"Cannot validate the php file. The php program was not found"

Asked **8 years, 4 months ago**   Modified **28 days ago**   Viewed **116k times**   ⚙ Part of **PHP** Collective

I'm a beginner in PHP and want to use the VS Code editor. However, when I first save my php file I get this message:

57

> Cannot validate the php file. The php program was not found. Use the 'php.validate.executablePath' setting to configure the location of 'php'

What is the problem?

`PHP` `php` `visual-studio-code`

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edited Dec 10, 2015 at 0:23
miken32
42.4k ● 16 ● 115 ● 159

asked Dec 9, 2015 at 15:03
user4863890

I don't use VS Code (I don't even know how it looks like) but the error message seems pretty clear: find the `php.validate.executablePath` in the settings (file or window) of VS Code and set it with the location of your PHP interpreter. – axiac Jan 2, 2016 at 17:17

2   **Just delete the `php.validate.executablePath` setting.** Yes, you read that right! I spent an age trying to sort out this error. No solution I have seen even suggested removing the setting from settings.json. But this is exactly what I did. Removing `php.validate.executablePath` works for me because **I am using the PHP toolset from DEVSENSE and I have no other PHP extension is installed**. Perhaps VSCode is making some false assumptions when it sees the setting. – Phil Blackburn Oct 29, 2023 at 11:31 ✎
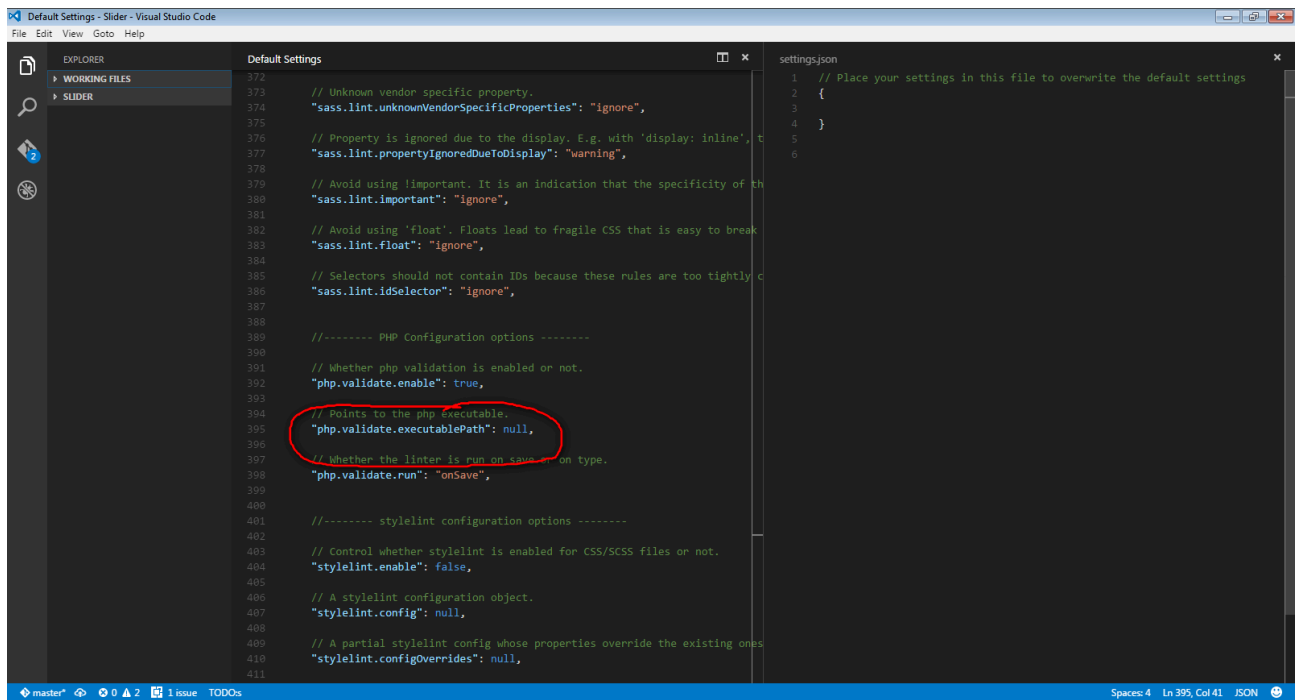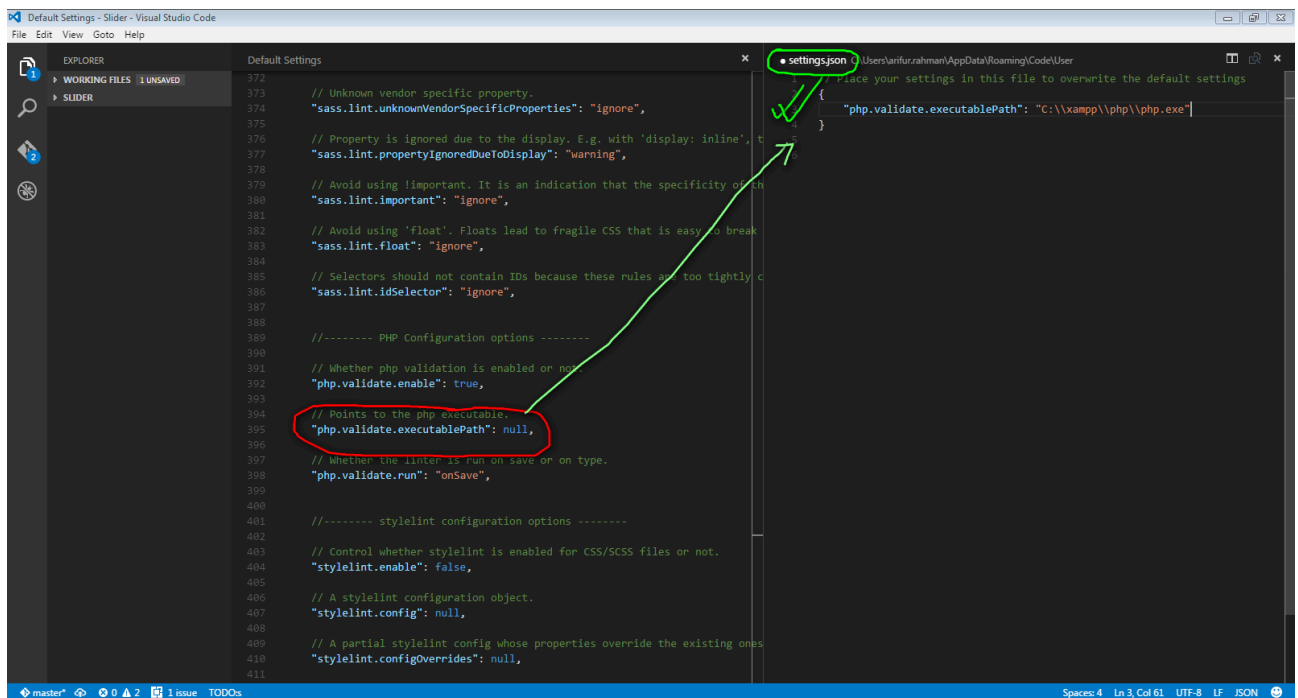
17 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default) ⬍

First, go to File->Preferences->User settings, A window will come like below image.

80

Now change the **setting.json** file like below image and save:

If PHP is not installed in your system, download php from here: windows.php.net/download, unzip to `C:` drive, set `"php.validate.executablePath": "C://path.to.your.php.folder//php.exe"`

If php is installed in your system simply set the path of your `php.exe` file like below:

```
"php.validate.executablePath": "C://path.to.your.php.folder//php.exe"
```

hint: In my case I use XAMPP which is installed in the D: drive, so my setting is below

```
"php.validate.executablePath": "D://xampp//php//php.exe"
```

Mind the *double forward slashes.*

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edited Oct 26, 2016 at 6:59
Marc.2377
8,217 ● 7 ● 52 ● 98

answered Mar 28, 2016 at 11:04
Ari4
930 ● 1 ● 7 ● 12

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5   I did this, but still Im getting this issue. I didnt install php separately, I downloaded the php binary file and set up the environment. Is it enough? or do I want me to do something more? – Nifal Nizar Oct 27, 2016 at 15:52 ✎

1   How do I keep the setting saved? Or does it save automatically? – Malachi Bazar Dec 20, 2016 at 19:00
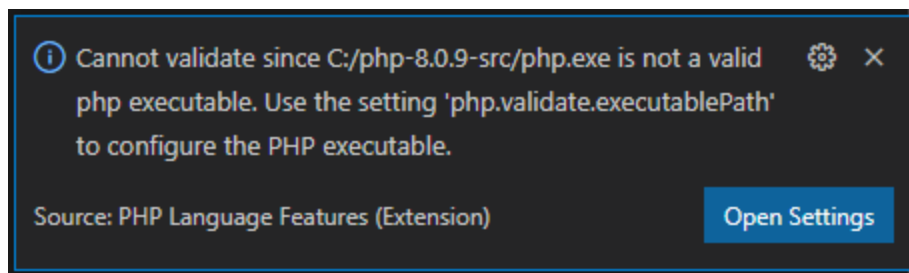
2   Same issue as Nifal, pointed it to my php.exe file and it's still giving me this error – Douglas Gaskell Apr 5, 2017 at 20:39

in mamp `"php.validate.executablePath": "D:\\MAMP\\bin\\php\\php7.1.5\\php.exe"` – bhv Jul 22, 2017 at 8:18

2   What about on Linux? – Stefan Teunissen Jan 26, 2018 at 7:23

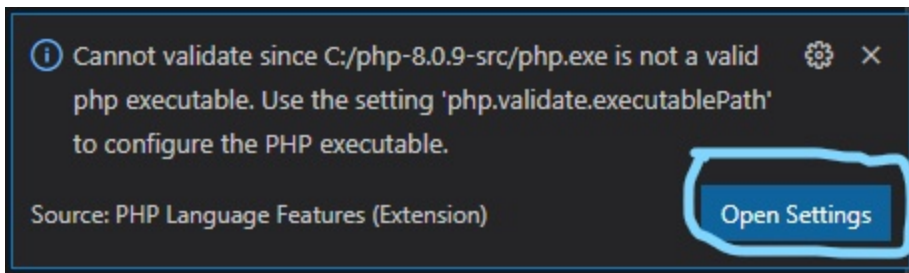▲

16

▼

🔖

↺

How you can fix this:

If you have installed `xampp` for making a localhost database this is for if your new to `php` and are getting the error in the picture and this is how to fix it. **I am using visual studio code.**

How to get rid of error:

1) Get to settings:

Method 1:

- Click the button that says settings on the error (bottom right corner of the error)

> ⓘ Cannot validate since C:/php-8.0.9-src/php.exe is not a valid php executable. Use the setting 'php.validate.executablePath' to configure the PHP executable.
>
> Source: PHP Language Features (Extension)
>
> Open Settings

Method 2:

- Click the shortcut for settings (`ctrl` + `,`) (if doesn't work resort to method 3 or 4)
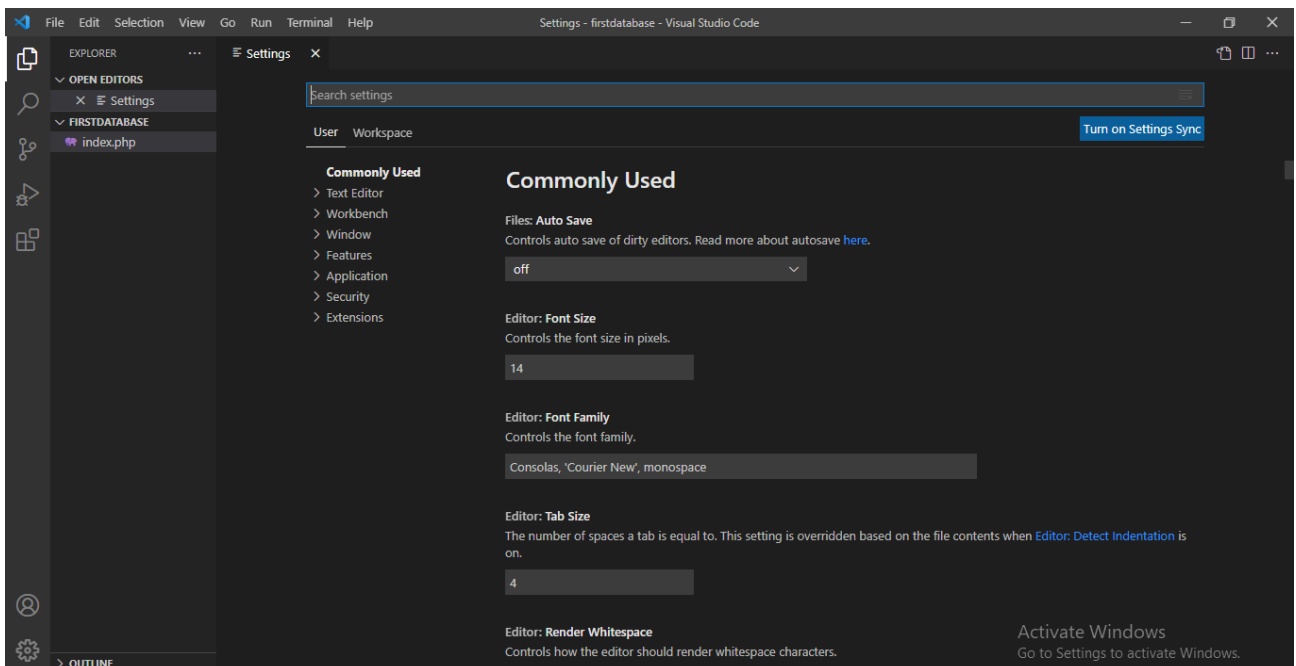
Method 3:

`file` > `preferences` > `settings`

- **file** (top left next to icon of visual studio code) [image of where to click method 3,1](#)
- **preferences** (near bottom under auto save) [image of where to click method 3,2](#)
- **settings** (the very top option) [image of where to click method 3,3](#)

Method 4:

- **Click cog icon** (bottom left under the account icon/person) [image of where to click method 4,1](#)
- **Settings** (second option from top) [image of where to click method 4,2](#)

Now you should be in settings and it should look like this:

UNLESS you did method 1 in how to get to settings, And you clicked on the button that said settings on the error message, I cannot include anymore pictures, read carefully.
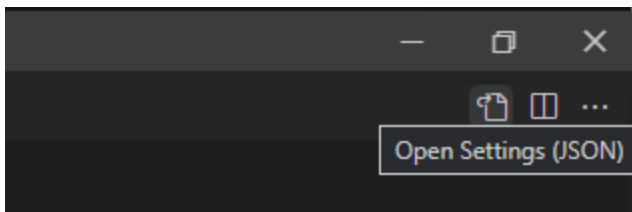
2) Get to `JSON` file to resolve error:

Method 1:

- Click the underlined text that says edit in `settings.json` (it should be right in front of you nearly in the centre of the screen)

Method 2:

- Click the `{}` or paper with the arrow suggesting turning over the paper, When hovering over it, it will say `open settings (JSON)` (you will find it under the minimize screen button in the top right corner of the screen)

3) Enter this code:

Method 1:

You should be using `xampp` because this tutorial is for that specific control panel.

Inside the main `JSON` brackets (`{}`)

Add this to the end:

```
{
    "php.validate.executablePath": "C:/xampp/php/php.exe"
}
```

Method 2:

- If using a different drive simply change the `C:` to whatever drive it is e.g. `D:`
- If still getting the error change the path so it works for you, you want to locate the `php.exe` or just `PHP` and the file class will be `"application"`,

Then route the exe to the `PHP` using the path you took to locate the `php.exe` `"application"`

Remember you start at your drive so it should always start with `C:` (the drive you saved the `xampp` in)

4) Now save and close Visual Studio Code and re-open it

I hoped this helped if not I am sorry but this worked for me after looking around for a bit.

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edited Aug 10, 2021 at 18:46
lejlun
4,311 ● 2 ● 17 ● 31

answered Aug 9, 2021 at 17:17
x10djkid
161 ● 1 ● 2

This is a great answer, really well structured and detailed! – lejlun Aug 10, 2021 at 17:16

Method 3, worked fine for me. Thanks – TrevorNyan May 10, 2022 at 18:31

Most detailed answer, bravo ! – Ion T Jul 22, 2022 at 9:45

What about the MAC users? – user9437856 Aug 28, 2022 at 7:25

9

I solved it by adding lines

```
"php.executablePath": "C:/wamp64/bin/php/php7.1.9/php.exe",
"php.validate.executablePath": "C:/wamp64/bin/php/php7.1.9/php.exe"
```

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edited Oct 18, 2019 at 8:14
akinuri
11.4k ● 10 ● 72 ● 106

answered Feb 1, 2018 at 3:52
Nidhin
176 ● 3 ● 8

8

For Mac users with MAMP

```
"php.validate.executablePath": "/Applications/MAMP/bin/php/php7.4.16/bin/php"
```

Change *php7.4.16* to your PHP version of choice.

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answered Dec 29, 2021 at 21:18
Mohamed Surour
135 ● 2 ● 6

4

this is work for me.

if you have installed php, please add path of installation php on path windows enviroment variable.

if you not install php yet, please follow this step:

1. Install php and copy path installation. ex : C:\XAMPP\php

2. go to System > Advanced System setting > Enviroment Variable > User Variable > Path > Edit > New > paste the path

restart vscode

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answered Feb 25, 2018 at 3:26

Sigit
778 ● 7 ● 13

Perhaps it is a syntaxis issue. After many tries I found that the command had to be written

3

```
"php.validate.executablePath": "C:\\xampp\\php\\php.exe",
```

(with 2 backslashes). I noticed that many answers said that a normal slash (/) or just one back slash worked as well. I have the Visual Studio Code version 1.17.0-insider x64.

The solution worked independently of the location of the executable file. Which in my case was located in C:\xampp\php\php.exe and C:\Program Files\PHP\v7.1\php.exe.

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answered Sep 25, 2017 at 23:36

eliasmaxil
550 ● 4 ● 13

First, go to File->**Preferences**->**settings**->**User settings** tab->**extensions**->from the drop down select **php**->on the right pane under **PHP › Validate: Executable Path** select **edit in settings.json**.

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Then set the path as your case may be e.g for a xamp user who installed xammp on c drive you will have:

"php.validate.executablePath": "c:\xampp\php\php.exe"

If php is installed in your system independently or by other means simply set the path of your php.exe file like below:

"php.validate.executablePath": "C://path.to.your.php.folder//php.exe"

4/5/24, 9:15 AM

visual studio code - "Cannot validate the php file. The php program was not found" - Stack Overflow

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answered Apr 6, 2019 at 0:25

Marcel
159 ● 2 ● 6

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there is a fast way for fixing this, just

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1. Search in Cortana : web

2. Open **Microsoft Web Platform Installer**

3. Search in Microsoft Web for "php"

4. install one of php versions like php 7.0.5 or php 5.6

5. if your install be successful, now your system have php and you won't see php error in *visual code.*

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edited Apr 1, 2017 at 22:31

answered May 17, 2016 at 0:30

user3617558
45 ● 1 ● 5

VS Code is looking to validate your code using php, and it is not finding php installed on your system.

1

If you install php to your path (That is to say, in a command prompt window you can type "php" in any folder and something will happen), everything should work.

Otherwise, you can do one of two things:

1. Set the "php.validate.executablePath" setting in VS Code to point to the php executable on your system, wherever it may be.

OR

2. Ignore the error, but you won't get proper error detection as you code.

For more information, see this: https://code.visualstudio.com/Updates#_language-php

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answered Dec 9, 2015 at 19:05

Tobiah Zarlez
1,690 ● 1 ● 12 ● 13

I was in the same situation. I'm using PHP through a docker (using Visual Studio Code). I didn't want to install PHP on my PC.

1

The solution that worked for me was to download a **portable** server that executes PHP (www.uwamp.com). You will download it as a zip file (no installation or configuration needed) and save it somewhere on your PC.

Follow these steps:

- download zip file from: https://www.uwamp.com/file/UwAmp.zip

- unzip and save to any folder on your PC like: C:\Data\UwAmp

- get the url to the php.exe file inside UwAmp > C:\Data\UwAmp\bin\php\php-7.0.3\php.exe

- open Visual Studio Code and go to: File > Preferences > Settings > Open Settings (JSON) (you will have to click the icon at the top right corner)

- Add following reference to the bottom of the *settings.json* file: "php.validate.executablePath": "C:\Data\UwAmp\bin\php\php-7.0.3\php.exe"

- save (you may possibly have to restart Visual Studio Code)

This is not the exact solution you (and myself) was aiming for, but no PHP was installed and configured on the PC and it's easy to clean up (just delete the UwAmp folder and remove the line at *settings.json*) when done.

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answered Jan 14, 2020 at 11:36

Mohammad
1,538 ● 2 ● 14 ● 15

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Also, that only works if you open a folder in VS Code, you can't set it up to view a single file. Since VC creates a ".vscode" folder with a settins.json inside of it when you edit Preferences > Workspaces. This is where you could specify the php.validate.executablePath.

So keep that in mind, if you just open a single file, you can't use that functionality but it will still show the warning. Instead open the folder the file is in.

If you want to never have to worry about it, then modify your %path% environment variable to include the folder that php.exe is in.

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answered Jan 2, 2016 at 17:04

Mastro
1,477 ● 2 ● 22 ● 53

I ran into the same problem with the extension PHP Intelephense in Visual Studio Code. What I did is read the instructions so the extension could work properly. So I disabled PHP Language

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Features by searching "@builtin PHP" in the extensions. Also, other (3rd party) PHP extensions that provide similar functionality should also be disabled for best results. Finally, I added glob patterns for non-standard PHP file extensions to the files.associations setting. For example: "files.associations": { "*.module": "PHP" }

Doing this made the error go away because I installed the PHP Intelephense extension. I'm new to PHP too, let me know if this is the correct way of solving this problem with PHP Intelephense.

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answered Jan 15, 2021 at 17:03

Bryan Orellana
19 ● 2

Apart from the answers above, for a Linux based system, do this-

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In VSCode, Go to **Files -> Preferences -> Settings**
In User section, click **Edit in settings.json**
Add this code to the JSON file-

```
"php.validate.executablePath": "/opt/lampp/bin/php"
```

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answered Nov 21, 2021 at 13:56

Kartikeya Kapparwan
21 ● 8

On VS Code

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1° Go to File -> Preferences -> Settings -> Find "php.executablePath"

2° Open "PHP:Executable Path" [2° image]: https://i.stack.imgur.com/UDTud.png

3° On file "settings.json" add "php.executablePath": "pathtophp\php\php.exe",. And save all. [3° image]: https://i.stack.imgur.com/drWDL.png

4° On Windows 11 go to -> This PC -> Properties -> Advanced system settings [4° image]: https://i.stack.imgur.com/dZ0xi.png

On System Properties Windows 5° Advanced Options -> Environment Variables -> Add to Path Variable 'pathtophp\xampp\php'

6° Save all and restart VS Code.

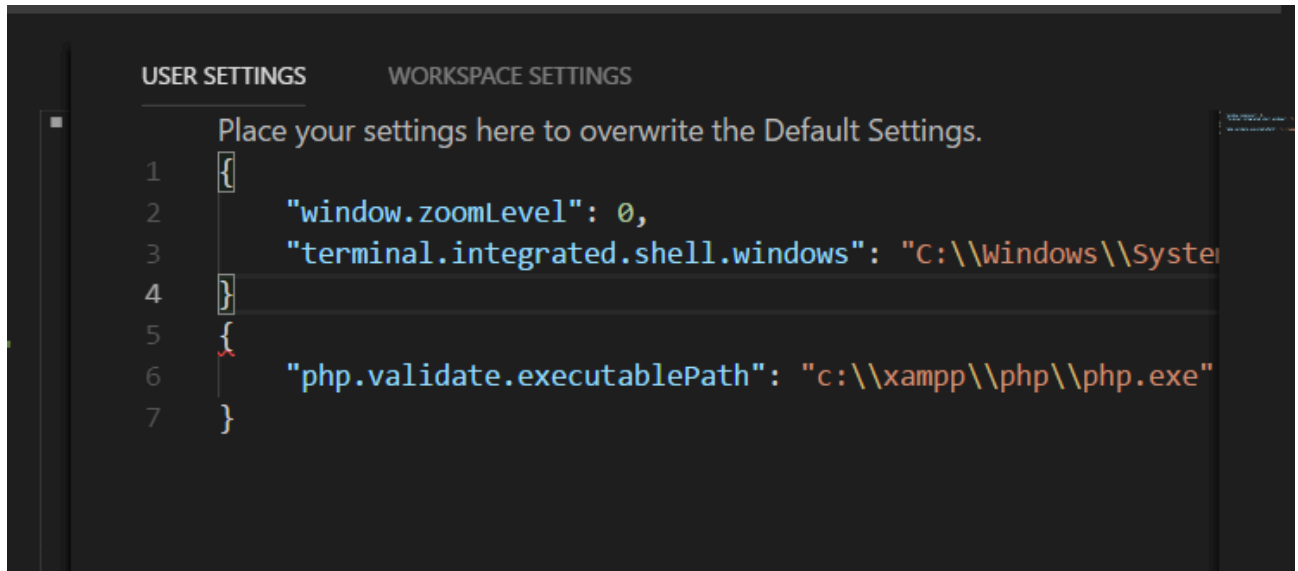Share   Improve this answer   Follow

answered Feb 23, 2022 at 2:42

G3TZO
1 ● 2

This is in addition to the answer by @Ari4 - a separate answer because comments cannot include images. This may help some people who can't get the syntax right especially if there already an entry in the JSON file. Mine had two previous entries which can be confusing (yes, I spent a half hour figuring it out). First, here's what not to do:
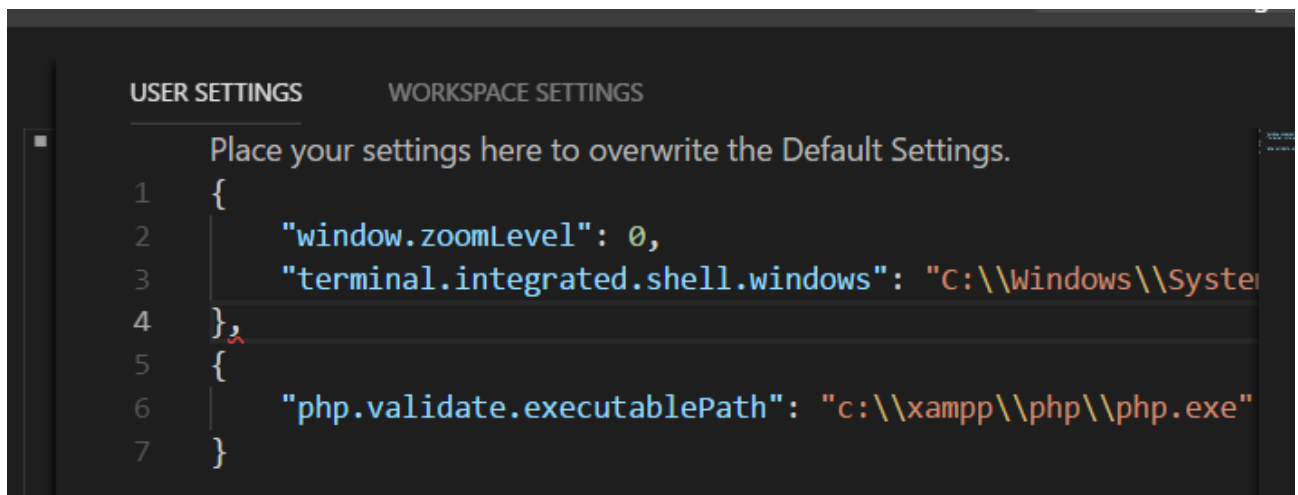
```
USER SETTINGS          WORKSPACE SETTINGS

        Place your settings here to overwrite the Default Settings.
  1     {
  2         "window.zoomLevel": 0,
  3         "terminal.integrated.shell.windows": "C:\\Windows\\Syste
  4     }
  5     {
  6         "php.validate.executablePath": "c:\\xampp\\php\\php.exe"
  7     }
```

which you might do (as I did) if you copy-paste or follow instructions verbatim. Also this and other such combinations are wrong:
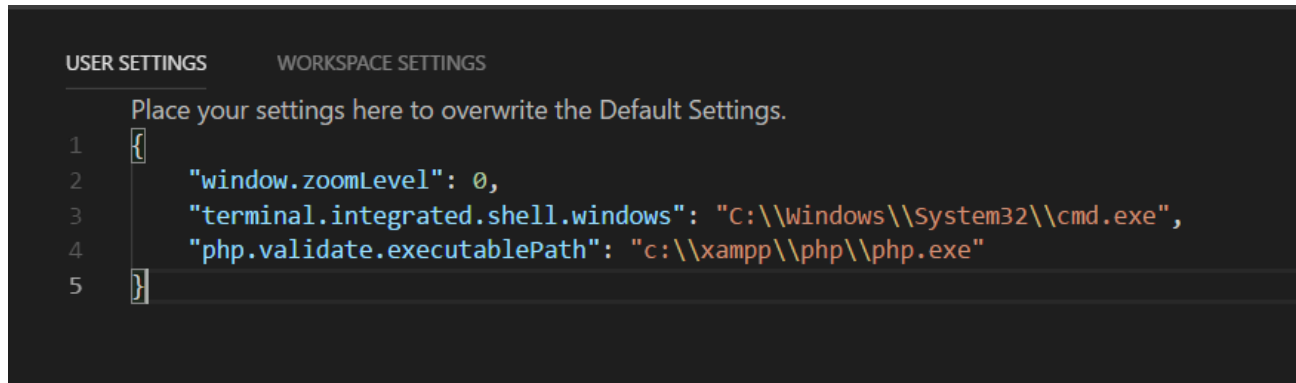
```
USER SETTINGS          WORKSPACE SETTINGS

        Place your settings here to overwrite the Default Settings.
  1     {
  2         "window.zoomLevel": 0,
  3         "terminal.integrated.shell.windows": "C:\\Windows\\Syste
  4     },
  5     {
  6         "php.validate.executablePath": "c:\\xampp\\php\\php.exe"
  7     }
```

The right way to do this is:

```
USER SETTINGS        WORKSPACE SETTINGS

        Place your settings here to overwrite the Default Settings.
1    {
2        "window.zoomLevel": 0,
3        "terminal.integrated.shell.windows": "C:\\Windows\\System32\\cmd.exe",
4        "php.validate.executablePath": "c:\\xampp\\php\\php.exe"
5    }
```

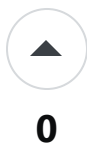Notice the "," at the end of the previous setting.

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answered Aug 8, 2022 at 11:19

Chiwda
1,317 ● 7 ● 30 ● 58

0

There are a lot of solutions given that tell you what `php.validate.executablePath` should be set to, but nothing I have read so far (**I could have missed it**) have suggested removing the setting altogher!

If, like me, you are using the PHP toolset from DEVSENSE, then you do not need to have PHP Intellisense installed (or many other PHP extensions). With PHP Intellisense installed or disabled, you likely have no need for `php.validate.executablePath`

Perhaps VSCode is making some false assumptions when it sees `php.validate.executablePath` ?

So my solution is:

1. Install PHP (DEVSENSE)

2. Uninstall every PHP Intellisense - dont even have it disabled

3. Delete the `php.validate.executablePath` from settings.json

4. Do the usual restart of VSCode

Of course, you still need to have the paths to your PHP installation correctly configured on other settings and environment variables. So double check those too.

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answered Oct 29, 2023 at 11:54

Phil Blackburn
1,057 ● 1 ● 8 ● 13

For Debian-based os (like Ubuntu, Zorin OS, Linux Mint, Elementary OS, etc) users, use the `"php.validate.executablePath": "/usr/bin/php"` .

-1   To find the path of your PHP, execute `which php` command in the terminal.

▼   More detail at - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOfxRxTMPXQ

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answered Sep 14, 2022 at 17:44

Shah Alom

1,025 ● 1 ● 14 ● 26

That does not configure it: Cannot validate since /usr/bin/php is not a valid php executable. Use the setting 'php.validate.executablePath' to configure the PHP executable. – Yannick Mussche Apr 27, 2023 at 8:02

@YannickMussche: Are you using vscode inside a container (i.e. flatpak)? If so: vscode can not access binaries on your host (easily). For more details check the issues in the github repo, for example github.com/flathub/com.visualstudio.code.oss/issues/... – Felix Schwarz Jun 7, 2023 at 14:34 ✎

with me it appeared to be an issue related to the visual studio code of the ubuntu software center. Downloading it straight from the commandline solved the issue – Yannick Mussche Jun 16, 2023 at 13:50