Introduction to Tailwind CSS & Utility first Workflow: Tailwind Tutorial #1

In this course, we are going to learn Tailwind CSS with the help of some astonishing projects. In this first article, we will set up the Tailwind CSS and its workflow. Moreover, we will understand how to add the Tailwind CSS in a production application. So, without further ado, let's get started-

Introduction - Tailwind CSS

Tailwind CSS is a Utility first framework that helps us in styling the HTML pages without leaving the HTML file. This means you can simply add some utility classes in your HTML tags to design your pages swiftly. Tailwind CSS is an extraordinary framework that will completely change the way you write CSS in your programs. One major reason for the popularity of Tailwind CSS is its feasible workflow, as it eliminates the need of mapping the CSS to your HTML file. Nowadays, Tailwind CSS is evolving at a very fast pace. Let's begin setting up Tailwind CSS-

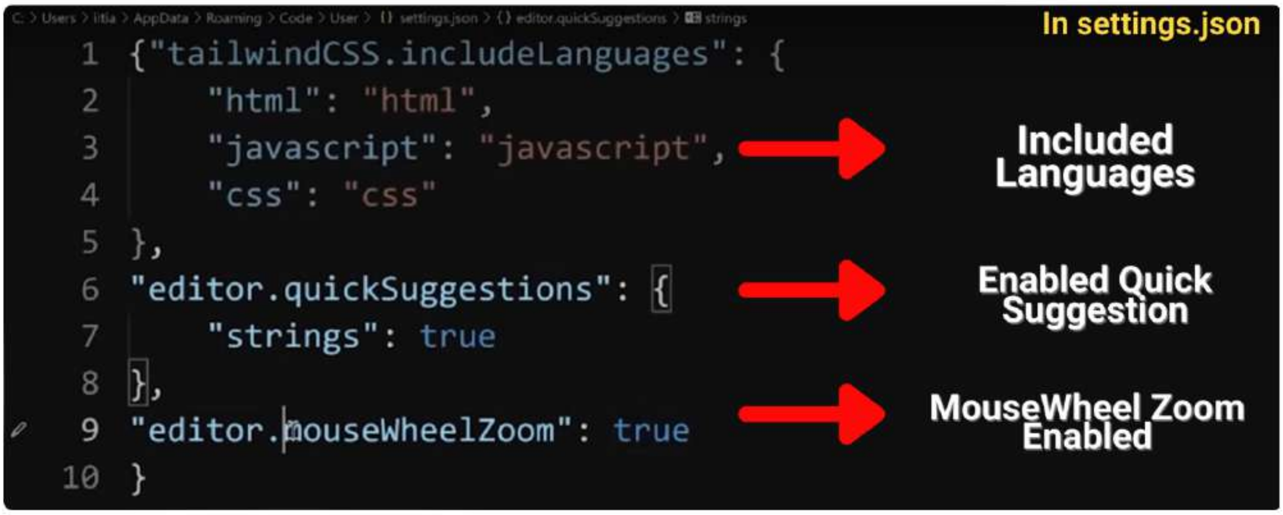
Installation

First of all, we will install some important programs which will be required throughout our Tailwind Journey-

- **Install VS code:** You can easily download the VS code by clicking here. Moreover, Install the live server extension in VS code as it allows us to visualize our static page by opening the page with a live server.
- **Adding Tailwind CSS:** To add tailwind CSS to your file, simply visit the official documentation by clicking here. After that, From the play CDN section, just copy the script and add it to the "<head>" of your HTML file. Hence, we can now use Tailwind CSS in our HTML file.
- **Install Node Js**: You can Download Nodejs by clicking here. Select your OS and click on next, and your Nodejs will be installed.
- **Installing 'Tailwind CSS IntelliSense' extension**: This extension provides some advanced features such as autocomplete, syntax highlighting, and linting.

Workspace Settings Walkthrough

Now, I will provide a short walkthrough of the settings of my VS code as many people ask about some settings throughout the course. Here’s the look of my settings.json file-



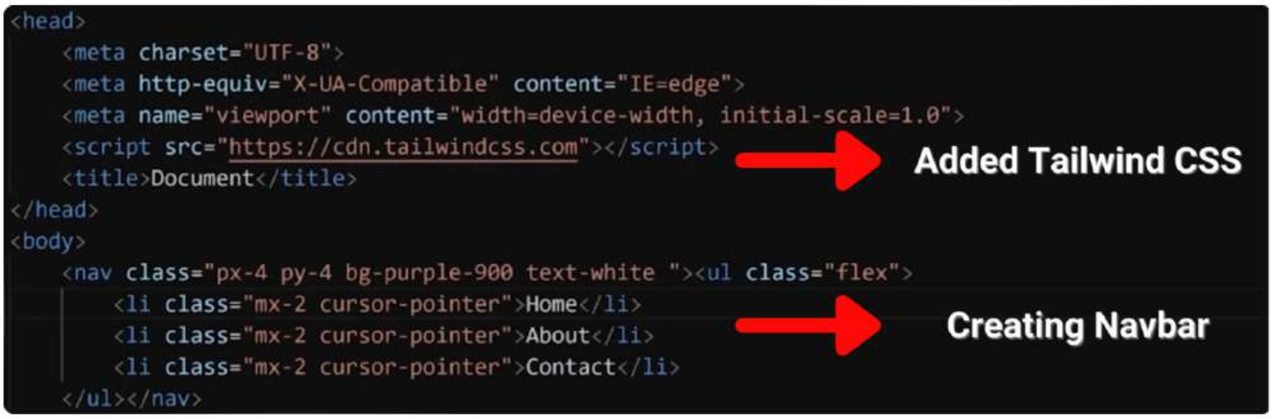
C: > Users > litia > AppData > Roaming > Code > User > {} settings.json > {} editor.quickSuggestions > strings
In settings.json
Included Languages
Enabled Quick Suggestion
MouseWheel Zoom Enabled

```
{"tailwindCSS.includeLanguages": {
    "html": "html",
    "javascript": "javascript",
    "css": "css"
},
"editor.quickSuggestions": {
    "strings": true
},
"editor.mouseWheelZoom": true
}
```

Figure 1.1: Customising Settings

Creating Navbar

Now, let’s begin creating a Navbar to show you the power of Tailwind and make you familiar with the workspace as shown below-



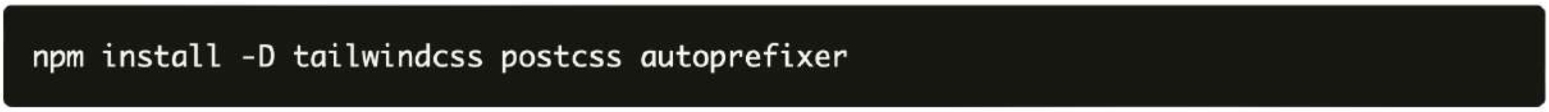
```html
<head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8">
    <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
    <script src="https://cdn.tailwindcss.com"></script>
    <title>Document</title>
</head>
<body>
    <nav class="px-4 py-4 bg-purple-900 text-white "><ul class="flex">
        <li class="mx-2 cursor-pointer">Home</li>
        <li class="mx-2 cursor-pointer">About</li>
        <li class="mx-2 cursor-pointer">Contact</li>
    </ul></nav>
```

Figure 1.2: Creating Navbar

Explanation: Here, we have added a navbar having a 'Home', 'About', and a 'Contact' section. Moreover, we have added some classes to enhance the look of the Navbar. In the above case, we have provided the desired padding, text color, and a purple background to the navbar. In addition to this, we have appended the cursor pointer class to our list. Here's a quick tip, Tailwind provides you with an amazing feature of quick search to get the list of all the 'classes' related to a specific property.

Installing Tailwind CSS - For Production

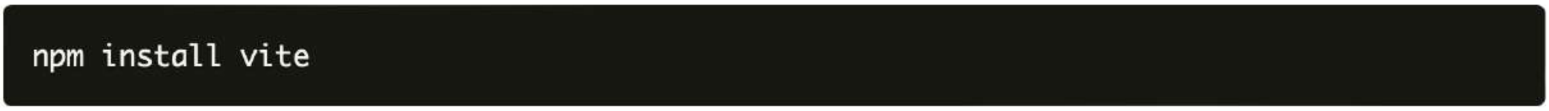
We want to use Tailwind CSS in the production of our application, therefore we would install the Tailwind with the help of Post CSS, Vite, and Autoprefixer. To install Tailwind for production, simply execute the below command in the Terminal-



```
npm install -D tailwindcss postcss autoprefixer
```

Installing Vite

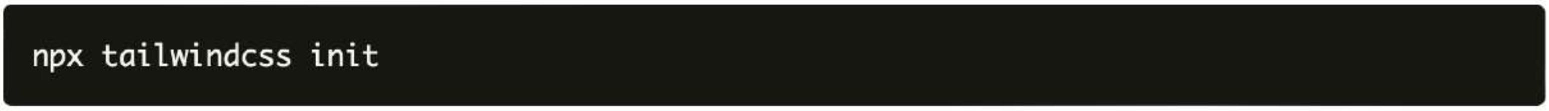
After executing the above command, Install Vite with the help of the below command. In package.json, make sure to add a script section to run vite whenever npm start is executed.



```
npm install vite
```

Initialising Tailwind

Finally, for the initialization of the Tailwind, you have to use the below command-



```
npx tailwindcss init
```

After the execution of the above command, a Tailwind.config.js file will be created. Make sure to add a “*” in the content section as we will be using the Tailwind in the complete content.

In the upcoming videos, we will be having a quick revision of the Tailwind CSS. In addition to this, we will be covering a lot of new concepts of Tailwind by creating some astonishing projects.

Check out our Github to access the source code of the course, Click Here

Thank you for being with me throughout the tutorial. See you all in the next tutorial. Till then Keep learning and Keep Coding.