DATE: October 8, 2020

TO: Dr. Ken Machoian

FROM: James Hernandez

SUBJECT: Description of Equipment in Your Field (VS Code).

**VISUAL STUDIO CODE EDITOR**

**What is Visual Studio Code?**

Visual Studio Code is a free *open-source software*, software in which source code is released under a license in which the copyright holder grants users the rights to use, study, change, and distribute the software to anyone and for any purpose, code editor developed by Microsoft for Windows, Linux and macOS. Features include support for debugging, syntax highlighting, intelligent code completion, snippets, code refactoring, and embedded Git. In addition, Visual Studio Code is redefined and optimized for building and debugging modern web and cloud applications.

*Some Common Terminology*

* Intelligent code completion – being able to autocomplete your line of code and predicting what you would have typed.
* Snippets – pieces of complete code/ partial framework for you to work on.
* Syntax highlighting – Auto highlighting keywords for easier readability.

**EXPLAINING USER INTERFACE (LAYOUT)**

Upon opening Visual Studio Code, you will be brought to the main page, where your will begin coding, but before that there are other options on your screen so let us go over those first.

**Main Center Page** – Whenever you open Visual Studio Code you will always be shown the welcome screen, which can be disabled at bottom left of the screen by unchecking box. The welcome screen will show five different sections:

***Start*** – Which will give you three options as to create New file, Open folder or Add workspace folder

***Recent*** – This will show your Recently open files or folders but if it is your first time opening the application this will be emptied.

***Help*** – This section is to provide answers to any questions you may have about the application with Tips and Tricks, Introductory videos, etc.

***Customize*** – This section allows you to tailor the application to your liking

***Learn*** – This section shows you how to get familiar with all things about the application.

**Tool Bar Menu (Top of Page)** – Located at the top of the page you will find the tool bar that has your standard layout consisting of: *VS Code icon, File, Edit, Selection, View, Go, Run, Terminal, Help.*

Now out of all of the stated options the most important one would be the **Terminal**. A ***Terminal*** is an application window that allows you to navigate and execute commands on your PC using the command line prompt commands.

**Side Bar Menu (Left of Page)** – Located on the left of the page you will find your Side Bar menu, this Side Bar menu will have five sections consisting of: Folder, Search, Git Flow, Run and Debug, and Extensions.

**Section Definitions:**

* ***Folder*** – This will show you the Folder Stucture of the selected folder or files you have chosen to open
* ***Search*** – This is where you enter words or phrases you are tying to look for on files or inside folders you have selected, this is similar to CRTL-F function on Windows or Command-F for Mac.
* ***Git Flow*** – Used for when you are merging, pulling, or pushing using git Command, (if you are not familiar with Git Commands, no need to worry over this section).
* ***Run and Debug*** – Used for running and executing files, Files will be ran and executed and when execution output is not what was attended then you will use the Debug feature to help locate the error
* ***Extensions*** – Extension are very useful and widely used in VS Code, this is where you add on tools that would useful for developing on whatever frame work or language you will be using
  + HTML, CSS, React, JS, Python, C++, and so many more Developments
  + Syntax Highlighting, Server Support, Auto Complete Tags, etc.

**Now how can I get the most out of Visual Studio Code?**

It is important to review the structure of the application and to go over the documentation that the application provides for any remaining questions you may have. Remember that Visual Studio Code is a text editor that has the power to be tailored to your needs, that said it is wise to figure out what type of work you will mainly be coding so that you are able to properly set up VS Code with the proper extensions to suit your case. Have fun coding!

\*note: picture is disclosed below of what application will look like upon start-up.

A screenshot of a cell phone

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