

Introduction

What is Scratch?

In movies, whenever the scene involves a programmer, he/she is typing lots of stuff at such a high speed that their fingers are practically a blur. And the character does this for hours!! It is easy to look at such scenes and wonder, “Do I really think that I can reach that level?”

Well, in comes Scratch! Scratch is a unique programming language that is based on blocks – actual blocks. So no need to worry about creating pages of hand-typed code – all you will need to do is drag and drop. Cool, huh?

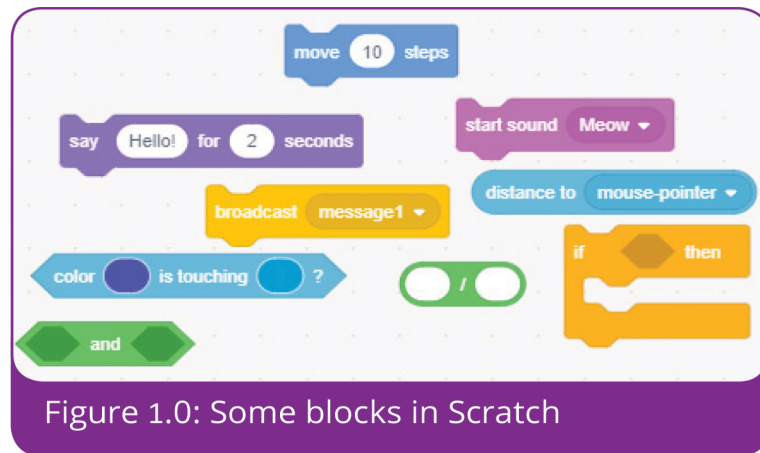


Figure 1.0: Some blocks in Scratch

Why use Scratch?

This is a wonderful place to start for anyone interested in programming or computer science. Like, anyone. Age isn't a problem and it is available in more than 70 languages.

What can be done with Scratch?

- Games
- Stories
- Animations and more!

License

Once you have created a project and tested it, you can upload it directly to the Scratch website. Members will be able to download, study and even make changes to your project's code.

As a member of the community, of course you can do the same. Feel free to comment on, tag, favourite and love others' projects. Also, if you have any ideas, you can share them!

Now that we are done with all the serious stuff, let us move on!

Opening an Account

Official Scratch Website

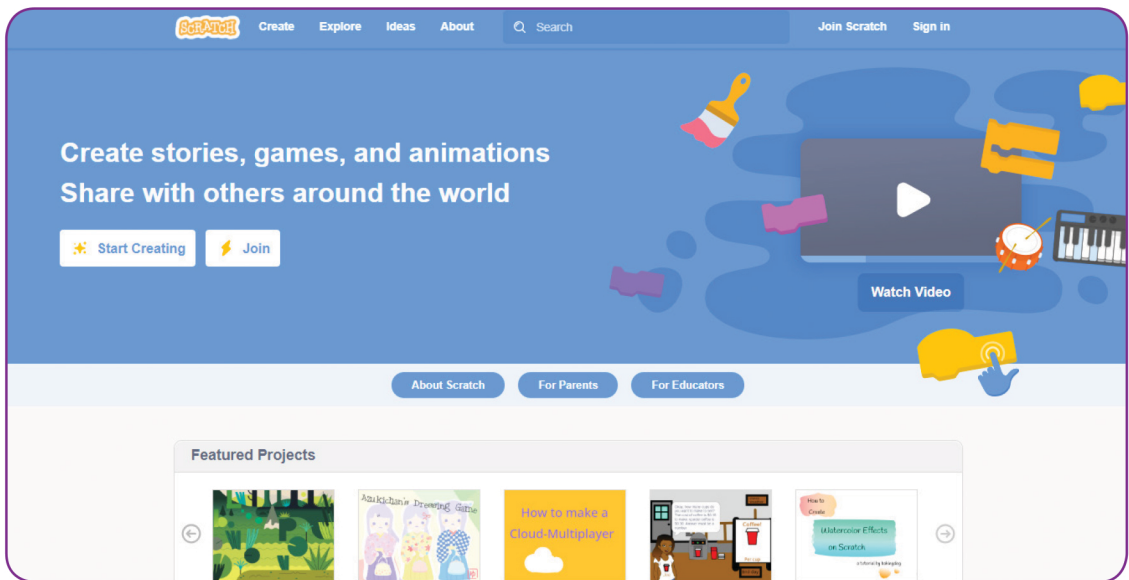
Now that you know that Scratch is perfect for you, let's get it onto your computer! In order to do so, we'll do so in this order:

1. Create an account with Scratch.
2. Gain access to the online and offline Scratch editors.

So, anyway, the official Scratch website is:

<https://scratch.mit.edu/>

Go on! Take a look! You know you want to! The home page should look like this:



At the top of the homepage is a menu with the options: Create, Explore, Ideas and About.

'Create' shows you how to... create! It has tutorials, so in case you would like video tutorials, you can check this out.

Click 'Explore' if you want to see what other users have created! Seriously, you will be impressed by how cool peoples' creations are!

'Ideas' is where you should go if your creative juices are...frozen. Get them flowing at this point.

For more info about Scratch as a programming language, go to 'About'.

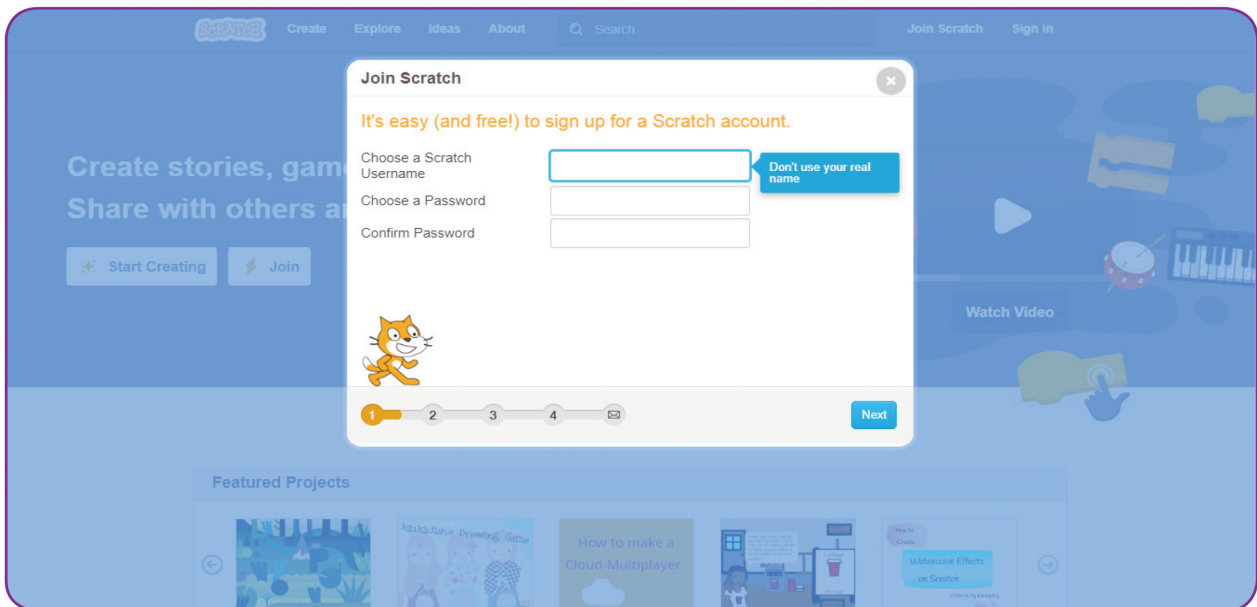
Satisfied? Then let us...

Create an Account with Scratch

First of all, go to the Scratch website. Here's the link again if you are too lazy to scroll up and click it (Yes, I am awesome that way):

<https://scratch.mit.edu/>

Now click the 'Join us' button. A little form should appear so that the page will look like this:



To create an account, you will need:

- A username – something unique and totally you.
- A password – please NOT your birthday or crush or pet.
- The month and year you were born
- Your gender
- Your country
- Your e-mail address (this is important, because scratch will send an e-mail to you to confirm your account. So, yeah, it has got to be legit.)

NOTE: If you ever forget your password or your username, you can go to this link to reset it. <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/editor/?tutorial=getStarted>

Otherwise, once you have followed the above instructions, congrats!! You now have a Scratch account! So, what next?

The Online Scratch Editor

To get to the online Scratch editor, click this link. The page displayed should look something like this.

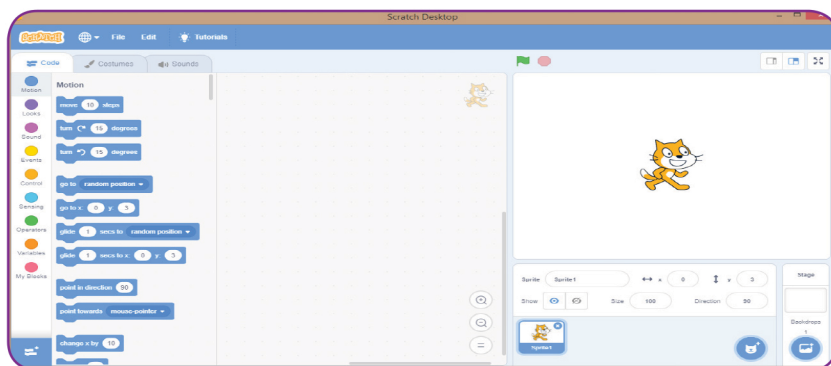
One of the pros of using the online editor is you can access your work on any computer. Meaning, if you have a sibling who you believe will one day make the mistake of thinking your computer is thirsty and will give it a drink; your work would still be safe. So, keep that in mind when making the decision.

The Offline Editor

To download this, click this link.

<https://scratch.mit.edu/download/scratch2>

Go to downloads and click the downloaded file. It will run an installer program. Don't worry about it. All you will have to do is follow the instructions. Once installed, when you open the program, it should look like:



One of the main advantages of using the offline editor is that you won't have to worry much about problems with your internet connection.

Now notice there isn't much of a difference between the online and offline editors. So don't worry much about the choice you make - either way works just as well.

There's a problem though: even though we have successfully opened the editor, you might be wondering what all the buttons are for. Let us get to that.