COURSEWARE

Running a Web Server with VSC Live Server

Contents

- [Overview](#)
- [Tutorial](#)
  - [Installation Steps](#)
  - [Using Live Server](#)
- [Exercises](#)

Overview

Traditionally, when working on HTML Web pages, we would write some code first, then open the HTML page in our preferred browser.

However, changes made to the code are not reflected instantly. As a result, we are forced to refresh the browser every time a change is made.

One way we can get past this is by using a plugin within **Microsoft Visual Studio Code (VSC)** called **Live Server**.
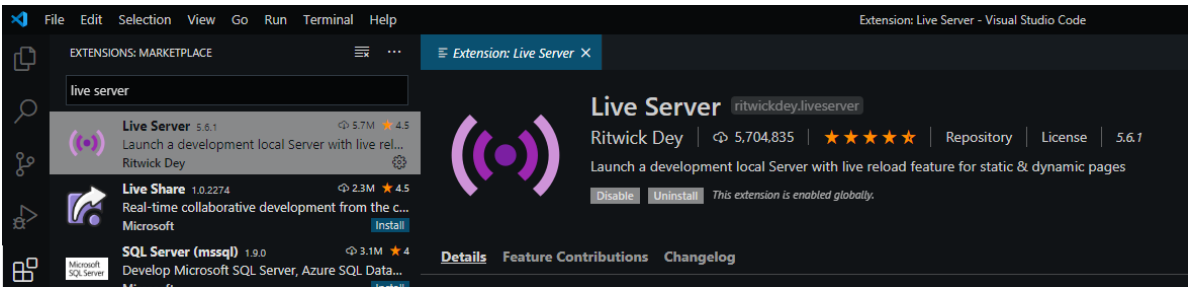
This is a plugin that can be activated when working on HTML pages; upon saving the file we are working on, it automatically refreshes the browser showing the latest changes - there is no need for us to do a hard refresh.

Tutorial

You will need VSC for this module, [which can be found here](#).

Installation Steps

1. Open VSC.

2. Navigate to Extensions.

3. Search for **Live Server** in the search box

4. Click `Install`.

5. Restart VSC to ensure the changes take effect.

Using Live Server

1. Create a new folder.

2. In the folder create a new HTML document (should end with `.html`).

3. Add some HTML to the document you just created - a good shortcut that can be used is by typing `!` then `TAB` which will show a box as below, this will automatically use a template of code in that document, saving you time.

```
<> liveServer.html
  1    !
        🔧 !                                    Emmet Abbreviation
        🔧 !!!
```

```
<> liveServer.html > ⬡ html > ⬡ head > ⬡ meta
  1    <!DOCTYPE html>
  2    <html lang="en">
  3    <head>
  4        <meta charset="UTF-8">
  5        <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  6        <title>Document</title>
  7    </head>
  8    <body>
  9
 10    </body>
 11    </html>
```

4. Finally we can then open Live Server by clicking the **Go Live** button, or pressing `ALT` + `L` then `ALT` + `O`:

```
                                        🔘 Go Live   🗗   ⟳
```
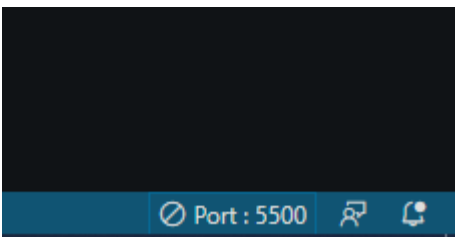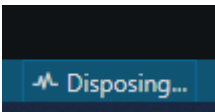
5. You may get a security notification, click **Allow**

6. A new page will open in your browser with the following url: `http://127.0.0.1:5500/`. You can then click the file you would like live server to use e.g. `index.html`

7. As you make changes in VSC on that file and save it, the browser will refresh and the new changes will be reflected. (*Just make sure you keep the browser open to see it in effect!*)

8. Finally once finished, it is important that you stop Live Server by clicking the **Port:####** button, or pressing `ALT` + `L` then `ALT` + `O`.

```
                            ⊘ Port : 5500   🗗   ⟳
```

Then will look like this:

```
    ⟲ Disposing...
```

Exercises

1. Create a HTML document in VSC with the following and run using Live Server.

   - A large heading with the following text "Welcome to".
   - A paragraph with the following text "Live server."
   ▶ Solution