Visual Studio Code - A Quick Word

A quick word on Visual Studio Code

VSCode is a free text editor developed by Microsoft. It is quickly becoming a crowd favorite thanks to its excellent performance and the huge amount of features it offers. And just like most other IDEs, VSCode has an extension marketplace containing thousands of plugins to suit your needs. I obviously won't get into all the plugins, but I've been asked about a few of them.

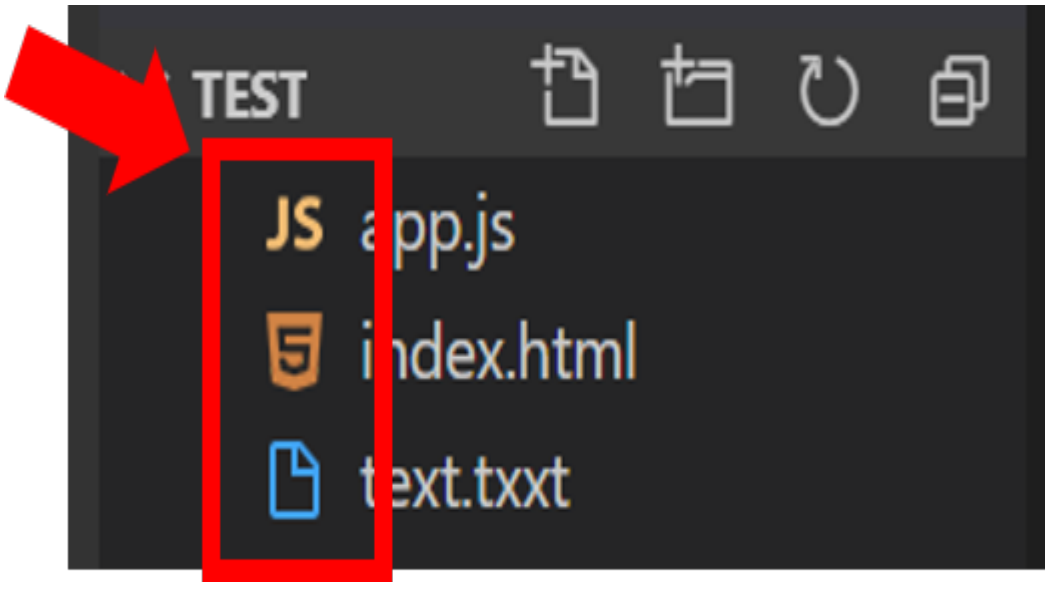
What are 3 cool extensions I use in VSCode?

The features that VSCode includes out-of-the-box are just the start. VSCode extensions let you add languages, debuggers, and tools to support your development workflow.

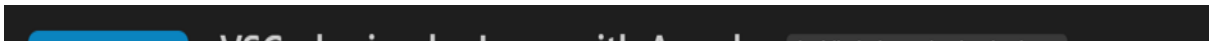
I have been asked by a student about a few of them. Here are the questions and my answers ...

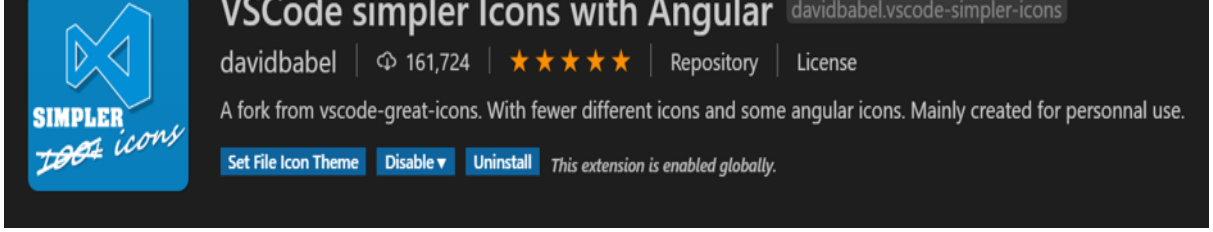
- **How do I see the file icon next to each of my files?**

Here are the file icons I'm talking about:

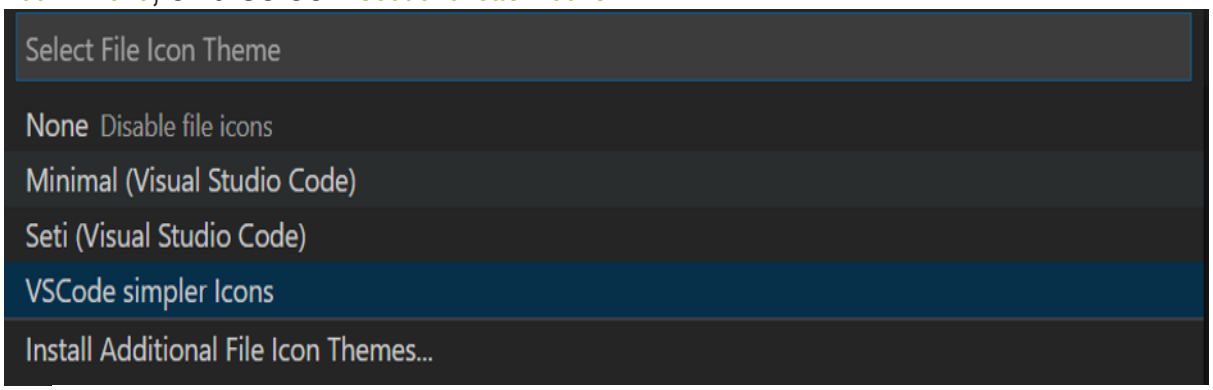


Easy. I use a extension called **VSCode Simpler Icons with Angular** . Don't worry, you don't have to code Angular to use it.
Here is what it looks like:




SIMPLER
icons
VSCode simpler Icons with Angular
davidbabel.vscode-simpler-icons
davidbabel
161,724
Repository
License
A fork from vscode-great-icons. With fewer different icons and some angular icons. Mainly created for personnal use.
Set File Icon Theme
Disable
Uninstall
This extension is enabled globally.

After installation and activation, you should go in settings (`File` → `Preferences` on Windows, or `Code` → `Preferences` on OSX), choose `File Icon Theme`, and select `VSCode Great Icons`.



- **How am I able to type, in my index.html file, `h1#main` to get the result `<h1 id="main"></h1>` ?**

This is Emmet.

What is Emmet? It is a plugin for many popular text editors (such as VSCode) which helps us improve our coding speed. You can use Emmet for HTML, XML, XSL and other formats.

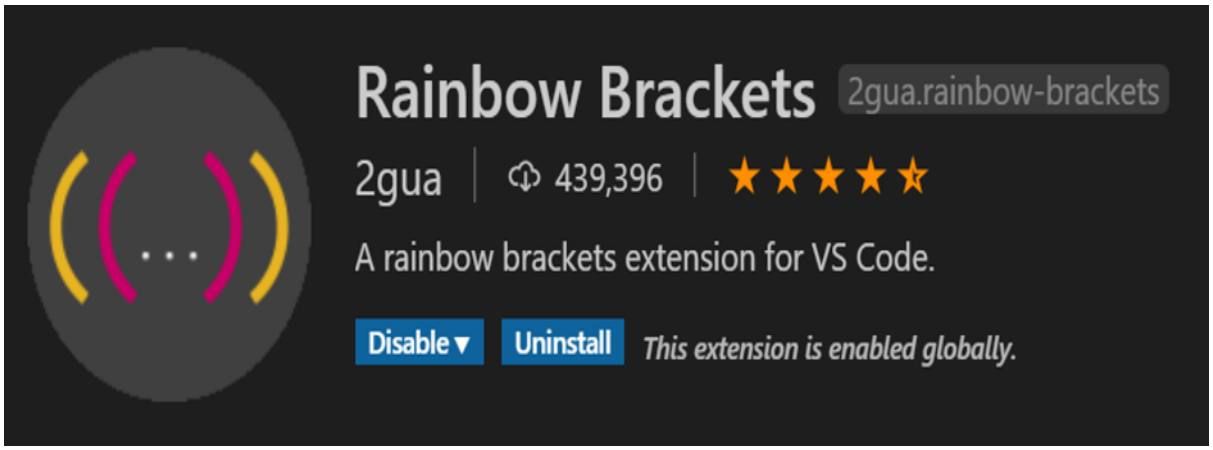
The awesome thing is, is that VSCode provides basic support for HTML programming out of the box. There is syntax highlighting, smart completions with IntelliSense, and customizable formatting. AND yes, you guessed it, VSCode also includes great Emmet support, straight out of the box.

I have included an Emmet cheatsheet (straight from the Emmet website). Weird thing is, it says 2017 which tells you they haven't updated this sheet in quite some time. However, it should be plenty good enough for you to get handy tips. Enjoy!

- **What about helping with all the brackets in my code?**

I use a bunch of extensions and over the years I have forgot what each does. But something I have found useful from a visual representation of my code is Rainbow Brackets. It gives you nice different colors for the round brackets, the square brackets and the squiggly brackets. This is particularly useful for JavaScript, which we use a lot in this DOM Part 1 course.

It looks like this:



Final comments

So there you have it - a quick summary on 3 cool extensions you can get started with right away. It is extremely likely that you will end up, like me, with a ton of extensions that suit your style and needs. But this comes over time, as you approach new languages and projects.

Hope this helps.

Stay motivated, have fun, and see you in the next lecture ;)