How to Install WSL on Windows 11

Step 1: Open PowerShell as Administrator

1. Click on the Start menu, search for PowerShell.

2. Right-click on Windows PowerShell, and choose "Run as Administrator."

Step 2: Install WSL

1. In the PowerShell window, run the following command to install WSL:

   wsl --install

   This command will:

   - Install the WSL feature.

   - Install the default Linux distribution (usually Ubuntu).

   - Enable the Virtual Machine Platform (if necessary).

2. Restart your computer when prompted.

Step 3: Choose a Linux Distribution (Optional)

By default, WSL installs Ubuntu. If the student prefers a different distribution (such as Debian or

Kali), they can list the available distributions with:

   wsl --list --online

   To install a different distribution, use:

   wsl --install -d <DistributionName>

Step 4: Set Up Linux

1. After restarting, the Linux distribution (Ubuntu) will be installed, and a terminal window will open.

2. Follow the prompts to set up a username and password for the Linux environment.

Step 5: Verify Installation

1. After installation, verify WSL is working by opening a new terminal (just search for "WSL" or "Ubuntu") and running:

```
wsl --status
```

This will show the version of WSL installed (WSL 2 is the default) and the default distribution.

Step 6: Accessing Files

The Linux file system can be accessed from Windows via File Explorer:

- Open File Explorer and navigate to \\wsl$.

- This will show the installed Linux distributions and their file systems.

Step 7: Installing Additional Software

The student can now install Linux software using the apt package manager (if using Ubuntu). For example:

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install build-essential
```