

Getting started

Thank you for trying Nokta! Nokta is a note-taking app designed to be clean, fast, and clutter-free: a straightforward markdown editor, flexible note organization, and no unnecessary features getting in the way.

This manual walks you through everything the app can do. If you only read one tab, read this one — the rest goes deeper per topic.

The three panels

Nokta uses a three-panel layout:

- **Left panel — Notes.** Your note hierarchy. Create, organize, and manage notes here. The search bar at the top searches your whole notebook.
- **Middle panel — Table of contents.** Automatically generated from the headings in the current note. Click a heading to jump to it.
- **Right panel — Editor.** Where you write.

Drag the borders between panels to resize them. Toggle panels from the **View** menu (or `Ctrl+1` for the note index, `Ctrl+2` for the table of contents, `Ctrl+4` to reset the view).

Notebooks and .nokta files

Your notes live in a **notebook**, stored as a single `.nokta` file. One notebook is open at a time.

- **File → New** (`Ctrl+Shift+N`) starts a fresh notebook.
- **File → Open...** (`Ctrl+O`) opens an existing `.nokta` file. Recent notebooks are under **File → Open recent**.
- **File → Save** (`Ctrl+S`) writes the notebook to its `.nokta` file. **Save as...** (`Ctrl+Alt+S`) writes a copy under a new name.

While you work, everything you type is continuously stored in a local working database — closing a note, switching notes, or even closing the app never loses work: your latest state is simply there again on the next start. Saving with `Ctrl+S` writes that state to your `.nokta` file — do that when you want the notebook file itself (your backup/sync copy) up to date.

You can also open a **folder of markdown files** instead of a notebook — see the *Folder mode* tab.

Creating notes

- Right-click empty space in the left panel → **Add note** for a new top-level note.
- Right-click an existing note → add a child note inside it.
- Or use the **Notebook** menu: **Add note...** / **Add note to selected...** (`Ctrl+N`).

When creating a note you choose between a **note** (markdown content) and a **folder** (a container without content, used purely for structure — you can give it a synopsis).

Writing

The editor is a markdown editor with two synchronized views: a **rendered** view (formatted text, what-you-see-is-what-you-get) and a **plain** view (raw markdown). Use whichever you prefer, or both side by side. The *Editor* tab covers this in detail.

Where to go next

- **Editor** — formatting, tables, images, checklists, code blocks.
- **Organizing** — hierarchy, drag & drop, flags, the recycle bin, undo.
- **Search** — finding things back.
- **Folder mode** — editing plain `.md` files directly on disk.
- **Import & export** — getting notes in and out (including print/PDF).
- **Workflows** — publishing notes to GitHub or a webhook.
- **Shortcuts** — the full keyboard reference.

The editor

Notes are written in **markdown**. The editor shows your note in two synchronized views:

- **Rendered view** — formatted text. Type normally, use the toolbar, and see the result immediately. Markdown shortcuts work as you type: `#` becomes a heading, `**bold**` becomes bold, `-` starts a list.
- **Plain view** — the raw markdown text. Full control, byte for byte.

Both views edit the same note and stay in sync. Use whichever fits the moment.

Layouts

Use the toolbar's **Rich** / **Plain** toggles to show either view or both. When both are visible, choose the split direction under **View** → **Markdown split** (vertical or horizontal). The layout button in the bottom-left corner of the editor cycles through the layouts; right-click it to pick one directly.

Toolbar

The toolbar above the editor works on whichever view you used last.

- **Text formatting** — bold, italic, strikethrough, inline code.
- **Headings** — H1 to H4 (markdown itself supports up to H6 with `#####`).
- **Lists** — bullet list, numbered list, checklist.
- **Blocks** — block quote, code block.
- **Insert** — hyperlink, table, image.
- **Other** — clear formatting (rendered view), toggle the search panel.

Checklists

Create a checklist from the toolbar or by typing `- [ ]` at the start of a line. Click the box to check it off. Checklists can be nested with `Tab` / `Shift+Tab`.

Tables

Insert a table from the toolbar, or type pipe syntax in the plain view:

```
| Column A | Column B |  
| ----- | ----- |
```

| one | two |

In the rendered view, right-click a table for options: insert or delete rows and columns, toggle the header row/column, or delete the table.

Code blocks

Insert a code block from the toolbar or type ````` on an empty line. Pick a syntax highlighting language in the block's header. Right-click a code block to copy its contents or delete it. **View** → **Wrap code blocks** toggles line wrapping.

When you paste code from a code editor (VS Code and friends), Nokta detects it and pastes it as a code block automatically.

Note blocks (callouts)

Start a block quote with a type marker to get a colored callout:

```
> [!info] This is an info block.
```

Available types: `[!info]`, `[!note]`, `[!success]`, `[!warning]`, `[!error]`.

Images

Insert images via the toolbar button, by pasting from the clipboard, or by dragging an image file into the editor. Images are stored **inside your notebook** — the `.nokta` file is fully self-contained. Drag the corner of an image to resize it.

External web images (`http://...`) are deliberately not loaded inside notes, for privacy. Images are disabled in folder mode, because plain `.md` files on disk have nowhere to store them.

Links

Insert a hyperlink from the toolbar or type `[text](url)`. Right-click a link to open it in your browser, edit it, copy it, or remove it.

Moving blocks around

Hover over any paragraph in the rendered view and a **drag handle** appears in the left margin. Drag it to move the block. Hold `Shift` while dragging a heading to move the whole section (the heading plus everything under it, up to the next heading).

The handle's right-click menu also offers **Copy path** — a precise `nokta://` link to that block, which you can paste into an AI chat (see the MCP documentation under **Workflows** → **MCP...**).

Table of contents

The middle panel lists the headings of the current note. Click one to jump there. The headings currently visible in the editor are highlighted, so you always know where you are in a long note.

Undo, spell check, and history

- `Ctrl+Z` / `Ctrl+Y` undo and redo text edits. Each note keeps its own undo history for the whole session — switch away and back, and your undo trail is still there.
- Toggle the spell checker under **View** → **Spell checker**.

Focus & read-only

- **F11** enters focus mode: panels hidden, just your text.
- `Ctrl+0` toggles read-only mode, handy when reviewing without the risk of stray edits.

Organizing your notes

Hierarchy

Notes nest inside notes, to any depth. There is no artificial distinction between "folders" and "pages" — any note can contain children, and dedicated **folder** items are available when you want a container without content.

- **Drag & drop** a note onto another note to move it inside; drag between notes to reorder.
- Click the arrow (or double-click a note) to expand or collapse it. **Notebook** → **Collapse all** (`Ctrl+PageUp`) and **Expand all** (`Ctrl+PageDown`) work on the whole tree.
- **F2** renames the selected note.

Structural undo

`Ctrl+Z` / `Ctrl+Y` don't just undo text — when your focus is on the note tree, they undo **structural** operations: creating, deleting, moving, renaming, and importing notes.

Accidentally dropped a whole branch in the wrong place? One `Ctrl+Z` puts it back.

Text undo (inside the editor) and structural undo (in the tree) are separate histories; whichever has focus receives the shortcut.

Recycle bin

Deleting a note moves it (and its children) to the **recycle bin** — nothing is lost immediately. Show the bin with `Ctrl+5` or **Notebook** → **Show Recycle Bin**, where you can restore notes or delete them permanently.

Synopsis

Every note can have a short **synopsis** — a one-or-two-line summary, separate from the content. Enable **Notebook** → **Show synopsis** to see synopses under the titles in the note tree. Folder items show their synopsis in the editor pane. Synopses can also be included when exporting or publishing.

Flags

Right-click a note → **Set flag...** to mark it with one of eight configurable flag emoji — for example 🚧 *work in progress*, ✅ *reviewed*, 📌 *pinned*. The flag appears as a small badge

before the title.

Define what the eight flags mean under **Settings** → **Flags** (emoji + label). Changing a slot's emoji updates every note that carries it.

Flags are workflow markers: they are never exported with your content, and an AI connected over MCP can filter notes by flag ("list everything flagged 🚧").

Frontmatter

Every note can carry a block of **YAML frontmatter** — metadata like tags or a date, used when exporting or publishing. Right-click a note → **Edit frontmatter...**

Frontmatter is a *template*: literal lines (like `tags: [draft]`) are kept as-is, while `{...}` placeholders are filled in at export/publish time with the note's current values — `{title}`, `{id}`, `{created}`, `{modified}`, `{now}`, and more. Because they resolve at output time, `{modified}` always reflects the real last-modified date. The editor dialog shows a live preview of the resolved result.

The template for new notes lives under **Workflows** → **Manage workflows...** → **Frontmatter**.

Note info

Right-click a note → **Note info** shows its statistics: word count, character count, creation and modification dates, and more.

Copy path

Right-click a note → **Copy path** copies a stable `nokta://notes/...` link to that note. These links are mainly useful when working with an AI assistant over MCP — paste one into a chat to point the assistant at exactly that note (or, via a block's drag handle, at one specific paragraph).

Search

Nokta has two levels of search: across the whole notebook, and inside the current note.

Notebook search

The search bar at the top of the **left panel** searches all notes in your notebook — full-text, fast, with the best matches first. Results show a snippet with your terms highlighted. Click a result to open that note and jump through the highlighted matches.

The left panel needs to be wide enough to show the search input. Widen it by dragging the panel border.

In-note search

Ctrl+F (or **F3**) opens search within the current note. Matches are highlighted as you type; use the navigation buttons to jump between them, and the **Aa** button to toggle case sensitivity.

Both search inputs stay in sync: type in one, and the other follows. In-note search just doesn't open notebook-wide results.

Find and replace

Ctrl+H opens the replace panel (also reachable via the **>** button next to the in-note search input). Replace a single match or all matches in the current note.

In markdown notes, find-and-replace works in the **plain** (raw markdown) view. Search highlighting works in both views.

Folder mode

Folder mode turns Nokta into an editor for **plain markdown files on disk**. Instead of a `.nokta` notebook, you open a folder — its `.md` and `.txt` files appear in the left panel and you edit them directly, with Nokta's full editor, search, and table of contents.

Your files stay ordinary files: Nokta writes exactly the text you see, nothing more. Perfect for existing markdown collections, Obsidian vaults, project docs in a git repository, or a folder of loose notes.

Opening a folder

- **File** → **Open folder...**, or drag a folder onto the Nokta window.
- Recently opened folders are under **File** → **Open recent folder**.

A blue banner reminds you that you're editing files directly on disk. The bar above the note list shows the current folder path and an **Up** button.

Navigating

Folder mode shows **one folder level at a time**, like a file explorer:

- **Double-click a subfolder** to enter it.
- Click the **Up** button to go one level up — you can navigate above the folder you originally opened, all the way to the drive root.
- Single-clicking a folder shows a hint in the editor pane; entering is always a double-click (or right-click → **Open folder**).

Files are listed folders-first, alphabetically, with their extension visible (`notes.md`).

Saving — manual, like a code editor

Folder mode uses the save model you know from VS Code or Notepad++: **edits are yours until you save them**.

- A modified file shows a `*` before its name (and in the window title).
- `Ctrl+S` (or the single-save button in the folder bar) saves the **current file**.
- `Ctrl+Shift+S` / **File** → **Save all** (or the save-all button) saves **every** modified file.
- Navigating away, opening something else, or closing the app with unsaved changes shows a warning first — changes are only discarded if you confirm.

External changes

Nokta watches the open folder. When another program changes, adds, renames, or deletes files, the list updates within a few seconds.

If a file you have **unsaved edits in** is also changed on disk by another program, Nokta asks what to do when you focus that file: **reload** the disk version (your in-app edits are discarded) or **keep your version** (your next save overwrites the disk). Until you decide, your edits stay untouched.

Creating and renaming

- New notes are created as `.md` files in the current folder; new folders become real directories.
- **F2** renames a file (the extension is kept automatically). Folders can't be renamed from within Nokta.

What's different from notebook mode

Because plain text files have nowhere to store notebook-only data, some features are off in folder mode:

- **Delete is permanent** — there is no recycle bin; deleting removes the file from disk.
- **No images** — pictures can't be embedded in plain `.md` files.
- **No flags, frontmatter dialog, synopsis, or publish workflows** — these live in the notebook database.
- **No drag-reorder** — the file list follows disk order (folders first, then alphabetical).
- **No AI/MCP connection** — MCP works on notebooks only.

Everything else — the editor, search, table of contents, focus mode — works exactly the same.

Import & export

Nokta has dedicated pages for getting notes in and out. Both are reachable from the **File** menu; export is also in every note's right-click menu.

Export

Open **File** → **Export...** (or right-click a note → **Export...**). Pick what to export in the tree on the left — a single note, a branch, or the whole notebook — and choose a format:

- **Markdown** — plain `.md` files.
- **HTML** — themed, self-contained web pages.
- **EPUB** — one e-book with your notes as chapters.
- **Print / PDF** — a themed document sent to your printer or a PDF file. Also directly reachable with `Ctrl+P`.

For markdown and HTML you also choose the **structure**: everything combined into a single file, a flat folder of files, or a folder tree mirroring your note hierarchy.

Themed output

HTML and print/PDF exports can use your app theme, or any other theme, with configurable fonts, font size, and background. Print defaults to a printable light theme; HTML defaults to matching the app. A live preview shows exactly what you'll get — including a **Raw** toggle for markdown/HTML source.

What's included

Checkboxes control whether each note's **title**, **synopsis**, and **frontmatter** are included alongside the body. Frontmatter (with its `{placeholders}` resolved to real values) is only written to markdown exports.

Import

Open **File** → **Import....** Sources:

- **Markdown / text files** — one note per file.
- **A folder** — flat, or recreating the folder structure as a note tree.
- **Another `.nokta` notebook** — merges its notes (including images) into the current notebook.

Imported notes are **added** to your notebook — nothing is replaced. Choose where they land: at the top, at the bottom, or under a selected note. An import is a single structural operation, so one `Ctrl+Z` in the tree removes it again.

Drag & drop

Dropping files on the Nokta window is the fast path:

- a `.nokta` file → opens that notebook,
- a folder → opens it in folder mode,
- `.md` / `.txt` files → appends them to the current notebook.

Workflows & publishing

Publish workflows push a note to an external target — a file in a **GitHub repository** or an arbitrary **webhook** — straight from the note's right-click menu. Write your blog post, changelog, or documentation page in Nokta; publishing it is two clicks.

Everything is managed on the Workflows page: **Workflows** → **Manage workflows...** in the menu bar.

The pieces

- **Publish profile** — *where* to publish: a GitHub repo + branch + path, or a webhook URL. Profiles hold the credentials and are reusable across workflows.
- **Workflow** — *what* to publish and how: which profile to use, what to include (frontmatter, title, synopsis — the body is always included), and whether to show a preview before pushing.

Each workflow you create appears in the **right-click menu** of every note, under *Workflows*.

GitHub publishing

A GitHub profile needs a repository, a branch, a file path, and a fine-grained **personal access token** with content write access to that repo (the profile form links to instructions).

Publishing creates or updates the file; when updating, the preview step shows both your new content and what's currently in the repository.

Webhook publishing

A webhook profile posts your document to an `https://` URL, with an optional authentication header and an optional JSON body template (your document goes in as `{content}`). Use it to hook Nokta up to static site generators, automation tools, or your own services.

Webhooks must use `https://` — plain `http://` targets are refused.

Credentials are stored safely

Tokens and auth headers are kept in your **operating system's credential store** (Windows Credential Manager, macOS Keychain, or the Linux Secret Service) — never in plain text on disk.

Frontmatter template

The **Frontmatter** tab on the Workflows page holds the template that every new note starts with. Placeholders like `{title}`, `{created}`, and `{modified}` stay in the note as placeholders and are resolved to real values at publish/export time — so a published `date:` field is always accurate. See the *Organizing* tab for the full story on per-note frontmatter.

Flags as workflow state

Combine workflows with **flags** (right-click → *Set flag...*) to track state: 🚧 draft, 👁 review, ✅ published — whatever fits your process. Flags are never included in published output. See *Organizing* for details.

Working with an AI assistant

Nokta has a built-in **MCP server** (Model Context Protocol) that lets AI assistants — Claude, and any other MCP-capable client — work directly with your notebook. Instead of copy-pasting between your notes and a chat window, the assistant can read, search, create, edit, and organize notes itself, with your permission.

A few things this makes possible:

- *"Summarize our conversation into a note and turn the action items into a checklist."*
- *"Go through every note flagged 🚩 and fix the spelling."*
- *"Read my design document and set up a checklist of implementation steps."*

While the assistant works, the note tree briefly highlights what it's reading and editing, and its changes appear in the app immediately. If you and the assistant edit the same note at the same time, your version wins — the assistant is forced to re-read before it can write.

Where to find it

Everything MCP lives on its own page: **Workflows** → **MCP...**

- The **Configuration** tab sets up the connection with your AI client (for Claude Desktop it's one click).
- The other tabs are a complete guide: how it works, what the assistant can do, example prompts, and troubleshooting.

Keyboard shortcuts

Files & notebooks

Shortcut	Action
Ctrl+Shift+N	New notebook
Ctrl+O	Open notebook
Ctrl+S	Save (folder mode: save current file)
Ctrl+Shift+S	Save all (folder mode)
Ctrl+Alt+S	Save as
Ctrl+P	Print / PDF

Notes

Shortcut	Action
Ctrl+N	Add note to selected
F2	Rename selected note
Ctrl+Z / Ctrl+Y	Undo / redo — text in the editor, structure in the note tree

Editing

Shortcut	Action
Ctrl+B / Ctrl+I	Bold / italic
Ctrl+X / Ctrl+C / Ctrl+V	Cut / copy / paste
Tab / Shift+Tab	Indent / outdent list items
Ctrl+F or F3	Find in note
Ctrl+H	Find and replace

View & navigation

Shortcut	Action
Ctrl+1	Toggle note index (left panel)
Ctrl+2	Toggle table of contents
Ctrl+4	Reset view (show all panels)
Ctrl+5	Show recycle bin
Ctrl+PageUp / Ctrl+PageDown	Collapse / expand all notes
Ctrl+0	Toggle read-only mode
F11	Focus mode

More information

About Nokta

Nokta is a note-taking app designed to be clean, fast, and clutter-free. It is a one-person project, actively maintained and used daily by its developer.

- Website: noktanotes.badgersoft.nl
- Download & issues: [GitHub Releases](#)

If you encounter bugs or have suggestions, please open an issue on GitHub — feedback is very welcome.

Free version & license

The free version is the full app with three limits:

- up to **8 items** (notes and folders) per notebook — the first 8 in tree order are editable,
- **1** publish workflow,
- no **EPUB** export.

Folder mode is not limited — editing files on disk is always unrestricted.

A one-time license removes all limits, on all your devices. Buy and activate it under **Settings** → **License**; activation takes a license key and an internet connection once, after that the license works fully offline.

Your data

- Nokta stores all data **locally on your device**. Nothing is collected or sent anywhere.
- Your notebook is a single `.nokta` file — easy to back up, sync, or move. **Settings** → **Database** → **Open database folder** shows where the working database lives.
- Publishing credentials (GitHub tokens, webhook headers) are stored in your operating system's credential manager, not in the app's files.

Backups

Nokta is stable and looks after your data carefully, but no software is perfect — keep backups of important notebooks. A `.nokta` file copied somewhere safe *is* a full backup, images included.

Disclaimer

Nokta is provided "as is", without warranty of any kind. Use at your own risk.

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