



Empow Studios Software Resources for Virtual Classes

Updated 5/11/2020

See also: [System Requirements for Virtual Classes](#)

Empow teaches its students to code, create movies, build video games, architect buildings, design in Minecraft and more in industry-standard software. Most applications are available in Mac and PC versions and available for free either on a permanent or trial basis. Students that learn from us in person have access to their files in our learning management system, Talent Box, and so many download these applications so they can continue their projects from home. Our virtual students download these applications when they choose their program focus and the software required.

Talent Box is at talentbox.app.

Software	Type	Platform	Price
EV3 Programming	EV3 LEGO Mindstorms programming.	Win, Mac (<u>only</u> older than OS Catalina)	Free!
Flowlab	Online video game creation.	Browser	Free!
HUE Animation	Stop Motion Animation.	Win, Mac (<u>only</u> older than OS Catalina)	\$20 software, or \$70 camera bundle
IDLE (Python)	A Python editor that comes bundled with the Python programming language.	Win, Mac, Linux	Free!
Minecraft: Java Edition	The classic and most updated version of Minecraft.	Win, Mac, Linux, Chromebook which supports Linux	\$26.95
PyCharm	A programming editor made specifically for Python.	Win, Mac, Linux	Free!
Scratch	Learn coding online in a fun and visual way.	Browser	Free!
Sculptris	3D modeling using virtual clay.	Win, Mac (<u>only</u> older than OS Catalina)	Free!
Styky Animation	Digital stick figure animation.	Win, Mac (<u>only</u> older than OS Catalina)	Free!
Tinkercad	Online 3d modeling.	Browser	Free!
Virtual Robotics Toolkit	A virtual way to simulate real robots performing code.	Win, Mac	\$26 through Empow

Wick Editor	Online digital animation.	Browser	Free!
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Note: “Browser” means the software runs in a web browser. This type of software is compatible with tablets/ipads and Chromebooks, while the rest are not.

Installation Instructions:

Please follow the blue links to download the applications, if downloadable. Installation of programs on your computer is similar across most software. However, there are sometimes additional steps needed to ready the software for use by a student in Empow programs. Steps for those specific programs are listed below.

EV3 Programming:

On the [EV3 Programming download page](#), scroll down until you see the download for your operating system -- either Windows or Mac. Note that EV3 Programming is not supported on Mac OS 10.15 Catalina. (Students affected by that restriction will have another coding option available from the Robotics teacher.) Click the download button, run the app when it is done downloading, and follow the instructions in the install app.

Flowlab:

Flowlab does not need any installation as it is an online program which should work on any browser. Additionally, you do not need to create an account if your child is signed up for a Flowlab class/camp at Empow; we will create one and share it with you before the session starts. When the class ends, the account will be converted into a free account and you will have full ownership of the account.

HUE Animation:

Stop Motion Animation classes require one license of HUE Animation software as well as two webcams for each student participating. If you already have two webcams, follow [this link](#) and “Add to cart” to begin the purchase process for a single license of HUE Animation. If you are in need of an additional webcam, we recommend you purchase [this software + webcam bundle](#) from HUE Animation. Note that the physical bundle may take upwards of a week to ship.

Minecraft: Java Edition:

These steps assume that you do not already own Minecraft: Java Edition or have it installed. If you already own it, please just follow step 9 only. Note that Minecraft: Java Edition is a separate version of Minecraft from “pocket edition” or “Windows 10 Edition” and is therefore a separate purchase. Also, all versions of Minecraft require unique accounts, and therefore if you have more than one child joining a Minecraft class, a unique account will need to be purchased for each child, and each account username sent to Empow as per step 9 below.

For Windows, Mac, or Linux:

- 1) Navigate to [minecraft.net](#) in your web browser. Click “Get Minecraft”.
- 2) Click “Computer”. Choose your operating system.

- 3) Click "Minecraft: Java Edition".
- 4) Click "Buy Minecraft". You will now be prompted to create a Mojang (company who owns Minecraft) account if you don't have one. Follow the steps as prompted on the webpage, going through the "Register" and "Verify Email" steps.
- 5) After the "Verify Email" step, on the same page where payment info is requested, a username must be created by typing it into the box under "Minecraft Profile". Please choose a username and write it down. You will be asked for the username later in these steps and will need it henceforth for logging into the app.
- 6) Continue through the "Buy" and "Download" steps. On the last step, you will be prompted to download Minecraft.
- 7) Once done, run the installer app to complete the process and install Minecraft.
- 8) Run Minecraft:Java Edition, following the prompts to log in with your username/password and Play. This step is to make sure Minecraft: Java Edition is working on your computer.
- 9) Please email minecraftinfo@empow.me with the username and full name of the student who will be using this account. We do not need to know the password you made, only the username. This is a vital step in securing the Minecraft server so that we know who is joining and we don't let strangers in.

For a Chromebook:

- 1) On a supported Chromebook (most from 2019 onward), go to settings>Linux>Enable Linux.
- 2) After Linux is enabled, head to <https://www.minecraft.net/en-us/download/alternative/> and download the .deb Minecraft file.
- 3) Open the Files app, and click on Linux Files>minecraft.deb
- 4) Follow Installation procedures.
- 5) After installation, launch Minecraft: Java Edition and log in using your Mojang account credentials. If you do not own a Minecraft account, please refer to the **steps 1-6** in the paragraph above this one for steps to purchase an account. You may skip the download at the end of step 6.
- 6) Hit PLAY - so you can test out your install, and adjust a setting.
- 7) In Minecraft Settings, turn available graphics options to low.

If you already happen to own Minecraft: Java Edition but need to redownload it, navigate to [minecraft.net](https://www.minecraft.net), sign into your account, then navigate to <https://my.minecraft.net/en-us/store/minecraft/#owned> and you will see download options. Download and run the installer app, following the steps in the install process.

Python / PyCharm:

First download [Python](#). Download the installer for your computer system and run it. Make sure to check "Add Python ___ to PATH" (blank space will be a number) which is a checkbox immediately visible when running the installer. After that checkbox is checked, click Install and follow the rest of the prompts until done.

Then download [PyCharm Community version](#) (NOT Professional) for your operating system. Once the installer is downloaded and run, proceed through it by following the prompts until you reach a screen with multiple checkboxes. On this screen, you should see one checkbox labeled "Add launchers dir to the PATH". Make sure this box is checked, then press Next and keep confirming the prompts until the install is finished.

Scratch:

When using [Scratch](#), it's best to be logged into an account so that projects can be saved online. Before a student uses Scratch in an Empow program, please set up an account for them by clicking "Join Scratch" in the top right corner of the website and following the steps.

Sculptris:

On the [Sculptris website](#), click the orange "free download" button in the center of the page, then follow the instructions for downloading on your system. Also be aware that Sculptris may run slowly on computers with outdated hardware.

Tinkercad:

Before using [Tinkercad](#), parents/guardians should create an online account for their child to use. On the Tinkercad website, click "Join now" in the top right corner, then click "Create a personal account" and follow the steps.

Virtual Robotics Toolkit:

See: [How to install Virtual Robotics Toolkit](#)

Empow Support: 617-395-7527, support@empow.me

[Detailed System Requirements for Virtual Programs](#)