# Lesson 19 - Using the Terminal and Intro to Bash – Part 1 Introduction

Linux servers are **widely used** in the IT industry. While Windows servers still exist, most developers and system administrators regularly interact with **Linux systems through the terminal**.

The default shell in most Linux distributions is called **Bash** (Bourne Again SHell). It functions like a lightweight programming language that allows you to communicate directly with the operating system by typing commands.

Today, we'll begin learning the **basics of Bash** and how to use the terminal.

## Step 1 – Watch These Videos

*What is Bash?*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwHOFznvWV0

*Terms and Definitions in Bash*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMSByvFHOro&t=93s

**Step 2 – Open the Terminal in Visual Studio Code**

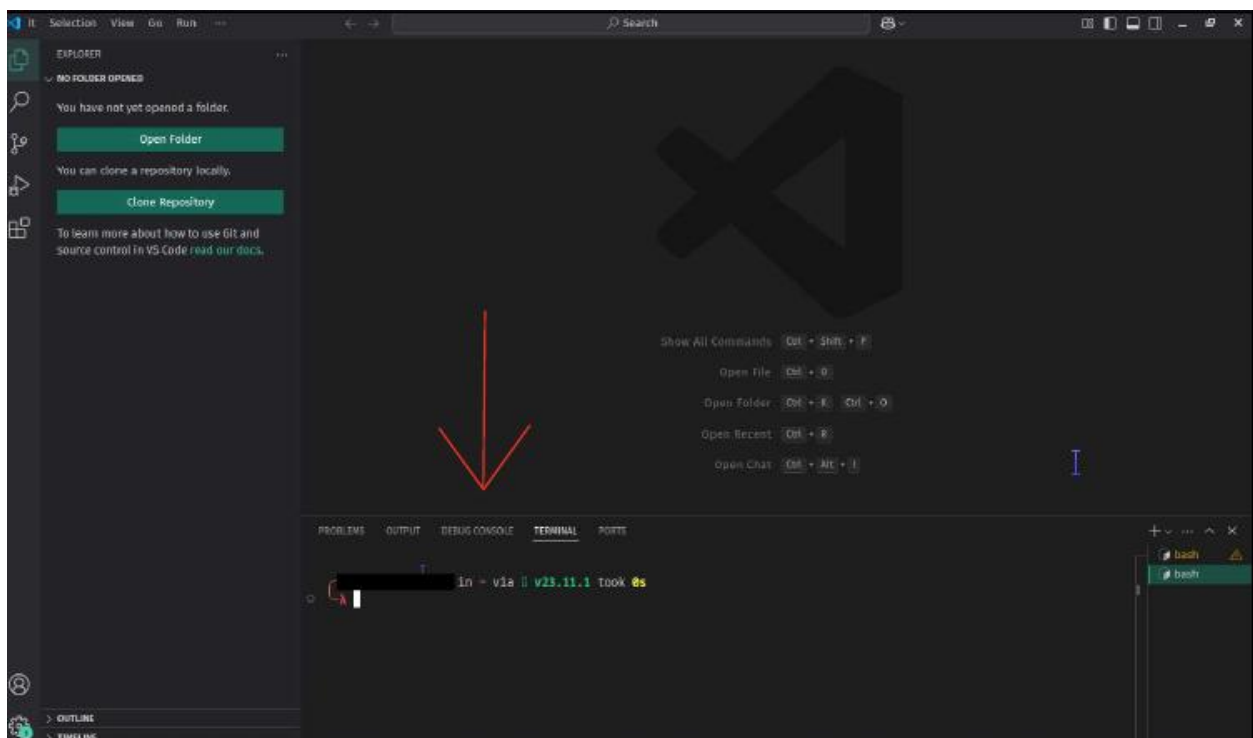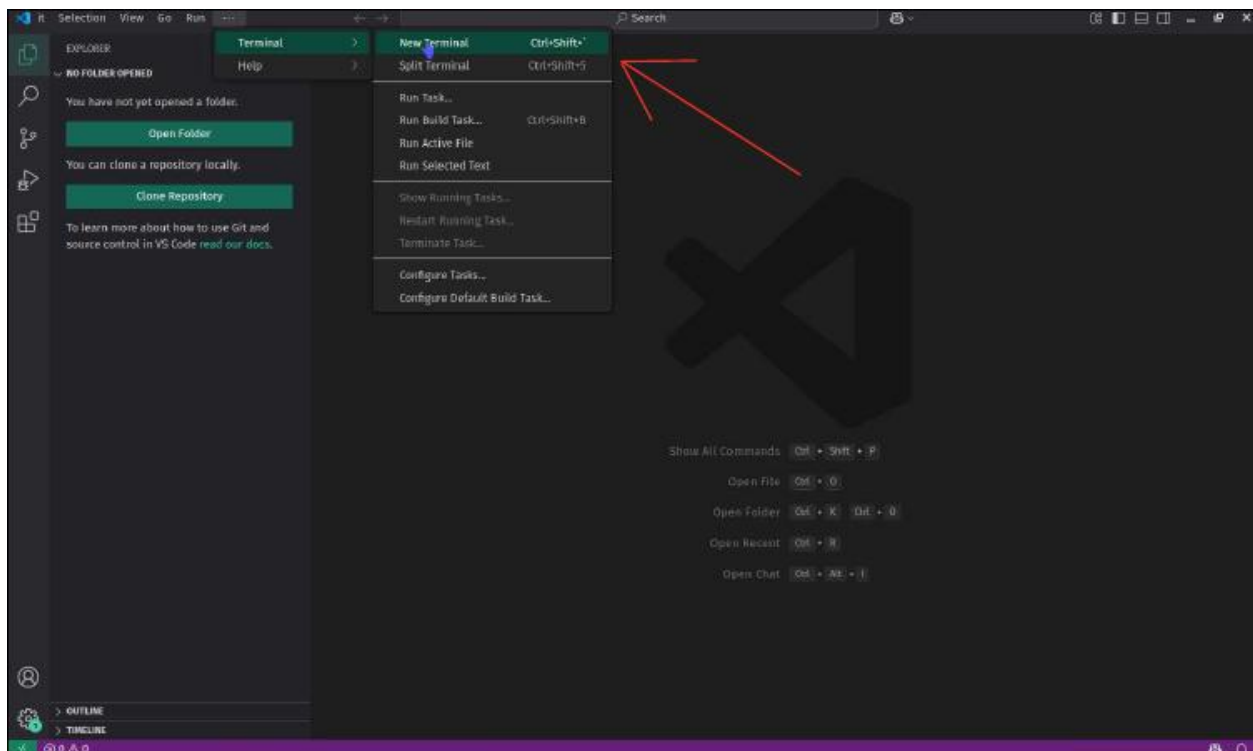To open the terminal in VS Code:

1. Open your project folder.
2. Click on **Terminal > New Terminal** in the top menu.
   *or*
   Press **Ctrl + `** (backtick) to open it.

This will open a terminal pane at the bottom of your screen where you can begin using Bash.

If you're on Windows, make sure you have **WSL and Ubuntu installed** (see setup guide).

## Step 3 – Learn Basic Bash Commands

Now it's time to begin learning how to **navigate and interact with your system** using Bash.

Watch the following short tutorials via O'Reilly to learn key Bash commands for:

- Navigating directories
- Listing contents
- Working with files
- Creating new folders and files

*Video Links:*

- [Introduction to the Command Line](#)
- [Navigating the Filesystem](#)
- [Working with Files](#)
- [Creating Files and Directories](#)

## Step 4 – Create Your Own Quick Reference Sheet

As you watch the videos, begin drafting a **Quick Reference Sheet** of the commands you learn.

Include:

- **Command name**
- **What it does (short sentence)**
- **Optional sample usage**

This sheet should be personalized to your understanding — something **you and your partner** can refer back to easily.

### Example Format

| Command | Description | Example |
|---------|-------------|---------|
| pwd | Show current directory | pwd |
| ls | List files in a folder | ls -l |
| cd | Change directory | cd Desktop/Projects |
| mkdir | Create a new folder | mkdir test-folder |
| touch | Create a new empty file | touch notes.txt |
| rm | Delete a file | rm notes.txt |

You'll expand this reference over the next few lessons.

## Summary

By the end of today, you should be able to:

- Open and use the terminal in Visual Studio Code
- Understand what Bash is
- Use basic Bash commands to navigate and manage files
- Build your own custom command reference