**Step 1: Project Setup with VS Code (20-30 minutes)**

**Prerequisites Installation:**

**1. Install .NET SDK (5 minutes)**

1. Go to <https://dotnet.microsoft.com/download>
2. Download **.NET 8.0 SDK** (latest LTS version)
3. Run installer and follow prompts
4. **Verify installation**: Open terminal/command prompt and run:

bash

dotnet --version

Should show something like 8.0.x

**2. Install VS Code Extensions (5 minutes)**

Open VS Code and install these extensions:

1. **C# Dev Kit** (by Microsoft) - Essential for C# development
2. **C#** (by Microsoft) - Language support
3. **NuGet Package Manager** (by jmrog) - For managing packages

**Project Creation:**

**3. Create Project Directory (2 minutes)**

1. Create a folder for your project (e.g., C:\Dev\StickyNoteMessenger)
2. Open VS Code
3. **File → Open Folder** and select your project folder

**4. Create WPF Project via Terminal (3 minutes)**

1. In VS Code, open terminal: **View → Terminal** (or Ctrl+`)
2. Run these commands:

bash

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*# Create new WPF project*

dotnet new wpf -n StickyNoteMessenger

*# Navigate to project folder*

cd StickyNoteMessenger

*# Verify project was created*

dir

You should see files like:

* StickyNoteMessenger.csproj
* MainWindow.xaml
* MainWindow.xaml.cs
* App.xaml

**5. Install Discord.NET Package (3 minutes)**

In the terminal (make sure you're in the StickyNoteMessenger folder):

bash

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*# Install Discord.NET library*

dotnet add package Discord.Net

*# Install dependency injection (we'll need this later)*

dotnet add package Microsoft.Extensions.DependencyInjection

*# Restore packages*

dotnet restore

**6. Test Basic Setup (5 minutes)**

1. Build the project:

bash

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dotnet build

Should show "Build succeeded"

1. Run the default app:

bash

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dotnet run

A basic WPF window should appear

1. Close the window and return to VS Code

**Project Structure Check:**

Your folder should now look like this:

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StickyNoteMessenger/

├── bin/

├── obj/

├── App.xaml

├── App.xaml.cs

├── MainWindow.xaml

├── MainWindow.xaml.cs

├── StickyNoteMessenger.csproj

└── StickyNoteMessenger.sln (if created)

**Verify Everything Works:**

**7. Check Your .csproj File (2 minutes)**

Open StickyNoteMessenger.csproj - it should look like this:

xml

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<Project Sdk="Microsoft.NET.Sdk">

<PropertyGroup>

<OutputType>WinExe</OutputType>

<TargetFramework>net8.0-windows</TargetFramework>

<Nullable>enable</Nullable>

<UseWPF>true</UseWPF>

</PropertyGroup>

<ItemGroup>

<PackageReference Include="Discord.Net" Version="3.x.x" />

<PackageReference Include="Microsoft.Extensions.DependencyInjection" Version="8.x.x" />

</ItemGroup>

</Project>

**Quick VS Code Tips for WPF Development:**

**8. Configure VS Code for Better WPF Experience (5 minutes)**

1. **Install XAML extension**: Search for "XAML" in extensions and install a syntax highlighter
2. **Set up IntelliSense**: The C# Dev Kit should automatically provide this
3. **Configure terminal**: Make sure PowerShell or Command Prompt is your default terminal

**Troubleshooting Common Issues:**

**If dotnet command not found:**

* Restart VS Code after installing .NET SDK
* Check Windows PATH environment variable includes .NET

**If Discord.Net package fails to install:**

* Check internet connection
* Try: dotnet nuget locals all --clear then retry

**If build fails:**

* Make sure you're in the correct directory (where .csproj file is)
* Try: dotnet clean then dotnet build

**Ready for Next Step:**

Once you complete this setup, you should have: ✅ VS Code with C# extensions  
✅ .NET SDK installed and working  
✅ WPF project created  
✅ Discord.NET package installed  
✅ Basic app runs successfully