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Aptana Studio

Develop web applications effectively with Aptana Studio 3 IDE

Beginner's Guide

Thomas Deuling

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PUBLISHING community experience distilled

Aptana Studio Beginner's Guide

Develop web applications effectively with the Aptana Studio 3 IDE

Thomas Deuling



BIRMINGHAM - MUMBAI

Aptana Studio Beginner's Guide

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Firstly, the Appcelerator team deserves much of my gratitude for their time and effort, especially Ingo Muschenetz. I would like to thank Packt Publishing for giving me the opportunity to write this book, and for the immeasurable support provided to me throughout this project. Last but most definitely not least, I would like to thank my family for their on-going encouragement and understanding.

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I would like to thank my wife for being there to help me succeed through all of my challenges and opportunities. She is my best friend, my biggest supporter, and the love of my life. Thank you, Heather!

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Table of Contents

Preface	1
Chapter 1: Getting Started	7
System requirements	7
Downloading and installing Aptana Studio	8
Time for action – downloading and installing Aptana Studio on Linux	8
Time for action – downloading and installing Aptana Studio on Windows	10
Time for action – downloading and installing Aptana Studio on Mac	14
How to increase memory for Java	15
Time for action – increasing Java memory	16
Upgrading the system	17
How to install third-party plugins	20
Time for action – installing a third-party plugin	21
Uninstalling Aptana	26
Summary	27
Chapter 2: Basics and How to Use Perspectives and Views	29
Time for action – changing the color theme	30
Time for action – configuring the tab behavior	31
Definitions	32
Navigation	33
Toolbar	33
Perspectives	35
Perspective menu	36
Editors	38
Views	38
Statusbar	39
Customizing perspectives	41
Creating a customized perspective	44
Arrange perspective views	44

Time for action – arranging views	45
Time for action – adding new views	46
Customizing selection menus	47
Time for action – customizing the View selection menus	48
Time for action – customizing the new submenu	49
Command Groups Availability	50
Time for action – adding and removing command groups availability	50
Toolbar visibility	51
Time for action – customizing the toolbar	51
Menu visibility	52
Time for action – customizing the menu	52
Saving a perspective	52
Time for action – saving a perspective	52
Perspective preferences	53
Deleting a perspective	53
Time for action – deleting a perspective	54
Marking a default perspective	54
Time for action – marking a default perspective	55
The most frequently used views	55
App Explorer view	56
Project explorer view	57
Properties view	58
Outline view	59
Searching and replacing	60
Search dialog	60
Search view	62
Search preferences	63
Replacing matches	64
Customizing Aptana Studio 3	65
Summary	66
Chapter 3: Working with Workspaces and Projects	67
Workspace	68
Current workspace	69
Creating workspaces	69
Time for action – creating a new workspace	69
Importing and exporting preferences	70
Time for action – exporting Aptana Studio preferences	70
Time for action – importing Aptana Studio preferences	71
Switching between different workspaces	72

Time for action – switching to another workspace	73
Deleting unnecessary workspaces	74
Time for action – deleting a workspace	74
Workspace preferences	75
Time for action – prompting the selection of a workspace on startup	75
Working with projects	76
Project nature	76
Creating a new project	77
Time for action – using the Promote to Project function	80
Importing an existing project	81
Time for action – importing an existing folder as a new project	81
Time for action – importing existing projects into the workspace	83
Deleting an existing project	85
Time for action – deleting a project	85
Changing a project's nature	85
Time for action – changing a project's nature	86
Closing or opening a project	87
Time for action – closing a project	87
Time for action – excluding a project from the index	88
Creating a new file in a project	88
Time for action – creating a new project file	88
Summary	90
Chapter 4: Debugging JavaScript	91
The Debug perspective	91
Installing the JavaScript debugger	92
Time for action – installing Aptana Debugger for Firefox	92
Configuring the debugger	93
Time for action – creating a debug configuration	94
Debugging JavaScript	96
Time for action – debugging JavaScript	96
Console view	98
Time for action – working with the Console view	99
Using breakpoints	101
Time for action – adding a breakpoint	102
Time for action – disabling a breakpoint	103
Time for action – setting a hit count on a breakpoint	104
Time for action – inspecting variables at a breakpoint and changing their values	105
Studio AJAX monitor	106
Time for action – uninstalling the Aptana Debugger Extension	107

Uninstalling the debugger	107
Time for action – uninstalling the Aptana Debugger Extension	108
Summary	109
Chapter 5: Code Documentation and Content Assist	111
ScriptDoc	112
JavaScript file comment	114
JavaScript property comment	115
JavaScript function comment	115
Time for action – displaying a function comment	116
The Content Assist feature	117
Time for action – using the Content Assist feature	117
Browser capabilities	118
Time for action – changing the user agents used by the Content Assist feature	119
Summary	121
Chapter 6: Inspecting Code with Firebug	123
What is Firebug	124
Time for action – installing Firebug	124
Time for action – enabling and configuring Firebug	126
Inspecting HTML code	127
Time for action – inspecting HTML code	127
Time for action – using the mouse selector for editing HTML	129
Inspecting the CSS code	131
Time for action – editing the CSS code by using the HTML module	131
Time for action – editing the CSS code by using the CSS module	132
Using the Firebug console	133
Time for action – using the Firebug console	133
Profiling code performance	135
Time for action – profiling code performance by using console.time()	135
Time for action – profiling code performance by using console.profile()	137
Summary	140
Chapter 7: Using JavaScript Libraries	141
Requirements for including a JavaScript library	141
Using jQuery	142
Time for action – installing the jQuery bundle	143
Time for action – integrating jQuery	144
Using Dojo Toolkit	146
Time for action – integrating the Dojo Toolkit	146
Using ExtJS	149
Time for action – integrating ExtJS	149
Summary	152

Chapter 8: Remotely Working with FTP	153
The Remote view	154
Time for action – creating an FTP connection	154
Time for action – modifying an FTP connection	156
Deleting an FTP connection	157
Using the Web Deployment Wizard	157
Time for action – connecting a project with a remote server	158
Using the Connection Manager	163
Time for action – opening the Connection Manager and creating a new connection	163
Modifying an existing connection within the Connection Manager	166
Deleting an existing connection within the Connection Manager	166
Exporting and importing FTP settings	166
Time for action – exporting FTP settings	167
Time for action – importing FTP settings	168
Summary	170
Chapter 9: Collaborative Work with SVN and Git	171
Working with SVN	172
Time for action – adding an SVN Repository	174
Checking out an SVN Repository	175
Time for action – checking out an SVN Repository	176
File states	178
Committing an SVN Repository	179
Time for action – updating and committing an SVN Repository	180
Updating an SVN Repository	181
Time for action – using the SVN history and comparing files	182
Working with Git	188
Time for action – cloning a remote Git Repository	188
Creating a Git Repository	190
Time for action – creating a new local Git Repository for a new or existing project	190
Time for action – working with a new local Git Repository	192
Pulling and pushing Git remote projects	195
Time for action – pulling and pushing Git remote projects	195
Summary	197
Chapter 10: PHP Projects	199
Creating and configuring PHP projects	200
Time for action – creating a PHP project	200
Configuring a PHP project	202
Time for action – configuring a PHP project	202

Using PHPDoc within PHP Projects	206
Using the predefined PHPDoc Comments	206
Time for action – using PHPDoc Comments from the PHP Bundle	207
Aptana Studio's PHP Bundle PHPDoc Comment snippets	209
Using PHP libraries	210
Time for action – using external libraries	212
Configuring project-specific libraries	215
Time for action – configuring project-specific libraries	215
Using and configuring the code formatter	217
Time for action – using and configuring the PHP code formatter	218
Summary	225
Chapter 11: Optimizing Work and Increasing Collaboration	227
Creating a syntax highlight theme	228
Time for action – creating a syntax highlight theme	228
Sharing or restoring your configurations	230
Time for action – importing and exporting syntax highlight themes	232
Time for action – importing and exporting code formatter profiles	234
Sharing Aptana Studio preferences	236
Working with bookmarks	237
Time for action – setting a bookmark	237
The bookmark view	239
Time for action – configuring the bookmark view	239
SVN commit comment templates	242
Time for action – creating SVN commit comment templates	242
Working with tasks	244
Time for action – configuring the tasks and managing the task tags	244
Creating tasks	246
Time for action – creating a task over the line numbers	246
Time for action – creating a task using a comment	248
Summary	250
Chapter 12: Troubleshooting	251
What to do when problems occur	251
Systems help	252
Do you have a problem?	253
Which version of Aptana Studio have you installed	253
Time for action – displaying installation details	253
Running the diagnostic test	257
Viewing and clearing the logfile	258
Time for action – viewing and clearing the logfile	259


Forums	260
Reporting a bug	261
Time for action – reporting a bug	261
Fixing a moved workspace directory	264
Time for action – changing the workspace directory in config.ini	264
Summary	265
Pop Quiz Answers	267
Chapter 1, Getting Started	267
Chapter 2, Basics and How to Use Perspectives and Views	267
Chapter 3, Working with Workspaces and Projects	268
Chapter 4, Debugging JavaScript	268
Chapter 5, Code Documentation and Content Assist	268
Chapter 6, Inspecting Code with Firebug	269
Chapter 7, Using JavaScript Libraries	269
Chapter 8, Remotely Working with FTP	269
Chapter 9, Collaborative Work with SVN and Git	270
Chapter 10, PHP Projects	270
Chapter 11, Optimizing Work and Increasing Collaboration	271
Chapter 12, Troubleshooting	271
Index	273

Preface

Aptana Studio is a powerful open source integrated development environment (IDE) that specializes in building web applications. Aptana Studio has been around since 2008. It provides language support for HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Ruby, Rails, PHP, Python, and many others, by using plugins. Since Version 3.0.4, the developer team of Aptana Studio has integrated the latest HTML5 and CSS3 specifications. This allows the capabilities of most modern browsers to be utilized for the development of Aptana Studio. The latest Version has been downloaded more than 6 million times.

Aptana Studio ships with other tasks, such as FTP and Git integration, JavaScript libraries, and JavaScript debugging. Furthermore, the Aptana Jaxer web server is included, which specializes in working with AJAX applications and websites.

Aptana Studio builds on the Java platform Eclipse, therefore it is a cross platform software and works on common operating systems, such as Linux, Mac OS-X, and Windows.

[	<p>What is Eclipse SDK?</p> <p>The Eclipse software development kit (SDK) is an open source project that is completely written in Java and was started by the IBM company in 2001.</p>]
---	---	---	---

It is possible to install Aptana either as an Eclipse plugin or as a standalone version because Aptana Studio builds on Eclipse. Experienced users who have already worked with the Eclipse IDE can integrate the Eclipse plugin in their existing Eclipse installation. Users with less experience can install the standalone version as it works without having an Eclipse installation.

But why is Aptana Studio perfect for web development?

Aptana Studio allows you to develop and test your entire web application using a single environment.

Some of the great core features of Aptana Studio are as follows:

- ◆ Code Assist for HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and so on. It also supports the latest HTML5 and CSS3 specifications and includes information about the level of support in major web browsers.
- ◆ JavaScript Debugger integration.
- ◆ FTP, SFTP, and FTPS integration provides you with the possibility to develop remotely.
- ◆ Git integration enables you to manage your projects with Git source code control.

Let's go and take a look at how easy web development can be with Aptana Studio.

What this book covers

Chapter 1, Getting Started, shows you how to get a fully operational Aptana Studio version on your system, how to carry out system updates, or integrate new plugins. By the end of this chapter, your version of Aptana Studio should be fully operational for work.

Chapter 2, Basics and How to Use Perspectives and Views, talks about the basic functionality of Aptana Studio, and learning how to use perspectives and views. By the end of the chapter, you should be able to modify the appearance of Aptana Studio to optimize it as per your needs.

Chapter 3, Working with Workspaces and Projects, is all about creating and configuring your source codes in projects, and grouping these projects together in useful workspaces.

Chapter 4, Debugging JavaScript, teaches you how to debug your JavaScript applications and how to find errors as fast as possible.

Chapter 5, Code Documentation and Content Assisst, shows you how to document your code in the best way, so that each development team member understands the functionality and the Aptana Studio builders are able to read out more information from your source code.

Chapter 6, Inspecting Code with Firebug, looks at how you can inspect your source code and helps you to understand why your web application looks and behaves as it does.

Chapter 7, Using JavaScript Libraries, provides a detailed guide to integrating JavaScript libraries such as jQuery or Dojo toolkit into your project.

Chapter 8, Remotely Working with FTP, guides you on how to remotely work with FTP on your web server.

Chapter 9, Collaborative Work with SVN and Git, helps you to discover how you can use Aptana Studio with Subversion or GitHub, to develop large projects with your development team.

Chapter 10, PHP Projects, teaches you how to create and configure PHP projects to develop backends for your web applications.

Chapter 11, Optimizing Work and Increasing Collaboration, looks at the various possibilities of optimizing your workflow.

Chapter 12, Troubleshooting, discusses the most common issues that developers face when developing with Aptana Studio.

What you need for this book

All the chapters in this book have been tried and tested on the following software setup:

- ◆ Ubuntu/Debian/LinuxMint Linux with 3.0.x Kernel and Gnome3.2
- ◆ Aptana Studio 3.0.6 (from where we begin this book and work progressively through the versions up to Aptana Studio 3.3.1)

So, you need nothing more than your workstation with an Internet connection to download your Aptana Studio installation package and for deploying your web application, or remotely work via FTP, SVN, or Git.

If you're using an Apple or Windows operating system, don't be afraid. The whole system looks the same on different operating systems, but only the GUI elements may differ a little between operating systems.

Who this book is for

This book is a perfect beginners' guide for both, Aptana Studio beginners and experienced web developers.

If you are already a bit familiar with Aptana Studio or the Eclipse IDE, this book will help you to learn more about how Aptana Studio can optimize your daily work on large web applications and projects.

All in all, this book a complete guide to configuring the whole development environment to get the best out of your work.

Conventions

In this book, you will find a number of styles of text that distinguish between different kinds of information. Here are some examples of these styles, and an explanation of their meaning.

Code words in text are shown as follows: "We can include other contexts through the use of the `include` directive."



A block of code is set as follows:



```
function someLoopWithinAFunction(loopEnd) {
    var someResult = 0;
    for(var i=0 ; i<loopEnd ; i++) {
        someResult += i;
        aptana.log("i: " +i); // Add a breakpoint here
    }
    return someResults)
}
```

Any command-line input or output is written as follows:

```
sudo rm -r /opt/Aptana\ Studio\3
```

New terms and **important words** are shown in bold. Words that you see on the screen, in menus or dialog boxes for example, appear in the text like this: "clicking the **Next** button moves you to the next screen".

 Warnings or important notes appear in a box like this. 

 Tips and tricks appear like this. 

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1

Getting Started

Aptana Studio 3 builds on the well-known Java IDE, Eclipse; this means that it's possible to install Aptana Studio as an Eclipse plugin or as a standalone version. In this beginner's guide, we will use the standalone version as it is much easier to install and works right away.

In this chapter we will cover:

- ◆ System requirements
- ◆ Where to get Aptana Studio
- ◆ Installing Aptana Studio on your system
- ◆ How to increase memory for Java
- ◆ Keeping Aptana Studio up-to-date
- ◆ Installing third party plugins
- ◆ Uninstalling Aptana Studio

System requirements

Aptana Studio supports both 32-bit and 64-bit architecture for the following common operating systems:

- ◆ **Linux:** x86 architecture, GTK windowing system
- ◆ **Mac OS:** OS X/Intel architecture, OS X 10.5 or later
- ◆ **Windows:** x86 architecture

Minimum requirements:

- ◆ **Linux:** 1 GB RAM, Pentium 4-level processor
- ◆ **Mac OS:** 1 GB RAM, G5 or Intel-based machine
- ◆ **Windows:** 1 GB RAM, Pentium 4-level processor

For larger projects and workspaces, better hardware is recommended.

Aptana Studio requires you to have Sun/Oracle Java Runtime Environment JRE 1.5.x on your Mac OS-X or Linux system (note that OpenJDK is not yet supported). Windows Installer includes a compatible version of Java.

Downloading and installing Aptana Studio

First of all, we have to download the current version of Aptana Studio. This section will teach you how to do this.



Downloading the example code

You can download the example code files for all Packt books you have purchased from your account at <http://www.packtpub.com>. If you purchased this book elsewhere, you can visit <http://www.packtpub.com/support> and register to have the files e-mailed directly to you.

Time for action – downloading and installing Aptana Studio on Linux

1. In order to download the current version of Aptana Studio, navigate to the Aptana home page at <http://www.aptana.com/products/studio3/download>.
2. Simply select your system environment on the website and download the Aptana Studio package to your `~/Downloads` folder. You can also do this quickly by using `wget` on the command line (just replace `*version*` by your used version), as follows:

```
wget http://download.aptana.com/studio3/standalone/*version*/  
linux/Aptana_Studio_3_Setup_Linux_x86_64_*version*.zip -P ~/Downloads
```

3. After downloading the Aptana Studio package, we only need to extract it. For this, we use the `unzip` command, which also redirects the extracted files to the `/opt` folder.

```
sudo unzip ./Aptana_Studio_3_Setup_Linux_x86_64_*version*.zip -d /opt/
```



Why install Aptana in the `/opt` - folder?

The `/opt` folder is reserved for all software and add-on packages that are not part of the default installation of your operating system. Under Linux Mint, for example, Adobe Reader, Google Chrome, and some other packages are normally found here.

4. We just have to create a symbolic link so that we can start Aptana Studio without typing the complete path on the command line.

```
sudo ln -s /opt/Aptana\ Studio\ 3/AptanaStudio3 /usr/bin/AptanaStudio3
```

5. Finally, you have to change the owner and/or group of your installation files; this will allow Aptana Studio to modify its files and carry out updates.

```
sudo chown thomas:thomas ./Aptana\ Studio\ 3 -R
```

6. Now, you can start Aptana Studio just by executing the following instruction on the command line:

```
AptanaStudio3
```

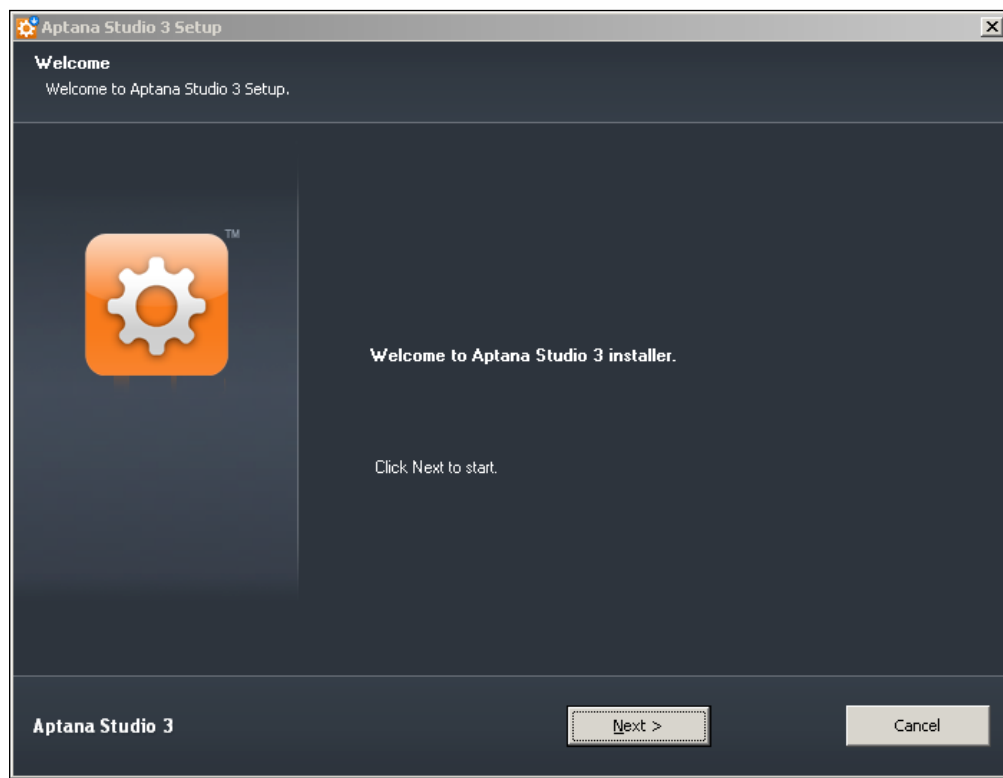
What just happened?

We installed Aptana Studio on a Linux-based operating system.

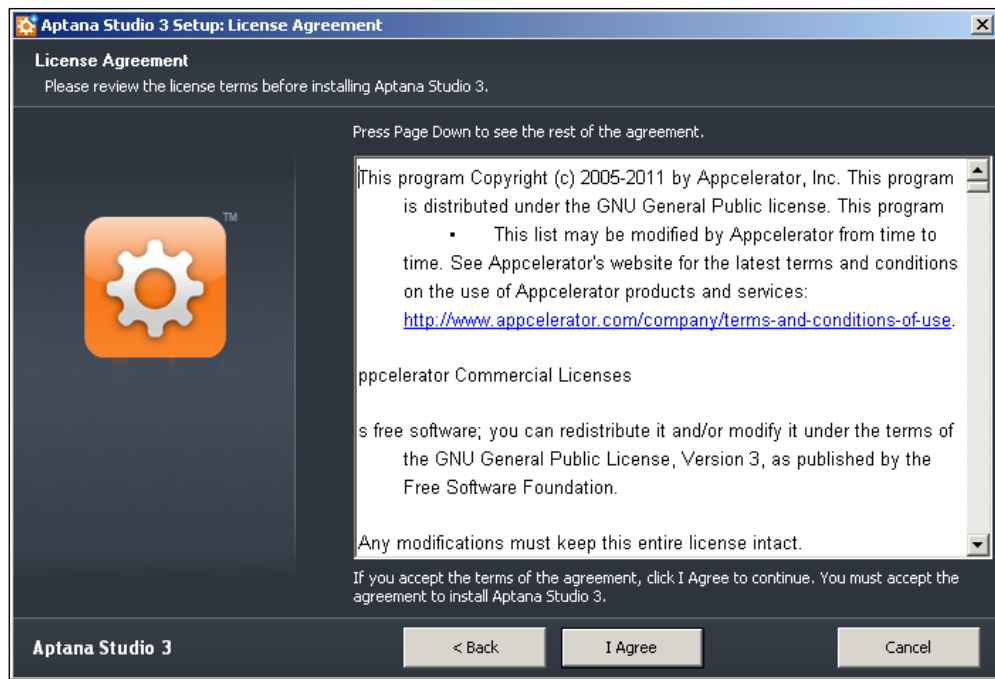
Installing Aptana Studio on Windows is much easier; you just have to follow the Windows Installer.

Time for action – downloading and installing Aptana Studio on Windows

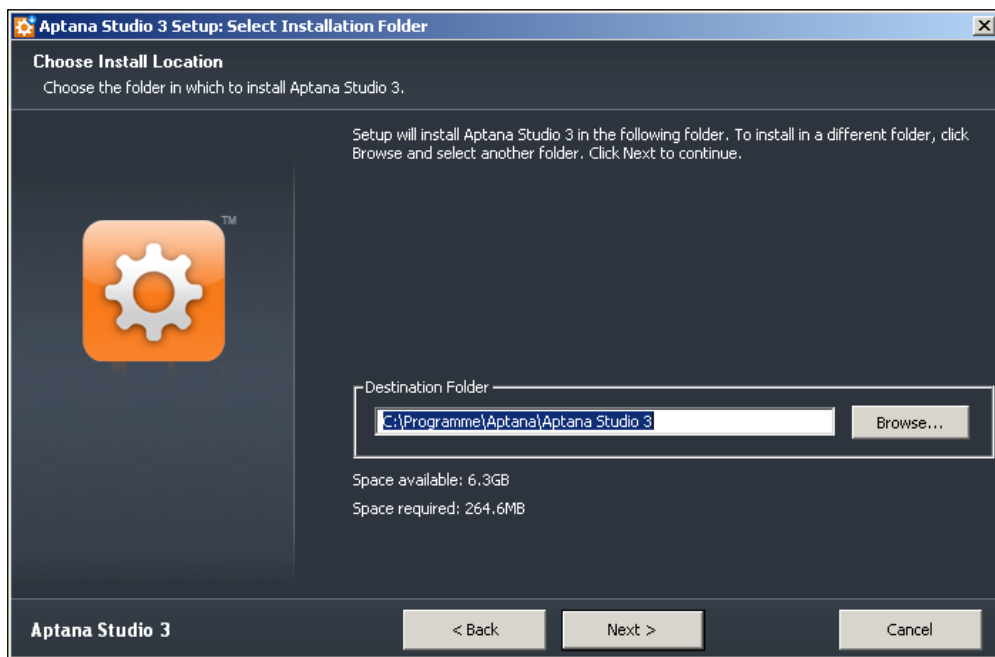
1. In order to download the current version of Aptana Studio, navigate to the Aptana homepage at <http://www.aptana.com/products/studio3/download>.
2. Simply select your system environment on the website and download the Aptana Studio package to your workstation.
3. Double-click the downloaded .exe file in order to start the installation process.
4. Now, you have to follow the installation instructions; click on **Next**.



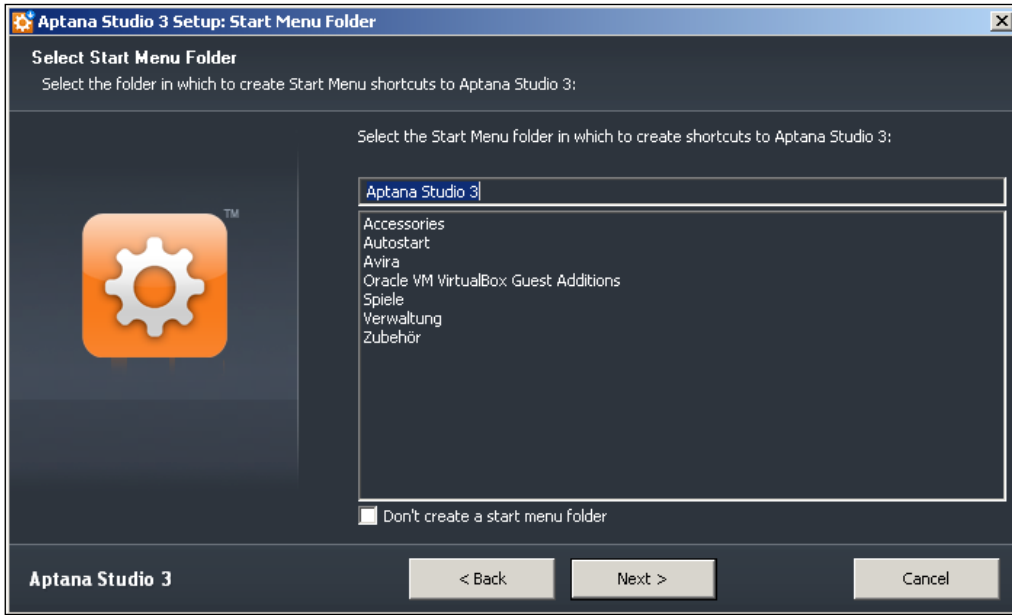
5. Click on the **I Agree** button to accept the terms of agreement.



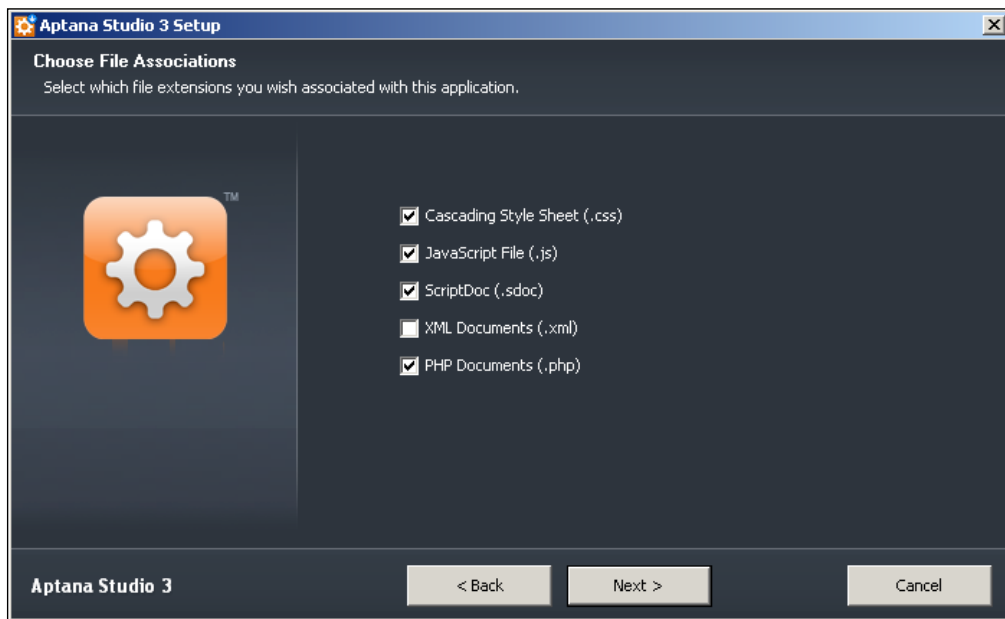
6. Select a folder for Aptana Studio to be installed in.



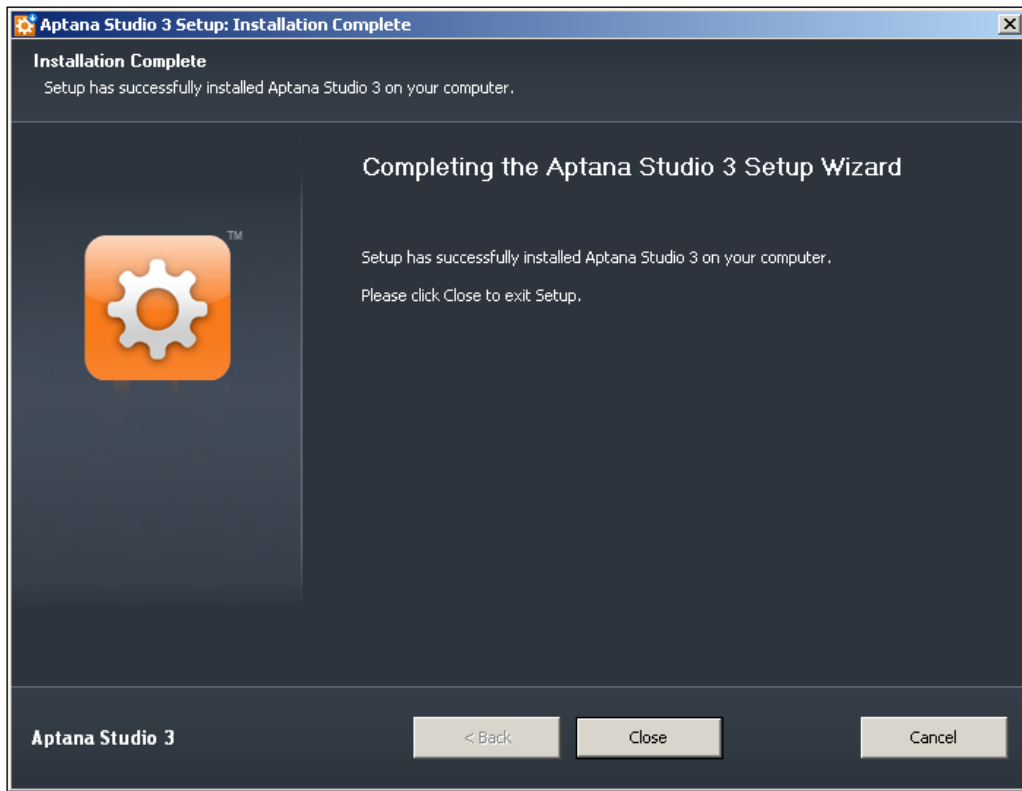
7. Now, select a Start menu folder.



8. Last but not least, select the file extensions to be associated with Aptana Studio.



9. Now, click on the **Install** button in order to start the installation.
10. After the installation process is over, just click on the **Close** button to finish the installation.



What just happened?

We just installed Aptana Studio on a machine running a Windows operating system.

Time for action – downloading and installing Aptana Studio on Mac

1. In order to download the current version of Aptana Studio, navigate to the Aptana homepage at <http://www.aptana.com/products/studio3/download>.
2. Simply select your system environment on the website and download the Aptana Studio package to your workstation.
3. Double-click the downloaded .dmg file in order to extract the installation files.
4. After that, you just have to drag Aptana Studio into your **Applications** folder.

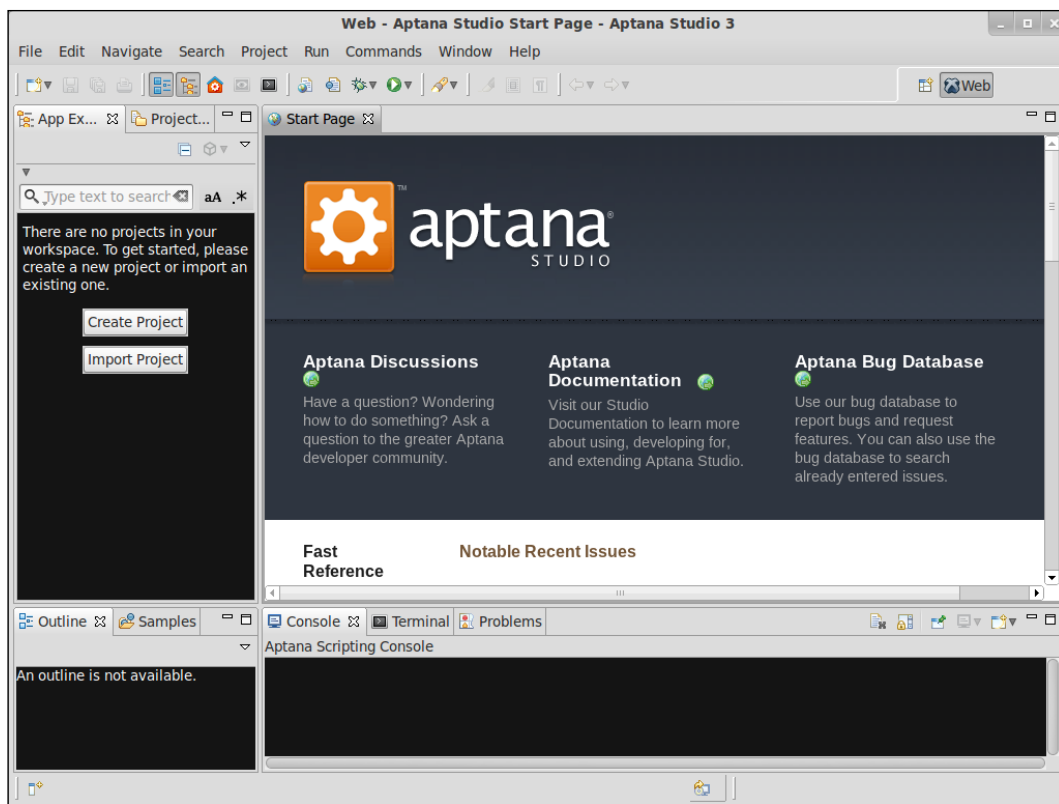


5. And that's it!

What just happened?

We installed Aptana Studio on a Mac operating system.

After the first start, Aptana Studio looks like the following screenshot:



How to increase memory for Java

Because Aptana Studio is based on Java, ensure that you allow Java to allocate the required amount of memory. In the default configuration of Aptana Studio, memory parameters are adjusted for common large projects and workspaces. Aptana Studio comes with two parameters for handling this memory usage:

- ◆ The `-Xms` parameter defines how much memory Aptana Studio should allocate at the start
- ◆ The `-Xmx` parameter defines the maximum amount of memory that Aptana Studio is allowed to be allocated (Java heap memory)

But sometimes, when you have many large projects, for example, you may get better performance by increasing the maximum heap memory.