



# Potato: the POrtable Text Annotation TOol

TECHNOLOGY NUMBER: 2023.442

Technology ID

2023-442

Category

MOSS - Michigan Open Source  
Software

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## Easy to deploy

- 10+ templates and schemas
- Easy multilingual/multi-task annotation
- Fit for both internal annotation and crowdsourcing
- Editable UI

## Improving productivity

- Active learning
- Conditional highlighting
- Keyboard shortcut input
- Label tooltips

## Better quality control

- Built-in attention test
- Qualification test
- Pre- and post-screening questions
- Built-in time tracker

## High accessibility

- Free for everyone
- Fully open-sourcing
- Easy sharing annotation logs and configurations

## OVERVIEW

User-friendly web-based tool for streamlined text annotation tasks

- Simplifies annotation setup with minimal configuration, no coding needed
- Used for data labeling, linguistic research, machine learning, team-based text annotation

## INNOVATION

Potato is an intuitive web-based annotation tool that addresses the challenges of traditional text annotation by requiring minimal configuration and no coding expertise. It operates as a locally hosted web server, with a front-end accessible via a web browser, allowing quick setup and easy access for annotators. Driven by a single configuration file, Potato enables users to specify tasks and data types without delving into complex coding or web design. While it provides a default interface to get users started immediately, Potato also offers customization options for tailoring the user experience. This innovation significantly reduces the time and technical knowledge required to initiate annotation tasks, making it suitable for both individual annotators and small teams. Real-world applications include data labeling for machine learning models, linguistic research annotation, and efficient collaborative text annotation projects. Potato democratizes the annotation process, promoting broader participation and expedited project workflows.

**Project Links**

- [Potato code repository](#)
- [Potato documentation](#)

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**Department/lab** [David Jurgens](#)

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**Target audience**

- Text annotators & annotation researchers

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**Seeking**

- Users
- Contributors
- Industry partners

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