, you want SynEdit to highlight everything between < and >). You can specify up to 8 sets of delimiters, each with its own highlighting color.

**NOTE:** Many files have line-based comments. To have SynEdit highlight from a starting token to the end of the line, specify `\n` (backslash 'n').

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## The Color Setup Tab

This tab lets you specify what colors you want the keywords in your three lists to be given, as well as any text between delimiting characters.

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## The Editor Setup Tab

This tab contains all of the other particulars of the editor's appearance. You can select a window font and size, although it is recommended that you use one of the non-proportional screen fonts that ship with Windows, such as **FixedSys** and **Courier**.

The other options on this tab are:

- **Tab Width** - Instead of inserting a TAB character when you press TAB, SynEdit inserts the number of space characters specified here. This setting also specifies the number of spaces inserted and removed from the beginning of lines when you use the **Indent** and **Unindent** formatting functions.
- **Code Keywords First, then Delimiters** - This specifies which you want color coded first. When this box is checked, SynEdit color codes keywords on its first pass, then coded delimiters. Unchecked, delimiters are color coded first, then keywords. This is important for some languages. In HTML, you would code delimiters first, to differentiate tags from displayable text, and keywords second, so that the tag attributes can be readily identified. Meanwhile, in C++, you would want to code keywords before delimiters, so that keywords don't crop up in comment blocks.
- **Save Backups when Files are Opened** - Specifies whether you want to have a backup of any opened files.
- **Color Code Files Automatically** - This specifies whether you want SynEdit to regularly color code the ENTIRE document (it will color code each line as you type regardless of this setting). This can take up to about 30 seconds for large files, and can prove to be unacceptable. If your source files are over 100K in size, you might want to consider disabling this option.
- **Wordwrap to Window Edge** - Sets whether or not to wrap text at the edge of the document window. This setting affects the behavior of the **Go to Line** function, and causes the **Indent/Unindent Selection** formatting options to create possibly undesirable effects.

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## Go to Line

Jumps to the line specified and highlights it, if it exists within the file. This function is affected by the **Wordwrap** setting, as it works on the lines actually displayed on screen, not in terms of carriage-returns and linefeeds.

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## For God's Sake, Please Don't do These Things

When SynEdit is installed on your machine, the setup program will create three directories: **CLIPTEXT**, **TEMPLATE** and **PROFILES**. **DO NOT DELETE THESE DIRECTORIES AS YOU WILL BUGGER THE PROGRAM.** If you do just so happen to delete them inadvertently, simply create them again. Furthermore, **DO NOT DELETE THE DEFAULT PROFILES IN THE PROFILE DIRECTORY.** These are important to the program's operation.

Also, dragging and pasting pictures into you code is allowed, but any images you insert will NOT be saved unless you export files as **RTF**.

Setting the page margins so that there is no actual printable area will result in your printer endlessly spitting out blank pages until it is switched off, or the document is deleted from the spooling que.

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## Known Bugs and Limitations

### Known Bugs:

There are no *known* bugs at the time of this release!

### Minimum System Specs:

- Requires Win 95/98/NT4
- I Recommend you run this program on a Pentium 100, minimum.
- 16MB RAM *absolute* minimum, 32MB recommended.

### Limitations:

- Can only open files to limit of physical and virtual memory, or 2GB, whichever comes first.
- Estimated maximum of 255 files open at once. Usually less, unless you've got 128mb of RAM.

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## Toolbar Buttons



The Toolbar provides you with quick access to the most commonly used features of SynEdit.

New

Open

Save

Save All

Copy

Cut

Paste

Undo

Indent

Unindent

Raise Case

Lower Case

Capitalize First

Find

Replace

Refresh Color Coding

Editor Options

Run Compiler/Viewer

Configure Compiler/Viewer

Load in Default Viewer

Help Contents

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## Printing Files

SynEdit provides limited support for you to print your color coded program code. Select the **Print** option in the **File** menu to print your entire source file. You can make changes to your printer settings by selecting **Print Setup** from the **File** menu, and you can adjust the margins of your page by selecting the **Page Setup** item under the **File** menu.

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## AutoCompleting Words

Synedit can be setup to automatically replace common spelling and typing errors (eg. recieve -> receive), as well as to replace simple mnemonics with larger blocks of text when entered. You can do so using the **Phrase Autocomplete** item in the **Preferences** submenu, under the **File** menu.

- **To add a phrase or mnemonic to complete to the list**, select the **Add Phrase** button. This will open a dialog that will prompt you for the phrase to be automatically completed and what to replace it with.
- **To remove a phrase or mnemonic from the list**, select the **Remove Phrase** button. This will remove the currently highlighted item.
- **To change the replacement text for a phrase or mnemonic**, select the **Edit Phrase** button. This will let you edit the replacement text for that phrase.

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## Configuring the Utilities Menu for quick application launching

To access commonly used applications from SynEdit, the Utilities menu can be configured to hold jumps to 20 different programs. To add and remove programs from the Utilities menu, select the **Configure Utilities** item from the **Utilities** menu. This will display the Configure Utilities options dialog.

- **To add a utility to the list**, select the **Add Utility** button. This will add an application to the list.
- **To remove a utility from the list**, select the **Remove Utility** button. This will remove the selected item from the list.
- **To edit a utility's command line**, select the **Edit Utility** button to edit that utility's command line string.

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## Configuring SynEdit to recognize different languages

SynEdit automatically recognizes files from the languages C, C++, HTML, Java and Perl based on the file extensions of these files. However, if you want to add new languages or file types to the list of those that SynEdit recognises, you can use the Language Recognition dialog, in the **Preferences** submenu. This lets you associate certain file extensions with the preconfigured syntax profiles that have been created earlier. You can create your own Syntax Profiles by using the Create New Language Profile menu item under the **Advanced** menu.

Once a file extension is associated with a syntax profile, SynEdit will use the new syntax profile for color coding the contents of files with the specified extensions. File extensions that SynEdit does NOT recognize are highlighted according to the editor's current scheme in effect. To set the default setup for unknown file types, use the Editor Options dialog, also under the **Preferences** submenu.

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## Setting Synedit up for a New Language

To customize SynEdit for use with a new programming language, you need to create a new **Syntax Profile**. You can do this using the **Export Settings as Profile** function in the Editor Options dialog box, or you can select Create Language Profile from the **Advanced** menu. All you need to do is provide the keywords to be highlighted, delimiters, and the color setup for your language.

To enable SynEdit to automatically highlight files of this new language type, use the Language Recognition command in the **Advanced** menu. This allows you to assign certain language profiles to files that you open with a specific file extension.

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## Creating New Language Profiles

To give SynEdit capability to highlight a new language, you can use the **Create New Language Profile** command, under the **Advanced** menu. This lets you specify the keywords and delimiters that the language requires highlighted. Once you have created a new profile, you can configure SynEdit to automatically recognise files of this new type using the **Language Recognition** dialog, which you can access from the **Preferences** menu, beneath the **File** menu.

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