
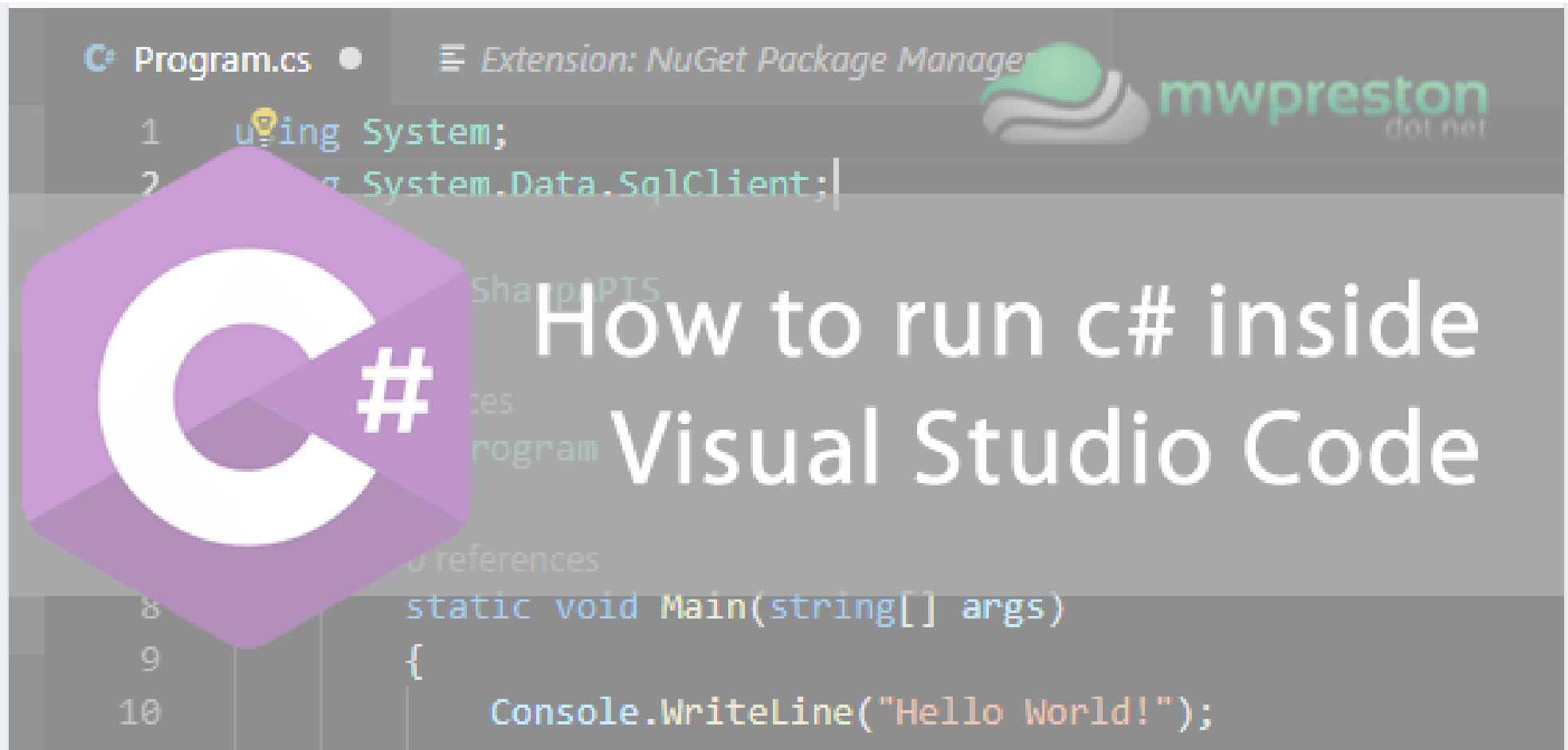




HOW TO RUN C# CODE WITHIN VISUAL STUDIO CODE

Posted by mwpreston | Sep 24, 2018 | All Articles, Automation & Scripting, Posts, September 2018 | 0  | ★★★★★

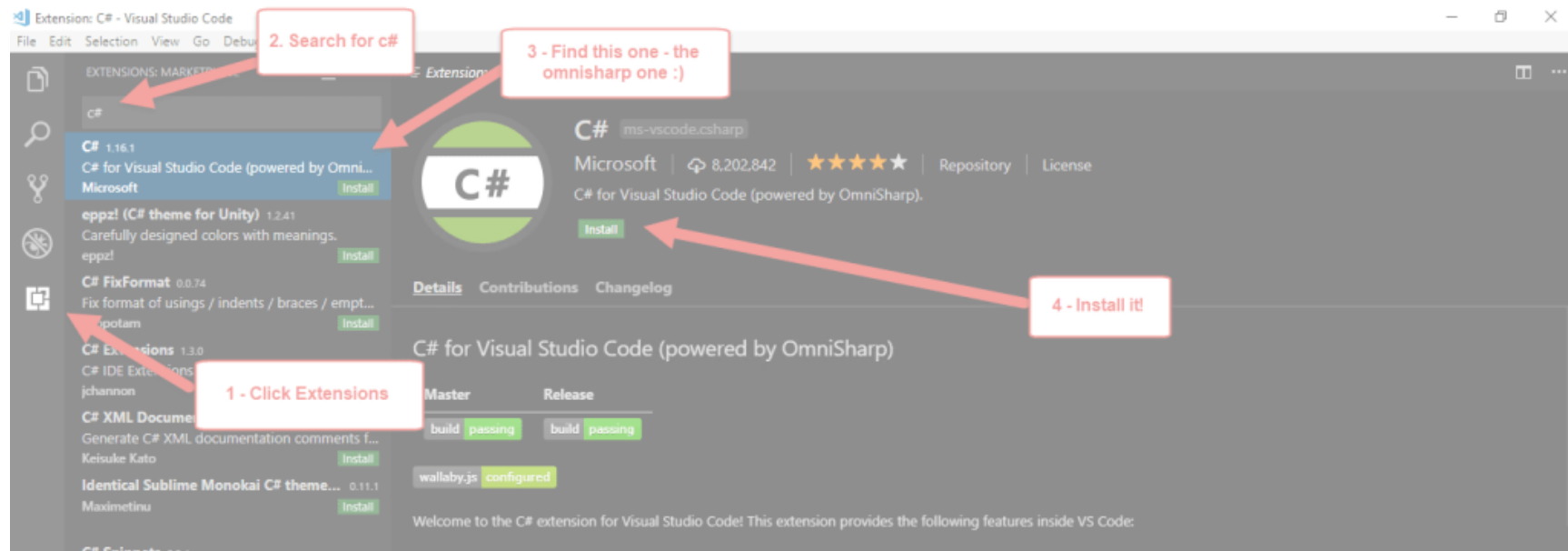


Ever since VS Code was released I've been a big fan! It's a great way for windows junkies like myself to have a terminal like programming scripting environment. With integration into Git, along with thousands of extensions to help me keep my code organized and formatted I began using it as my main editor for a lot of things, even PowerShell scripts.

Currently, I'm on somewhat of a personal mission to learn and explore new languages, solely for the purpose of illustrating how language independent RESTful APIs are. c# is next on my list, and while it's not a new language for me, utilizing it within Visual Studio Code is. During this "mission" I realized that there are quite a few things you need to do in order to run c# within Visual Studio Code. Initially, I was going to place these within the "How to Consume APIs with c#" blog, but realized that this probably works better standing on its own! So, let's take a look at how to prep VS Code to run c#!

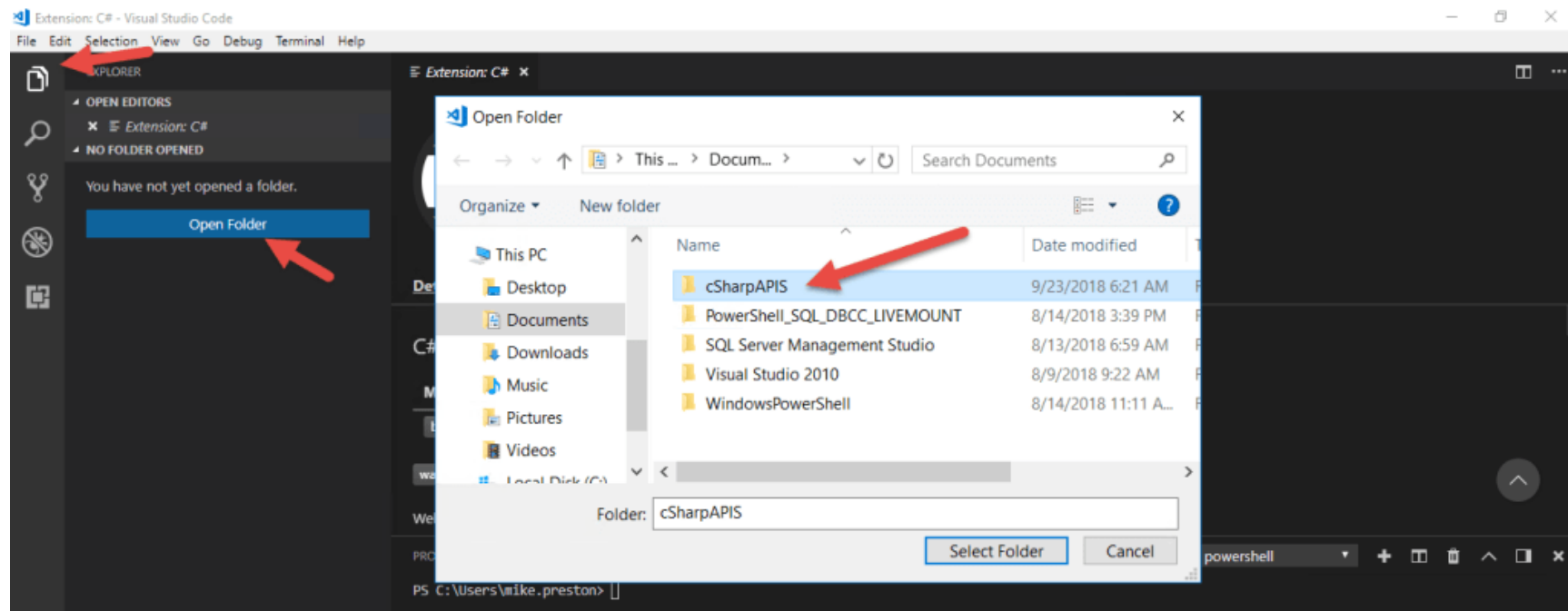
First up, some leg work.

First up, obviously install Visual Studio Code – also, if you haven't already, download and install the . Net Core SDK. Finally, once those two are installed we can move on to getting the c# extension installed within VS Code. Note: there are a lot of extensions available to us within VS Code, so be sure we grab the right one. To do so, select 'Extensions' and search for 'c#'. In the list, select the extension that contains 'Omnisharp' and click 'Install' (See below).



Initialize the Project

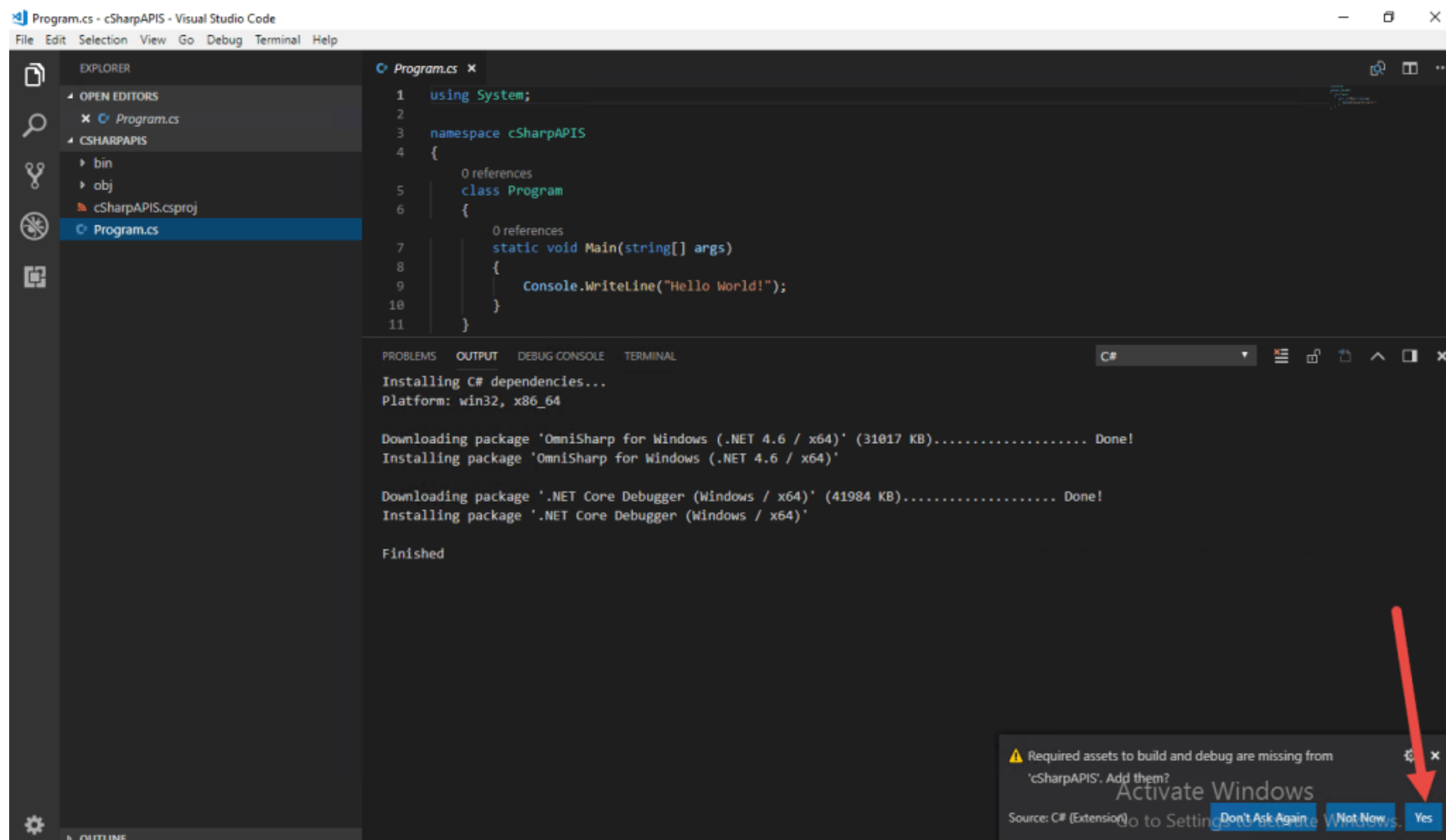
Alright, time to start actually building out the shell for our project – To do this we simply need to open a folder and run a few commands. From the explorer tab, click 'Open Folder' and point to an empty folder you would like to create your project in.



Once the folder loads we need to initialize our .net skeleton within it. To do so we will use dotnet command from the terminal. If you don't see a terminal at the bottom of VS Code, go ahead and select 'View->Terminal' to display it and run the following command

```
dotnet new console
```

This will create a couple of files within our folder structure – the project definition file (.csproj) as well as the main file (.cs) to house our code. By default, we will see the standard “Hello World” example. Also, if prompted to download any other assets, go ahead and select 'Yes'.



If you have reached this point then a big congrats is in order – you have successfully setup your VS Code instance to run c# code!

Building and Running

To build our test project let's go ahead and run 'dotnet **build**' within our terminal.

The screenshot shows the Visual Studio Code interface with a C# project named 'cSharpAPIS'. The Explorer pane on the left shows the project structure with files like '.vscode', 'bin', 'obj', 'cSharpAPIS.csproj', and 'Program.cs'. The main editor displays the code in 'Program.cs':

```
1 using System;
2
3 namespace cSharpAPIS
4 {
5     0 references
6     class Program
7     {
8         0 references
9         static void Main(string[] args)
10         {
11             Console.WriteLine("Hello World!");
12         }
13     }
```

The TERMINAL pane at the bottom shows the command 'dotnet build' being executed in a PowerShell session. The output indicates a successful build:

```
PS C:\Users\mike.preston\Documents\cSharpAPIS> dotnet build
Microsoft (R) Build Engine version 15.8.166+g0408081a88 for .NET Core
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

Restore completed in 35.55 ms for C:\Users\mike.preston\Documents\cSharpAPIS\cSharpAPIS.csproj.
cSharpAPIS -> C:\Users\mike.preston\Documents\cSharpAPIS\bin\Debug\netcoreapp2.1\cSharpAPIS.dll

Build succeeded.
0 Warning(s)
0 Error(s)

Time Elapsed 00:00:00.84
PS C:\Users\mike.preston\Documents\cSharpAPIS>
```

And likewise, to run the project code, simply execute 'dotnet *run*' within the terminal.

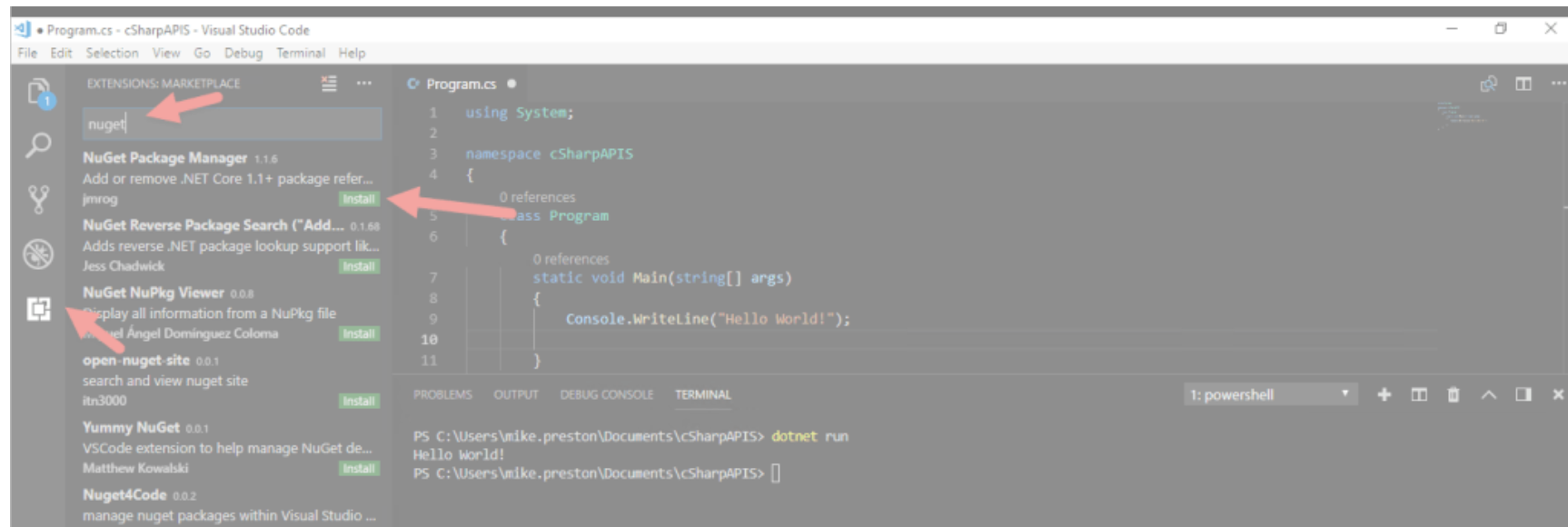
This screenshot shows the same Visual Studio Code interface, but now the 'dotnet run' command has been executed in the terminal. The output shows 'Hello world!' being printed to the console:

```
PS C:\Users\mike.preston\Documents\cSharpAPIS> dotnet run
Hello world!
PS C:\Users\mike.preston\Documents\cSharpAPIS>
```

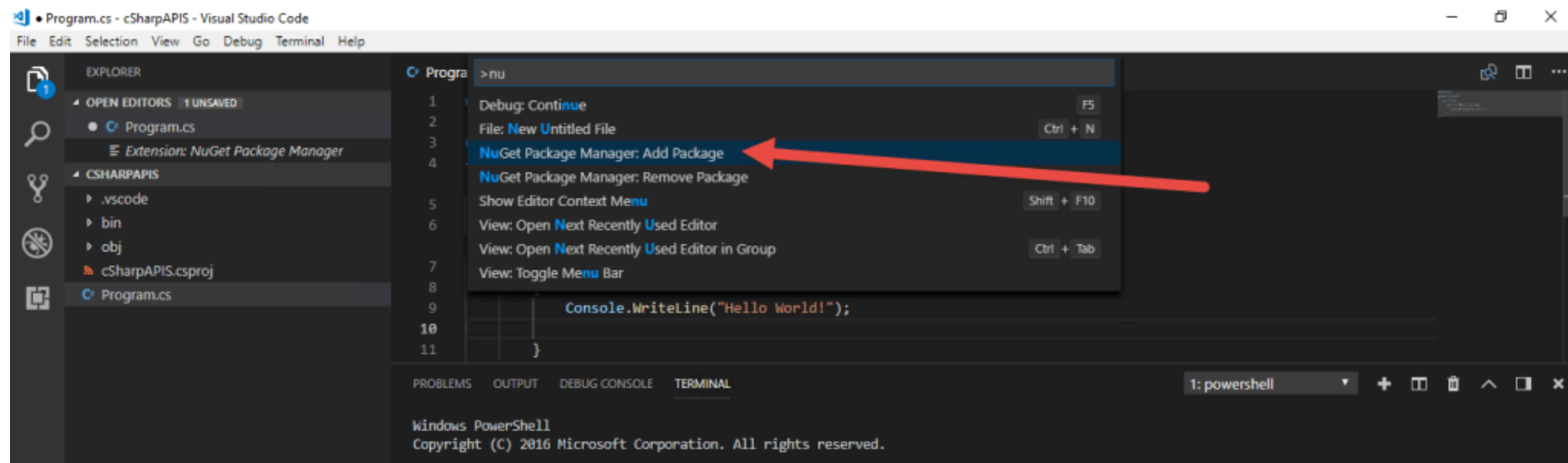
Where's my NuGet?!?!

Simply printing Hello World to the console is great and all but we all know that anything we write is much, much more complex. NuGet is functionality that those using the full-blown version of Visual Studio have come to love and depend on. NuGet is a nifty little package manager that allows us to maintain what packages and assembly references we have attached to our projects, maintaining and limiting versions and conflicts! So, it's kind of a must that we have it within VS Code, otherwise, I'll simply just go back to the original Visual Studio for my c# projects. Thankfully, we have a way of getting it – the nifty Visual Studio Code extensions!

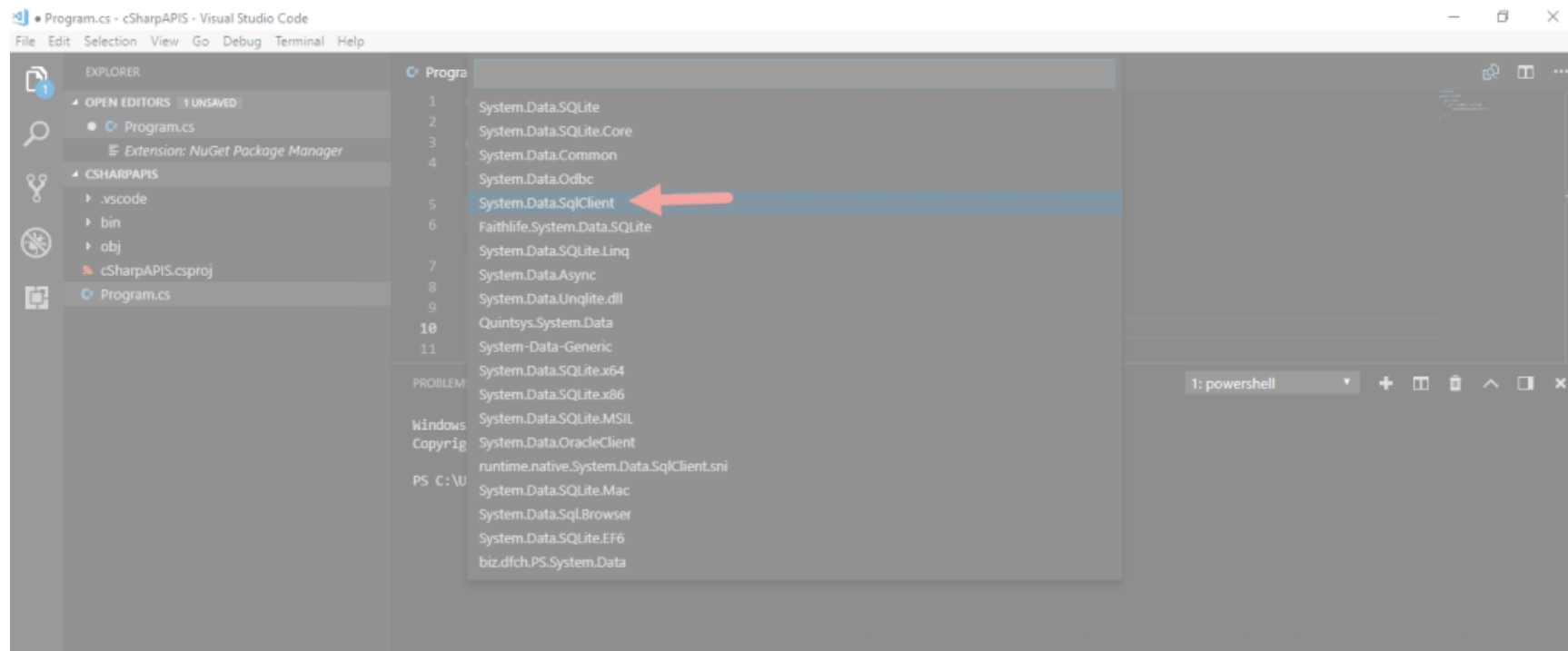
Select the Extensions tab, search for Nu-Get and install NuGet Package Manager – Easy Peasy!



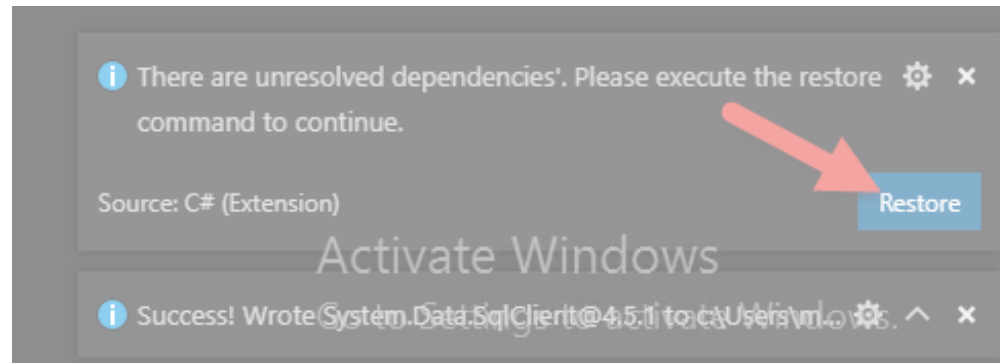
Now that we have NuGet installed let's have a quick look at how we can manage our packages – the easiest way that I have found is to simply hit the 'F1' key to bring up the VS Command pallet – a nifty little way to run single commands within our project. From there, simply start typing the work 'nuget', you should see the prompts displaying available options – the one we want, is the 'Add Package' command.



For this example let's add the System.Data.SqlClient package to our project. In the first prompt, you can simply input 'System.Data' and hit enter – this will bring up a list of all the system.data packages. From the list displayed, select your desired package, in our case SqlClient, select the desired version and away we go.



In the event that any dependencies are invalid, nuget and VS Code gives you the option to automatically resolve them. If you happen to see a message about unresolved dependencies go ahead and click 'Restore'



And there you go – nuget successfully setup and installing packages for you! At this point, you can go ahead and through your 'using System.Data.SqlClient' command at the beginning of your cs files and start utilizing some of the SQL Client functionality!

As you can see there is a little bit of legwork in getting Visual Studio Code prepped and ready to run our c# code – but thankfully this is a one-time thing. Once you have it set up and configured you can use VS Code for all of your c# needs! Honestly, I gathered this information from a lot of different MS pages and blogs and hopefully getting this all on one article will help get you on the right track to getting your VS Code setup! Thanks for reading!

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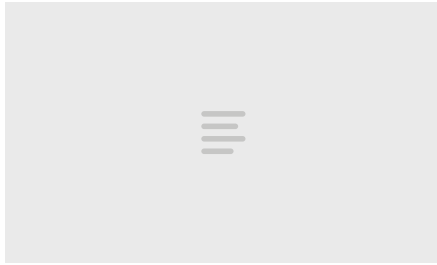
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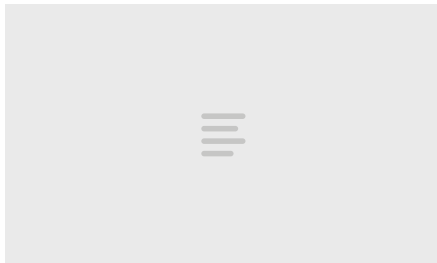
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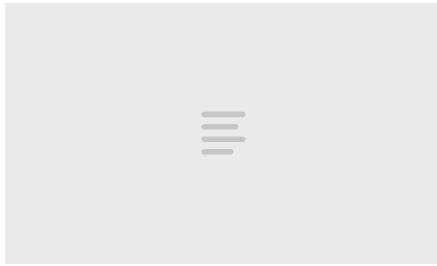
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