Textastic for iPhone Manual

Textastic for iPhone Manual

1 Viewing and Editing Files

2 Importing and Managing Files

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Viewing and Editing Files

How does the additional row of keys above the standard keyboard work?

Textastic adds a set of additional keys above the standard keyboard. These allow you to enter 40 different special characters quickly without having to switch to another keyboard layout or scrolling a list of keys and also add direct access to undo and redo.

Using the swipeable keys
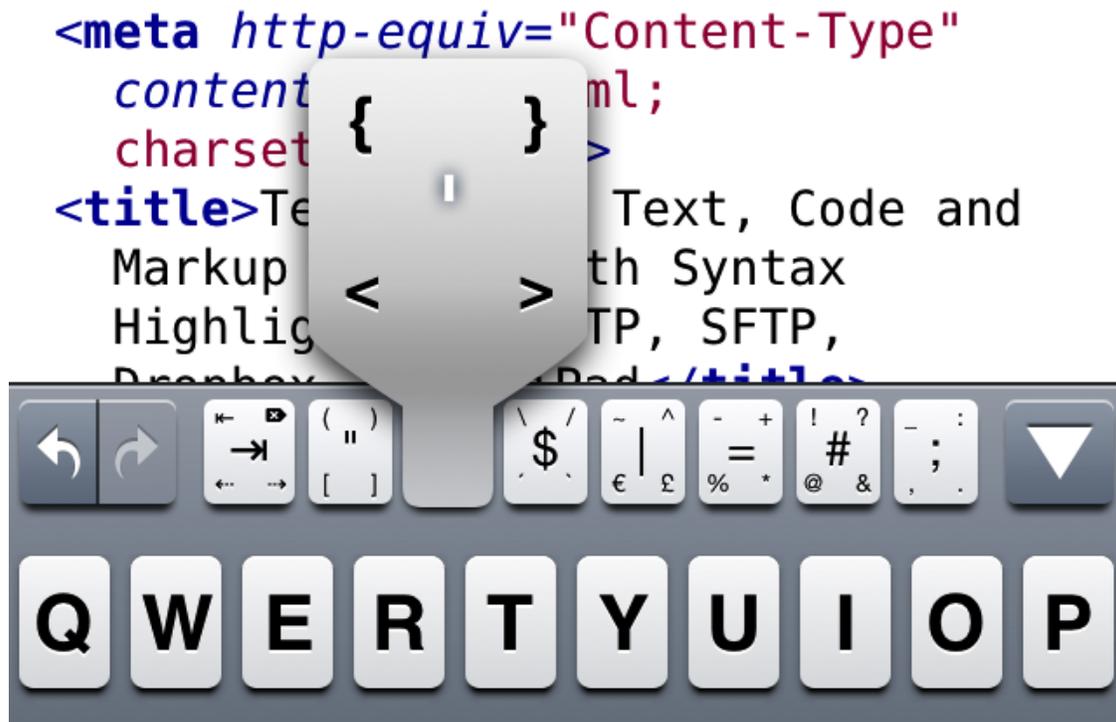
If you want to enter the character in the middle of the button, just tap on the button.

If you want to enter one of the other four characters, make sure to **swipe over the button in the direction of the character** you want to type.

Tab key
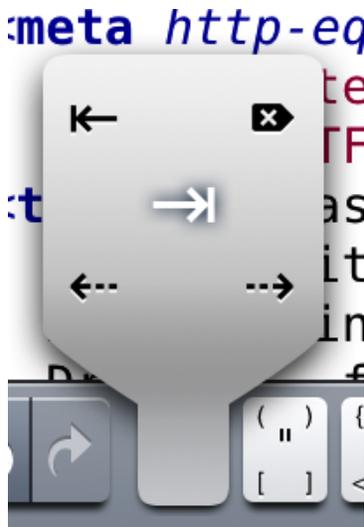
The first swipeable key in the row has some special functions:

Tap on the key to enter a **tab character**. If text is selected, pressing the tab key will **indent the selected lines**. This is equivalent to "Shift Right" in the editing menu.
The character in the top left corner is an **"untab" character.** It has the reverse effect of the tab character and allows you to **unindent selected lines**. This is equivalent to "Shift Left" in the editing menu.

The character in the top right corner is **forward delete**. It deletes the character that follows after the cursor and is the equivalent of the "Del" key on regular keyboards.

The bottom left character moves the cursor to the **beginning of the current line**.
The bottom right character moves the cursor to the **end of the current line**.

Undo and redo

Tap on the arrow pointing to the right to undo your last editing step. Tap on the right arrow for redo.

Dismissing the keyboard
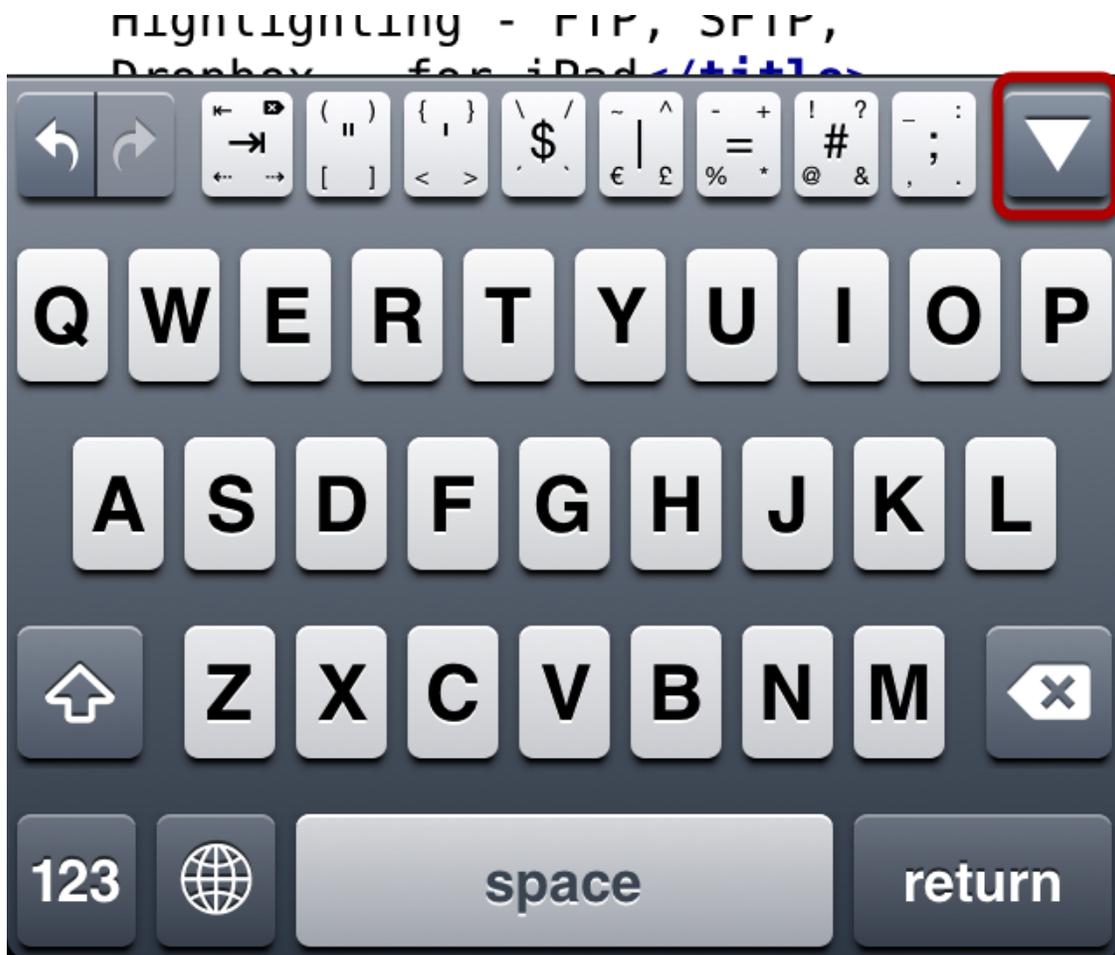
Tap on the button in the top right corner to dismiss the keyboard.

How can I move the cursor using swipe gestures?

You can use swipe gestures to quickly move the cursor when you are editing text.
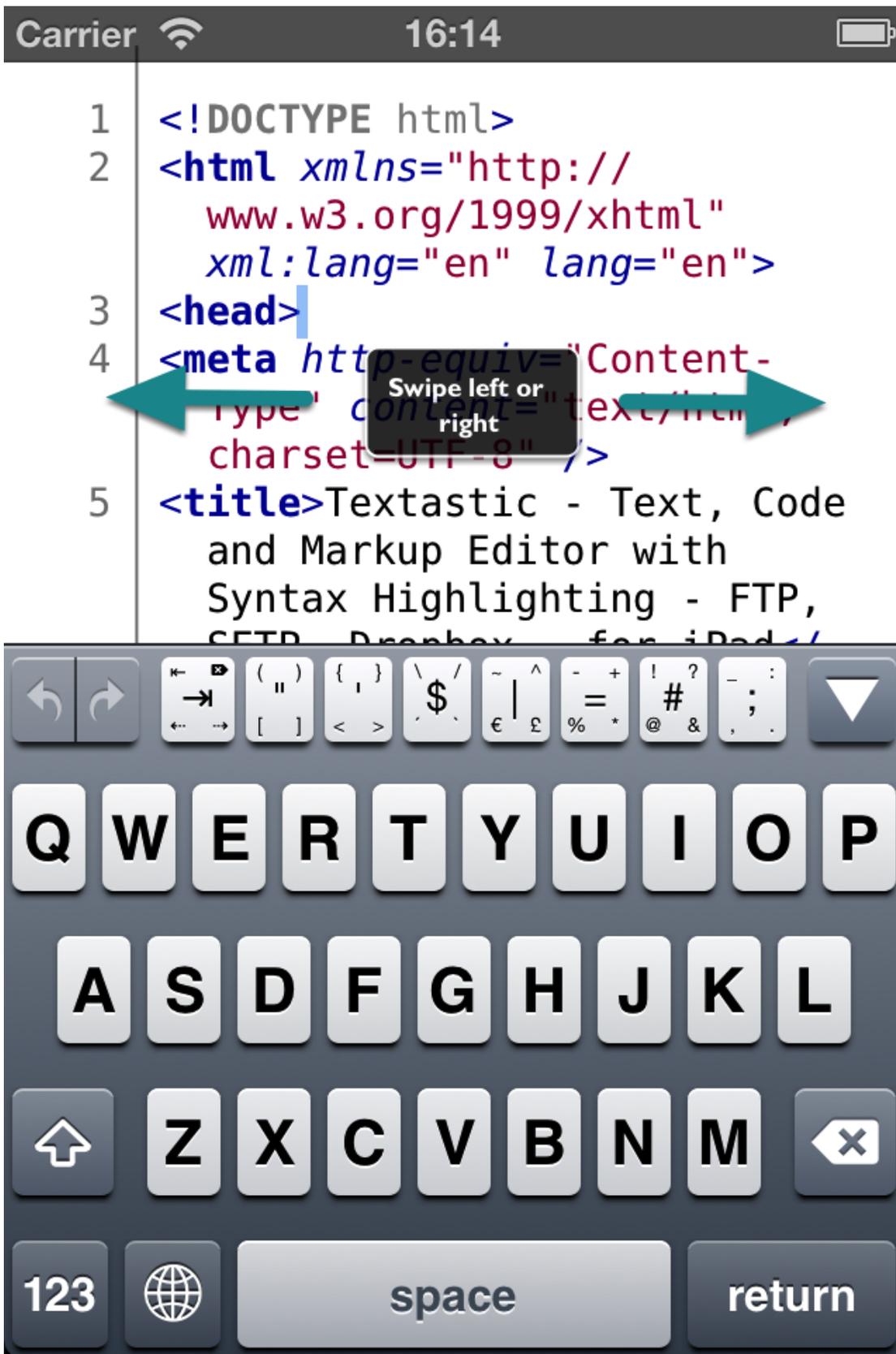
The following gestures only work when the keyboard is up:

Swipe in the direction you want to move the cursor (left or right).

Swipe with **one finger** to move **one character** at a time.

Swipe with **two fingers** to move **to the next word boundary**.

Swipe with **three fingers** to move **to the start or end of the current line**.

Which keyboard shortcuts can I use with an external hardware keyboard?

Here you can find a list of keyboard shortcuts you can use when you connect a wireless bluetooth keyboard or a keyboard dock to your iPad. These shortcuts work in all iOS apps.

Keyboard Shortcuts

Keyboard shortcuts supported by iOS / iPad:

- **Cmd+A** - Select All
- **Cmd+C** - Copy
- **Cmd+X** - Cut
- **Cmd+V** - Paste
- **Cmd+Z** - Undo
- **Cmd+Shift+Z** - Redo
- **Shift+Arrow** - Select text
- **Cmd+Up/Down** - Move cursor to the beginning/end of the file
- **Cmd+Left/Right** - Move cursor to beginning/end of the current line
- **Alt+Left/Right** - Move cursor to the previous/next word
- **Esc** - Bring up virtual on-screen keyboard
- **Alt-Delete** - Delete the word to the left of the cursor
- **Cmd-Delete** - Delete everything on the current line to the left of the cursor

iOS also supports these **Emacs** keybindings:

- **Ctrl-A** - Move cursor to the beginning of the line
- **Ctrl-E** - Move cursor to the end of the line
- **Ctrl-F** - Move cursor forward one character
- **Ctrl-B** - Move cursor backward one character
- **Ctrl-K** - Kill/delete text between cursor and the end of the line
- **Ctrl-H** - Delete one character to the left

Textastic also supports these special shortcuts:
- **Tab** - Indent selected text
- **Shift-Tab** - Unindent selected text

Note: Unfortunately, the standard shortcuts are entirely provided by the iOS operating system and there's no way for third party developers to extend them with custom shortcuts that use modifier keys like Ctrl, Cmd or Alt.

Which file types are supported?

A list of supported programming and markup languages.

Supported file types

Textastic has **syntax highlighting support** for the following plain text file types:

- ActionScript
- Active4D
- Ada
- Apache (conf, htaccess)
- AppleScript
- ASP, ASP vb.NET
- BibTeX
- C
- C#
- C++
- CoffeeScript
- ColdFusion
- CSS
- CSV
- D
- Diff
- DokuWiki
- Dylan
- Eiffel
- Erlang
- Fortran
- Grails Server Page
- Groovy
- Haskell
- HTML (various variants)
- Ini
- Java
- Java properties
- Java Server Page
- JavaScript
- JSON
- LaTeX
- LESS
- LilyPond
- Lisp

- LiveCode
- Logo
- Linden Scripting Language (LSL)
- Lua
- Mail
- Makefile
- Markdown
- MATLAB
- Mediawiki
- MEL
- MIPS Assembler
- Modula-3
- MulitMarkdown
- Nemerle
- Objective-C
- Objective-C++
- OCaml
- Octave
- Pascal
- Perl
- PHP
- PowerShell
- Prolog
- Property List
- Python
- R
- Regular Expressions
- RJS
- Ruby
- Ruby Haml
- Ruby on Rails
- Scala
- Scheme
- Shell Script
- SQL
- SSH Config
- Stata
- Strings File
- TCL
- TeX
- Textile
- TSV
- Verilog

- VHDL
- XML
- XSL
- YAML

Note: Textastic uses syntax definitions and themes from [TextMate](). You can also [add your own syntax definitions and themes]().

## How can I add my own syntax definitions, themes and templates?

Textastic allows you to add your own custom syntax definitions and themes. You can add [TextMate](#)-compatible **.tmbundle** packages and **.tmTheme** files. You can also add custom file templates that appear in the file creation screen.

Carrier	16:33	
Help	**Files**	Edit

📁 **textasticapp.com** ›

GettingStarted.textastic
1.1 KB   04.08.12 16:12
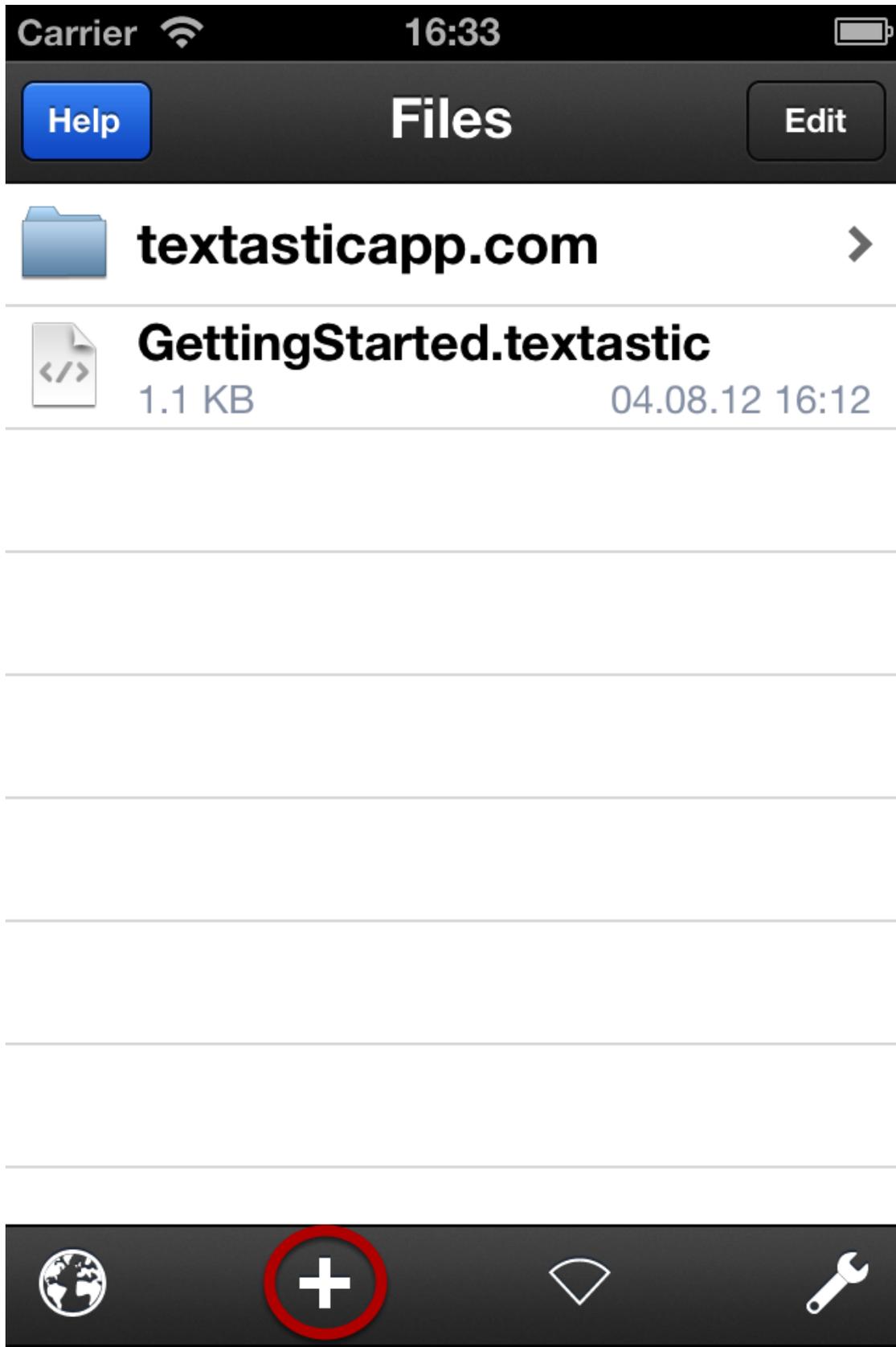
Go to the root folder in the *Files* section. Tap on the "+" button.
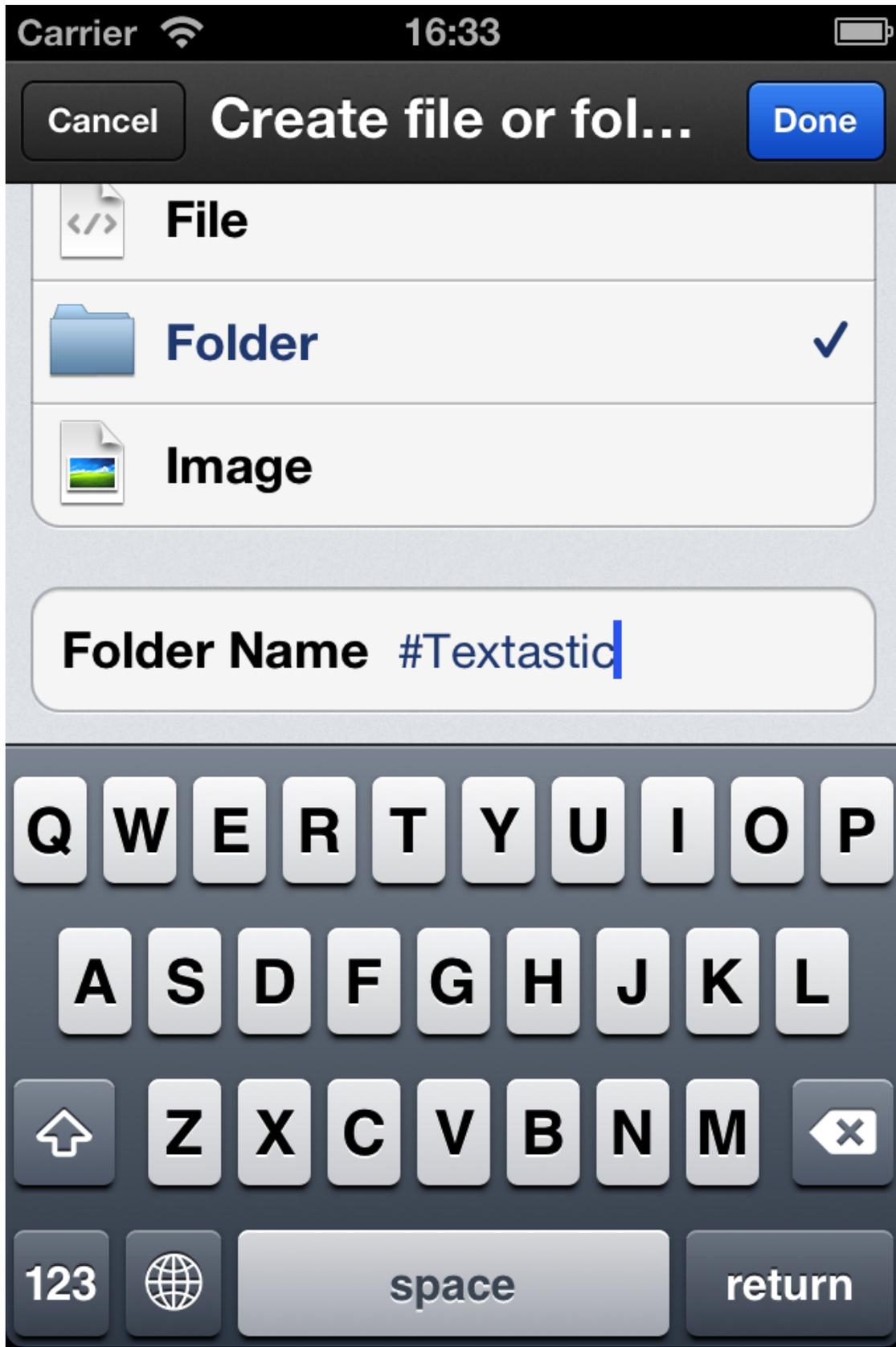
Choose "*Folder*" and enter "#Textastic" in the *Folder Name* field. Tap "Done".

Check folder icon
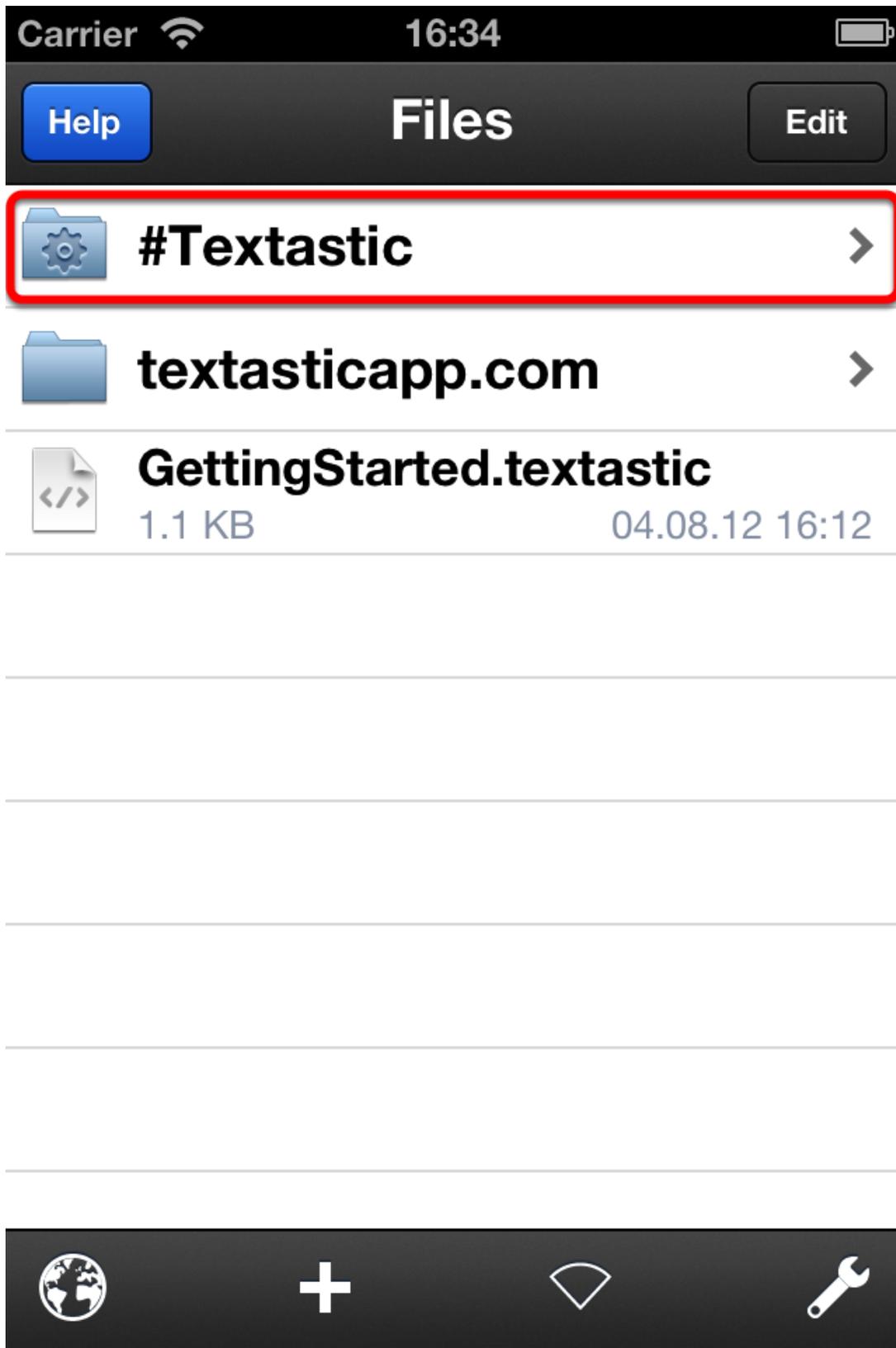
Make sure the newly created folder has a **special icon** as seen in the screenshot. The name of the folder is case sensitive.

Copy custom syntax definitions and themes

Carrier 🔋 16:38

Files **#Textastic** Edit

📁 **Custom.tmBundle** ›

📄 **Custom.tmTheme**
1.2 KB   04.08.12 16:38
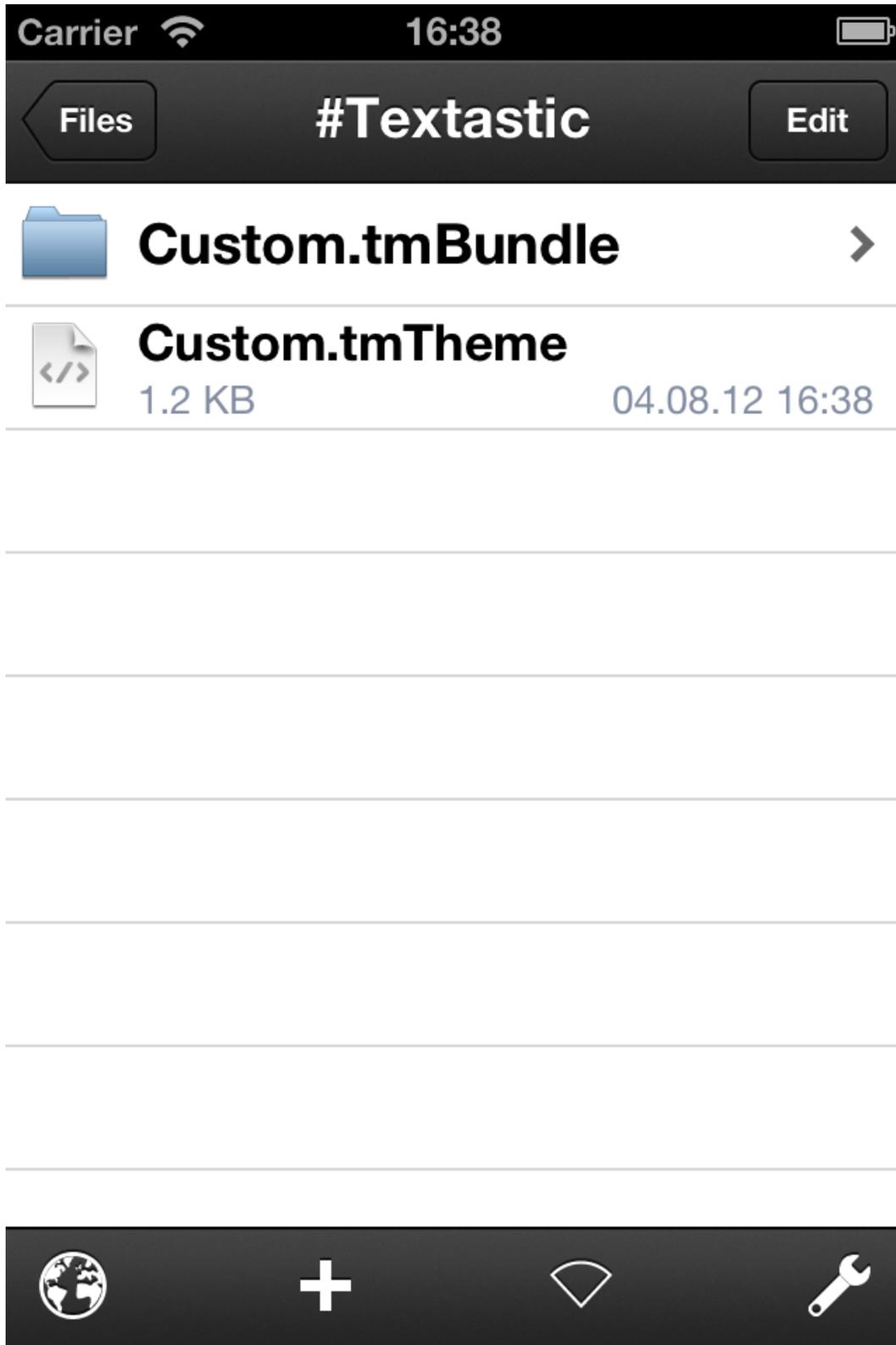
Copy your .tmbundle TextMate bundles and .tmTheme themes into the newly created directory.

You can use Dropbox, FTP or the WebDAV server to do that.

Restart the app
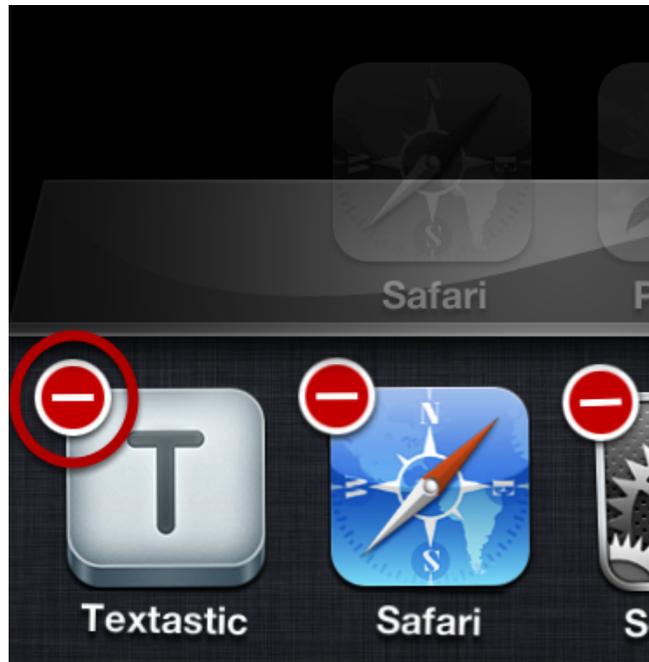
The new files are loaded on application startup. Please restart the app for changes to take effect.

To do this, leave the app by tapping on the home button once. Then open the task switcher by hitting the home button twice, and then hold down on Textastic until the icon starts jiggling. A red "-" should appear on the corner of the app icon. Press it to quit the app.

After you start the app, the new syntax definitions can be chosen in the *File Properties* popover. You can select added themes in the settings screen.

Carrier 🛜 16:37 🔋

Create **Template**

HTML

HTML 4.01 Strict

HTML 4.01 Transitional

HTML5

XHTML 1.0 Strict

XHTML 1.0 Transitional

XHTML 1.1

Textastic

Template

XML

XML
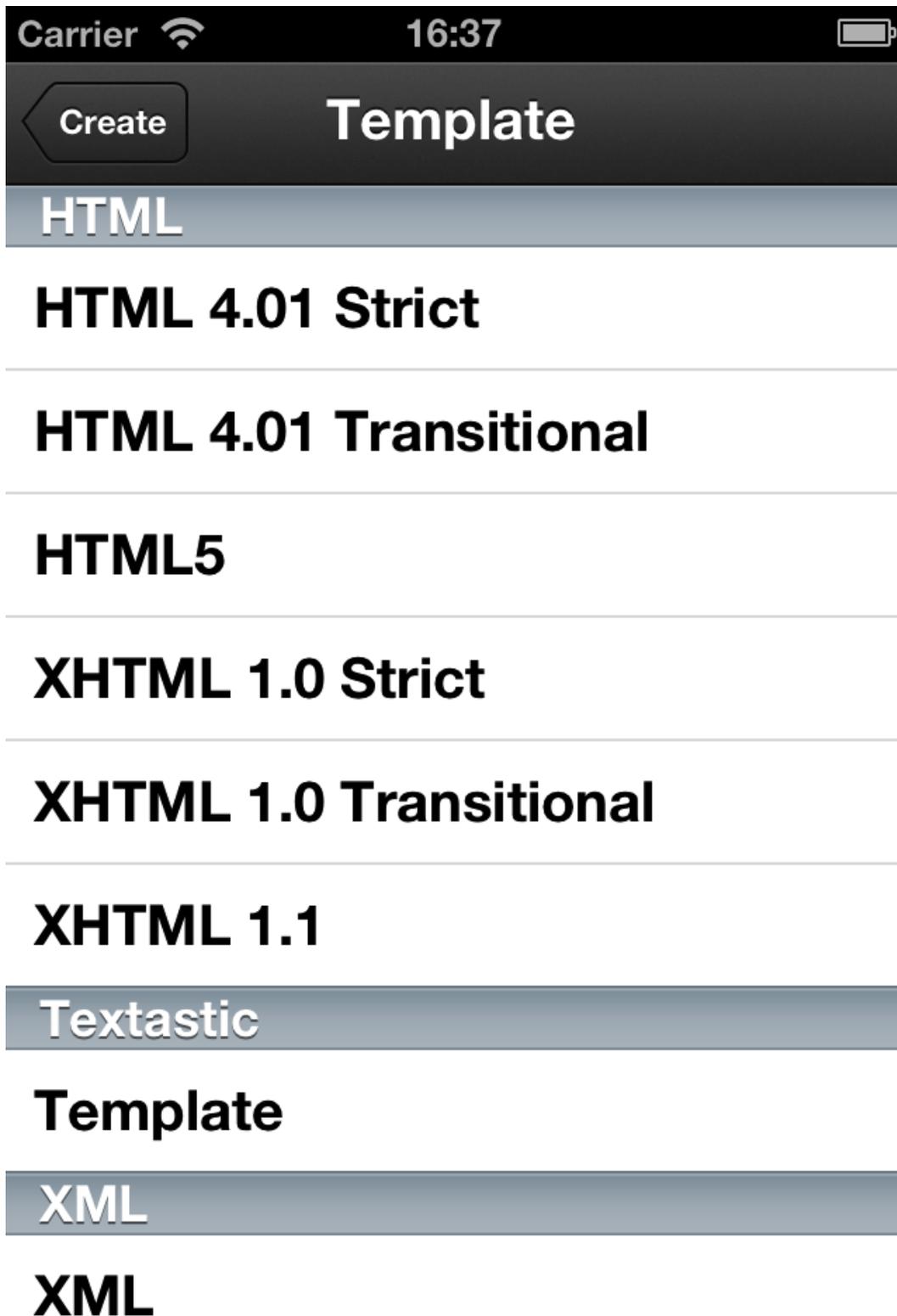
You can also add your own templates that you can select in the file creation dialog.

You can find a detailed description and example files at

https://github.com/blach/Textastic-Customization

Which URL schemes can be used to call Textastic from other apps?

Textastic exposes actions that can be used by other apps using the x-callback-url specification. The *textastic://* scheme can also be used to view the source code of websites.

Supported URL schemes

You can find detailed information about the supported URL schemes [in this document](#).

The *x-callback-url* API is supported by Textastic 4.4 and later.

How can I show a list of recently opened files?

Using the *Recent Files* list you can quickly switch between different files - even when they are located in different folders. This popover also has a button to close the currently open file.

Tap on the current file name
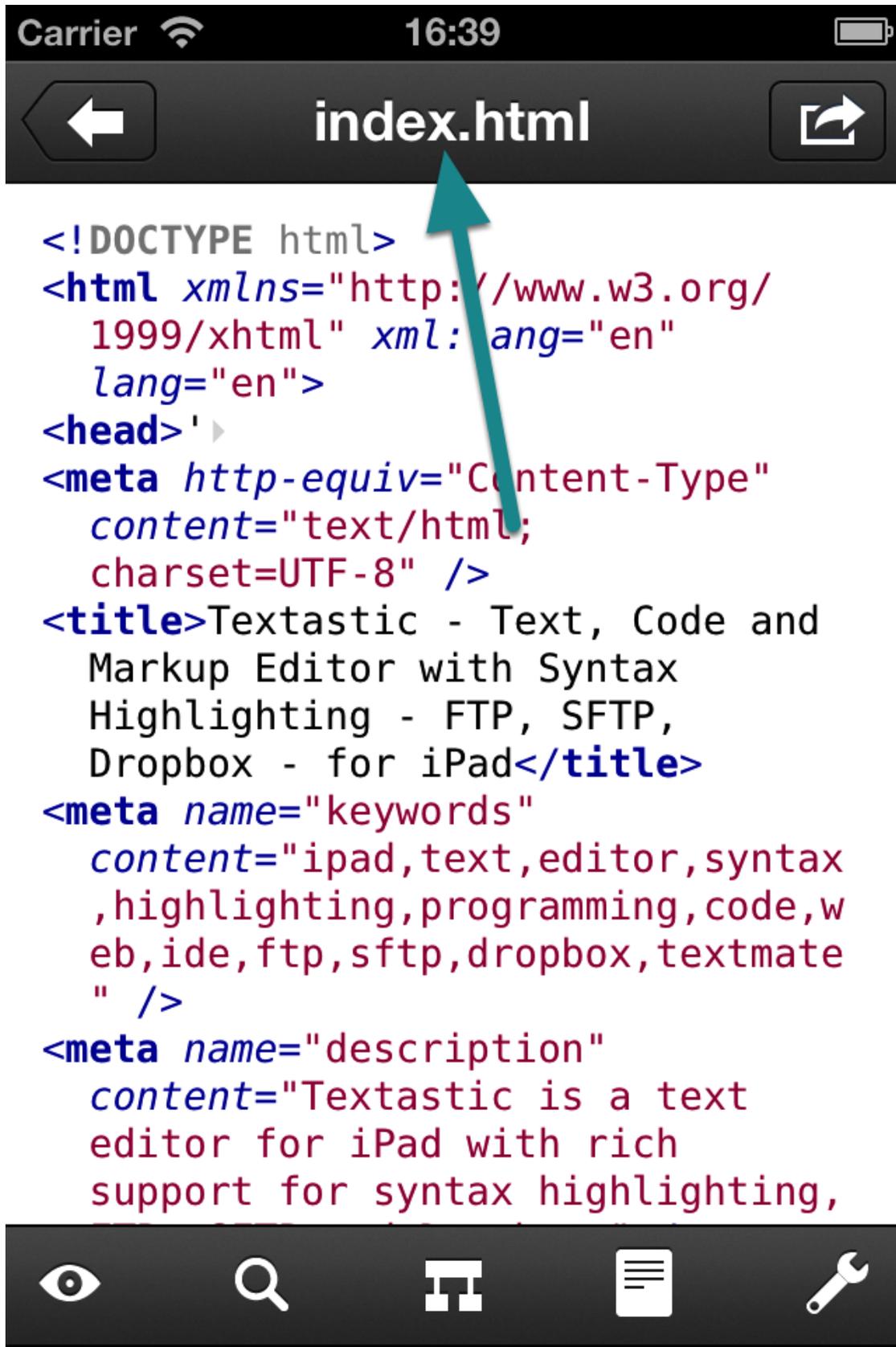
You can show a list of *Recent Files* by **tapping on the name of the current file** above the editor.
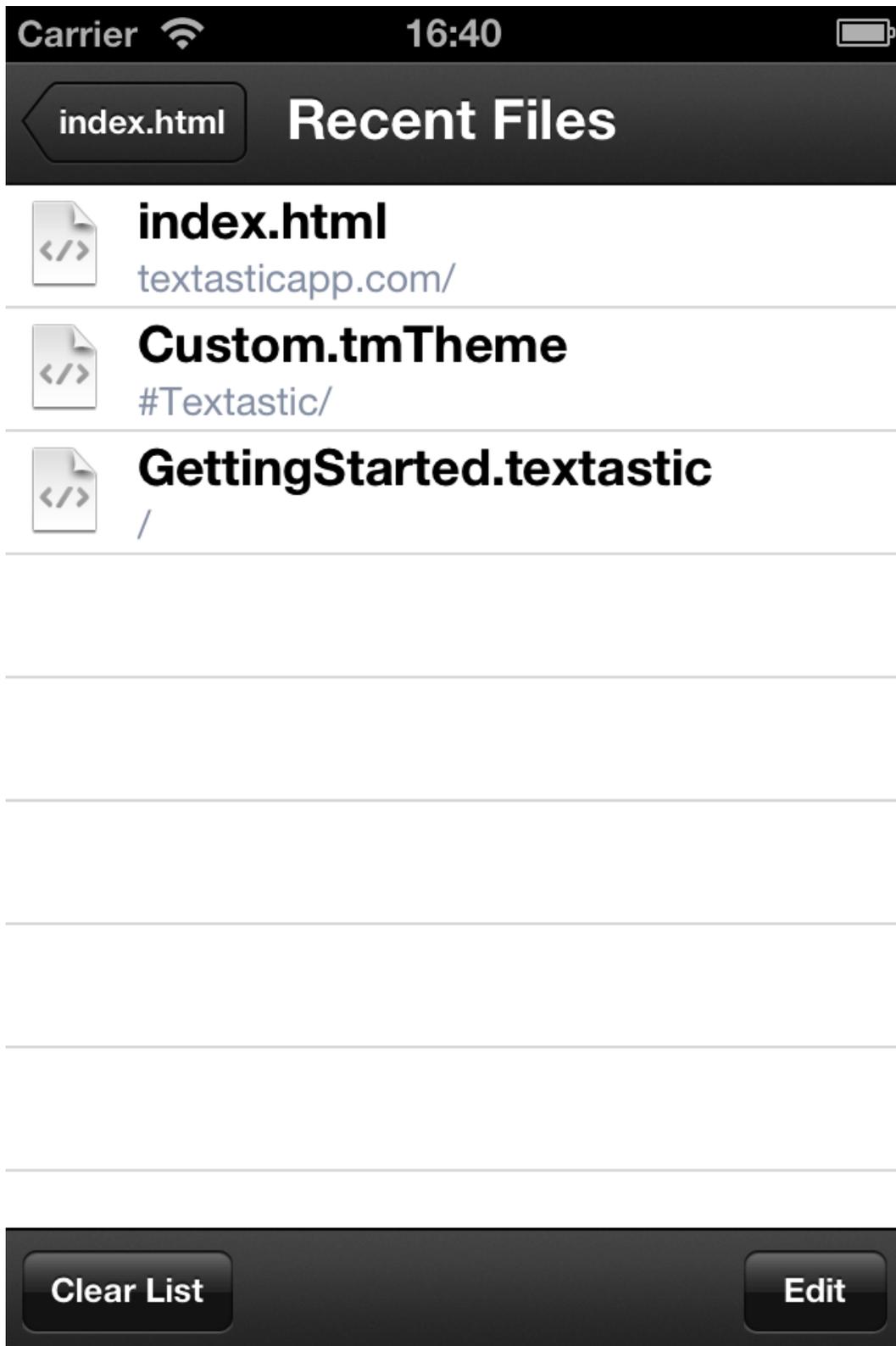
Switch to a file by choosing it from the list.

Use the **Clear List** button to remove all files from the list or tap on the **Edit** button to delete only

some of the files from the list.

How can I view an image file or open it in another app?

Textastic supports the preview function of iOS which allows you to view image, pdf and office files.

Tap an image, pdf or office file to show a preview.

Tap and hold a file and tap on **"Open In..."** to open the file in another app that can edit or view this

type of file.

When does Textastic save file changes?

Here you can find details about the saving mechanism.

Notes

Textastic **automatically saves file changes every 10 seconds** and when the file is closed to open another file.

By using the **Undo** button you can undo changes in the currently open file.

Importing and Managing Files

How do I open files from other apps?

Many iPhone apps support the **Open In...** menu. See some examples.
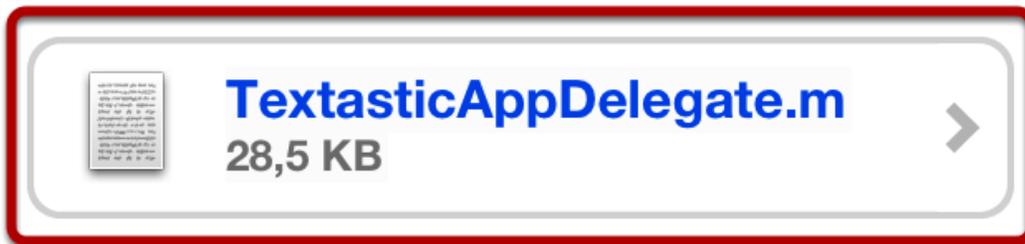
If you have an email with plain text attachments, simply tap and hold it.

Use the **Open In "Textastic"** command if available, or the **Open In...** menu to open this attachment

in Textastic.
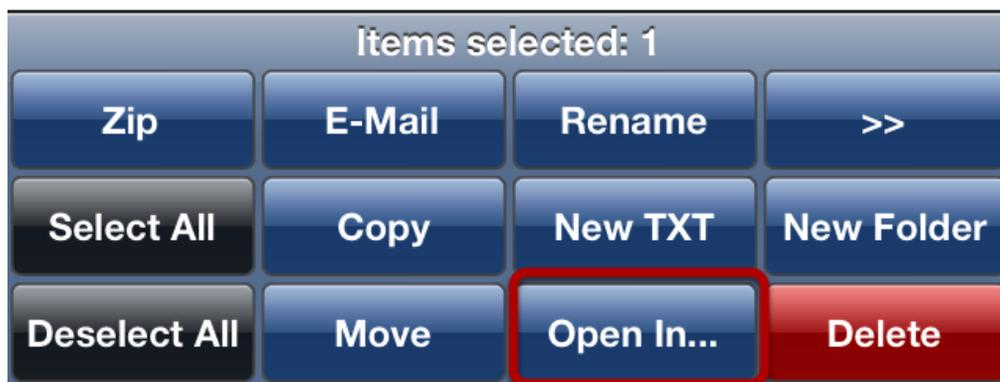
1) Tap on the **Actions** button
2) Select the file you want to open with Textastic.
3) Tap on the **Open In...** button

4) Choose **Textastic**

How do I import files using a USB connection?

Learn how to use iTunes File Sharing to copy files between your computer and Textastic using a USB connection.

Requirements

• iTunes 9.1 or later
• Mac OS X v10.5.8 or later, or Windows XP SP3 or later

Connect iPad

Connect iPad to your computer using the included **Dock Connector to USB cable**.

Launch iTunes
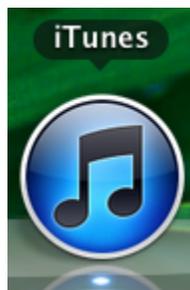
Launch iTunes 9.1 or later on your computer.

Select device

Select your iPad from the Devices section of iTunes.

Go to File Sharing
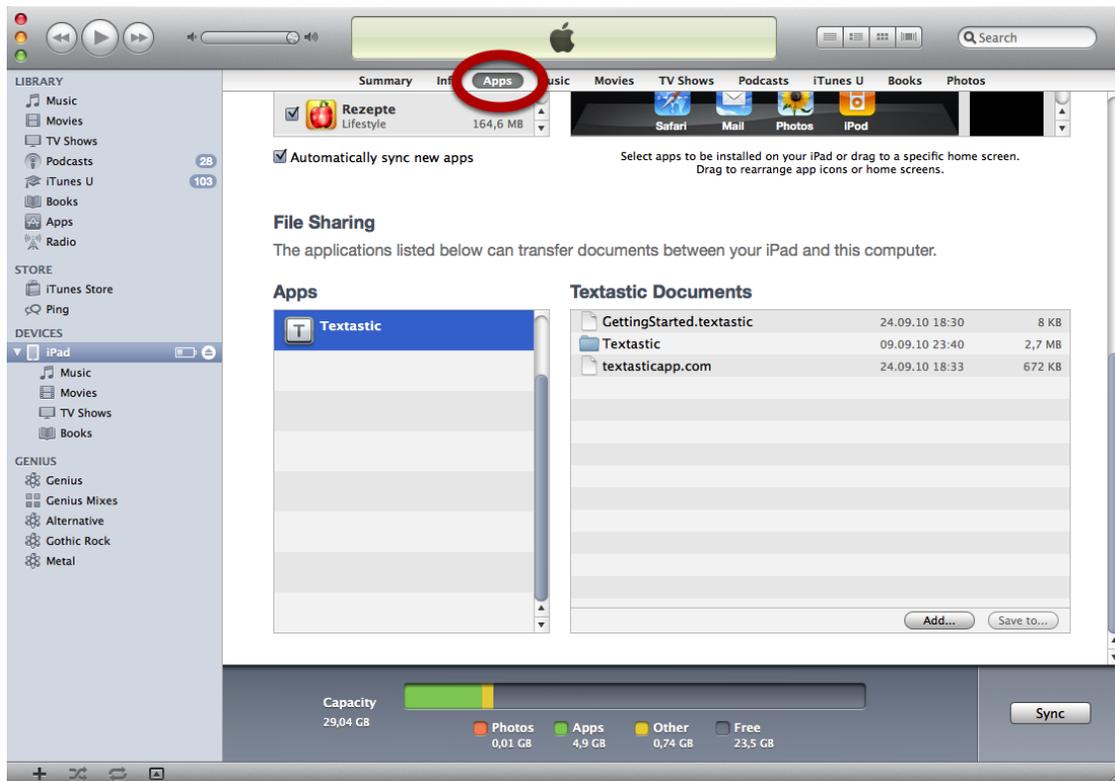
Click the **Apps** tab and scroll down to the bottom of the page.

Note: If you do not see the File Sharing section shown in the image above, your iPad does not have any apps that support File Sharing. Install Textastic first.

Choose Textastic
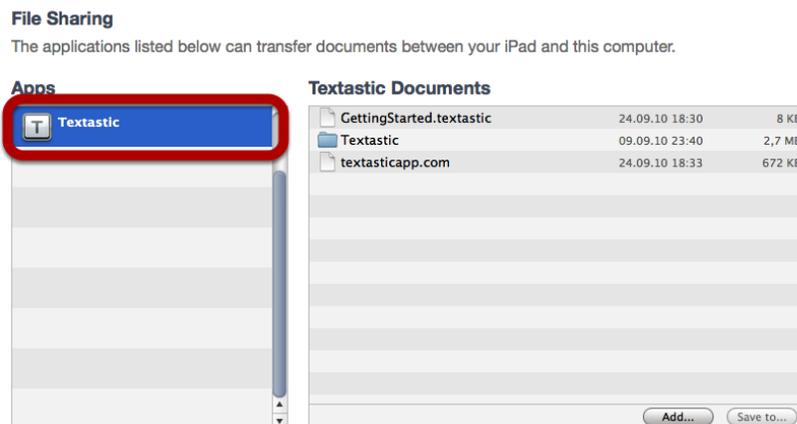
Under the File Sharing section, you'll find a list of apps currently installed on your iPad that support File Sharing. Select Textastic to view a list of the files associated with that app on your iPad.

Copy files between your computer and Textastic
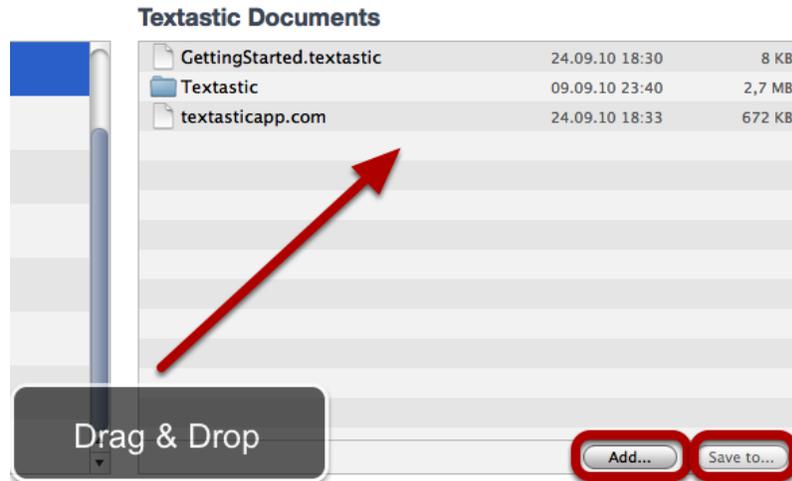
Drag and drop files onto the Documents list to copy them to the app on your iPad

or...

Click the **Add...** button, locate the file or files you want to copy from your computer, and click the Choose button. The selected files will be copied to the app on your iPad immediately.

or...

Select the file or files you want to copy to your computer from the Documents list and click the **Save to...** button. Locate the folder on your computer to which you want to copy the files and click the Choose button. The selected files will be copied to your computer immediately.

How can I move, copy and rename files and folders?

Learn how to use edit mode in the Files section. This allows you to move, copy and rename local files and folders.

Start Edit mode
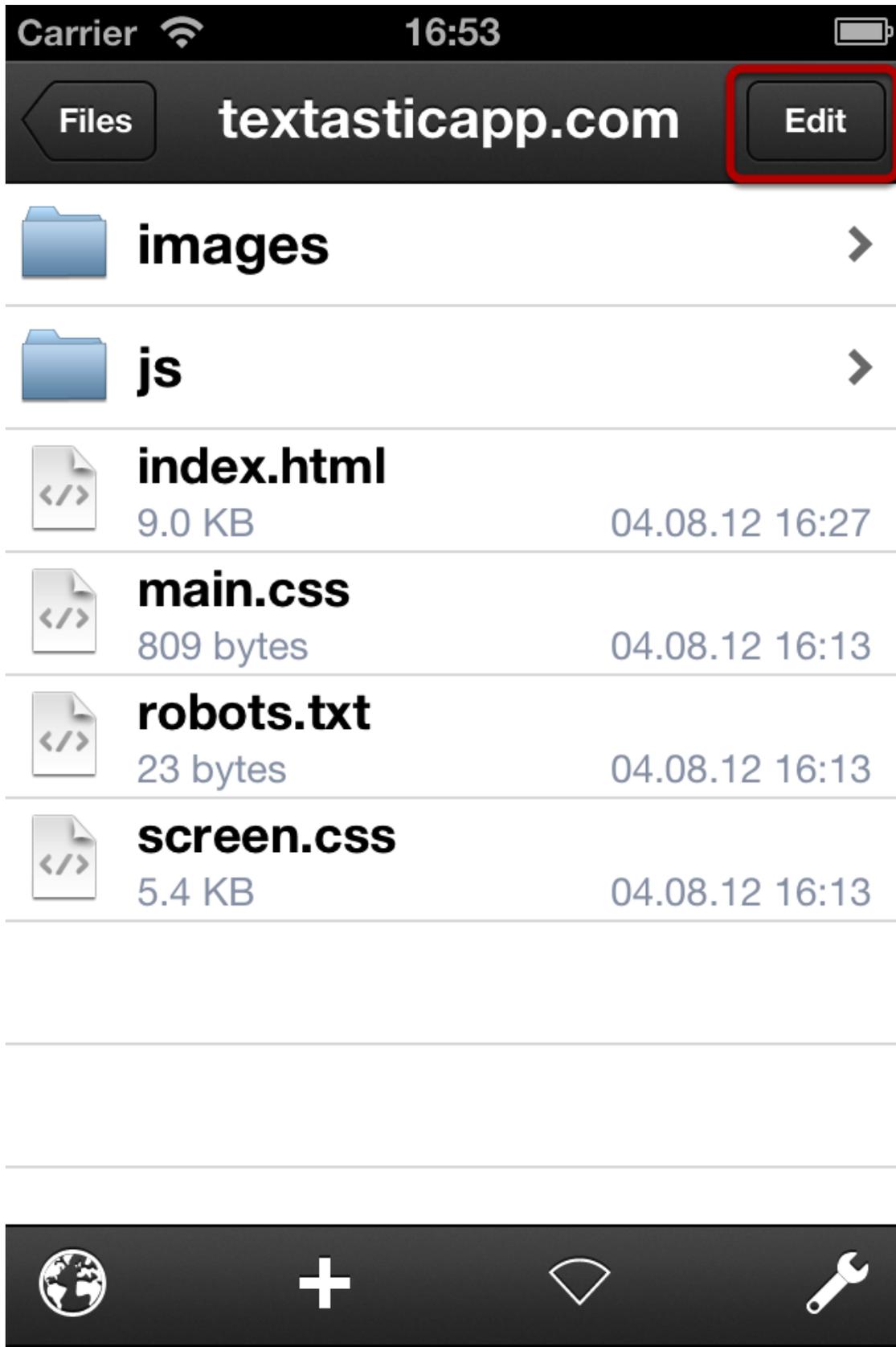
Tap on the **Edit** button in the Files section to enable the edit mode.

Select files and choose an action
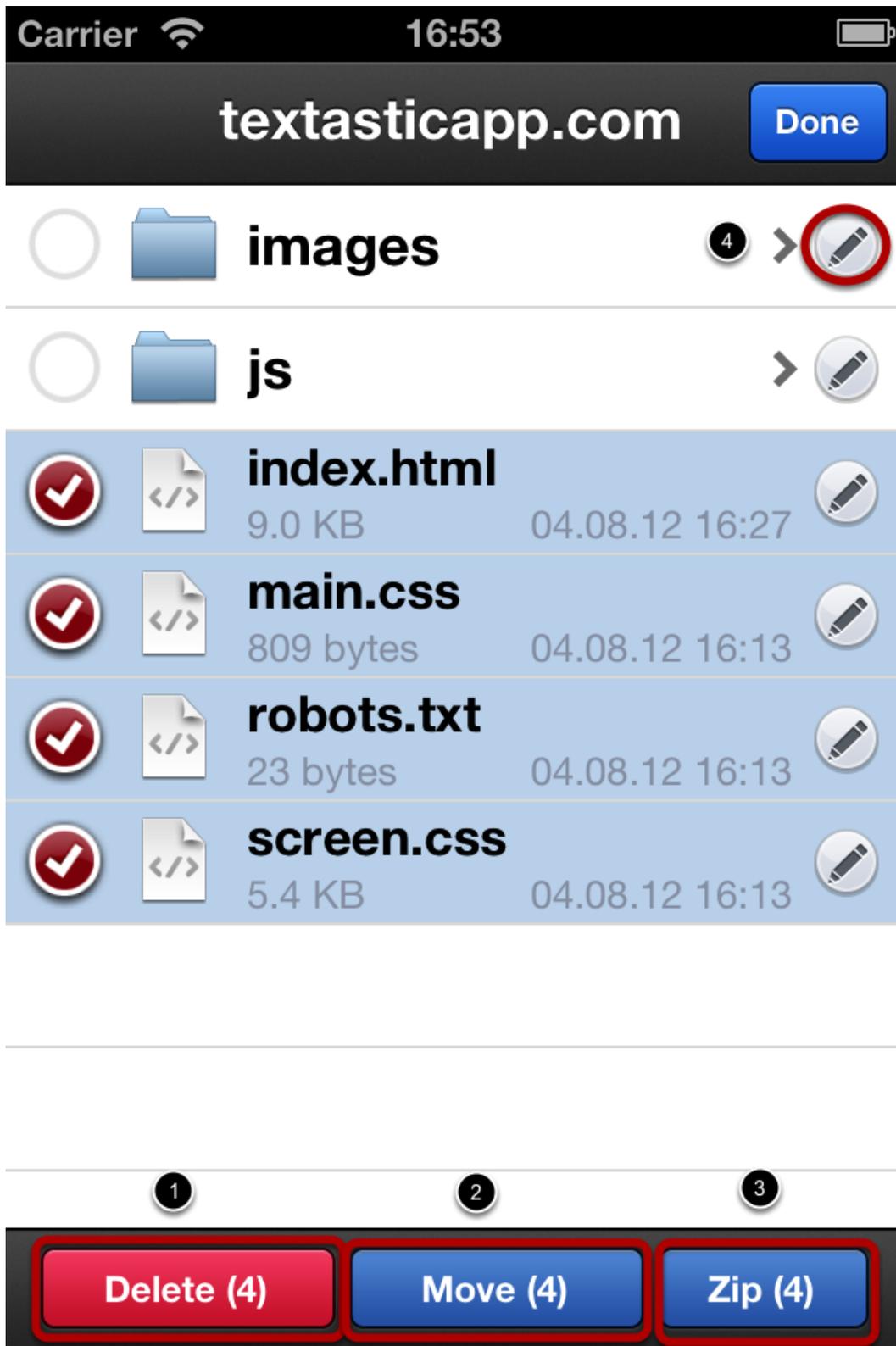
You can select files and folders by tapping on them.

Using the buttons on the bottom you can **Delete** (1), **Move** (2) and **Zip** (3) the selected files and

folders. Those buttons become active as soon as at least one file is selected.

Tapping on the **button** (4) on the right side of each item, you can **Rename** and **Copy** the file or folder.
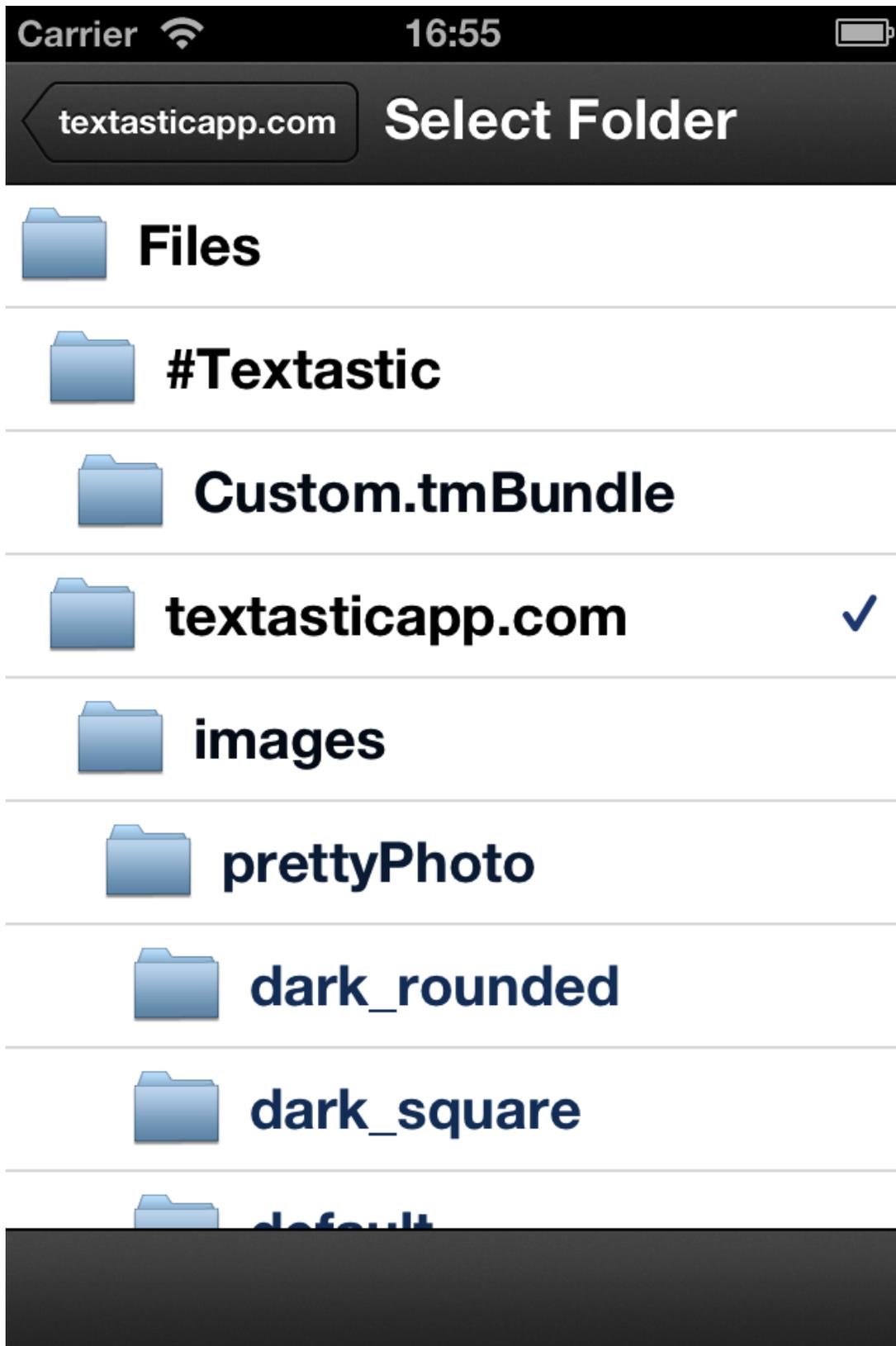
Move

If you tapped on the **Move** button in the previous screen, Textastic will bring up a list of your folders. Choose the folder where you want to move the selected files or folders.
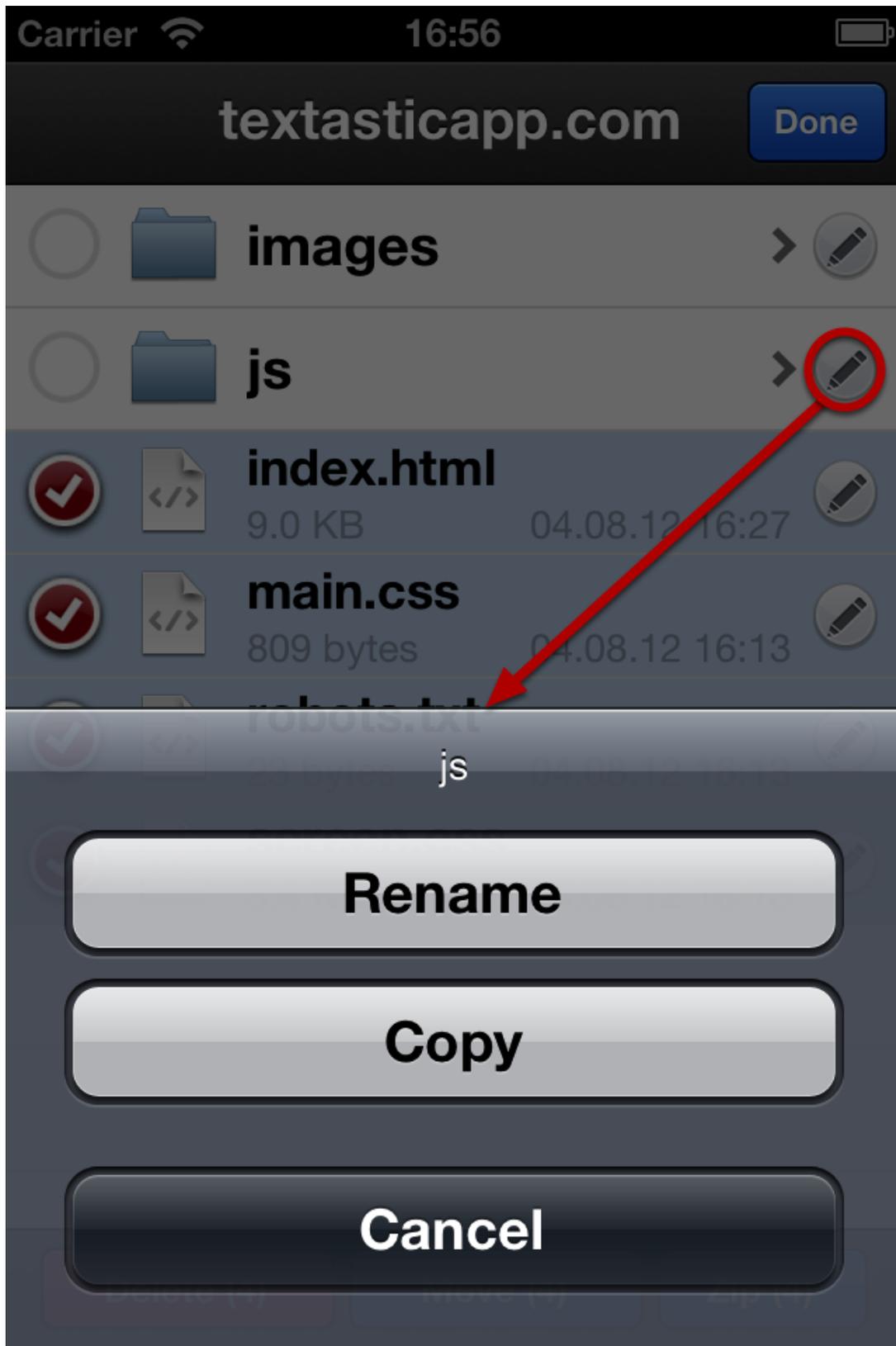
Rename or Copy

If you tapped on the button on the right side of a file or folder, you can choose to **Rename** or **Copy** it.
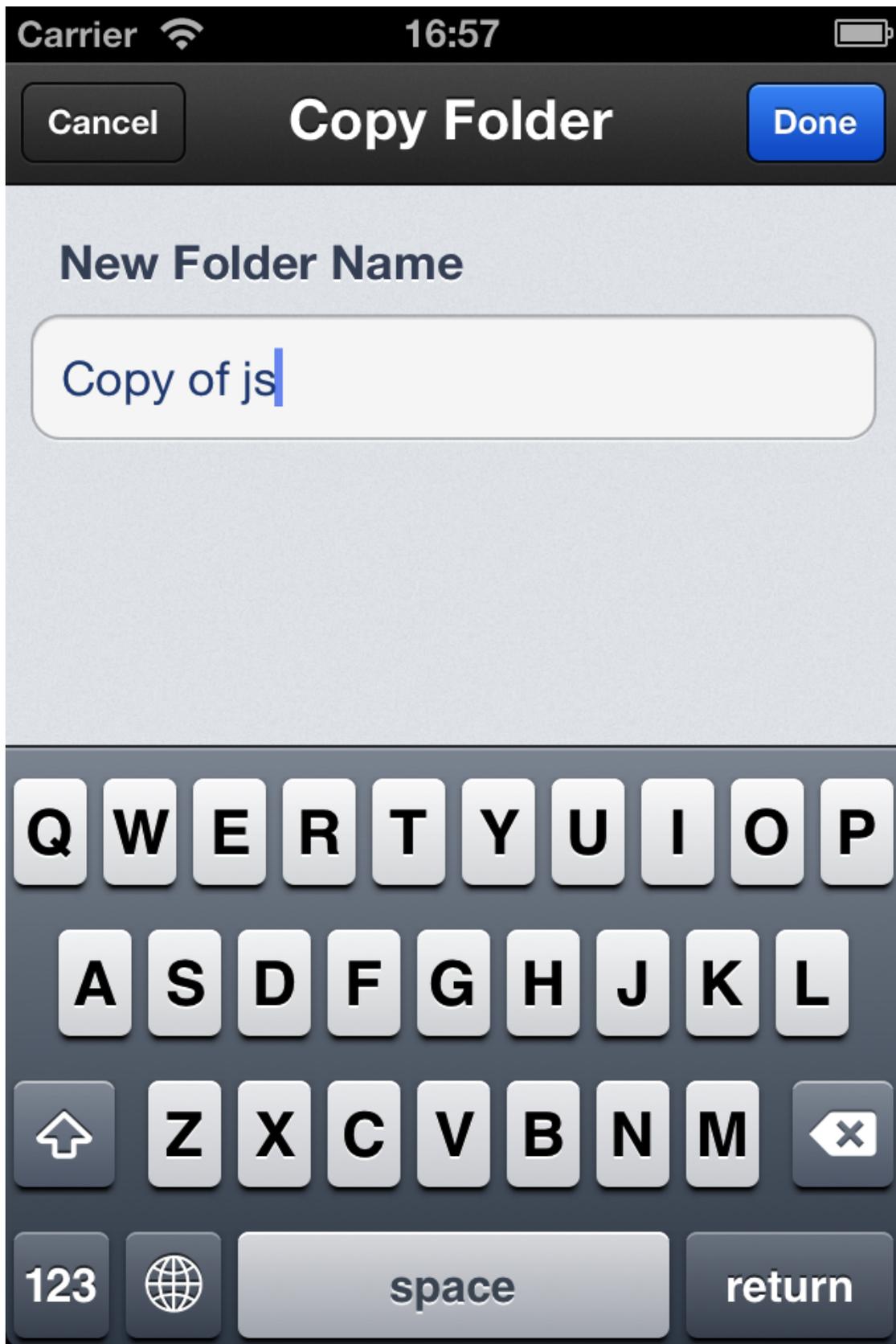
If you choose to copy or rename a file or folder, Textastic will ask for a new name.

Connecting to Remote Servers

How do I connect to an FTP, FTPS or SFTP server?

Learn how to configure a new FTP, FTPS (FTP over SSL), FTPES (FTP over Explicit Auth SSL) or SFTP (SSH File Transfer Protocol) connection.

Open the File Transfer Screen
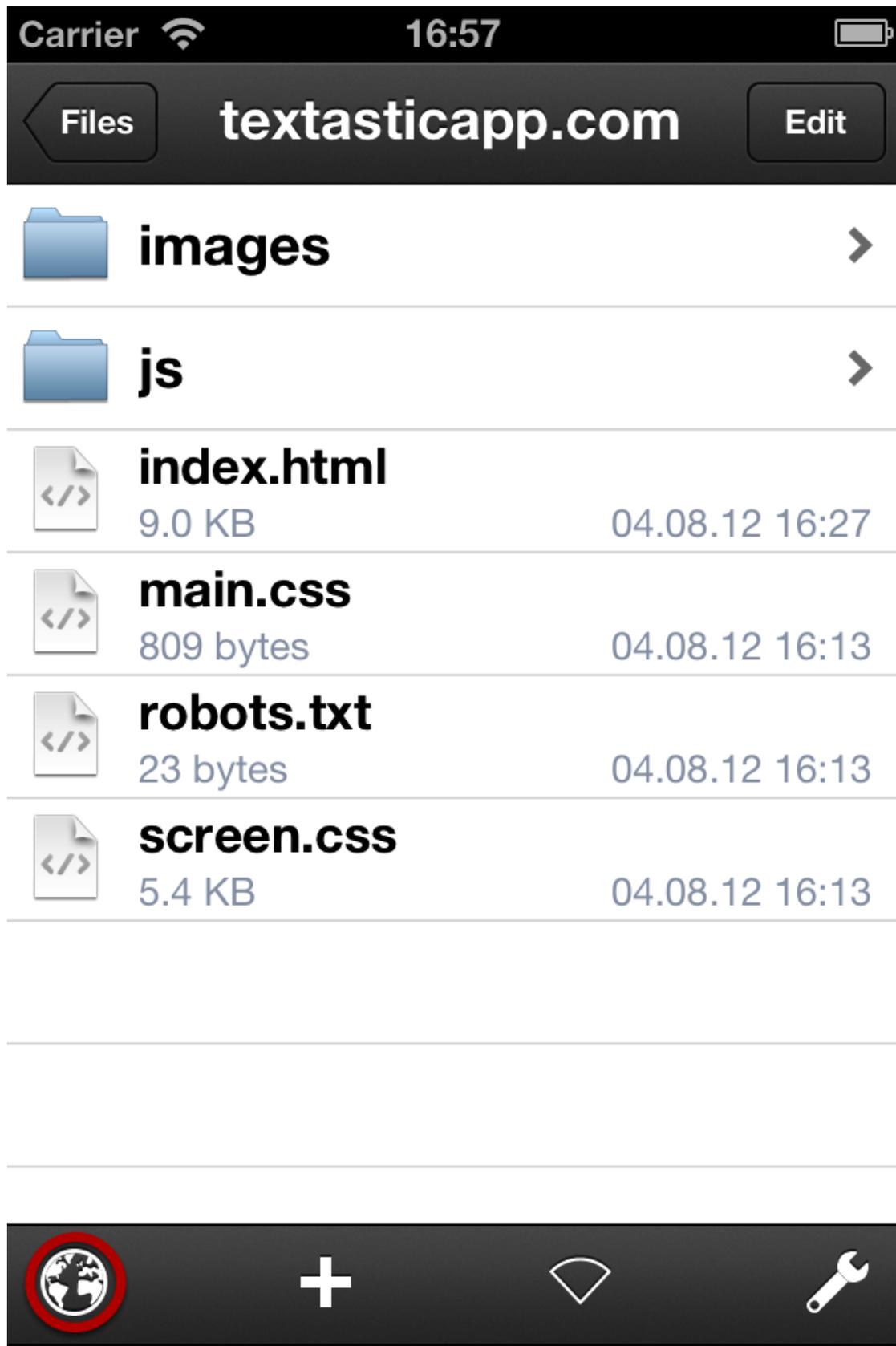
Tap on the **File Transfer button** in the **Files** section to open the File Transfer screen.

Add an (S)FTP Connection

Tap on the **+ button** (1) and choose **(S)FTP Connection** (2) to add a new connection.

Configure an FTP (Unencrypted) Connection

Choose the "FTP (Unencrypted)" **protocol**.

Configure the connection by setting the **host name** (this can be a domain name like

"example.com" or an ip address), a **user name** and a **password**.

You can also add a custom **title** that will appear in the connection list and choose another port than the standard port 21.

If you enter a **path**, Textastic will use this as the root path when connecting to the server.

Choose the correct character **encoding** you want to use for this connection. This setting depends on your server's configuration.

If you encounter connection problems with the standard "Passive (PASV)" **connection mode**, try to use "Active (PORT)" instead.

Enable the **Show Hidden Files** setting if you want to see hidden remote files like "**.htaccess**".

You can also try to enable the **Debug Log** setting. This will create detailed log files in the "logs" directory in Textastic. Note that **this logs all traffic for this connection**, so only enable this for debugging purposes and make sure to disable it again as soon as possible.

Configure an FTPS (FTP over SSL) or FTPES Connection
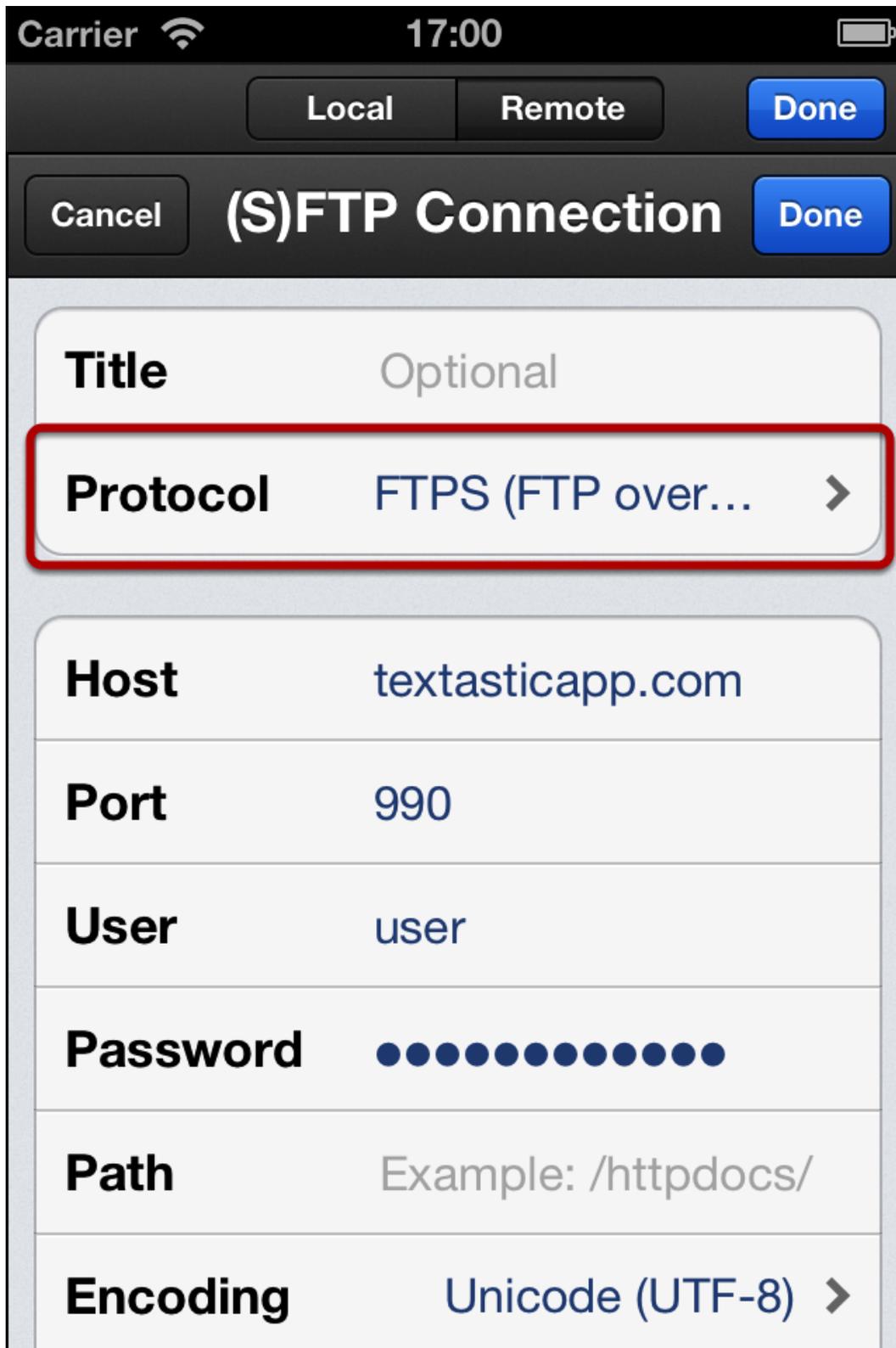
For FTPS / FTP over SSL connections, most settings are the same as for regular FTP connections (see above). Notice the **different default port 990.**

You can also choose FTPES (FTP over Explicit Auth SSL) as protocol which defaults to port 21.

FTPS adds an option that allows you to choose if Textastic **verifies the SSL certificate** of the server. Disable this if you use a **self-signed certificate** on the server.

Configure an SFTP (SSH) Connection
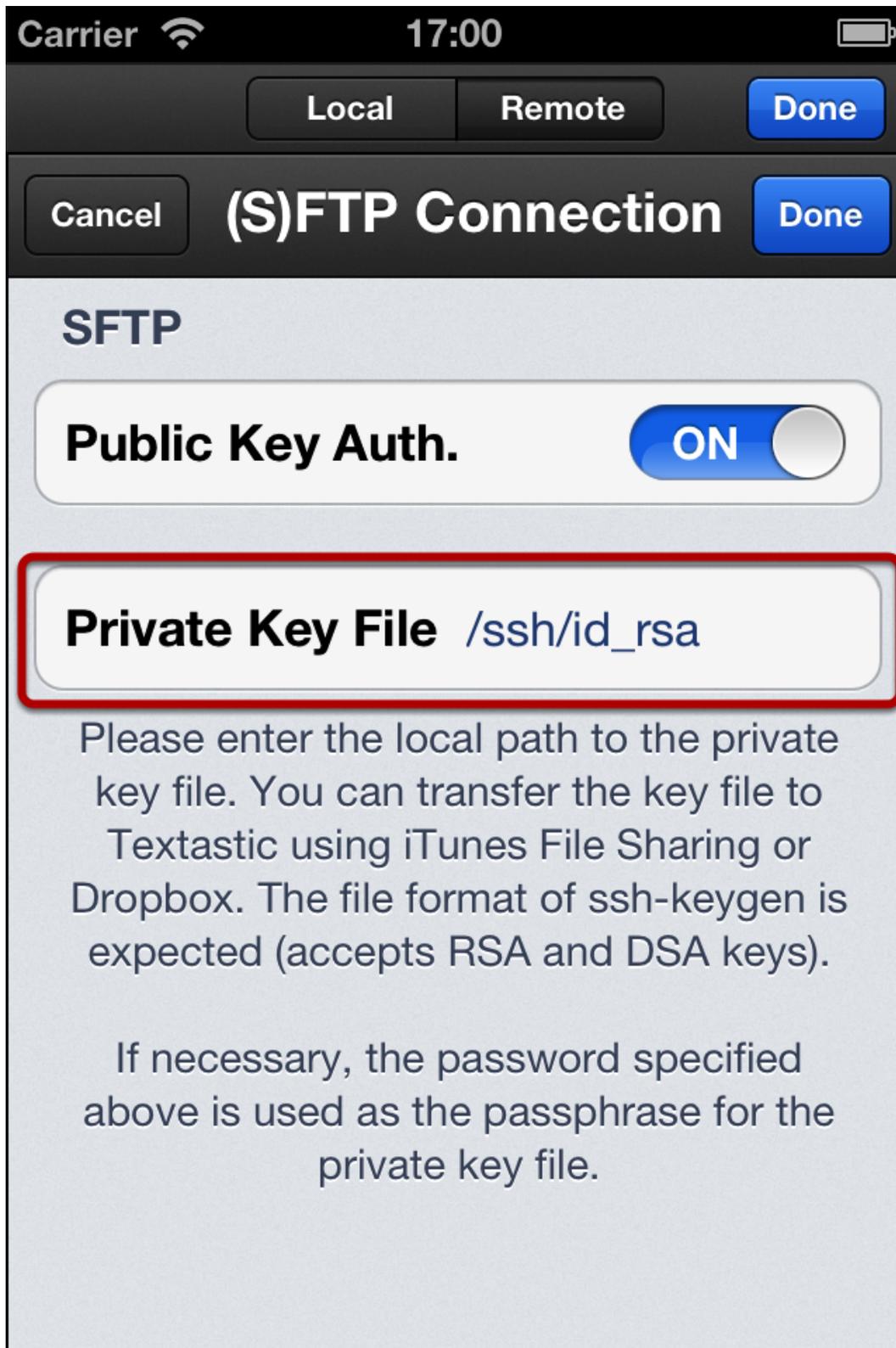
SFTP (SSH File Transfer Protocol) is a subsystem of SSH (Secure Shell). You can use this connection type to securely transfer files between your server and Textastic. For more information have a look at SSH File Transfer Protocl (Wikipedia)

The **default port** for SFTP connections is **22**.

Textastic usually switches to the root directory after establishing an SFTP connection. If you want to start at the **user's home directory** instead, enter "**~/**" in the **Path** field.

Textastic supports user/password authentication as well as public key authentication.

1. User/Password authentication
Enter your user name and password as you would for a regular FTP connection, but disable the **Public Key Auth.** setting.

2. Public Key Authentication
Enter the **user name**.

Enable the **Public Key Auth.** setting. Now you can enter the path to the private key file.

For this to work, you need to transfer the private key file for your SSH account to Textastic. You can do this by using iTunes File Sharing (via USB), Dropbox or the built-in WebDAV server (via Wi-Fi).

The standard settings expect a private key file named "id_rsa" in the local "ssh" subfolder in Textastic. If you used iTunes File Sharing, the file will be in the root folder, so you can either enter "id_rsa" as the private key file path or move the file to a subfolder.

If your private key file is protected with a **passphrase**, Textastic uses the **password** setting to retrieve the private key.

Textastic expects the key file to be in the format used by the **OpenSSH utility "ssh-keygen"**. If you instead have a key in PuTTY's format (.ppk), you can use PuTTYgen to convert it to OpenSSH format:

Visit the PuTTY website and download *puttygen.exe* (on your PC). Open it, and using the *File* menu, load your .ppk that you already use, and type in your passphrase. Now go to the *Conversions* menu and export the key as an OpenSSH key. You can now use the converted key with Textastic.

If you encounter connection problems, you can enable the **Debug Log** setting. This will create detailed log files in the "logs" directory in Textastic. Note that **this logs all traffic for this connection**, so only enable this for debugging purposes and make sure to disable it again as soon as possible.

Save Connection
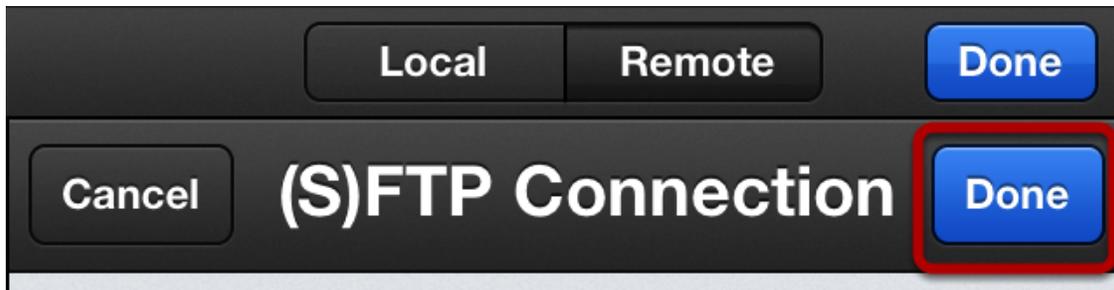
Tap **Done** to save this connection.
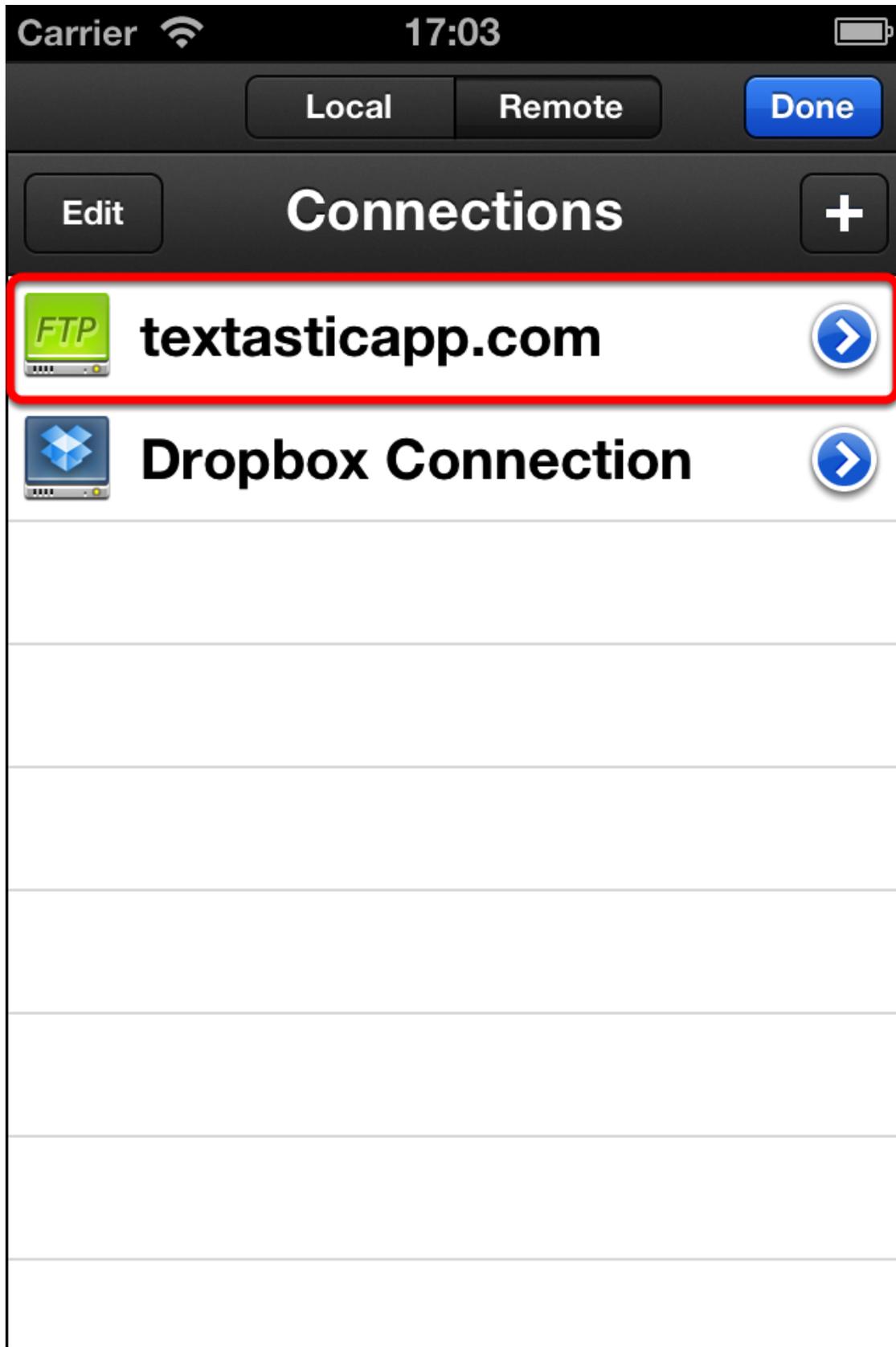
Connect

You can now tap on the newly created connection to connect to the remote server.

You can change the settings of a connection by tapping on the blue arrow on the right side of a connection.

How can I quickly upload downloaded files?

Textastic offers a fast and easy way to upload files you downloaded from a remote server. You can also download the latest version if you know that the file was changed on the remote server.

Open File Properties

```
eb,ide,ftp,sftp,dropbox,textmate
" />
<meta name="description"
    content="Textastic is a text
    editor for iPad with rich
    support for syntax highlighting,
```

Tap on the file properties button below the editor.

Display Remote Connection Information
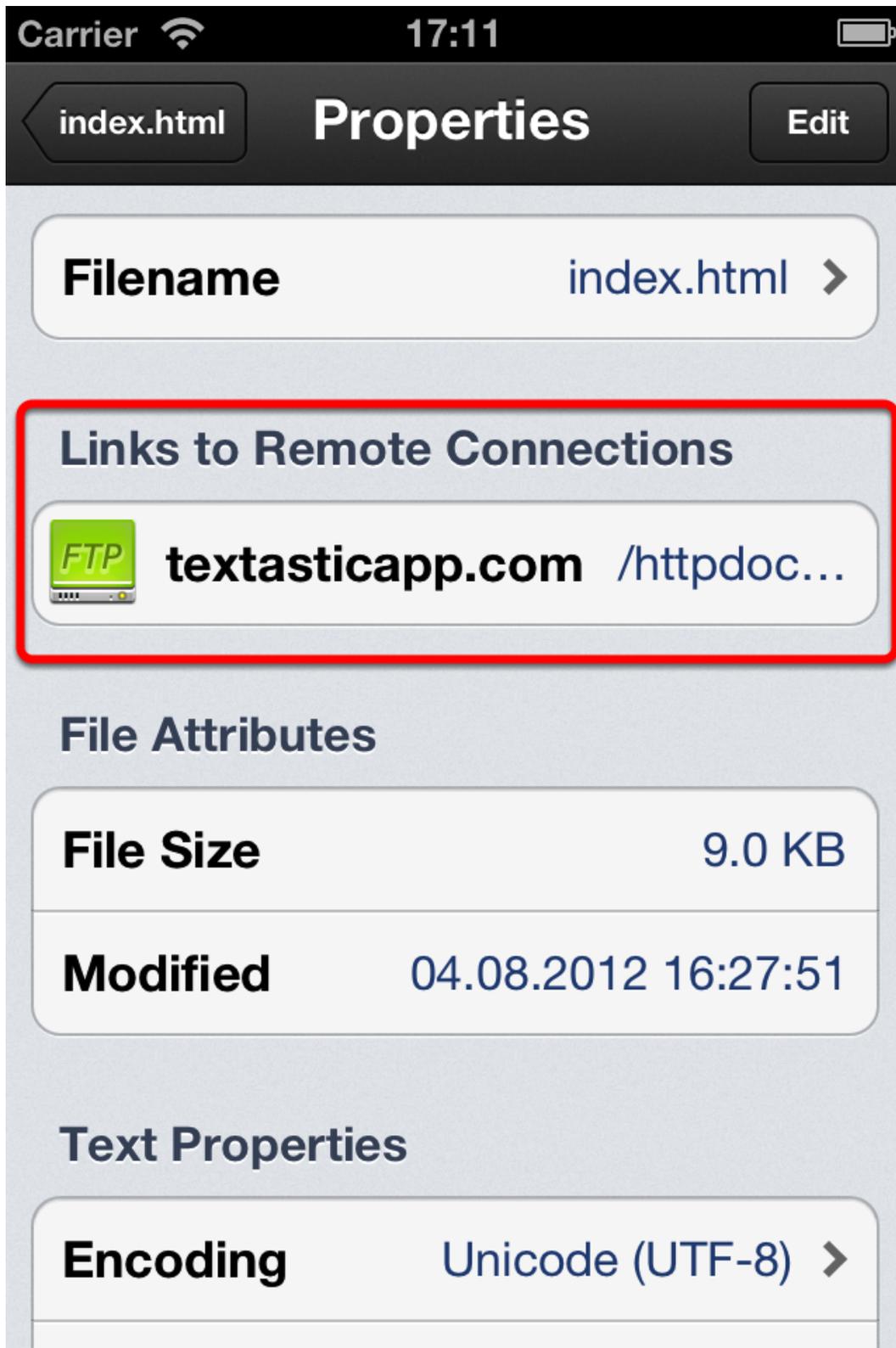
When you upload or download files from a remote server (Dropbox, FTP or WebDAV), Textastic saves the connection used for the download as well as the remote path of the file. You can see this information in the **File Properties** popover.

You can save several remote locations per file by uploading the file to another location or downloading the file from another location and overwriting the local file in the File Transfer screen (tap on the "globe" button).

You can tap on the **path** to see the full remote path.

Quickly Upload or Download
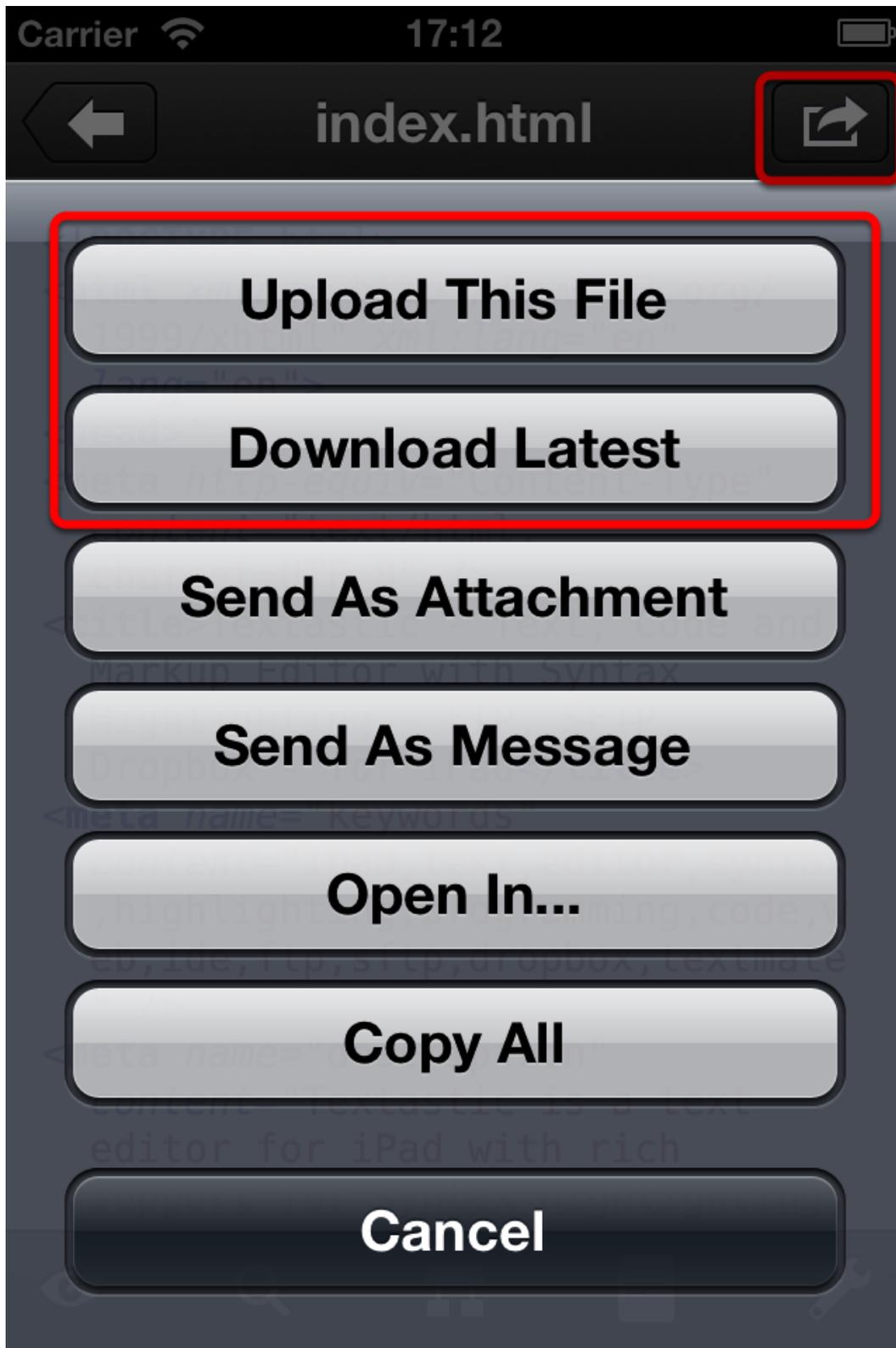
When a file is linked to a remote connection, there are two new options when you tap on the
Action button:

Upload This File: This uploads the currently open file to the same remote location it was originally downloaded from

Download Latest: This will connect to the remote server and try to download the latest version of the file

If there are links to more than one remote connection, Textastic will ask you which one to use.

This lets you quickly upload your changes or update your downloaded files.

How do I access files in my Dropbox account?

Learn how to access your Dropbox account.

Open the File Transfer screen
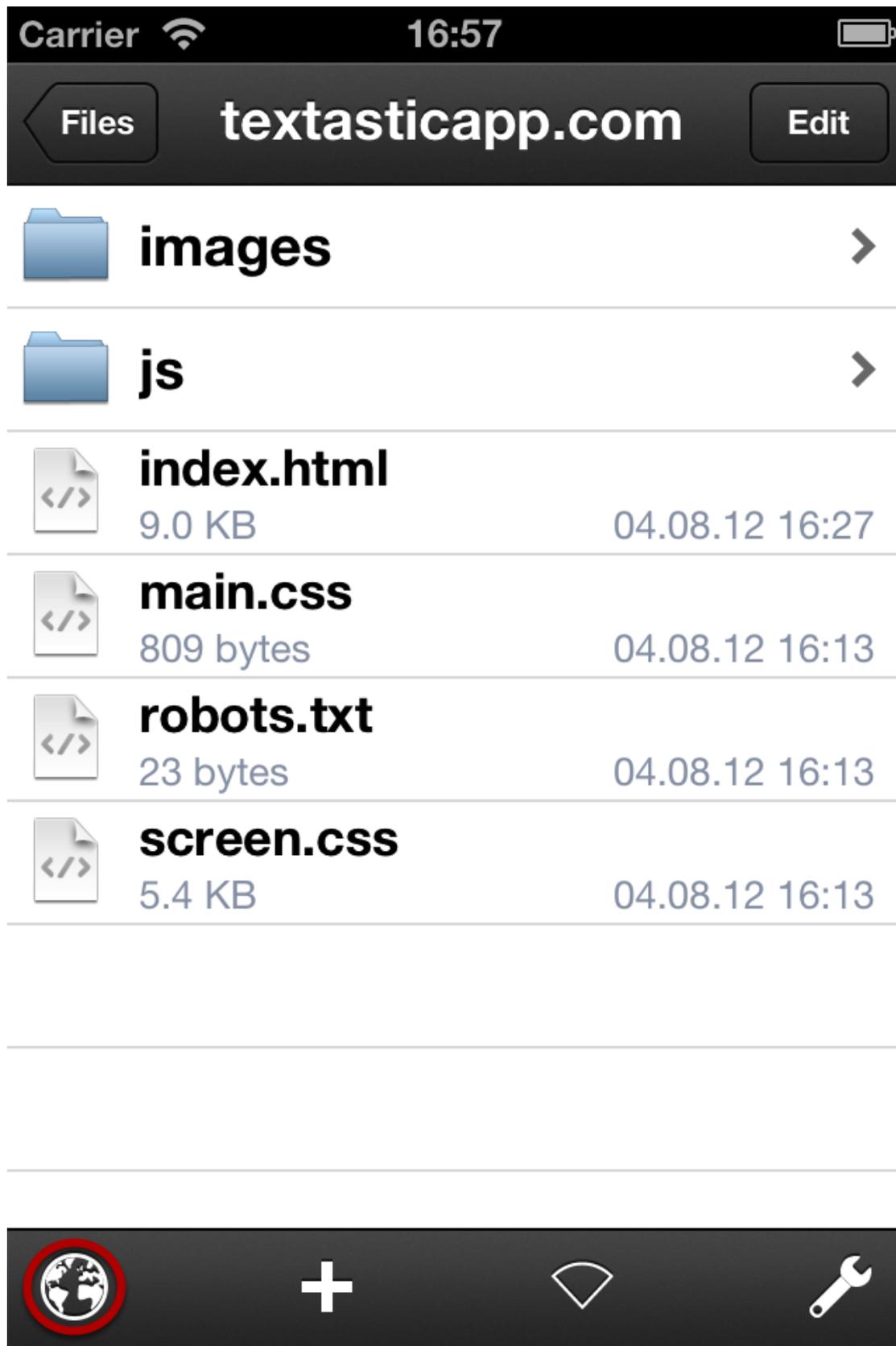
Carrier 16:57

Files **textasticapp.com** Edit

images >

js >

index.html
9.0 KB 04.08.12 16:27

main.css
809 bytes 04.08.12 16:13

robots.txt
23 bytes 04.08.12 16:13

screen.css
5.4 KB 04.08.12 16:13

Tap on the **File Transfer button** in the **Files** section to open the File Transfer screen.

Add a Dropbox Connection

Tap on the **+ button** (1) and choose **Dropbox Connection** (2) to add a new Dropbox connection.

Configure the Connection
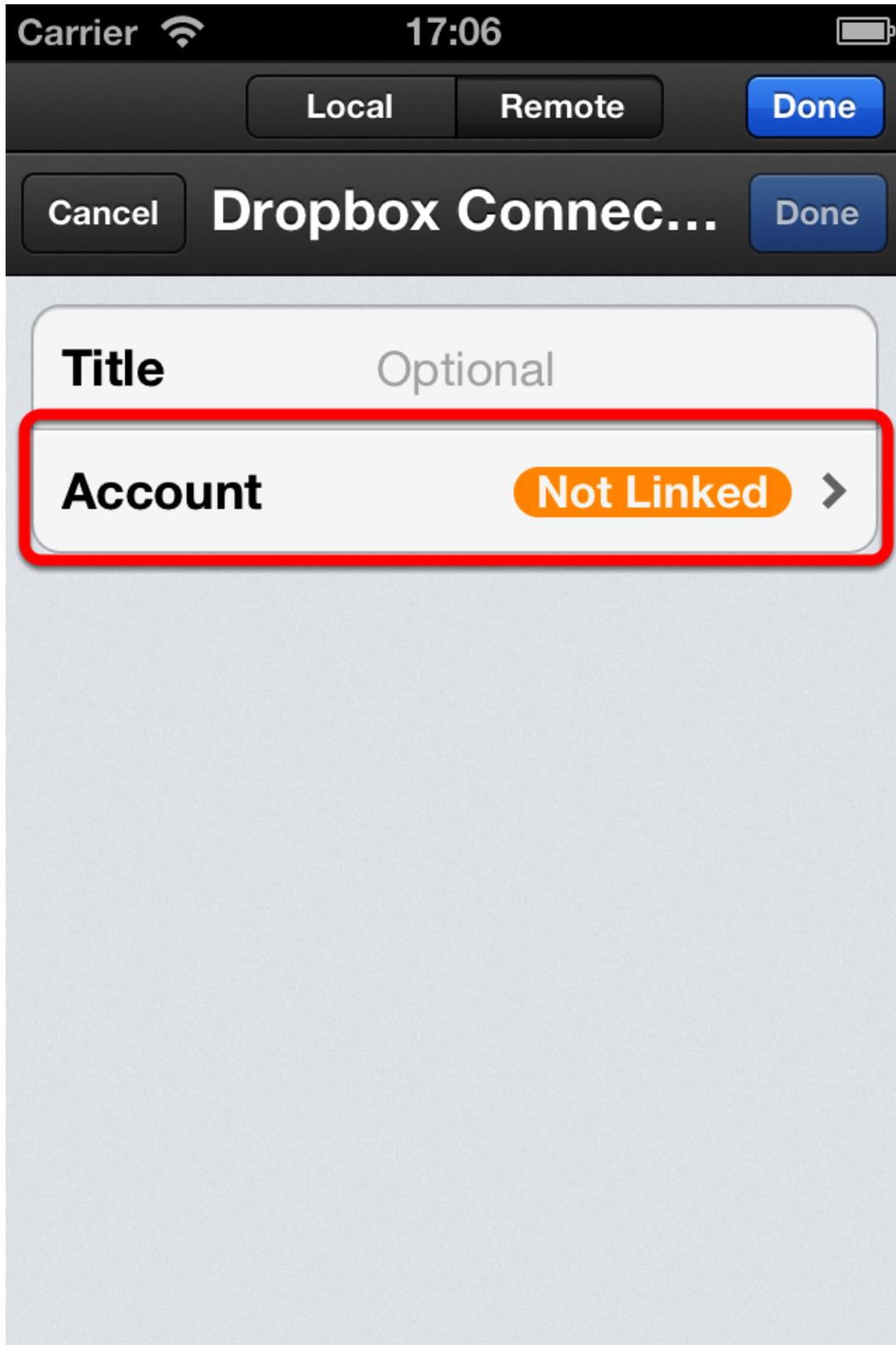
You can add a custom **title** that will appear in the connection list (especially useful if you want to connect to several different Dropbox accounts).

Tap on **Not Linked**.
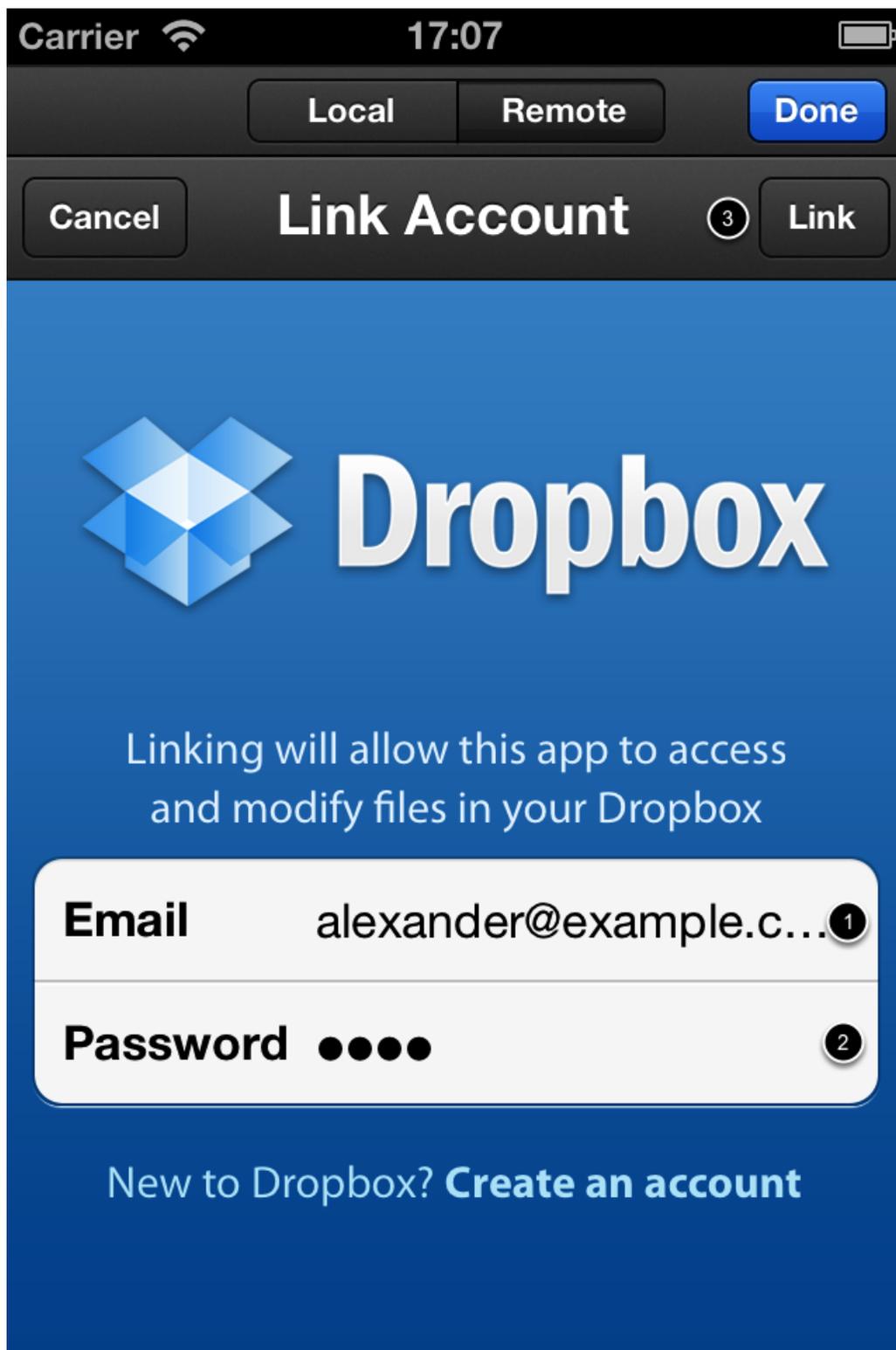
Enter the **Email** (1) and **Password** (2) for your Dropbox account and tap on the **Link button** (3) to link your Dropbox account to this connection.

Finish Configuration
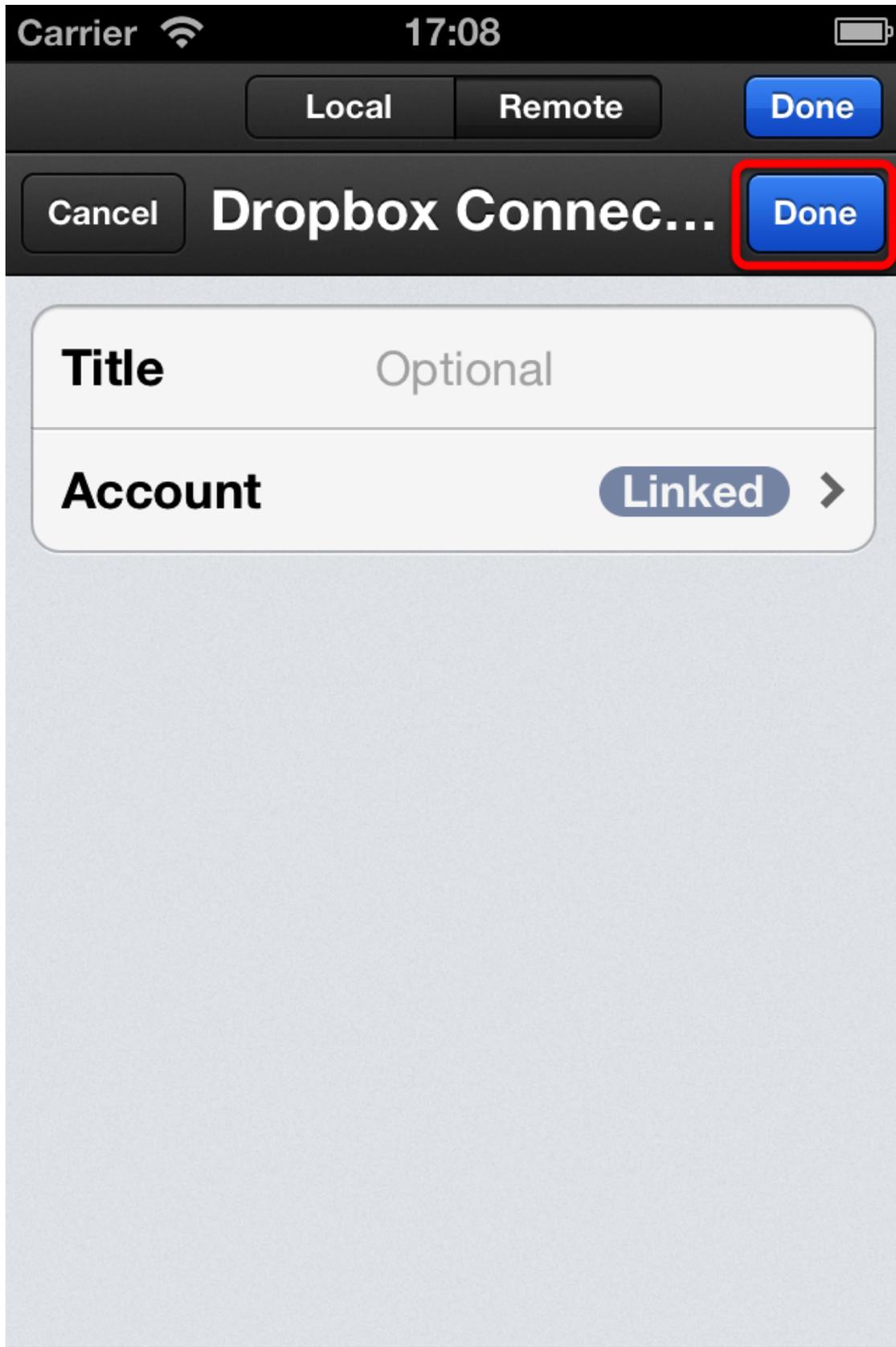
The Dropbox Connection is now linked to your Dropbox account. Tap on the **Done button**.
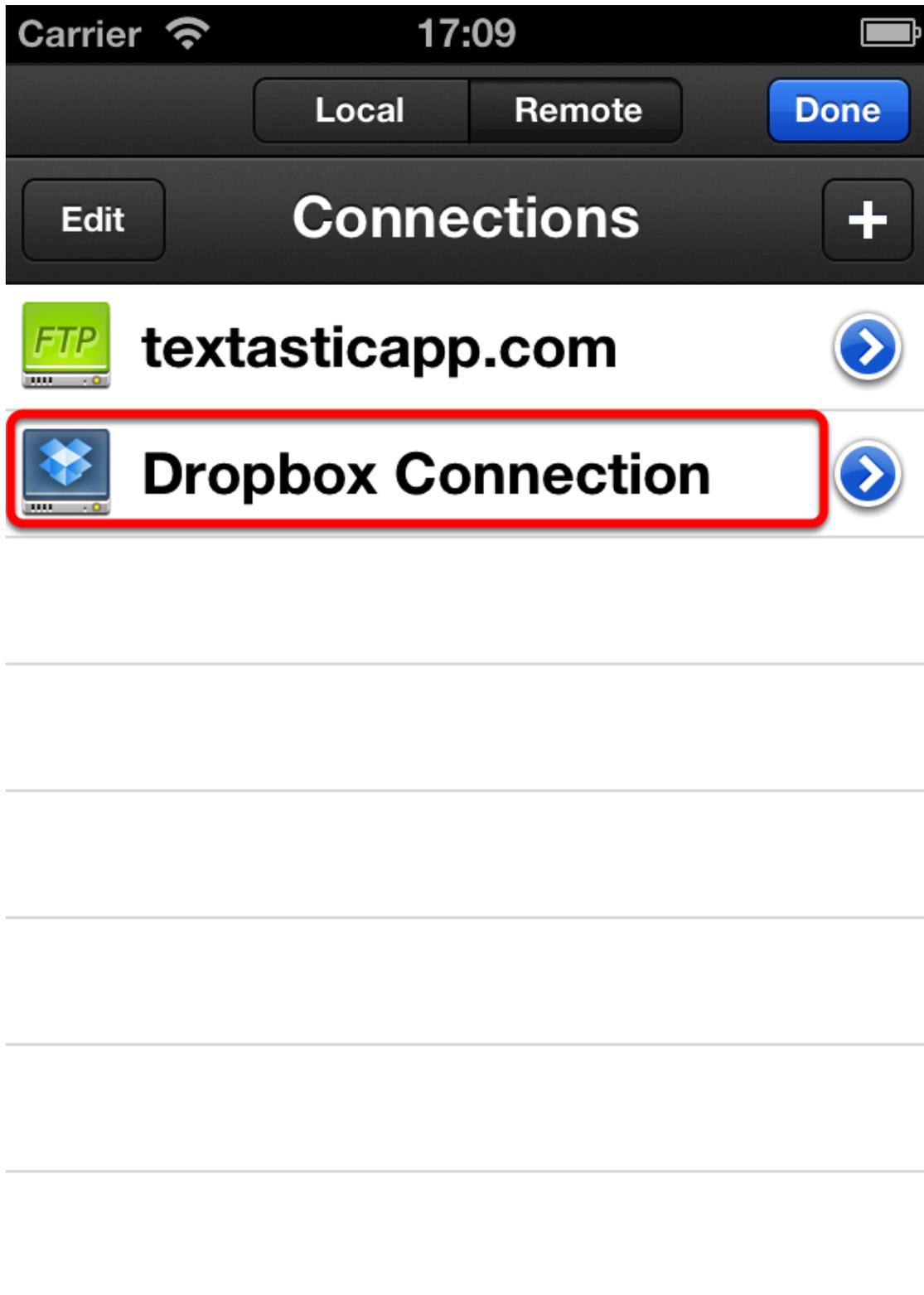
Connect

You can now tap on the newly created connection to connect to your Dropbox account.

Connecting via Wi-Fi / built-in WebDAV server

Why do I need WebDAV and which clients are supported?

The built-in WebDAV server allows you to easily transfer files to Textastic from your Mac or PC via Wi-Fi.

Supported Clients

Windows and Mac OS X include WebDAV clients so you can use Windows Explorer and Finder to manage the files in Textastic.

Textastic is tested against Mac OS X **Finder**, Windows **Explorer** (Vista and Windows 7), **Cyberduck**, **BitKinex** and the **Total Commander** WebDAV plugin.

More

If you want to know more about WebDAV, consult the excellent Wikipedia article on WebDAV.

Textastic 2.2 also includes a WebDAV client in addition to the WebDAV server.

Starting the WebDAV-Server

Learn how to configure and start the builtin WebDAV server in order to manager your files via Wi-Fi.

Open the WebDAV screen
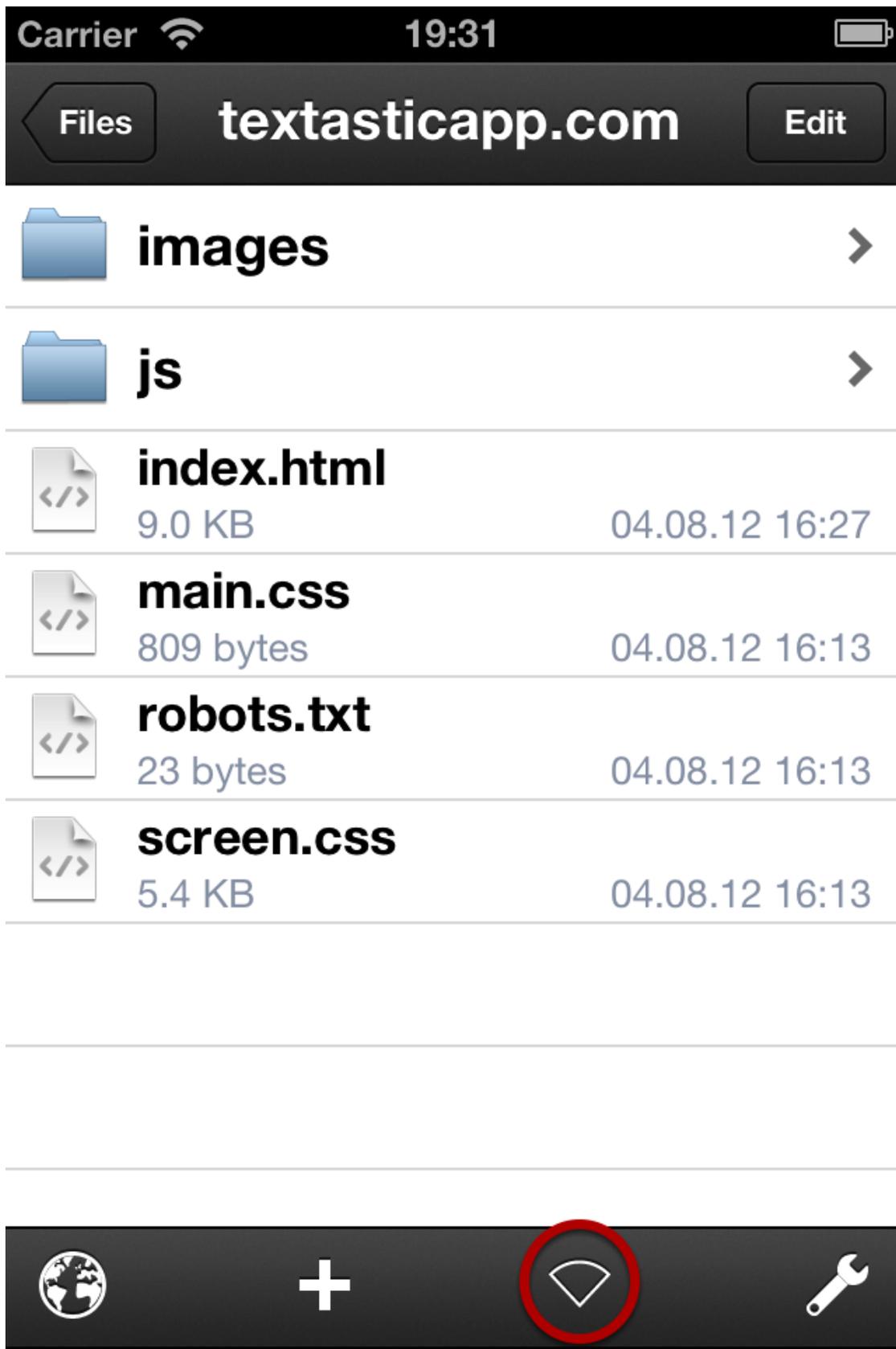
Tap on the **Wi-Fi button** to open the WebDAV screen.
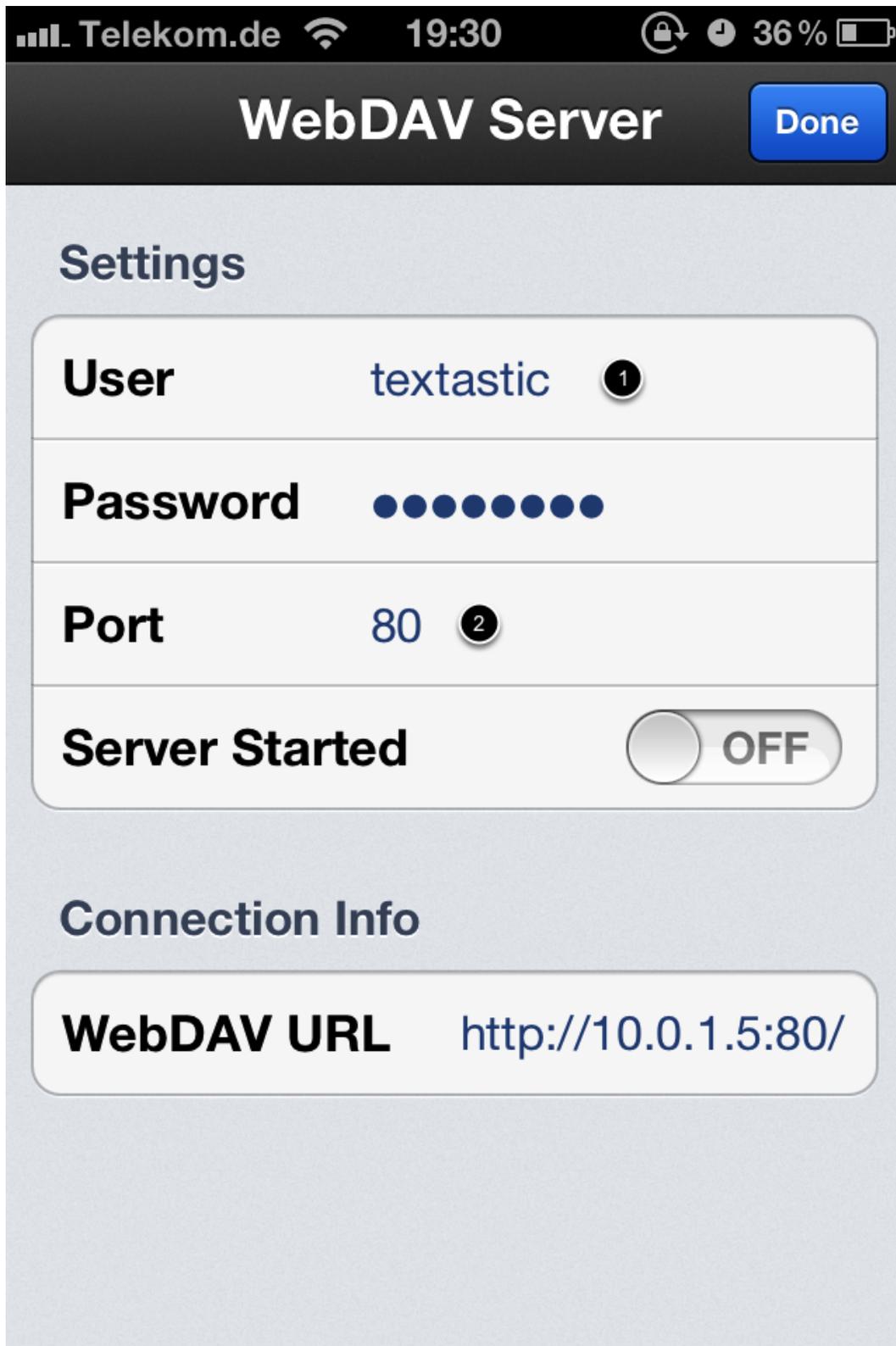
The WebDAV server always asks for user credentials. **By default, the user name is "textastic" and the password is "password".** It's recommended to change these settings before starting the server. (1)

You can choose a custom port or use the default port 80 (2).
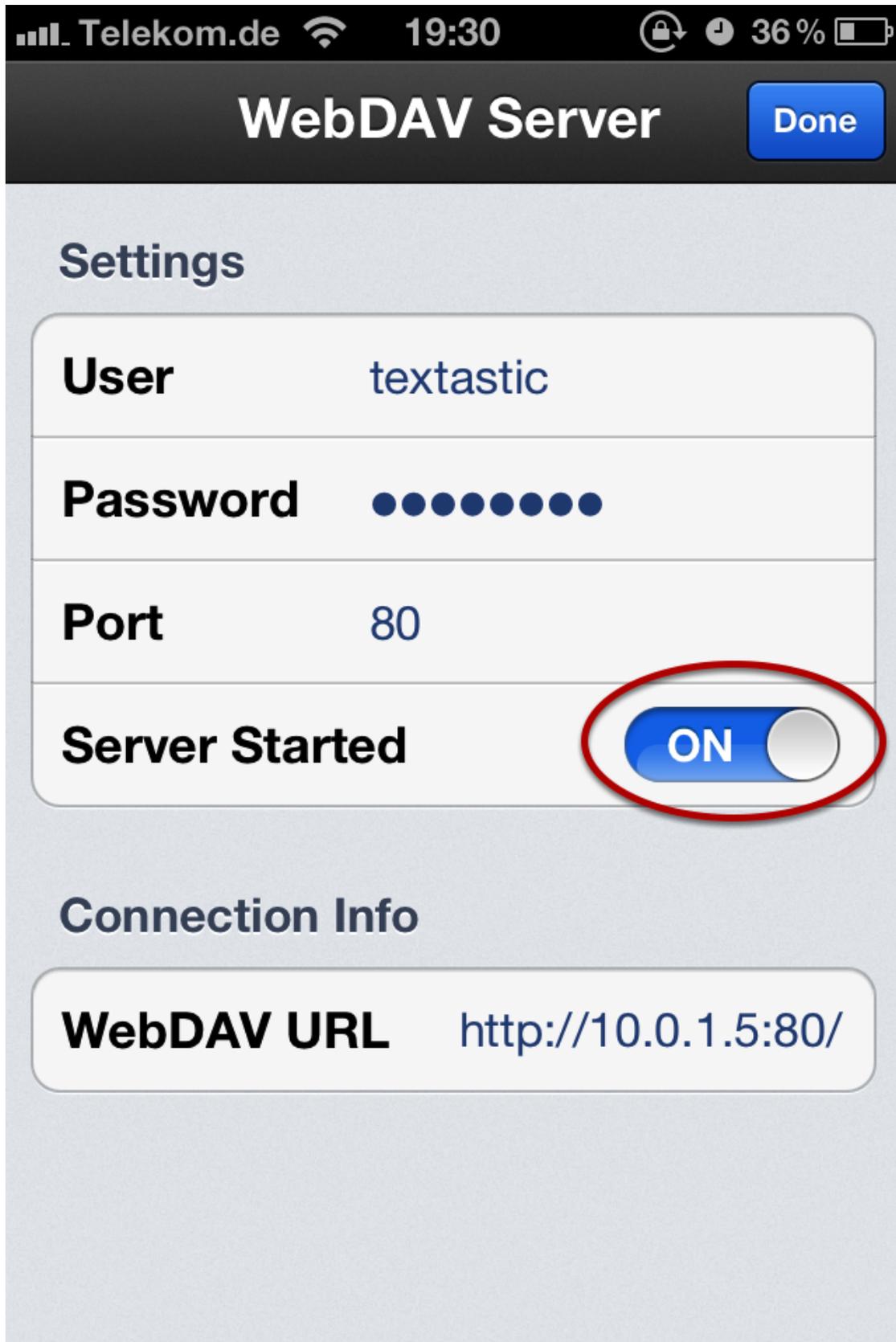
Start the Server

Start the WebDAV server by flipping the "**Server Started**" switch to **ON**.

Use a WebDAV client to connect to Textastic

Connect to the server you just started [from your Mac](#) or [from Windows](#).

Notes

Textastic will not enter standby mode as long as the WebDAV server is running. Use the power button on your iPhone to manually put it to sleep.

For security reasons, the WebDAV server is **not automatically restarted** when you close and then re-open the app. This is to prevent the app from exposing your files without your knowledge.

Connecting to Textastic with Finder

Learn how to connect to the builtin WebDAV server using Finder on Mac OS X.
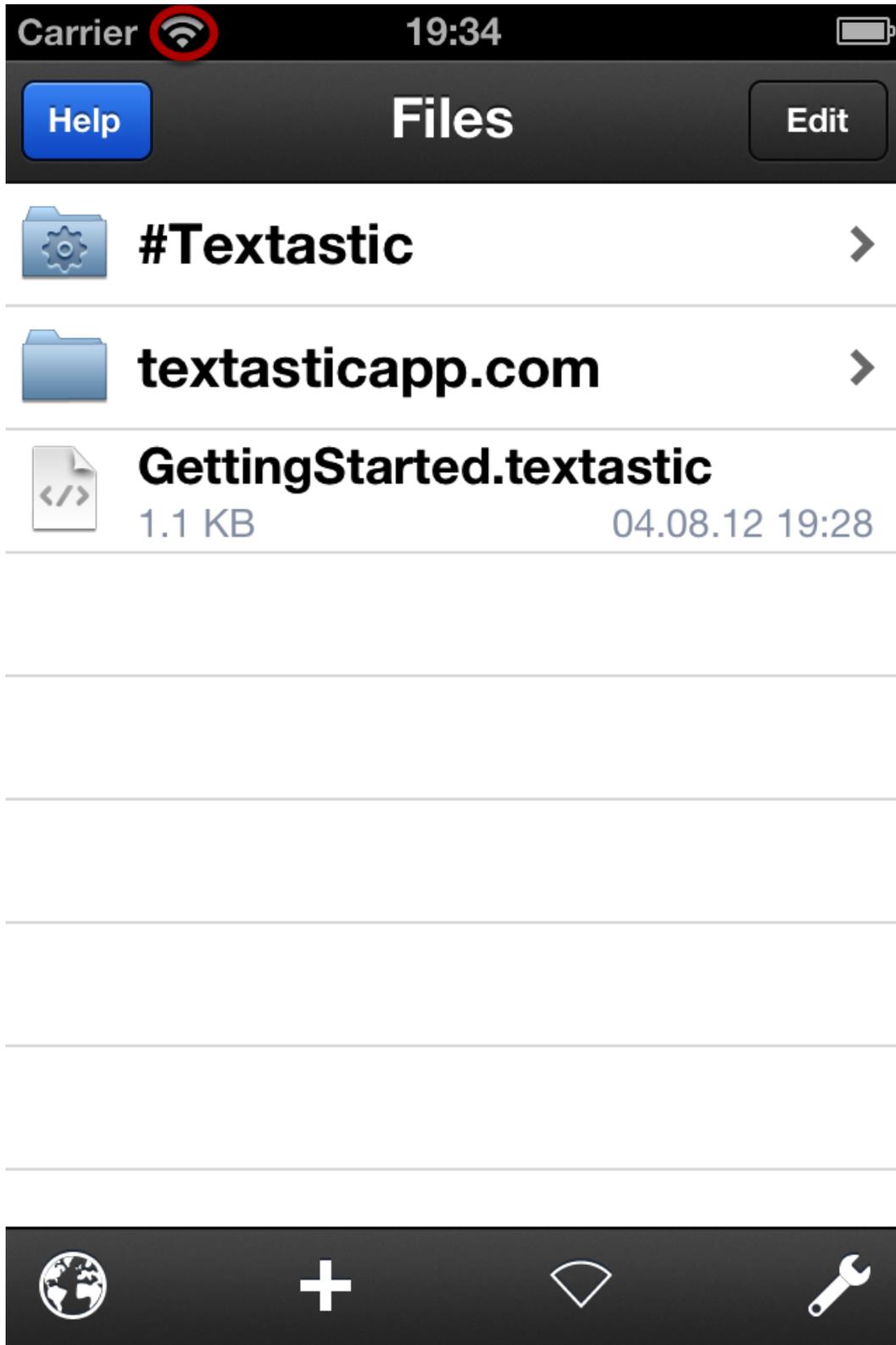
Your Mac must be connected to the **same network** as your iPhone running Textastic.

The iPad must be **connected via Wi-Fi**.

Make sure the WebDAV server is started

Start the WebDAV server and note the WebDAV url.

Open "Connect to Server" dialog
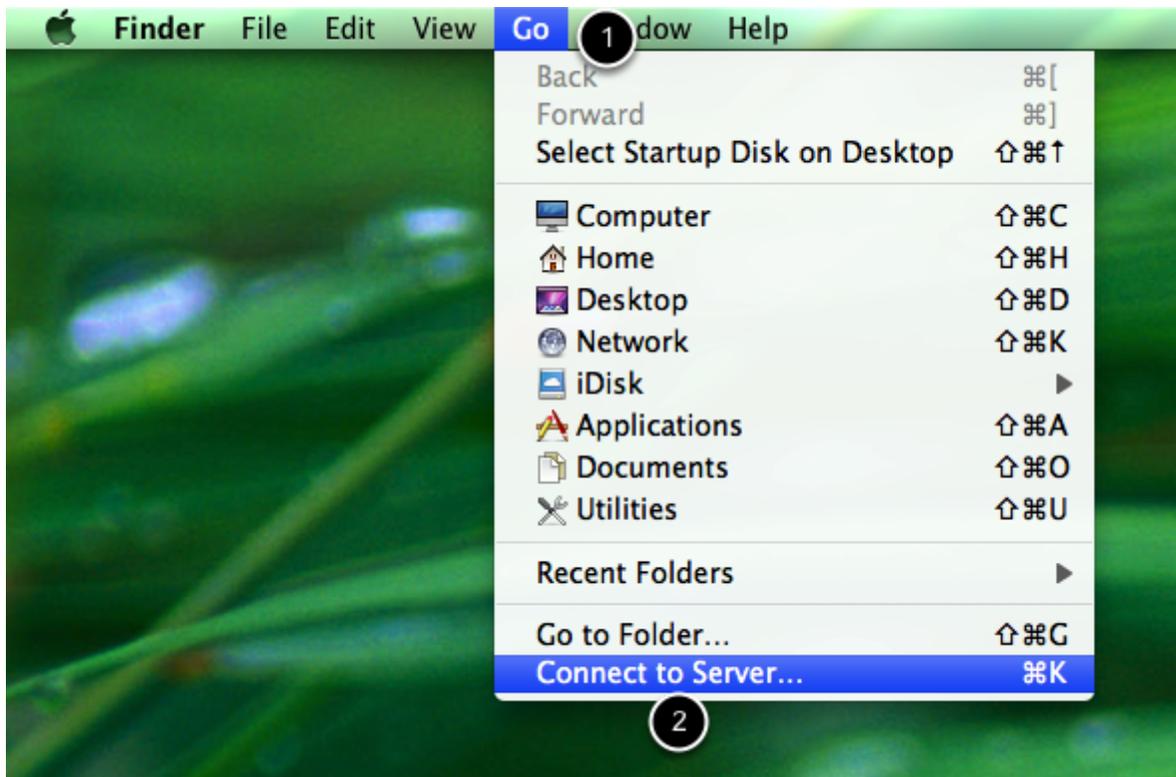
Switch to Finder.

Open the **Go** menu (1) and select **Connect to Server** (2).

Connect
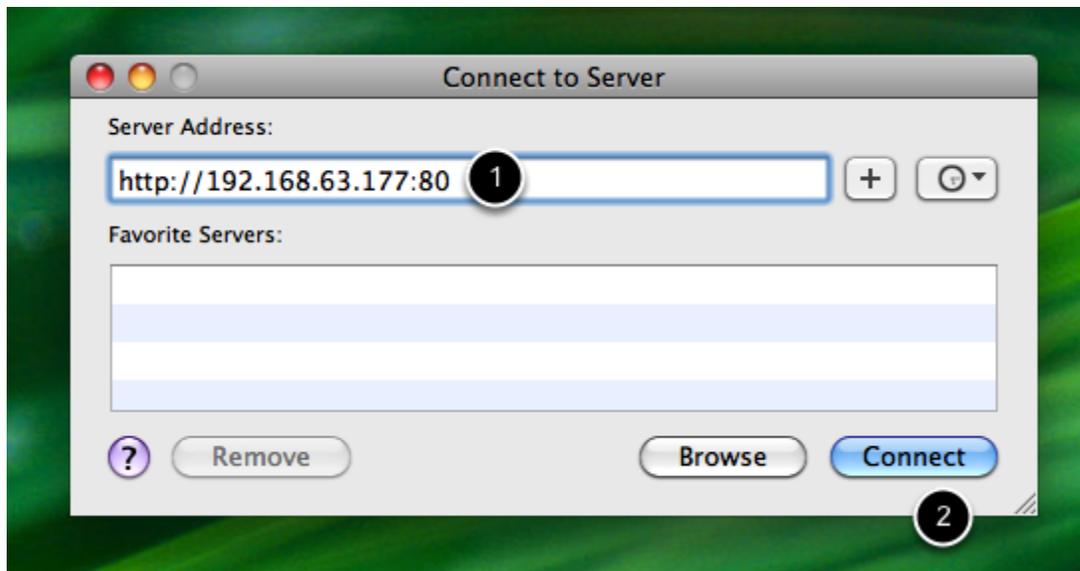
Enter the url from the Textastic WebDAV screen (1) and click on **Connect** (2).


Enter credentials

Enter user name and password you chose when setting up the WebDAV server. (Defaults are "textastic" and "password"). (1)

Click on **Connect** (2).

## Manage your files
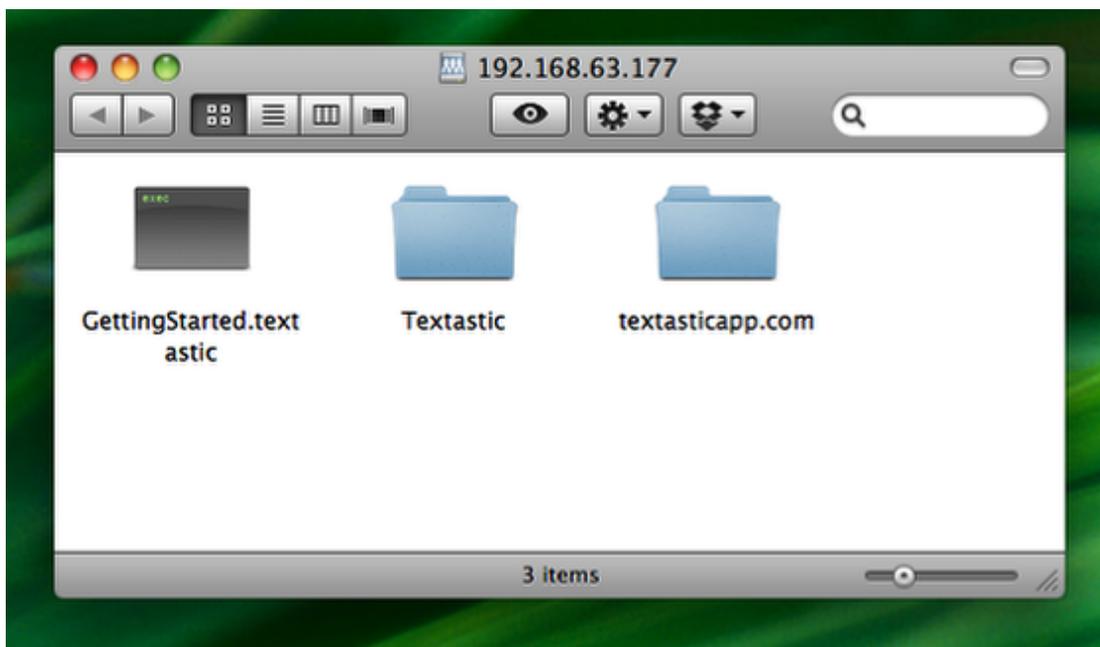
You can now use Finder to manager your files.

Connecting to Textastic with Windows Explorer

Learn how to connect to the builtin WebDAV server using Explorer on Windows.

Requirements
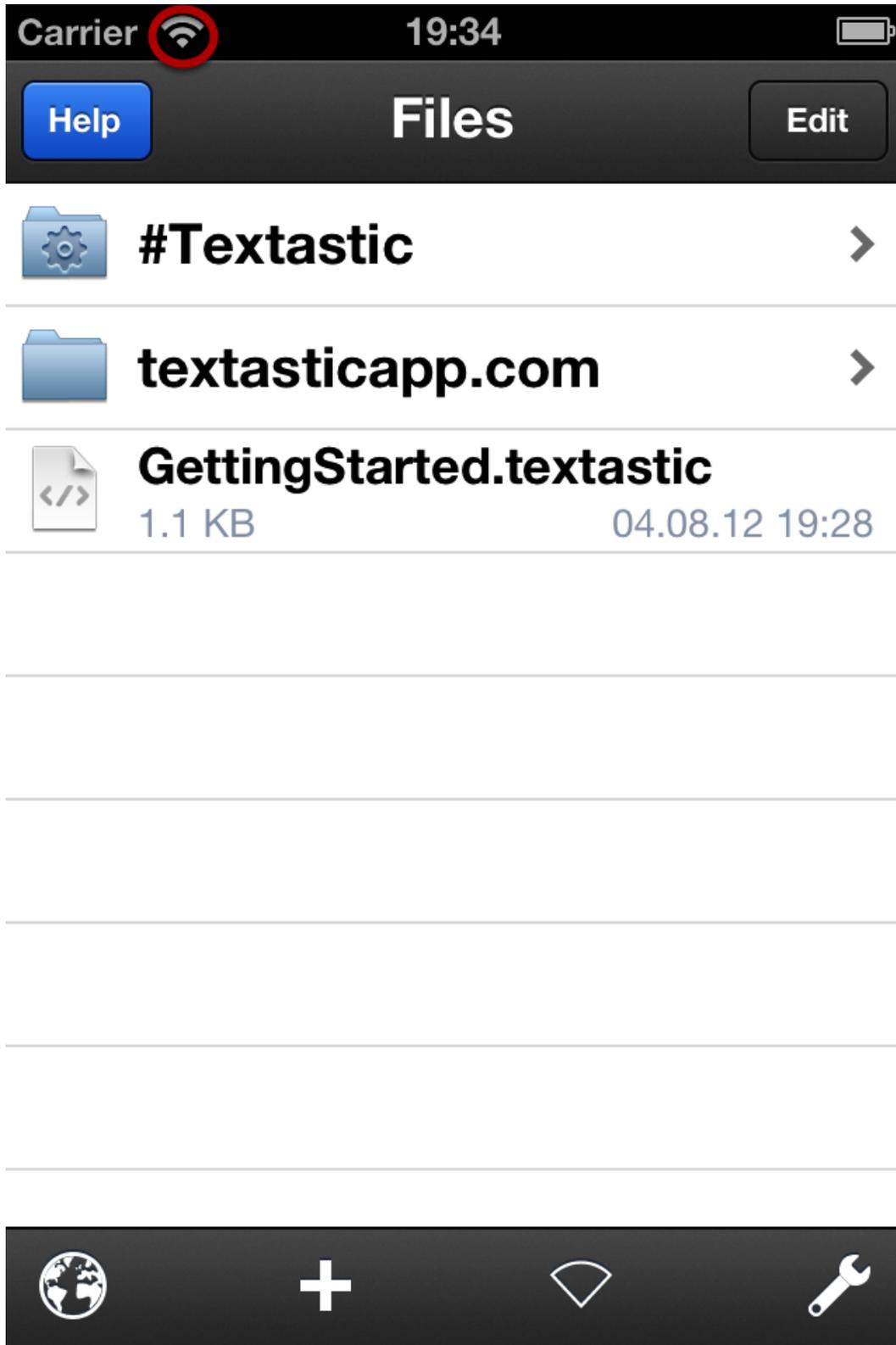
Your Windows PC must be connected to the **same network** as your iPad running Textastic.

Textastic currently supports Windows Vista and Windows 7. If you need to connect from older

versions of Windows (like XP), please use a third party client like [BitKindex](#) or [Total Commander](#) with [WebDAV-Plugin](#).

The iPad must be **connected via Wi-Fi**.

It is recommended that all Vista users install [this WebDAV/Web Folders update from Microsoft](#). (This is not required on Windows 7)

Make sure the WebDAV server is started

Start the WebDAV server and note the WebDAV url.

Connect from Windows Vista / Windows 7

Windows Vista/Windows 7 users have two options for connecting to the Textastic WebDAV server: You can either map a network drive to the Files server, or create a network location. Both methods are described below.

1) Map a Network Drive

1. Open **Computer** from the Start Menu.
2. Click on the **Map Network Drive** button in the toolbar.
3. Enter the Textasic **WebDAV URL** into the Folder field.
4. Click the blue link "**Connect using a different username**" to enter your username and password.
5. Click **Finish** to create the new drive letter.

This will map Files to a network drive with a name such as: "DAVWWWRoot (\\192.168.63.176@80) Y:"

To reconnect in future just open this network drive from Computer.

Note: If you change your username or password you may need to re-create the Network drive to gain access to Files.

2) Create a Network Location

1. Open **Computer** from the Start Menu.
2. Click on the **Map Network Drive** toolbar item.
3. In the Map Network Drive window, click **Connect to a Web site that you can use to store your documents and pictures**, click Next.
4. Select **Choose a custom network location**, click Next.
5. In the Internet or network address field, enter the Textastic **WebDAV URL**
6. You will be prompted for your **username and password**.
7. Enter a **name** for the connection and click **Next**.
8. Ensure that **Open this network location when I click Finish** is checked and click Finish.

In the future you can connect simply by opening "My Network Places" and double-clicking the network location you created. You may need to select "Refresh" from the window's context-menu to ensure that Windows has an up-to-date view of your files and folders.

Note: If you change your username or password you may need to re-create the Network location to gain access to Files.