

# Developer Tools Directory

A curated reference of essential tools for modern software development

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This directory groups widely-used developer tools by category, with a short description of what each one does and when you'd reach for it. Use it as a quick reference when setting up a project or exploring alternatives.

## Code Editors & IDEs

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### ***Visual Studio Code***

Lightweight, highly extensible code editor with built-in Git support, debugging, and a massive extension marketplace. The default choice for most developers.

### ***JetBrains IDEs (IntelliJ, PyCharm, WebStorm)***

Full-featured IDEs with deep language-specific intelligence, refactoring tools, and integrated debugging — popular for larger codebases.

### ***Neovim***

Highly configurable terminal-based editor favored for speed, keyboard-driven workflows, and minimal resource usage.

### ***Cursor***

AI-native code editor built on VS Code's foundation, with deep AI pair-programming integration for writing and refactoring code.

## Version Control & Collaboration

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### ***Git***

The standard distributed version control system for tracking code changes and enabling collaboration.

### ***GitHub***

Hosting platform for Git repositories with pull requests, issues, Actions for CI/CD, and project management features.

### ***GitLab***

Git hosting with an integrated DevOps platform covering CI/CD, security scanning, and project planning.

### ***Bitbucket***

Git repository hosting with tight integration into the Atlassian ecosystem (Jira, Trello, Confluence).

## Package Managers & Build Tools

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### ***npm / pnpm / Yarn***

Package managers for the JavaScript/Node ecosystem, handling dependency installation and script running.

### ***pip / Poetry***

Python package management tools; Poetry adds dependency resolution and packaging in one workflow.

### ***Webpack / Vite***

Module bundlers for front-end projects — Vite is favored for its fast dev server and modern defaults.

### ***Make / Gradle / Maven***

Build automation tools for compiling, testing, and packaging projects, common in Java and systems-level codebases.

## Containers & Infrastructure

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### ***Docker***

Platform for packaging applications and dependencies into portable containers that run consistently across environments.

### ***Kubernetes***

Container orchestration system for deploying, scaling, and managing containerized applications in production.

### ***Terraform***

Infrastructure-as-code tool for provisioning and managing cloud resources declaratively across providers.

### ***Docker Compose***

Tool for defining and running multi-container Docker applications using a simple YAML configuration.

## Testing & Quality

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### ***Jest / Vitest***

JavaScript testing frameworks for unit and integration tests, with built-in mocking and coverage reporting.

### ***Pytest***

Popular Python testing framework known for simple syntax and powerful fixtures/plugins.

### ***Playwright / Cypress***

End-to-end testing tools for automating browser interactions and verifying full user flows.

### ***ESLint / Prettier***

Linting and code-formatting tools that enforce consistent style and catch common errors automatically.

## API Development & Testing

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### ***Postman***

GUI tool for building, testing, and documenting APIs, with support for collections, environments, and automated test scripts.

### ***Insomnia***

Lightweight open-source alternative to Postman for designing and testing REST, GraphQL, and gRPC APIs.

### ***Swagger / OpenAPI***

Specification and tooling for documenting REST APIs in a standardized, machine-readable format.

### ***curl / HTTPie***

Command-line tools for making HTTP requests quickly, useful for debugging and scripting.

## AI Coding Assistants

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### ***Claude Code***

Command-line agentic coding tool that can read, write, and run code across a project to complete development tasks.

### ***GitHub Copilot***

AI pair programmer integrated into editors, offering inline code suggestions and chat-based assistance.

### ***Claude / ChatGPT (chat interfaces)***

General-purpose AI assistants useful for explaining code, debugging, writing docs, and brainstorming architecture.

## **Monitoring & Debugging**

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### ***Chrome DevTools***

Built-in browser tools for inspecting DOM, debugging JavaScript, profiling performance, and analyzing network requests.

### ***Sentry***

Error tracking and performance monitoring platform that captures exceptions in production with stack traces and context.

### ***Datadog / Grafana***

Observability platforms for visualizing metrics, logs, and traces across applications and infrastructure.

## **Database Tools**

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### ***TablePlus / DBeaver***

GUI clients for browsing, querying, and managing databases across multiple engines (PostgreSQL, MySQL, SQLite, etc.).

### ***Prisma / SQLAlchemy***

ORM (object-relational mapping) libraries that let developers interact with databases using code instead of raw SQL.

### ***Redis***

In-memory data store commonly used for caching, session storage, and pub/sub messaging.