**📘 Chapter 2: Setting Up Python & VS Code**

This chapter walks you through installing Python, setting up Visual Studio Code (VS Code), writing your first Python script, and customizing your coding environment.

**🔹 2.1 Install Python**

* Visit [python.org](https://www.python.org) → Download latest version.
* ✅ **Important**: Check "Add Python to PATH" before installing.
* Verify installation using terminal:
* python --version
* pip --version

**🔹 2.2 Install Visual Studio Code (VS Code)**

* Download from [code.visualstudio.com](https://code.visualstudio.com).
* Lightweight, beginner-friendly editor used by professionals too.

**🔹 2.3 Essential VS Code Extensions**

* 🔌 **Python** – Official Microsoft extension.
* 🎨 Themes: One Dark Pro, Dracula, Monokai Pro (paid), etc.
* 🧩 **Material Icon Theme** – For colorful file icons.
* 🧹 **autopep8** – Auto-formatting based on PEP8 styling.

**🔹 2.4 Create First Python File**

1. Open VS Code → Create a folder (e.g., python\_learning)
2. Create new file hello.py
3. Write your first line:
4. print("Hi, this is my first Python code")
5. Run code using ▶️ icon or assign a shortcut (e.g., Ctrl + R).