What is a text editor

Lesson Time: 20 Minutes

WE WRITE CODE IN A TEXT EDITOR.

All of the major technologies we use to build web pages are all text-based. We write simple lines of text that our web browsers turn into powerful looking websites. We call the text we write CODE.

There are many text editors available write code in. Some are free, some are paid. The program Notepad on a windows computer is an example of a text editor, but it has very few features, and would be hard to use.

Word processing programs like Microsoft Word are also not suitable for writing code, because these programs store our documents as compex files instead of simple text. Think of it like they add extra, hidden, invisible junk that would mess up our code.

We are going to be using Visual Code Studio in our course, one of the most popular, powerful, and free text editors available. However, there are other great text editors out there like Atom, Brackets, and Sublime. All text editors work about the same, and if you learn one, you won't have much trouble switching to another.

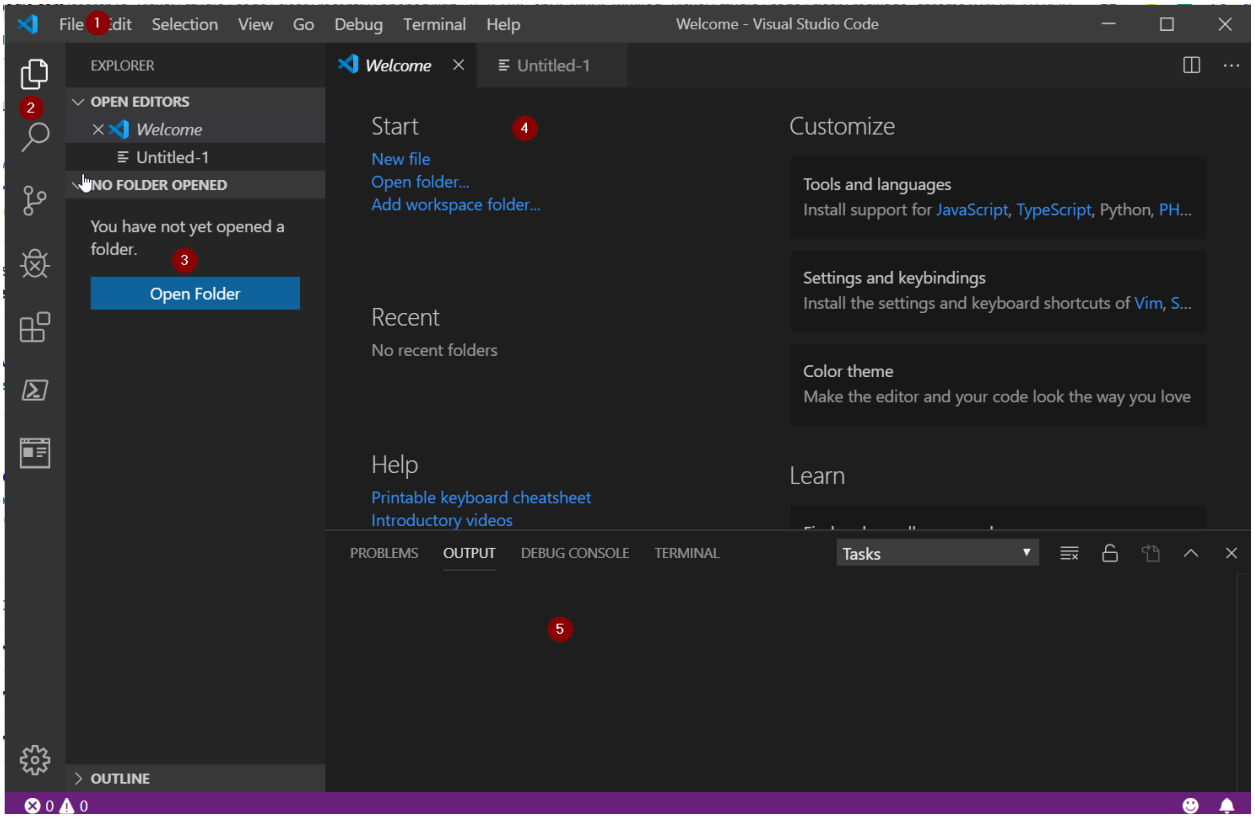
Key Terms	None
Lesson Files	None
Additional Resources	None
Further Learning	None

Visual Code Studio Walkthrough

Lesson Time: 45 Minutes

This is an instructor led walkthrough - you do NOT need to follow along just YET

When we open VCS, we will see a screen similar to this.

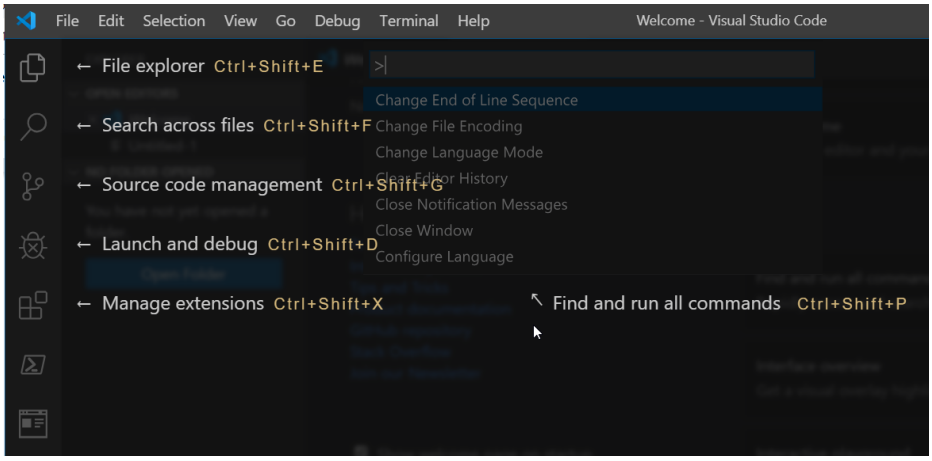


1. **The standard dropdown menus.** All of our options for working in the program can be found under one of these menus.
2. **The Activity Bar.** Switches between the most common tasks we can do in the program.

3. **The Sidebar.** Displays details such as files & folders, or debugging information.
4. **The Editor.** This is where we see the content of our text files and write code.
5. **Panels.** Displays the output from any of code, along with a command line terminal for typing system commands.

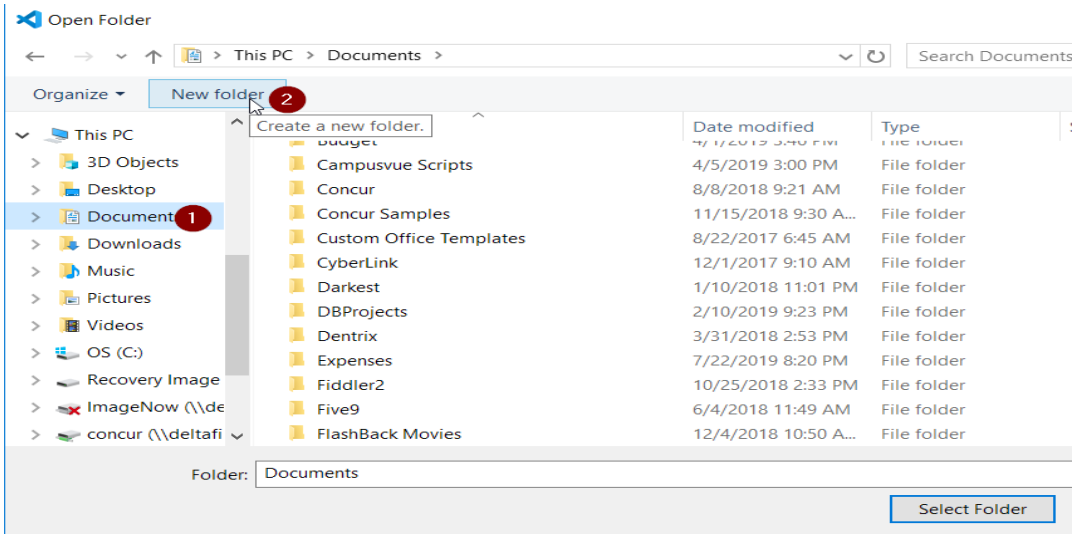
The Icons on the Activity Bar are shown below. We'll mainly be using File Explorer, which lets us view all of the files in a project folder. We'll also use Manage extensions to get a few extra add-on features.

Pressing Ctrl+Shift+P allows us to find and run any command by searching. This feature is called the Command Palette

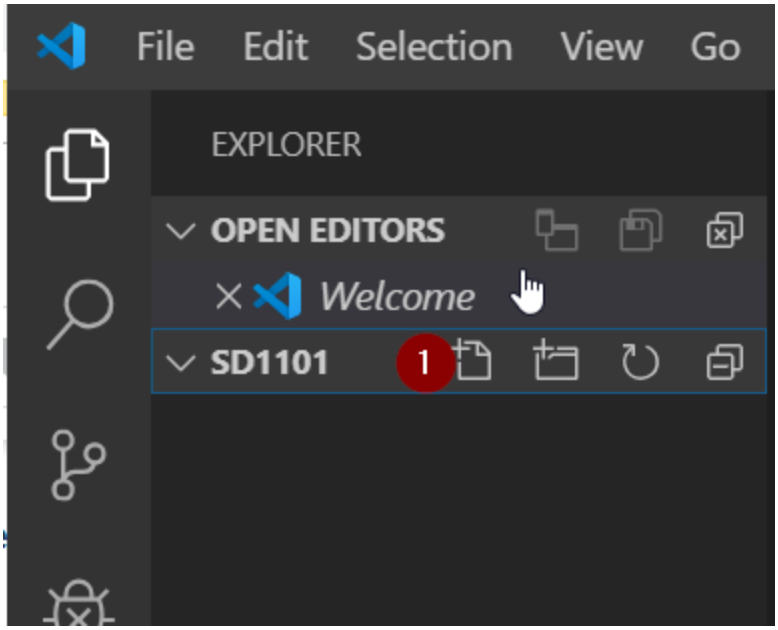


Creating and Saving Files

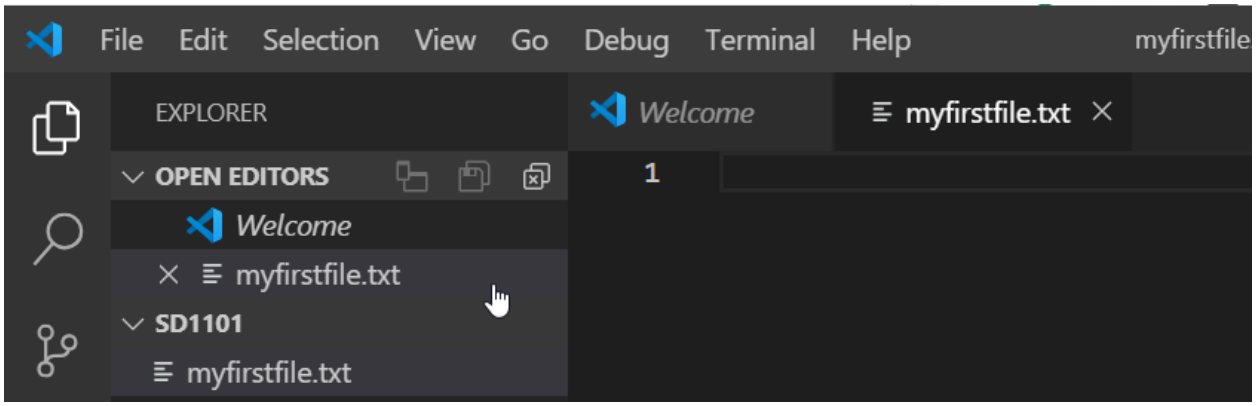
1. Click the File Explorer icon on the Activity Bar.
2. Click the Open Folders Button.
3. The Documents window appears. Select Documents and click New Folder



4. Name your new folder **SD1101** and click **Select Folder**
5. Visual Studios should now look like this.



6. Click the new file icon shown above to create a new file. Name it myfirstfile.txt



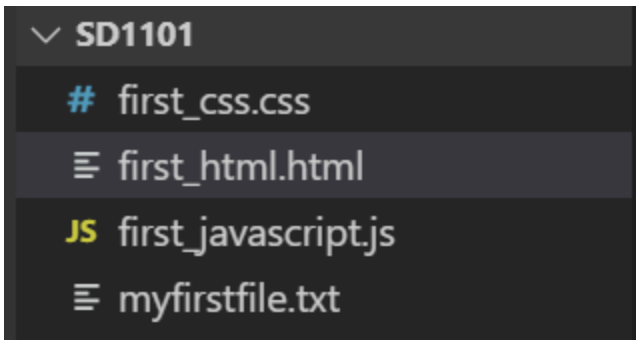
In the editor, type the following sentence. I**'m going to be a great web developer.**

On the file menu drop down, click **File > Save** to save your file.

Congratulations! You've created your first file in VS Code Studio!

Now, let's create a few more. Click the new file icon again and create these 3 files.

1. First_html.html
2. First_css.css
3. First_javascript.js



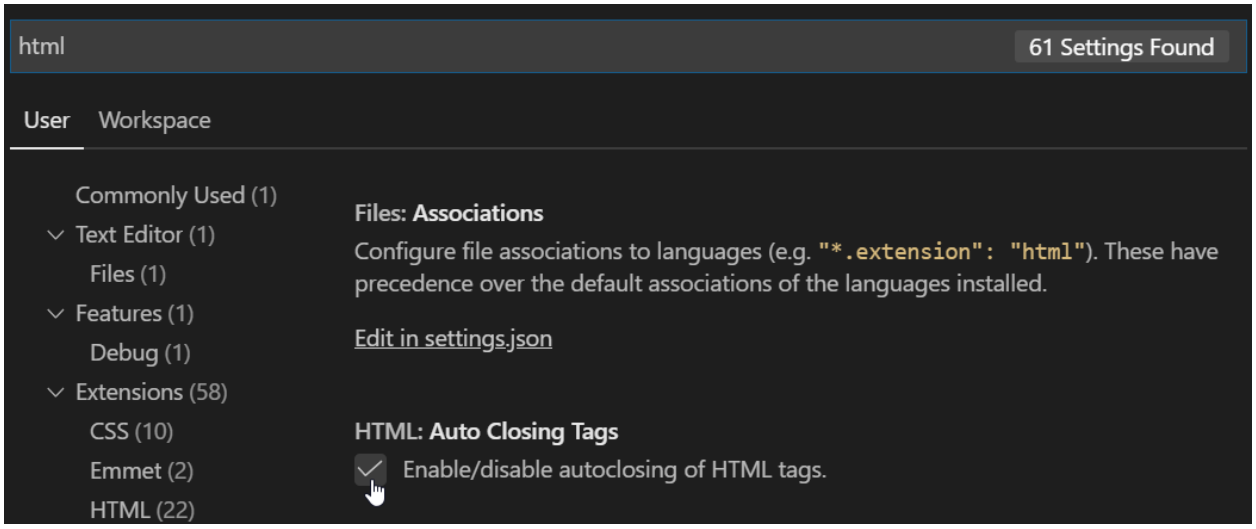
Notice that the icons for each file is different. Visual Code Studio will provide different kinds of help while writing your code based on the type of file it is.

There are a few more settings to be aware of before starting to code.

Preferences and Settings

- HTML: Auto Closing Tags

1. Click **File > Preferences > Setting**
2. In the search bar, type **html**

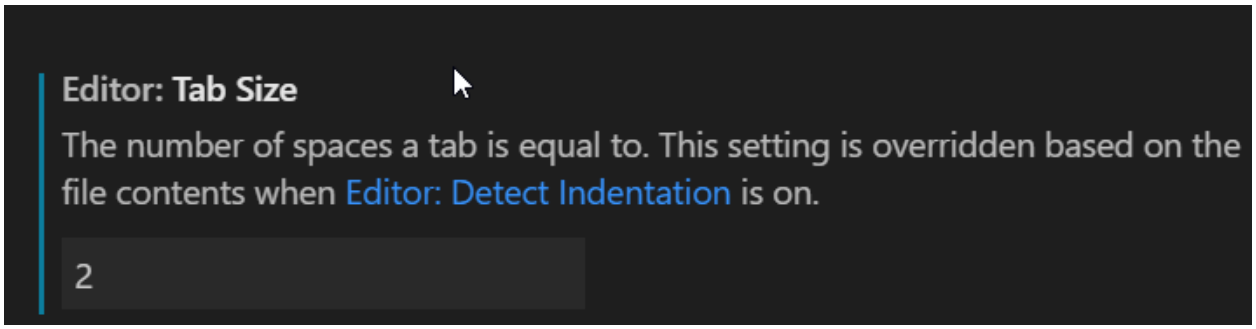


When turned on this will auto-add the closing HTML tag. For example, if you type <html>, VCS will add </html>. If this is messing you up, you can turn it off here.

- Editor: Tab Size

1. In the Search bar, type **tab**

When formatting HTML, we will use tab often to indent. The default tab is 4 spaces, but when working in HTML, it's better to set the value to 2 spaces.

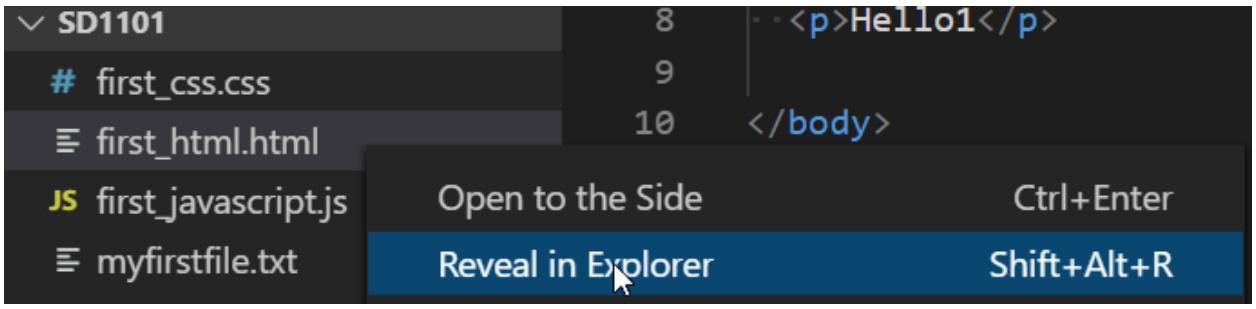


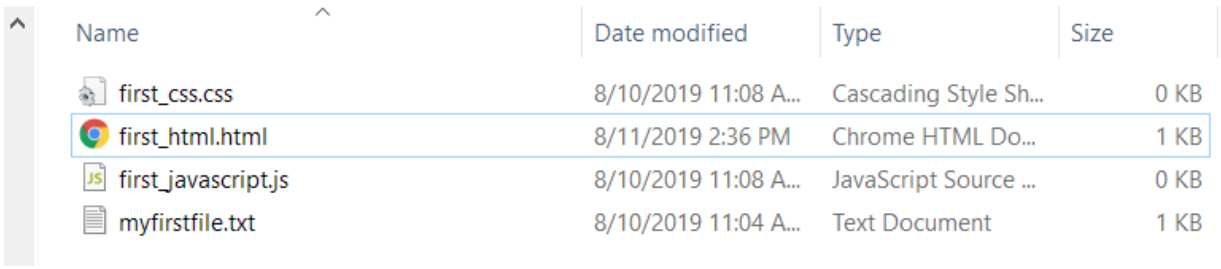
- Live Browser Preview

Visual Code Studio doesn't come with a built-in way to see how your HTML will look in a browser. There are two ways to view your HTML in the browser to see your work.

The long way -- Reveal in Explorer

1. Right click on your HTML file and choose reveal in explorer.
2. Double click on the HTML file that appears in explorer to open Chrome or Firefox.
3. Using this method, you'll keep switching back and forth between the browser and VCS.

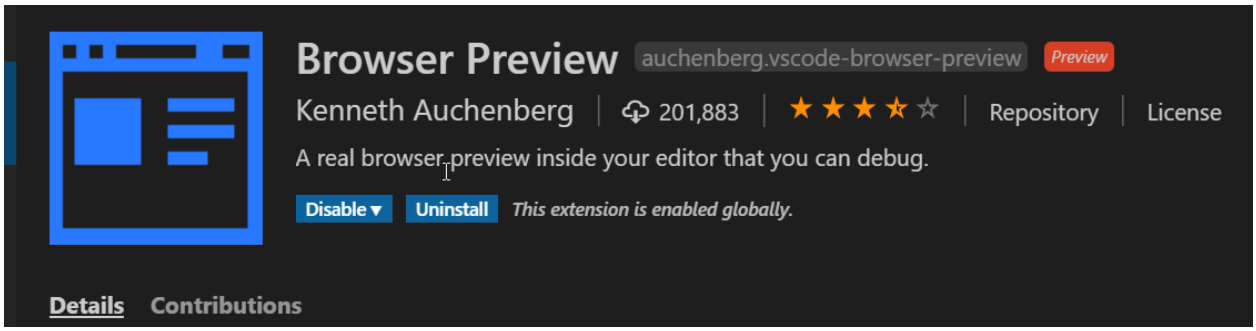


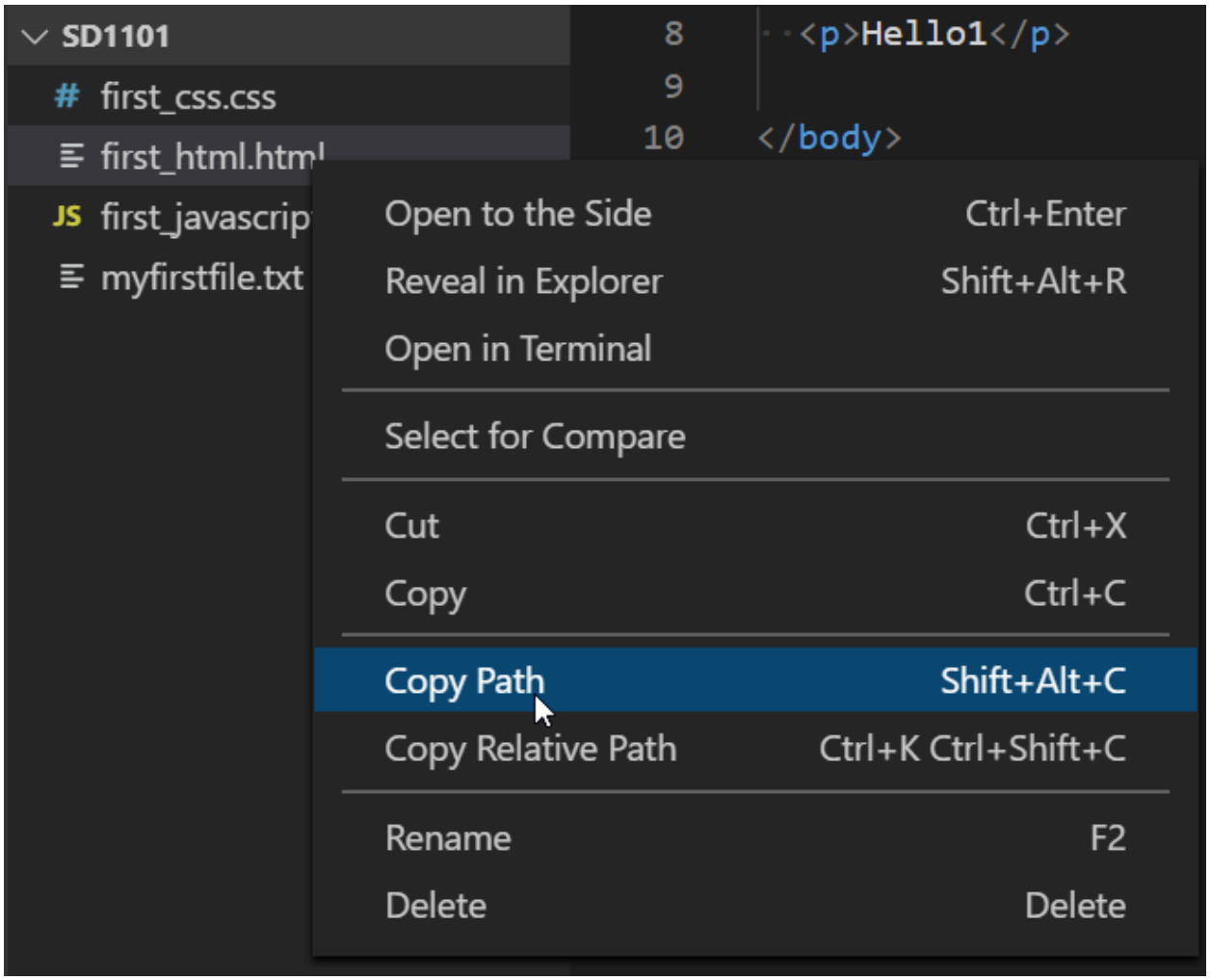


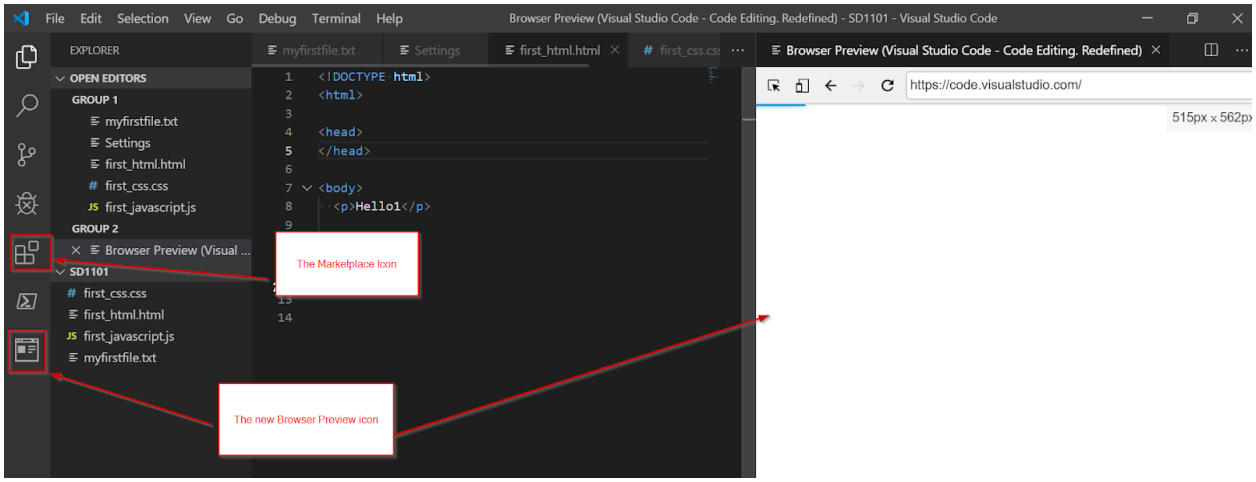
The quick way -- Install Browser Preview

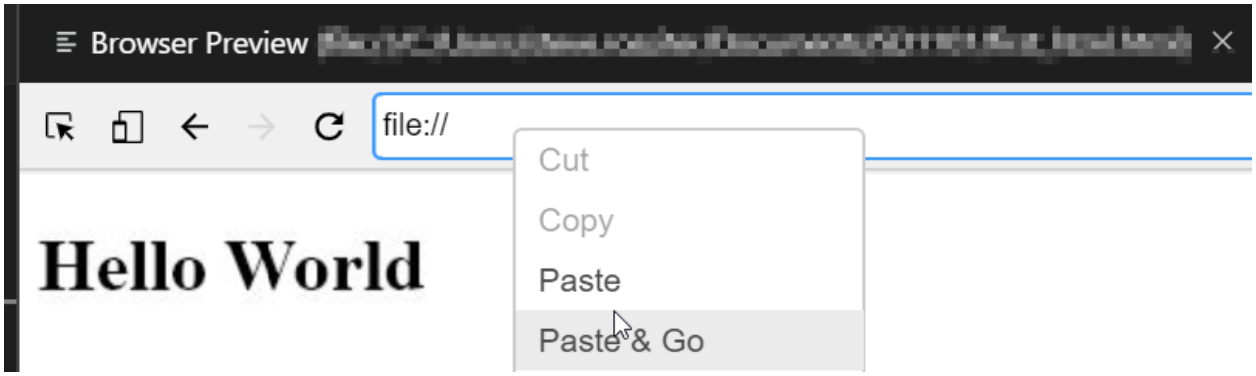
1. Click on the marketplace icon on the Activity Bar
2. Search for Browser Preview by Kenneth Auchenberg
3. Click Install
4. A new browser icon will appear on the Activity Bar
5. Click the new icon to launch the live preview.

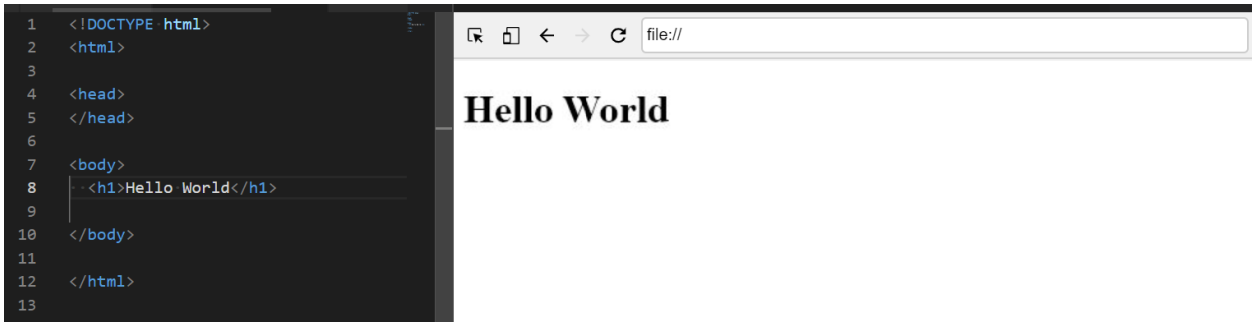
6. Right click on the file and select Copy Path
7. In the browser preview URL, type **file://**
8. Right click in the browser preview URL and click **paste and go**











Key Terms	
Lesson Files	
Additional Resources	https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/introvideos/basics

Further Learning	None