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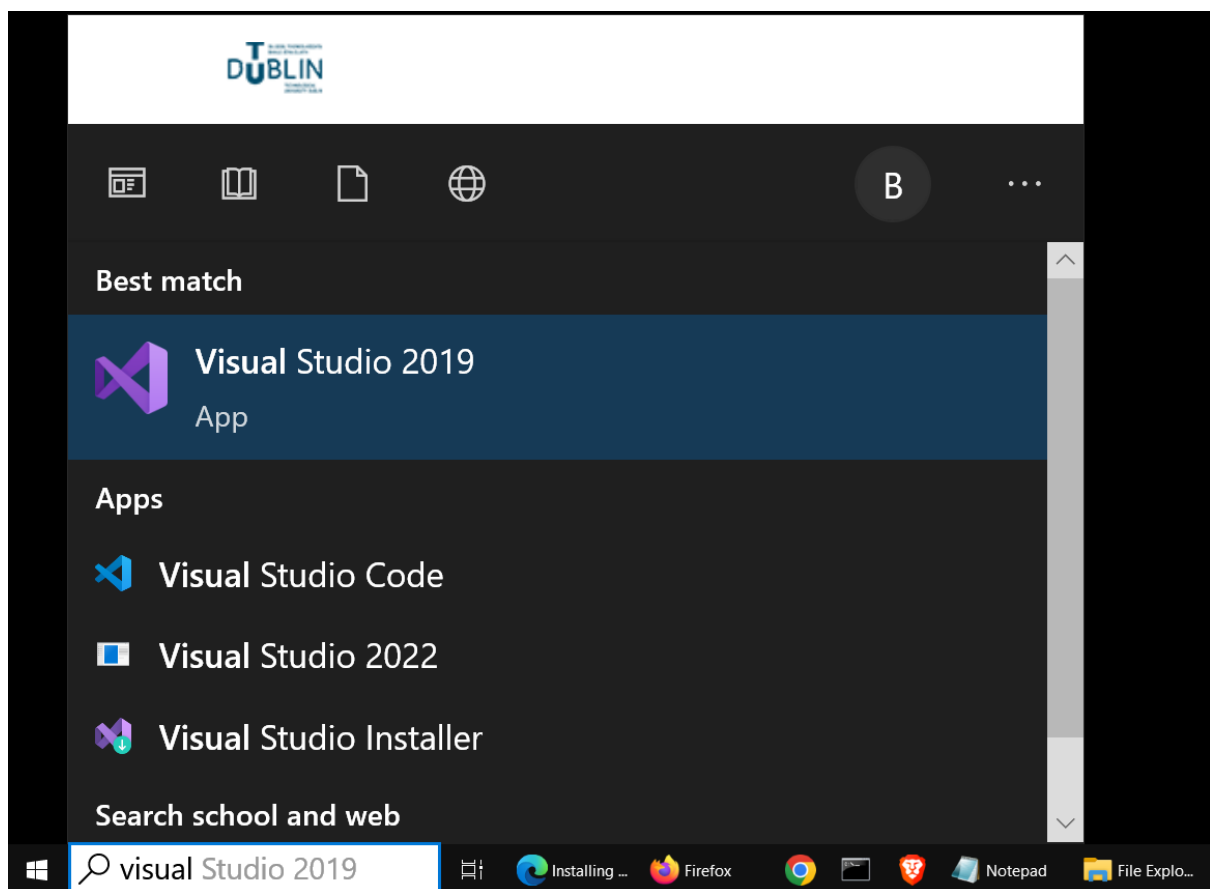# Exploring Web Design

Setting up Visual Studio Code

Running / Installing VS Code

We need a program to write our HTML and CSS code. There are many different programs you can use to write code. We could use a program as basic as notepad to write code but it's easier to use a special program for writing codes. Such a specialised programs is called an *integrated development environment* or IDE for short.

They have many advantages over a basic writing programs like notepad, which will learn more about as we use an IDE, but for now, let's get started with probably the most widely used IDE; Visual Studio Code (or *VS Code* for short).

Step 1: Check if your computer has Visual Studio Code already installed by searching for it.

On Windows type *Visual Studio Code* into the Windows search box. You can also press the Windows key together with the letter S on your keyboard to bring up the search box.
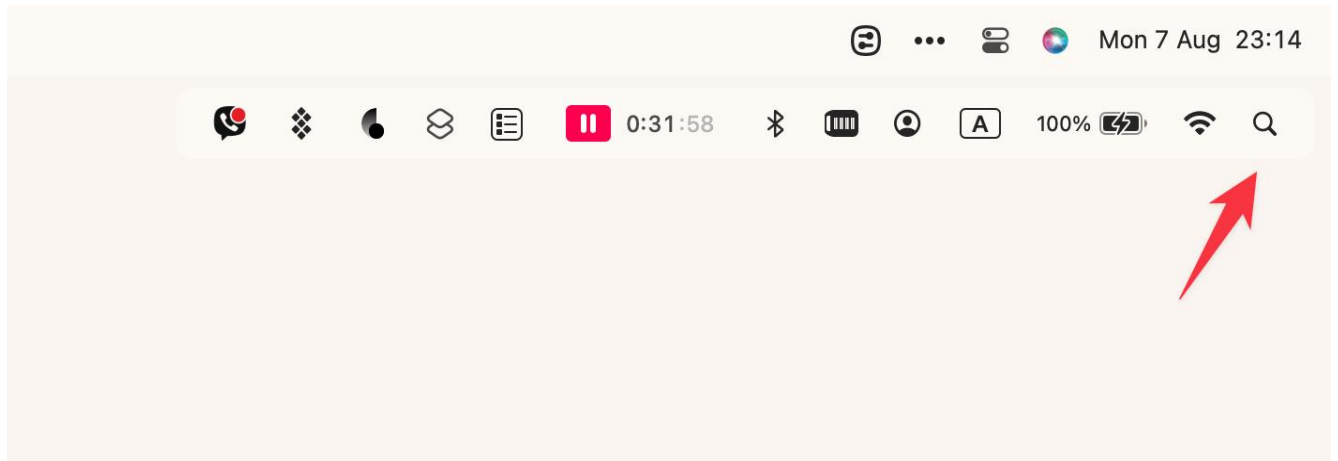
On Mac, Look for the magnifying glass icon in the top right corner of your computer's menu bar. Click on it, and a search bar will appear. Type in *Visual Studio Code.*

(If it's not there, go to System Settings > Control Center. At the bottom, there is a "Spotlight" line. Make sure the box next to it says "Show in Menu Bar".)

Other ways to bring up the Mac search box:

- Press the Command + spacebar combination on the keyboard.
- Press the function key with the image of a magnifying glass if available.

Step 1.2: If your computer doesn't have Visual Studio Code installed, please download it from:

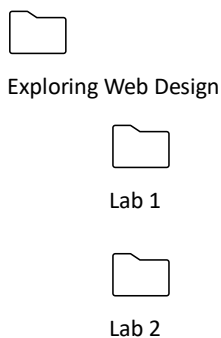https://code.visualstudio.com/download

Setting up Your First Web Page in Visual Studio Code

This section details how to set up a working environment in Visual Studio by creating appropriate files and folders.

Create a new folder either on the local computer and preferably, inside a cloud-based folder using OneDrive or Google Drive. A cloud-based folder means your files can easily be accessed from another computer that can access OneDrive or Google Drive.

Step 2: Create a local folder on your computer for each lab.

Suggested a folder structure:

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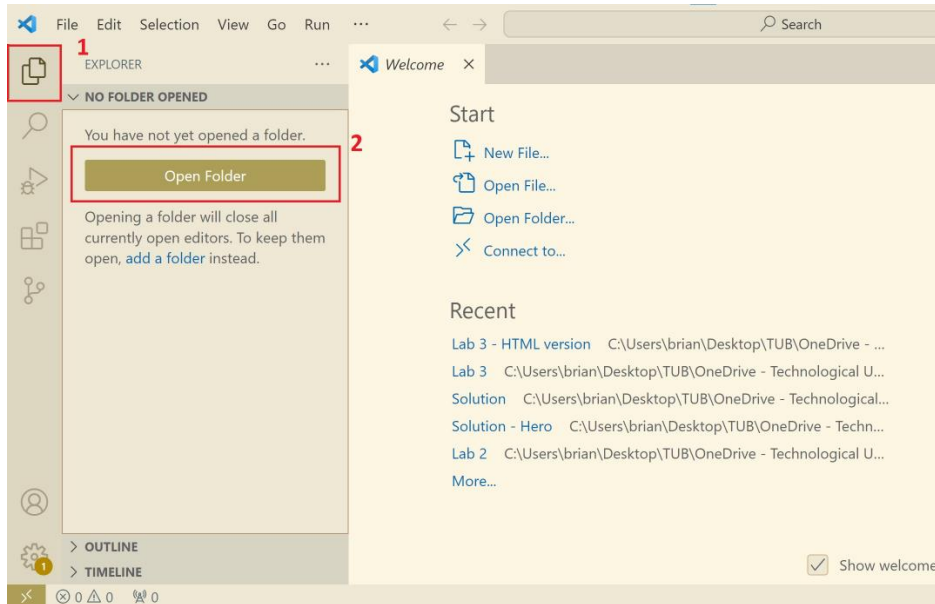
    📁

    Lab 1

    📁

    Lab 2

> Note these folders will be specific to the computer you are using so if you use a different computer in the next lab, the folders will not be there, and you will have to re-create a lab folder on the next computer.

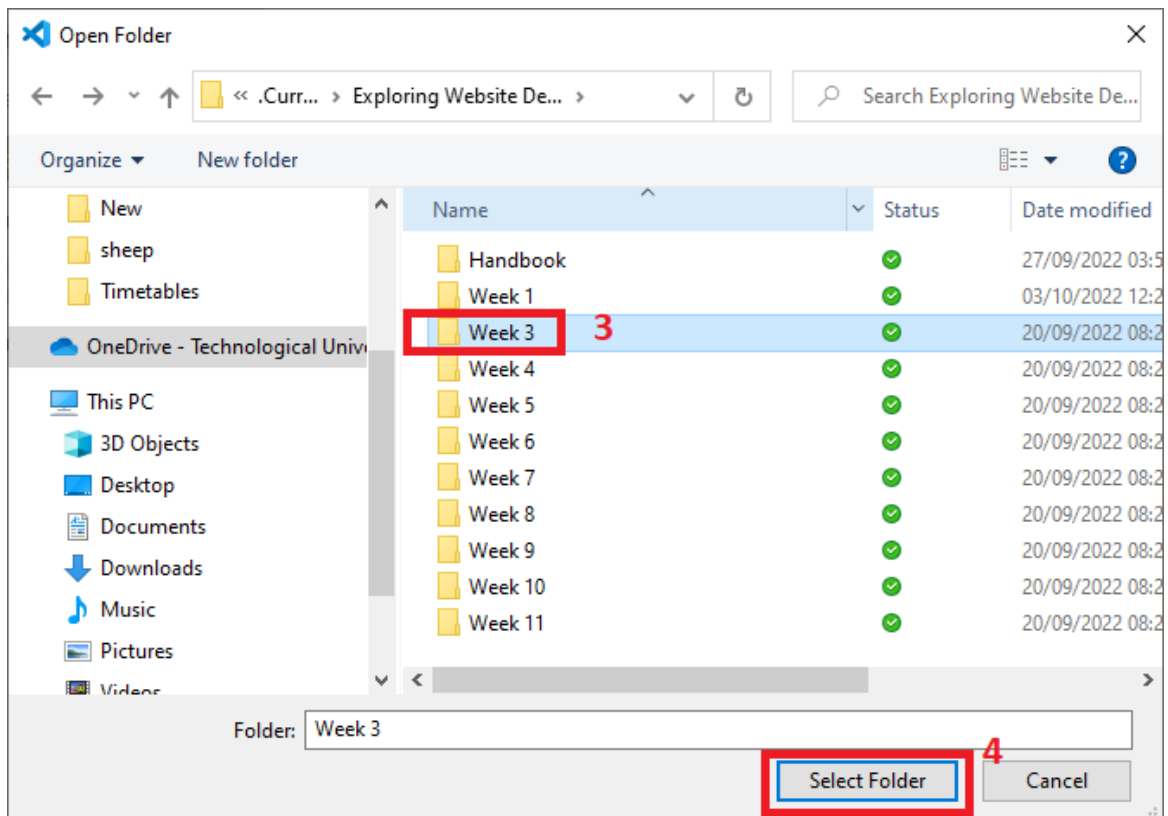**Step 3**: In V.S. Code, open the lab folder you just created which corresponds to the lab you are working on. Then:

2.1: Click the file and folder explorer button (1)

2.2: Select *Open Folder (2)* and then navigate to the correct lab folder and click *Select Folder*

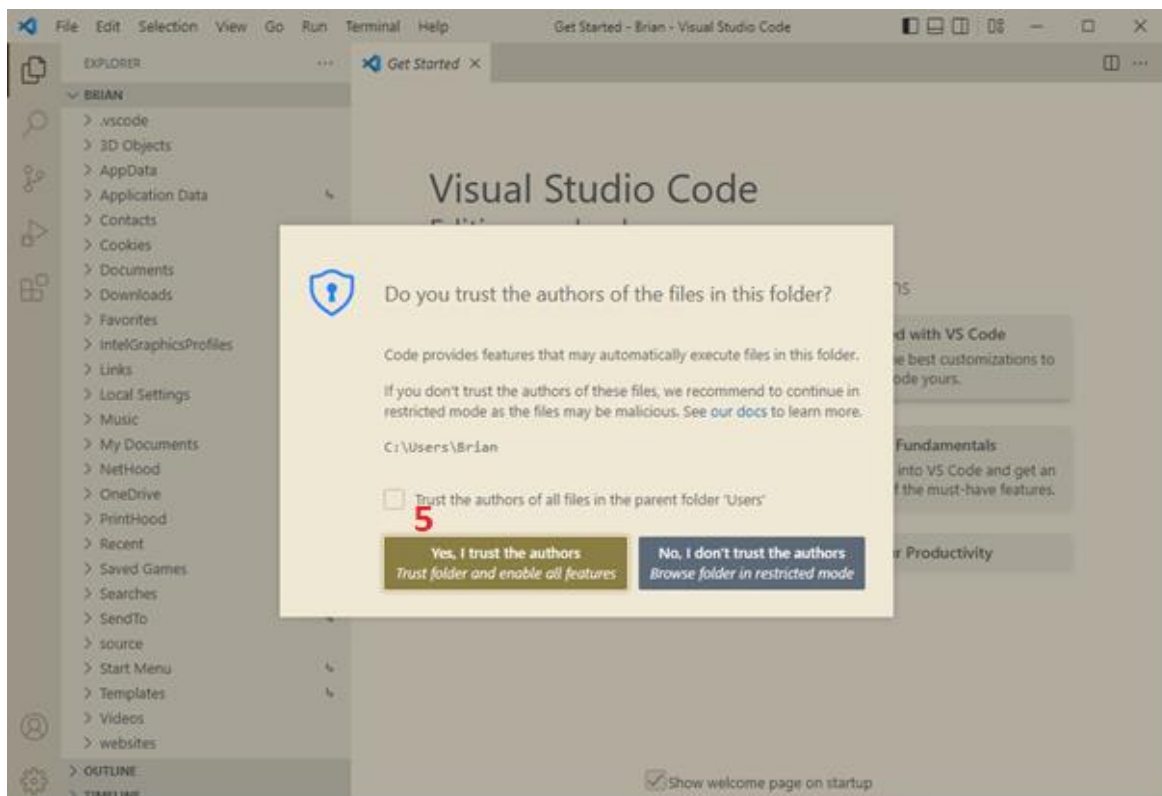If you select an incorrect folder or after selecting a folder wish to select a different folder, go to *File – Open Folder* and navigate to the correct folder, and just like before, click *Select Folder*

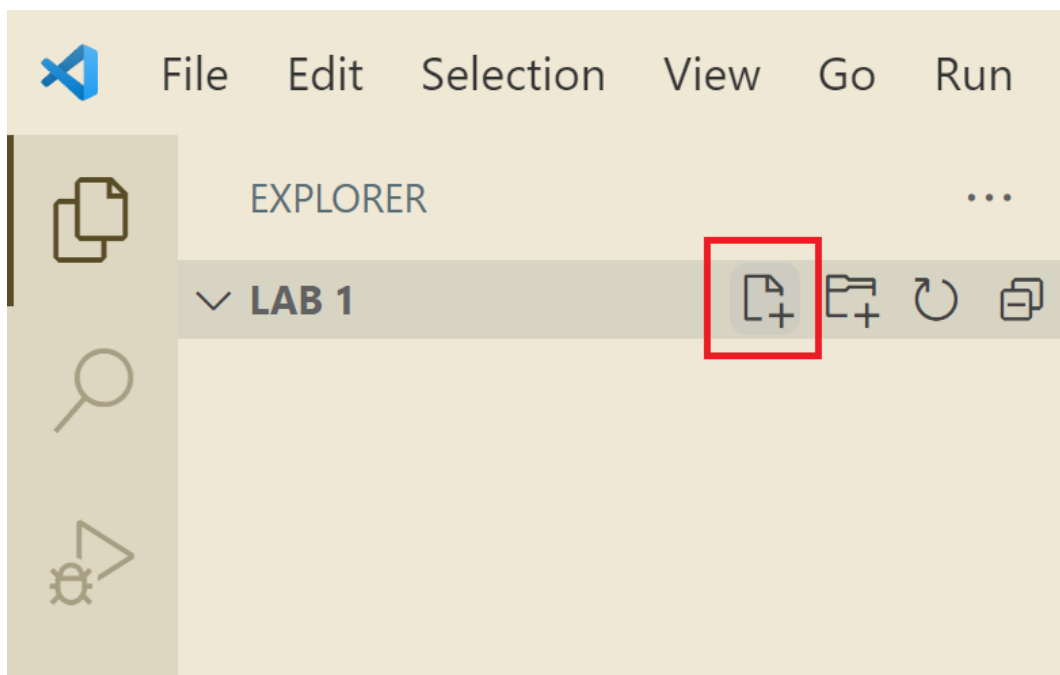**Step 4**: Navigate to the folder you set up on your computer.
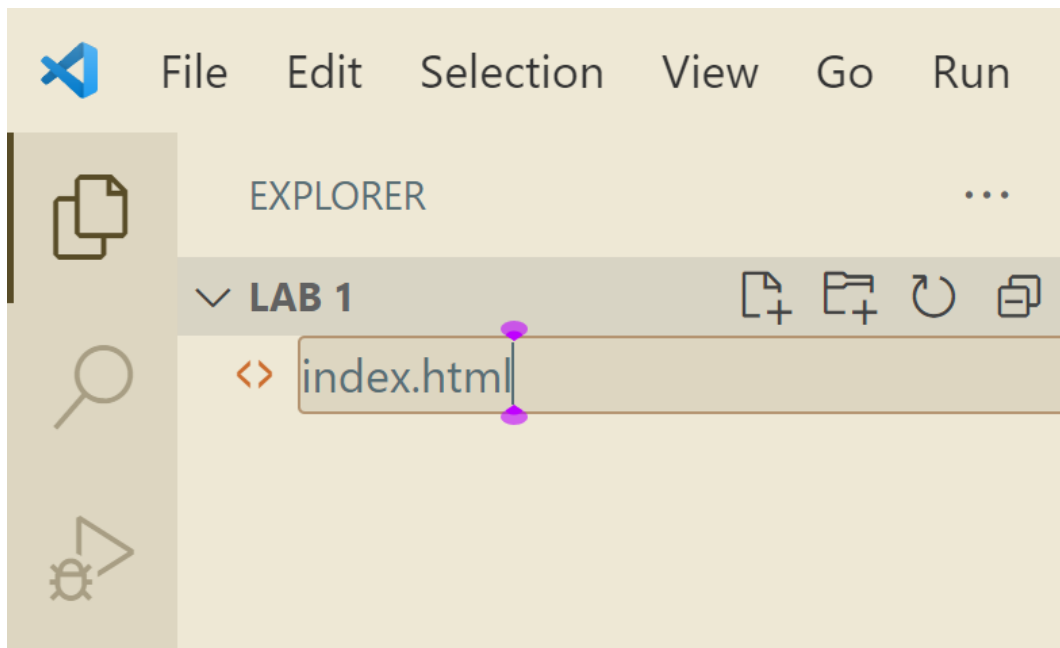
Step 5: Click Select Folder

Step 6: Click *"Yes, I trust the authors"*
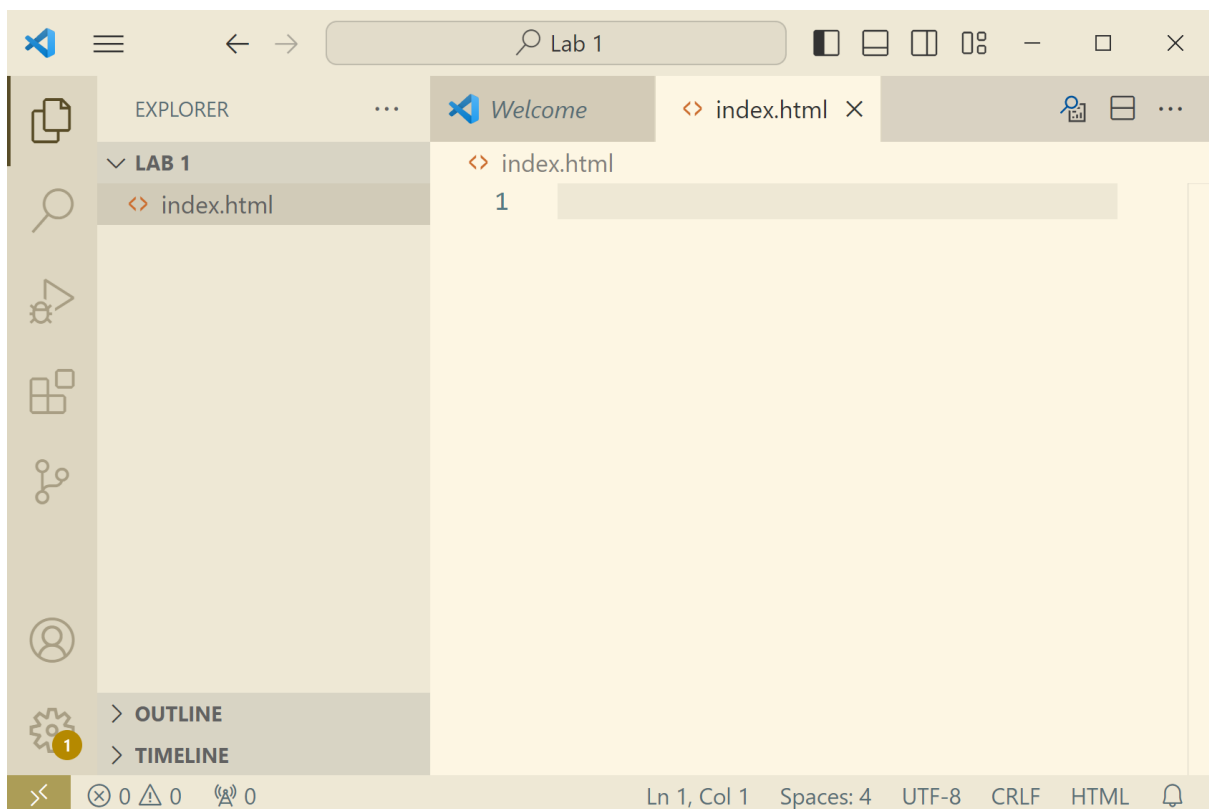
Step 7: Create an *index.html* file

7.1: Click on the new file icon, shown below.

7.2 Type *index.html* as a website's first landing page is always named index.html
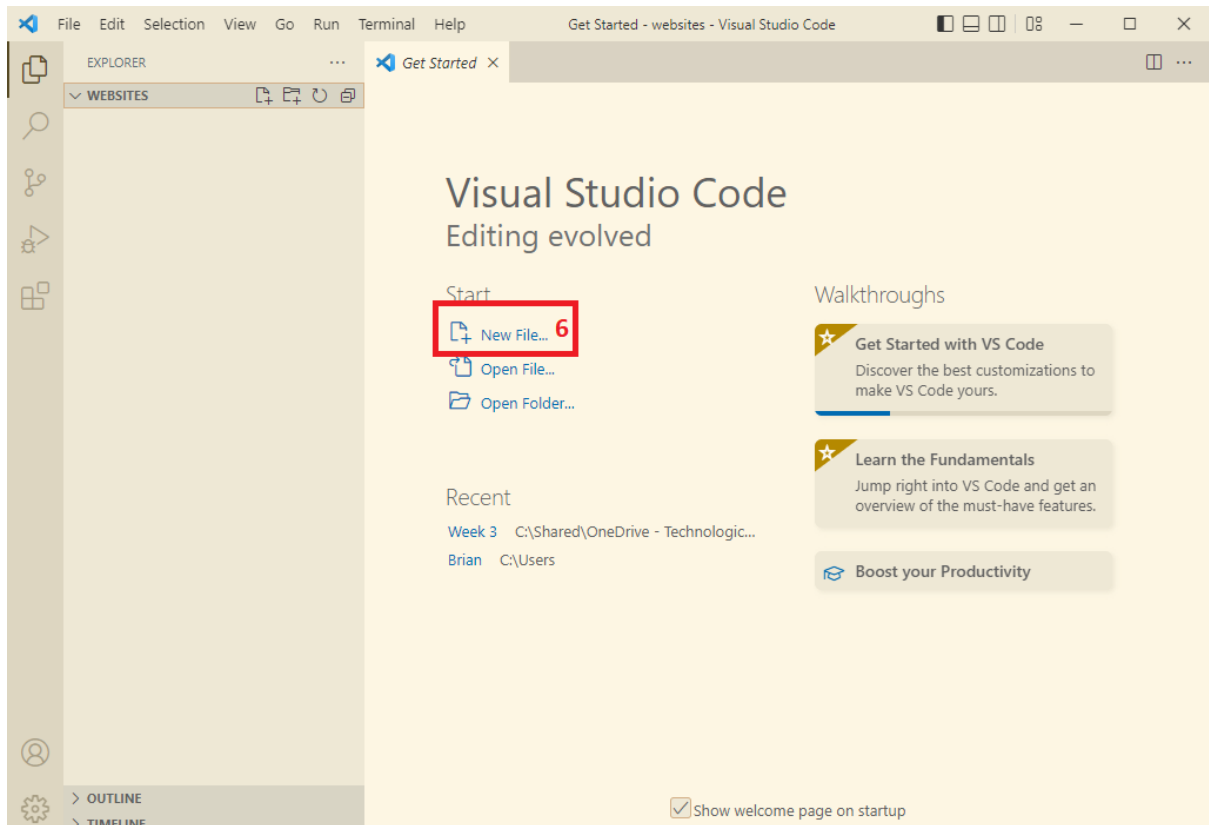
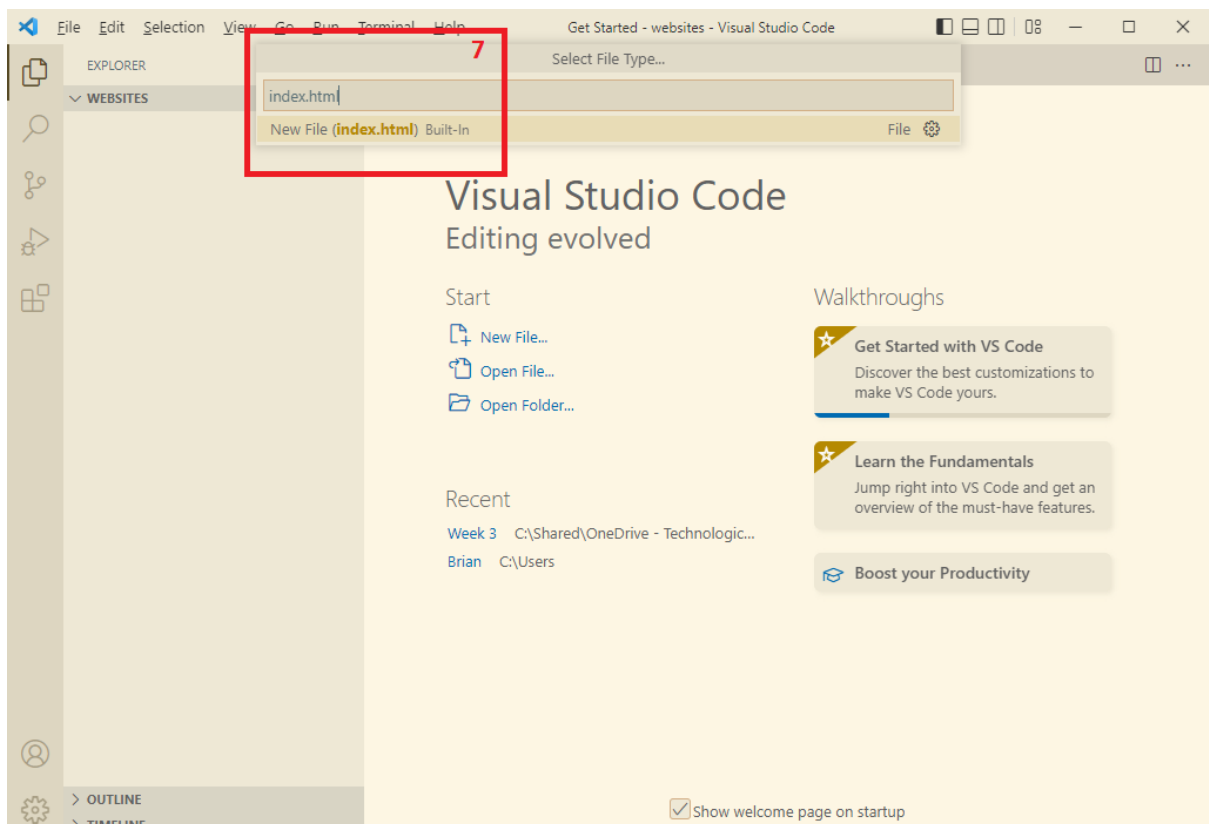Your Visual Studio Code environment should look like the following screenshot.

Alternative method of creating new files:

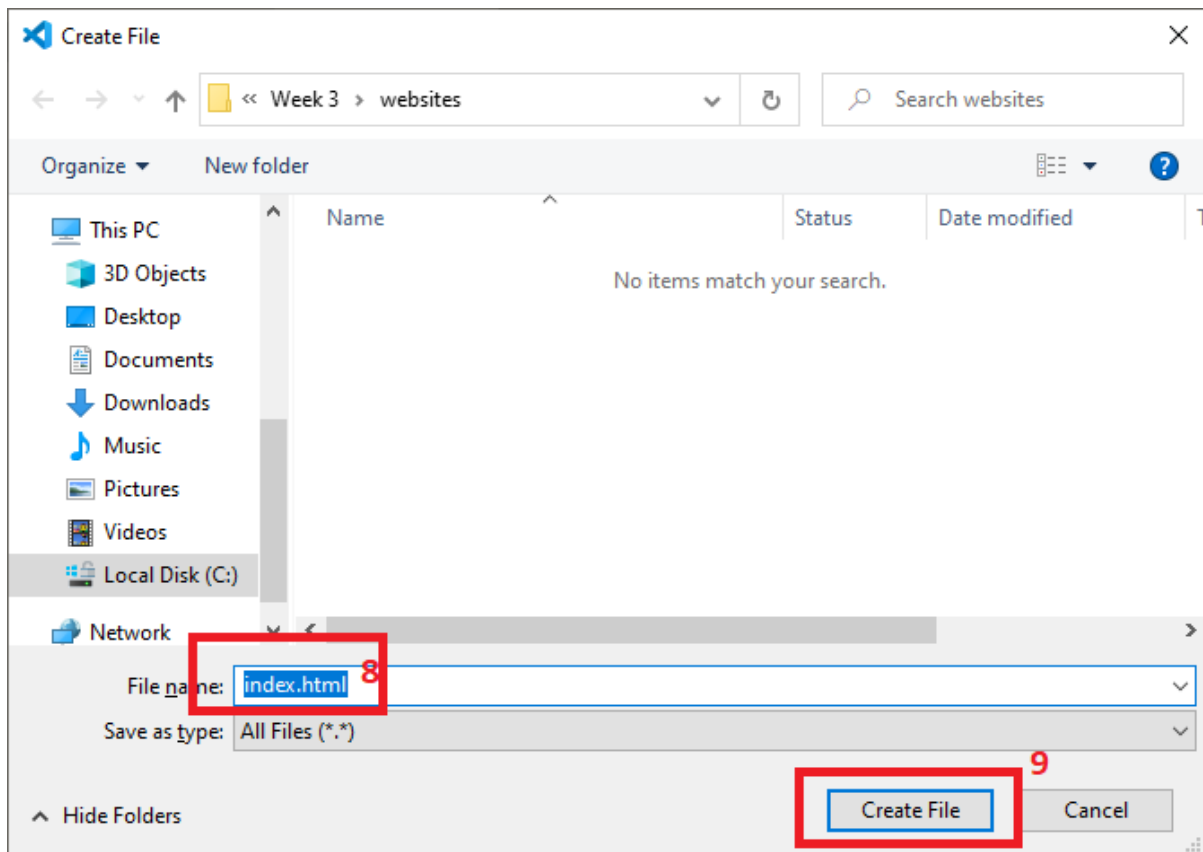This method uses the New File option on the Start / Welcome screen.

Alternative Step 6: Select *New File* under the *Start* menu.

Alternative Step 8: Create a new file named *index.html*

Alternative Step 9: Check the file name is *index.html*. You may have to type the extension *.html*

Alternative Step 10: Click *Create File* and the following screen should be displayed.