 This site uses cookies for analytics, personalized content and ads. By continuing to browse this site, you agree to this use.

[Learn more \(https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=845480\)](https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=845480)

Version 1.45 (/updates) is now available! Read about the new features and fixes from April.



TOPICS

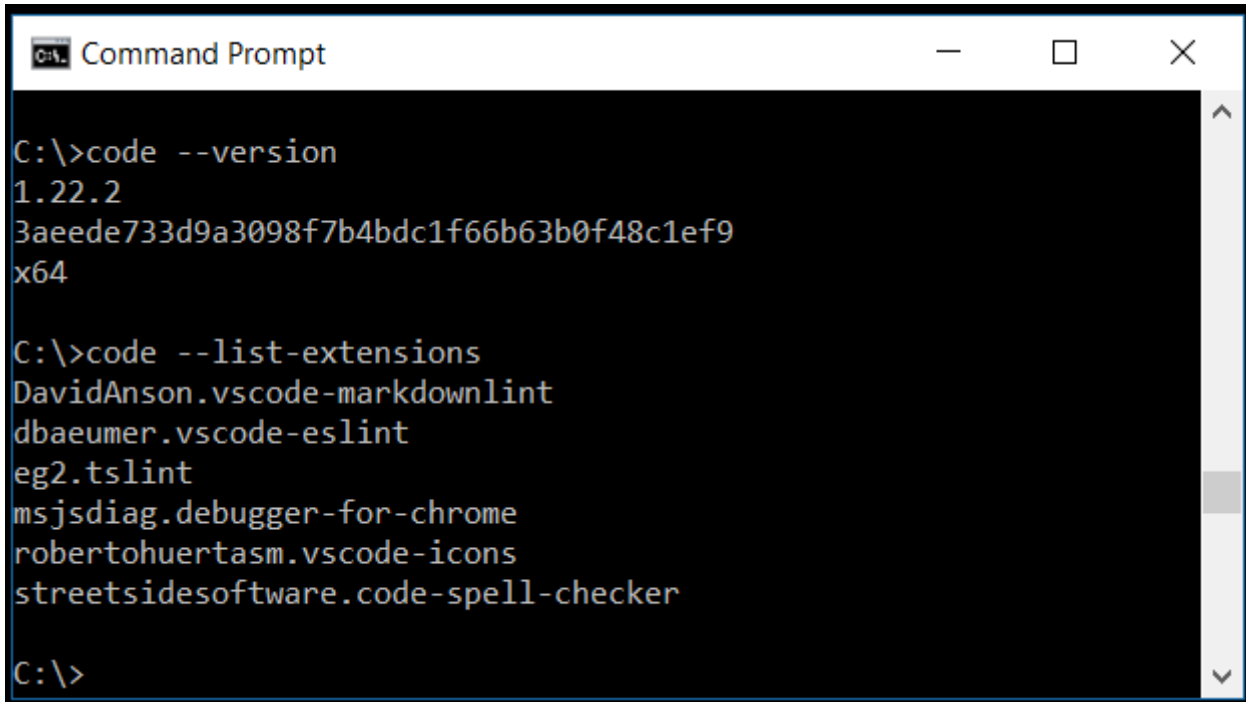
Command Line



(<https://github.com/Microsoft/vscode-docs/blob/master/docs/editor/command-line.md>)

Command Line Interface (CLI)

Visual Studio Code has a powerful command line interface built-in that lets you control how you launch the editor. You can open files, install extensions, change the display language, and output diagnostics through command-line options (switches).



```
C:\>code --version
1.22.2
3aeede733d9a3098f7b4bdc1f66b63b0f48c1ef9
x64


C:\>code --list-extensions
DavidAnson.vscode-markdownlint
dbaeumer.vscode-eslint
eg2.tslint
msjsdiag.debugger-for-chrome
robertohuertasm.vscode-icons
streetsidesoftware.code-spell-checker

C:\>
```

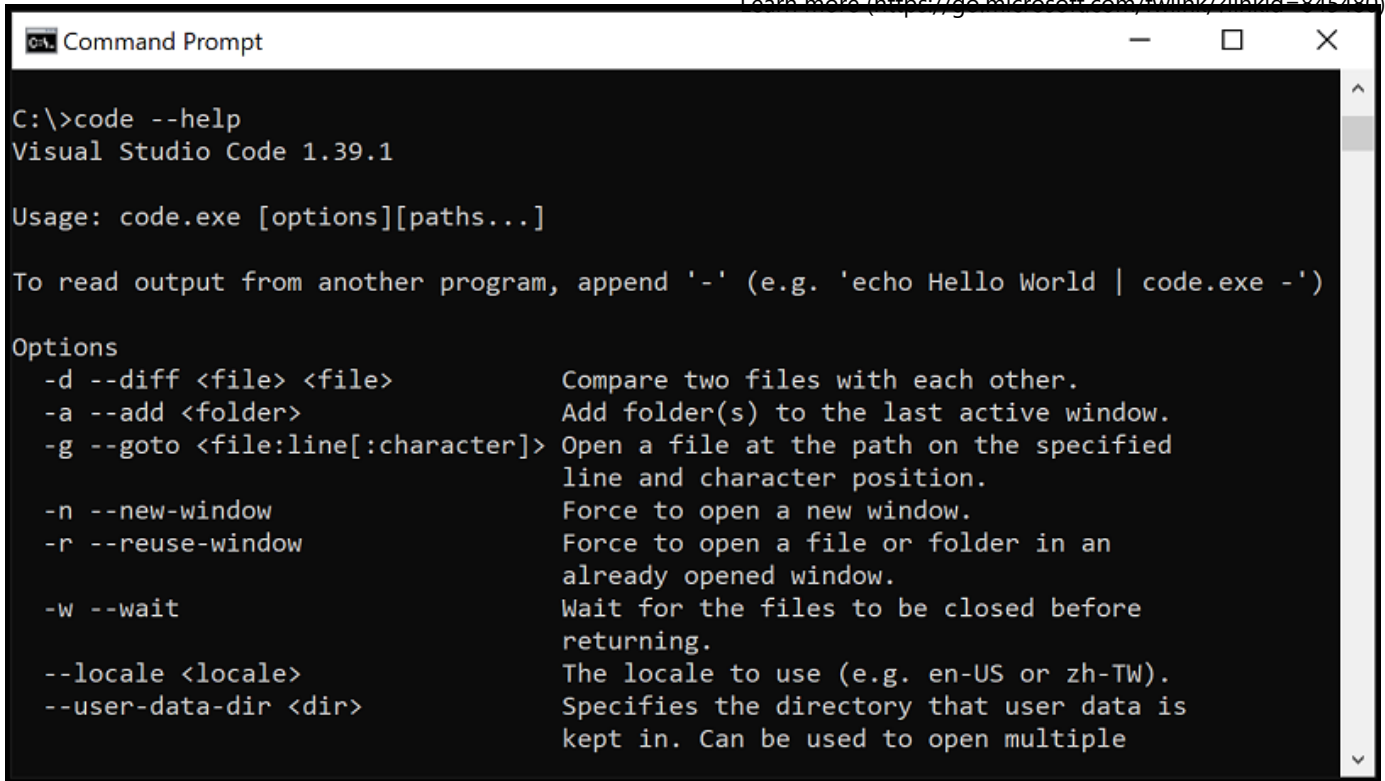
If you are looking for how to run command-line tools inside VS Code, see the Integrated Terminal (/docs/editor/integrated-terminal).

Command line help

To get an overview of the VS Code command line interface, open a terminal or command prompt and type `code --help`. You will see the version, usage example, and list of command line options.

 This site uses cookies for analytics, personalized content and ads. By continuing to browse this site, you agree to this use.

[Learn more \(https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=845490\)](https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=845490)



```

C:\>code --help
Visual Studio Code 1.39.1

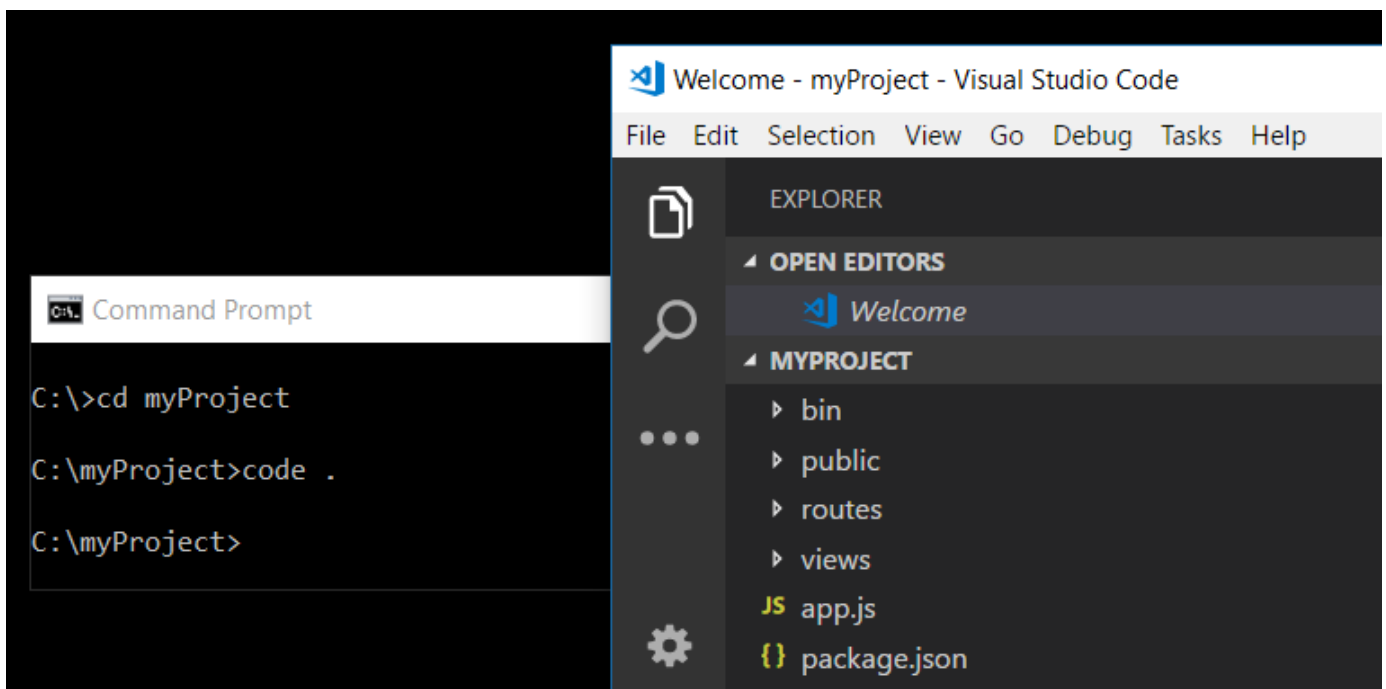
Usage: code.exe [options][paths...]

To read output from another program, append '-' (e.g. 'echo Hello World | code.exe -')

Options
-d --diff <file> <file>          Compare two files with each other.
-a --add <folder>                Add folder(s) to the last active window.
-g --goto <file:line[:character]> Open a file at the path on the specified
                                line and character position.
-n --new-window                  Force to open a new window.
-r --reuse-window                Force to open a file or folder in an
                                already opened window.
-w --wait                        Wait for the files to be closed before
                                returning.
--locale <locale>               The locale to use (e.g. en-US or zh-TW).
--user-data-dir <dir>           Specifies the directory that user data is
                                kept in. Can be used to open multiple
  
```

Launching from command line

You can launch VS Code from the command line to quickly open a file, folder, or project. Typically, you open VS Code within the context of a folder. To do this, from an open terminal or command prompt, navigate to your project folder and type `code .`:



Note: Users on macOS must first run a command (**Shell Command: Install 'code' command in PATH**) to add VS Code executable to the `PATH` environment variable. Read the macOS setup guide (</docs/setup/mac>) for help.

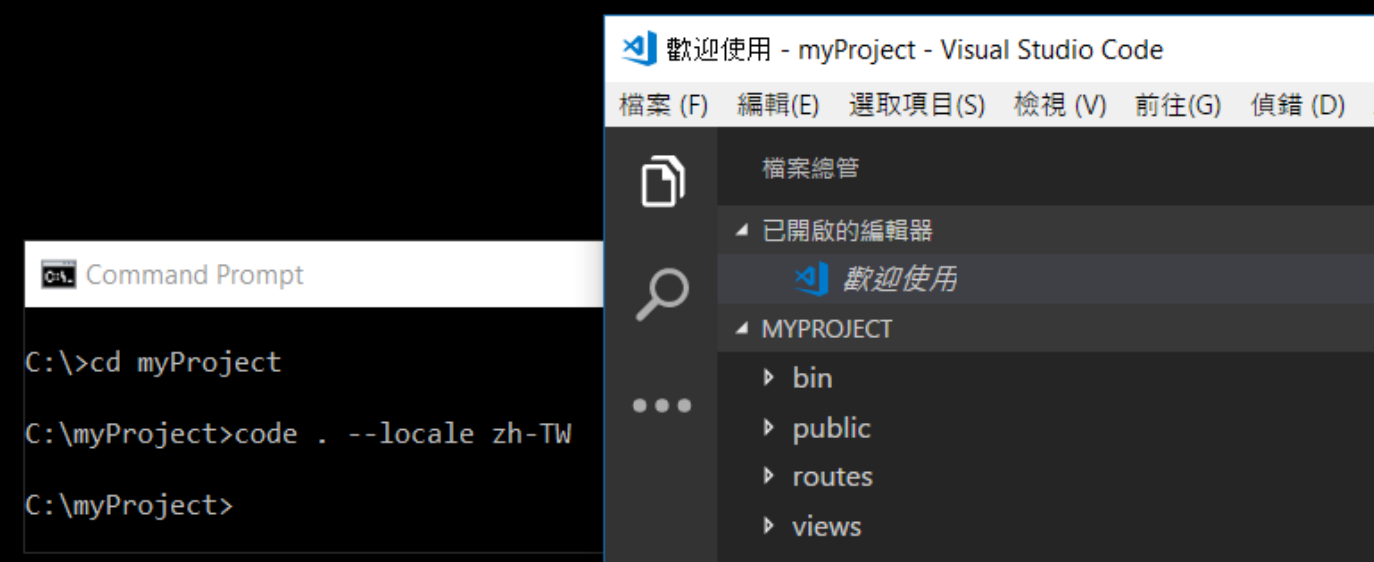
Windows and Linux installations should add the VS Code binaries location to your system path. If this isn't the case, you can manually add the location to the `Path` environment variable (`$PATH` on Linux). For example, on Windows, VS Code is installed under `AppData\Local\Programs\Microsoft VS Code\bin`. To review platform

Insiders: If you are using the VS Code Insiders (/insiders) preview, you launch your Insiders build with code-insiders .

Core CLI options

Here are optional arguments you can use when starting VS Code at the command line via `code` :

Argument	Description
<code>-h</code> or <code>--help</code>	Print usage
<code>-v</code> or <code>--version</code>	Print VS Code version (for example, 1.22.2), GitHub commit id, and architecture (for example, x64).
<code>-n</code> or <code>--new-window</code>	Opens a new session of VS Code instead of restoring the previous session (default).
<code>-r</code> or <code>--reuse-window</code>	Forces opening a file or folder in the last active window.
<code>-g</code> or <code>--goto</code>	When used with <code>file:line[:character]</code> , opens a file at a specific line and optional character position. This argument is provided since some operating systems permit <code>:</code> in a file name.
<code>-d</code> or <code>--diff</code>	Open a file difference editor. Requires two file paths as arguments.
<code>-w</code> or <code>--wait</code>	Wait for the files to be closed before returning.
<code>--locale <locale></code>	Set the display language (/docs/getstarted/locales) (locale) for the VS Code session. (for example, en-US or zh-TW)





Opening Files and Folders

Sometimes you will want to open or create a file. If the specified file does not exist, VS Code will create them for you along with any new intermediate folders:

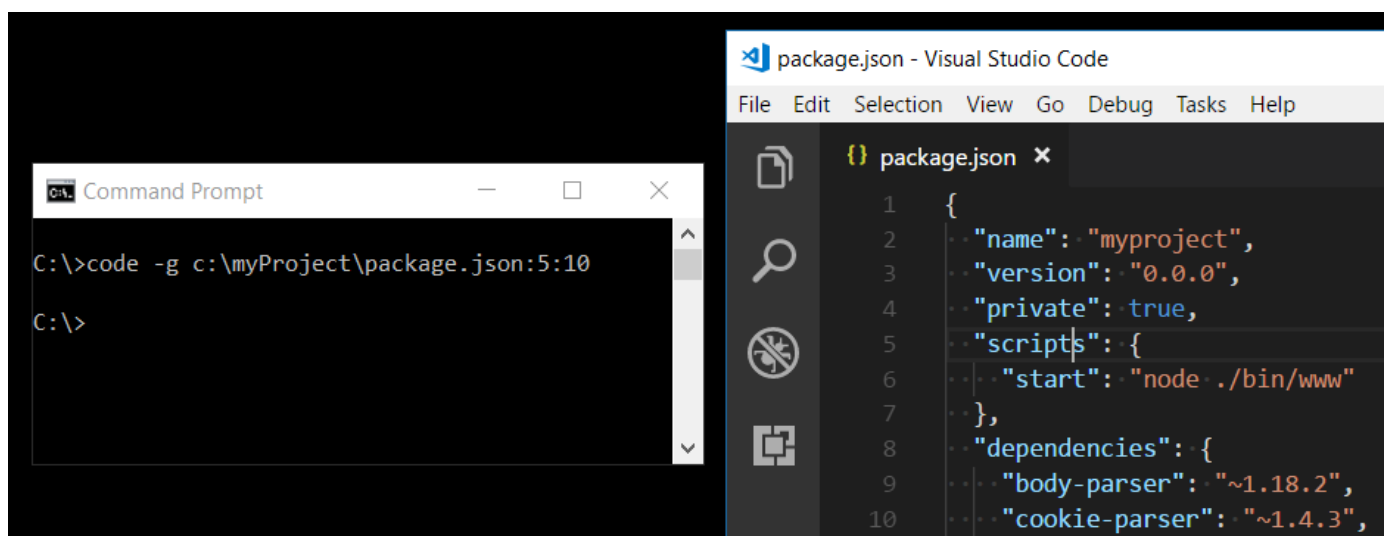
```
code index.html style.css documentation\readme.md
```

For both files and folders, you can use absolute or relative paths. Relative paths are relative to the current directory of the command prompt where you run `code`.

If you specify more than one file at the command line, VS Code will open only a single instance.

If you specify more than one folder at the command line, VS Code will create a Multi-root Workspace (/docs/editor/multi-root-workspaces) including each folder.


Argument	Description
file	Name of a file to open. If the file doesn't exist, it will be created and marked as edited. You can specify multiple files by separating each file name with a space.
file:line[:character]	Used with the <code>-g</code> argument. Name of a file to open at the specified line and optional character position. You can specify multiple files in this manner, but you must use the <code>-g</code> argument (once) before using the <code>file:line[:character]</code> specifier.
folder	Name of a folder to open. You can specify multiple folders and a new Multi-root Workspace (/docs/editor/multi-root-workspaces) is created.



Working with extensions

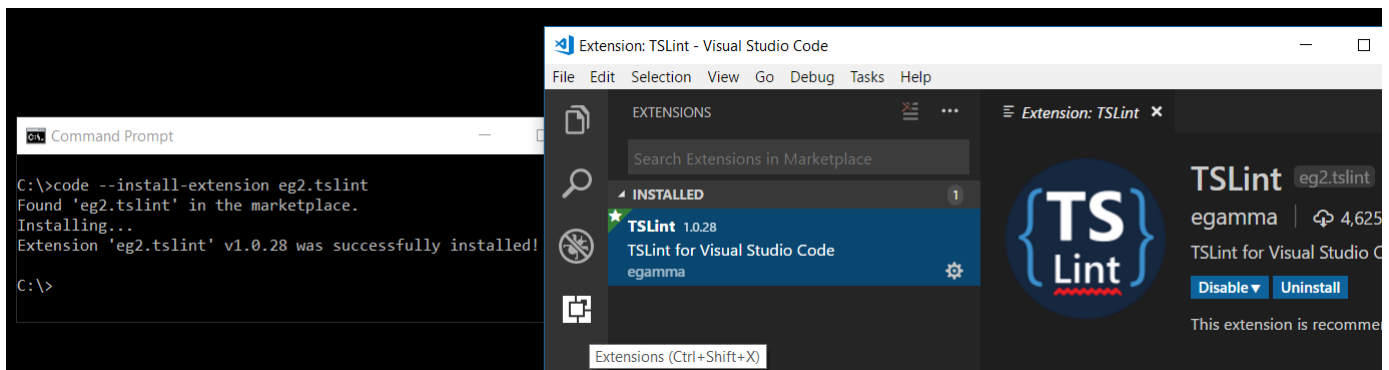
You can install and manage VS Code extensions (/docs/editor/extension-gallery) from the command line.

Argument	Description
----------	-------------

 This site uses cookies for analytics, personalized content and ads. By continuing to browse this site, you agree to this use.

Learn more (<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=845480>)


Argument	Description
<code>--install-extension <ext></code>	Install an extension. Provide the full extension name <code>publisher.extension</code> as an argument. Use <code>--force</code> argument to avoid prompts.
<code>--uninstall-extension <ext></code>	Uninstall an extension. Provide the full extension name <code>publisher.extension</code> as an argument.
<code>--disable-extensions</code>	Disable all installed extensions. Extensions will still be visible in the Disabled section of the Extensions view but they will never be activated.
<code>--list-extensions</code>	List the installed extensions.
<code>--show-versions</code>	Show versions of installed extensions, when using <code>--list-extensions</code>
<code>--enable-proposed-api <ext></code>	Enables proposed api features for an extension. Provide the full extension name <code>publisher.extension</code> as an argument.



Advanced CLI options

There are several CLI options that help with reproducing errors and advanced setup.

Argument	Description
<code>--extensions-dir <dir></code>	Set the root path for extensions.
<code>--user-data-dir <dir></code>	Specifies the directory that user data is kept in, useful when running as root.
<code>-s, --status</code>	Print process usage and diagnostics information.
<code>-p, --performance</code>	Start with the Developer: Startup Performance command enabled.
<code>--disable-gpu</code>	Disable GPU hardware acceleration.
<code>--verbose</code>	Print verbose output (implies <code>--wait</code>).
<code>--prof-startup</code>	Run CPU profiler during startup.
<code>--upload-logs</code>	Uploads logs from current session to a secure endpoint.

 This site uses cookies for analytics, personalized content and ads. By continuing to browse this site, you agree to this use.

Multi-root

Learn more (<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=845480>)

Argument	Description
<code>--add <dir></code>	Add folder(s) to the last active window for a multi-root workspace.

Opening VS Code with URLs

You can also open projects and files using the platform's URL handling mechanism. Use the following URL formats to:

Open a project

```
vscode://file/{full path to project}/
vscode://file/c:/myProject/
```

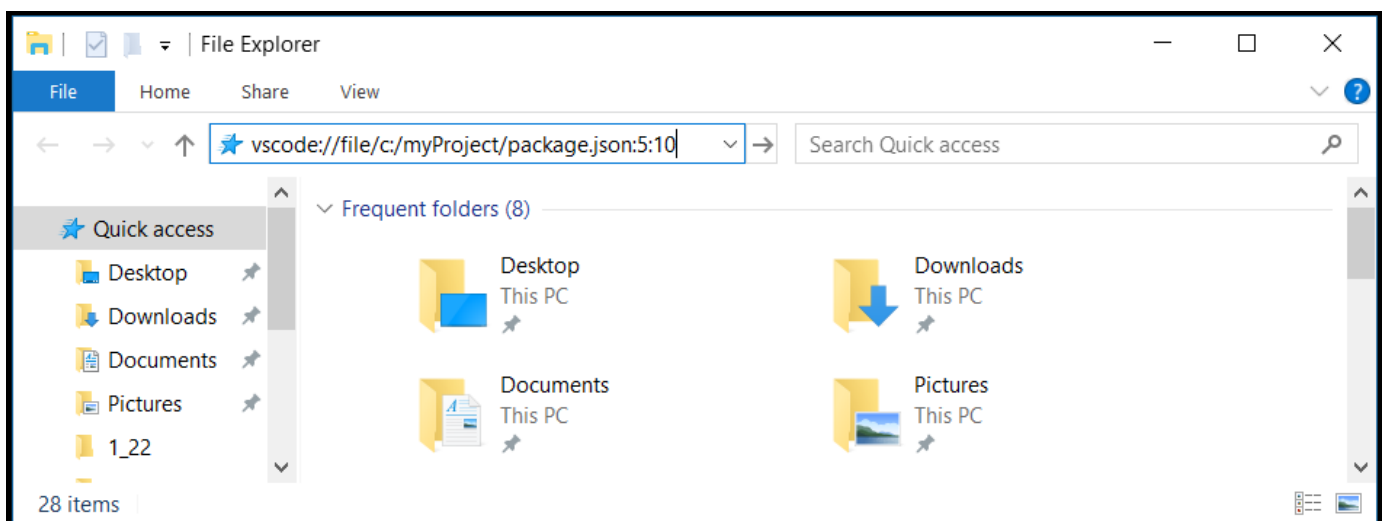
Open a file

```
vscode://file/{full path to file}
vscode://file/c:/myProject/package.json
```

Open a file to line and column

```
vscode://file/{full path to file}:line:column
vscode://file/c:/myProject/package.json:5:10
```

You can use the URL in applications such as browsers or file explorers that can parse and redirect the URL. For example, on Windows, you could pass a `vscode://` URL directly to the Windows Explorer or to the command line as `start vscode://{full path to file}`.



Note: If you are using VS Code Insiders (/insiders) builds, the URL prefix is `vscode-insiders://`.

Next steps



Read on to find out about:

This site uses cookies for analytics, personalized content and ads. By continuing to browse this site, you agree to this use.

Learn more (<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=845480>)

- Integrated Terminal (/docs/editor/integrated-terminal) - Run command-line tools from inside VS Code.
- Basic Editing (/docs/editor/codebasics) - Learn the basics of the VS Code editor.
- Code Navigation (/docs/editor/editingevolved) - VS Code lets you quickly understand and move through your source code.

Common questions

'code' is not recognized as an internal or external command

Your OS can not find the VS Code binary `code` on its path. The VS Code Windows and Linux installations should have installed VS Code on your path. Try uninstalling and reinstalling VS Code. If `code` is still not found, consult the platform specific setup topics for Windows (/docs/setup/windows) and Linux (/docs/setup/linux).

On macOS, you need to manually run the **Shell Command: Install 'code' command in PATH** command (available through the **Command Palette** `Ctrl+Shift+P`). Consult the macOS (/docs/setup/mac) specific setup topic for details.

How do I get access to a command line (terminal) from within VS Code?

VS Code has an Integrated Terminal (/docs/editor/integrated-terminal) where you can run command-line tools from within VS Code.

Can I specify the settings location for VS Code in order to have a portable version?

Not directly through the command line, but VS Code has a Portable Mode (/docs/editor/portable) which lets you keep settings and data in the same location as your installation, for example, on a USB drive.

Was this documentation helpful?

Yes

No

5/7/2020

IN THIS ARTICLE

Command line help

Launching from command line

Core CLI options


{ Opening Files and Folders

Working with extensions

Advanced CLI options

Opening VS Code with URLs

Next steps


 This site uses cookies for analytics, personalized content and ads. By continuing to browse this site, you agree to this use.

Common questions


Learn more (<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=845480>)

(<https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?>

Tweetoriginal_referer=[https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/editor/command-](https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/editor/command-line)


 this line&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw&text=The%20Visual%20Studio%20Code%20command-link line%20options&tw_p=tweetbutton&url=[https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/editor/command-](https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/editor/command-line)
line&via=code)


 Subscribe(</feed.xml>)

 Ask questions(<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/vscode>)

 Follow @code(<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=533687>)

 Request features(<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=533482>)

 Report issues(<https://www.github.com/Microsoft/vscode/issues>)

 Watch videos(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs5Y5_7XK8HLDX0SLNwkd3w)

Hello from Seattle. Follow @code (<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=533687>)

Star 96,616

Support (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/getsupport?>

wf=0&tenant=ClassicCommercial&oaspsworkflow=start_1.0.0.0&locale=en-us&supportregion=en-us&pesid=16064&ccsid=636196895839595242)

Privacy (<https://privacy.microsoft.com/en-us/privacystatement>)

Terms of Use (<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/legal/intellectualproperty/copyright/default.aspx>) License (/License)

 (<https://www.microsoft.com>)

© 2020 Microsoft