Installing Scratch

Scratch is available in two flavors[1]. Scratch 1.x (latest is 1.4), which was written in Squeak, and is available in an offline version only; and Scratch 2.x (latest is 2.0), which was written in ActionScript, and is available in an online and offline version.

We use Scratch 2.0 at school. Scratch 2.0 can load and run Scratch 1.4 projects; however, Scratch 1.4 cannot load and run Scratch 2.0 projects. It is recommended you use Scratch 2.0 at home.

The latest production version of Scratch as of this writing is version 2.0. However, Scratch 3.0 is currently under development and has an alpha release planned for late 2017. Scratch 3.0 is being developed in HTML5 and Google will affiliate with Scratch for this release.

Scratch 1.4 is open source and does not require you to purchase a license to use it (download here).

Scratch 2.0 is also open source and does not require you to purchase a license to use it (download here).

Running Scratch Version 2.0

1. To use the online version of Scratch 2.0 you do not need to install anything. Just visit this site and click on *Create* in the menu bar.
2. If you wish to save your work on the Scratch server you will need to click on *Join Scratch* and create an account. You can save your work on your local machine without joining Scratch by selecting *File->Download to your computer* while in the editor; however, creating an account will give you the option of saving on the server, to your local machine, or both.

Installing the Offline Version of Scratch 2.0

1. To install the offline version of Scratch 2.0, visit this website and follow the instructions.
2. If you don't already have Adobe Air installed you will have to install it. That is because Scratch 2.0 is written in ActionScript/Flash and Adobe Air is required to run Flash locally. Yes, I know Flash is *dead*, that is why the development team is working on Scratch 3.0 (in HTML5). Hopefully HTML5 will still be viable when MIT releases the production version of 3.0 in 2018.
3. Once you get Air and the offline version of Scratch installed you are ready to develop applications locally (without the need for internet access). You will also be able to double-click on an .sb2 file to open it, since the file associations for 2.0 will have been created.

The PDF Association still has not released a PDF specification that allows _blank as a target frame option. They have done some amazing work (e.g. pairing with partner members to create software like PDF Java Toolkit), but adding the _blank target frame to hyperlinks is not one of them (and the JavaScript option is mute since it is user configurable). If you are viewing this document in a browser and wish to open a link in a new tab, please right-click on the link and select *Open link in new tab* from the context menu, or hold the *Ctrl* (*Command* for Mac) key down before clicking on the link.

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[1] Scratch was developed with help from an NSF grant, and there are other non-MIT versions of Scratch, such as Berkeley's Snap! (formerly BYOB), as well as educational Scratch sites such as Harvard's ScratchEd, and Tufts University's ScratchJr.