

## M3 - Text Editors

The Microsoft Notepad text editor is a good basic editor that comes free with Microsoft Windows. However, in many cases there is a need to work on more than one file at a time as we shall see shortly. This can be done with Notepad, but each file is opened totally independently and this has the potential to be confusing.

As we work with increasingly more complex HTML files, keeping track of the mark-up details becomes increasingly more difficult without the use of color in the text.

There is quite a range of text editors, both free and paid, created specifically for code management. The choice of which to use can be a very personal one – Check out the following features which may be available in more advanced text editors:-

**Color Syntax:** It is very important to be able to distinguish the various HTML mark-up parameters in a file. Use of color makes this much easier.

**Multiple files:** It is common to have more than one file open at a time and an editor that facilitates movement between files is important.

**Line Numbers:** These help to find a particular point in a large file.

**Code Help:** This can often speed up the process of writing new code.

**Validation:** Connects to an external program to check your code.

**Preview:** Quick way of viewing the web page your code produces.

**FTP:** File Transfer Protocol – The process used to transfer your code files from your local computer to the web site host.

We will use **Notepad++** as the example editor in this class, but please check out some of the others by clicking on the “Links to other sites” option. This link will also take you to the Notepad++ site.