Downloading and Installing Visual Studio Code on Windows 11

Prerequisites:

Ensure you have updated Windows 11 operating system

Downloading Visual Studio Code is done through navigating to the official Visual Studio Code website and clicking on “Download for windows” button to download the installer.

Once the installer is downloaded, locate the file and double-click on it to start the installation process and follow the on-screen instructions in the setup wizard. Select the destination folder for installation and click "Next" and then "Install" to begin the installation process.

Once the installation is complete, you can launch Visual Studio Code from the desktop shortcut or the Start menu.

Upon first launch, you may be prompted to customize your settings and install recommended extensions.

2. After installing VS code, one needs to install some extensions such as git extension, python extension, git lens, peacock, liveshare as well as customize the theme for the visual appearance. I prefer using the materialistic dark theme and mono font.

3. Activity bar is on the left side of the VS code studio and it hosts features like explore feature to open and navigate the files and folders, It has a search function, run and debug and also the extensions area.

The sidebar is just adjacent to the activity bar and has features like explorer, source control, extensions and remote explorer.

Status bar is at the bottom of the window and provides information like the line and columns numbers, file encording, language mode and notifications.

4. To access a command pallete in windows one uses CTRL+SHIFT+P and select the gear icon at the bottom left= corner

The command pallete is used when installing extensions, packages, installing themes and running tasks as well as git operations.

5. Extensions are basically the addons to extend VS code functionality. The extensions are on the activity bar of the vs code and that makes it easy to install and utilize. It can as well be accessed with a shortcut.

Some essential extensions for web development are live server, prettier, auto tag, CSS peek, debugger and RESt client.

6. To open the integrated terminal, Open a Folder and Launch VS Code in the folder where your project resides. Click View > Terminal in the menu bar.

Advantages of using the integrated terminal is that, it has a seamless integration, it works just like a standalone terminal, its integrates with the editor itself and can detect errors and simplifies debugging.

7. To create a new file in VS Code, click on the explorer icon and right click on the file tree and select new file then give the file a name and hit enter.

To create a new folder, click on the file tree and select new folder and name the folder.

To open files, double click on the file and open with vs code of use CTRL+P shortcut.

To rename, delete, edit or move files use the right click functionality and carry out the task.

8. To customize VS code, one can do so from the settings editor , Go to File > Preferences > Settings.

To change the theme and appearance, click on the settings editor then navigate to themes and choose a theme of your liking.

9. To debug an application, one needs to create the app first then click on run and debug icon at the activity bar, this will launch the configurations to define how the app should be run and debugged. Then create a launcg configuration by selecting athe file in the run start view and VS Code will try and detect the errors and if automatic detection fails then you need to choose the environment manually.

Set breakpoints and start debugging. Another way that you can debug this code is by visually examining the code and then have a look at the console and debug console for any detected errors.

10. ensure you have Git installed on your machine, Open your project folder using VS Code, Click on the Source Control icon in the left sidebar, When prompted, click the “Initialize Repository” button. This creates a new Git repository in your current folder, allowing you to start tracking code changes. To make commits, select the files you want to include in your commit. Enter a commit message and lick the checkmark icon to commit your changes.

To commit the changes, create a new repository on GitHub and copy the repository’s URL from the quick setup section. In the VS Code, at the source control view, click on the ellipsis and select pull/push from the drop down and choose push to and paste the Github url that you compied and you will be prompted to push the changes. Click on publish branch