Microsoft releases a bold new update for Notepad

Microsoft is adding text formatting to its Windows Notepad app. The significant Notepad update is available for Canary and Dev Channel testers on Windows 11, and introduces bold and italic styling, alongside hyperlinks and even Markdown support.

The addition of text formatting in Notepad means there's now a formatting toolbar at the top of the app, alongside the existing File, Edit, and View options. The toolbar includes access to bold, italic, and hyperlink options, but it also includes support for lists and headings.

"The experience supports Markdown style input and files for users who prefer to work directly with the lightweight markup language," explains Dave Grochocki, principal product manager lead for Microsoft's Windows inbox apps. "You can switch between formatted Markdown and Markdown syntax views in the view menu or by selecting the toggle button in the status bar at the bottom of the window."

Since Notepad is usually used with plain text, you can also easily clear all formatting from the formatting toolbar or from the edit menu in the app. If you're not a fan of the lightweight formatting options, you can also fully disable this new support in the Notepad app settings.

This formatting addition to Notepad comes just a week after Microsoft started testing a new feature in the app that can generate text for you using AI. The new Write feature in Notepad can be used to "quickly draft text based on your prompt," and alongside these formatting options Notepad is

starting to look a lot more like Microsoft Word.

https://www.theverge.com/news/677474/microsoft-windows-notepad-bold-italic-text-formatting-markdown-support