

# Bringing C To Your Local Computer

Explore the power of the C programming language with a local programming environment.

While it is nice and easy to write code on the Codecademy platform, you may eventually want to work with the C programming language on your local computer. The best way to do this is with an Integrated Development Environment, commonly referred to as an **IDE**.

IDEs are useful applications that assist programmers with many tasks such as:

- File system navigation
- Code lookup and autocomplete
- Syntax error highlighting
- Local command-line access.

There are many IDEs to choose from; it's good to use one that is free and supports a wide variety of programming languages. **VSCode** is an open-source IDE created and maintained by Microsoft and is an excellent choice for C programming.

## Install VSCode

To get started with VSCode, install it from the [VSCode home page](#).

When the install is finished, you should be able to open up VSCode on your local computer.

## Install C Extension and Compiler

After installation, you need to add C support and the proper compiler for your operating system. This is explained using the [VSCode C/C++ docs](#).

Once complete, you should be able to compile and run a C script within the VSCode command line.

## Explore VSCode

With your system set up, you can now get started. There are many things you can accomplish with VSCode, so take the time to explore what it can do! A good first step is to look over the [VSCode Getting Started docs](#).

Have fun programming!