Visual Studio Installation Guide and First Program

This README provides a beginner-friendly guide to:

- Install PHP and Visual Studio Code on a Windows system
- Write and run your first PHP "Hello, World!" program
- Understand the basic steps of using a PHP development environment

It is designed for students and beginners with no prior experience in PHP programming.

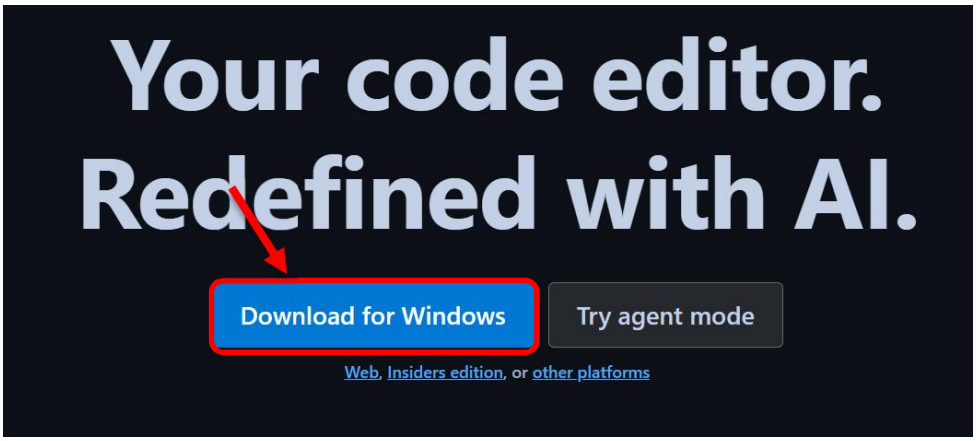
System Requirements

To install and run PHP in Visual Studio Code, your system should meet the following minimum requirements:

- **Operating System:** Windows 7, 8, 10, or 11 (64-bit recommended), macOS (Intel or Apple Silicon), Linux (Ubuntu, Fedora, Arch)
- **Processor:** 1 GHz or faster
- **RAM:** Minimum 2 GB (4 GB or more recommended)
- **Disk Space:** At least 500 MB of free space
- **Internet Connection:** Required for downloading PHP, Visual Studio Code, and extensions

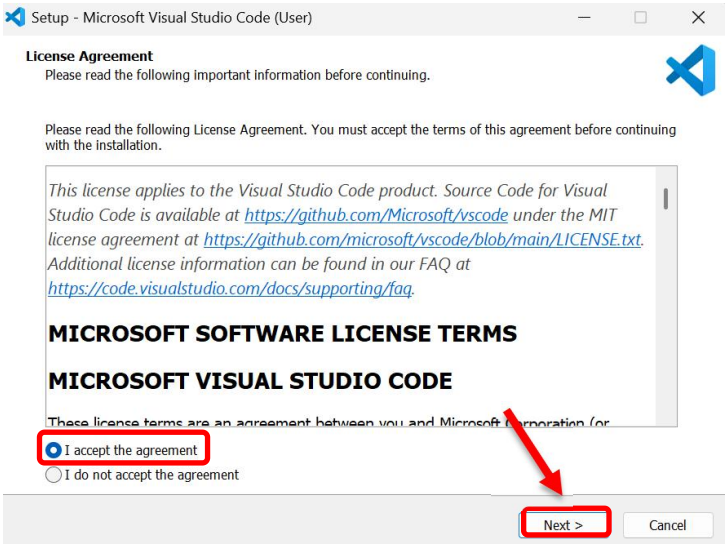
Step 1: Download Visual Studio Code

- Visit the official website: https://code.visualstudio.com
- Click on the "Download for Windows" button.

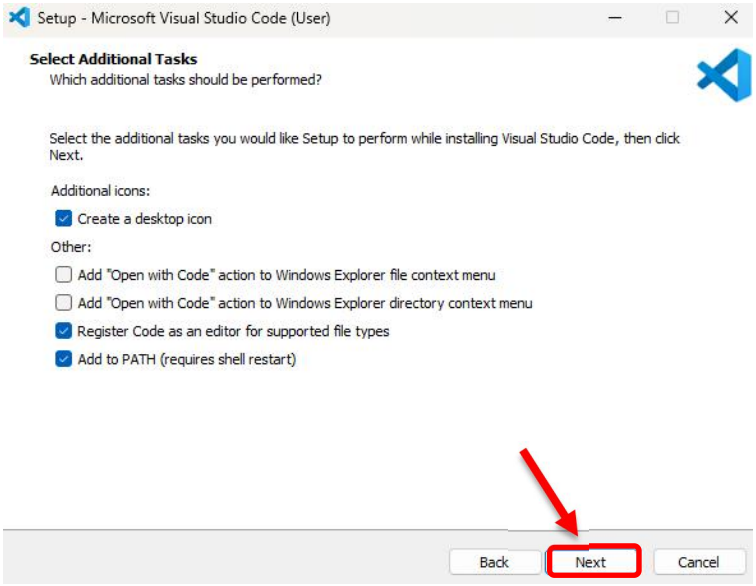


Step 2: Install VS Code

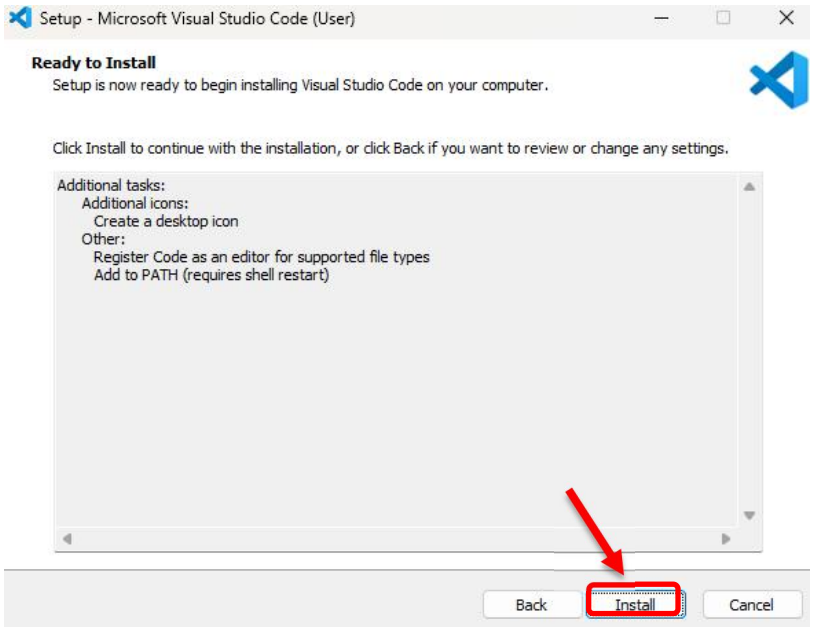
- Open the downloaded .exe file.
- Follow the installation wizard steps.
- Click "Next" and accept the license agreement.



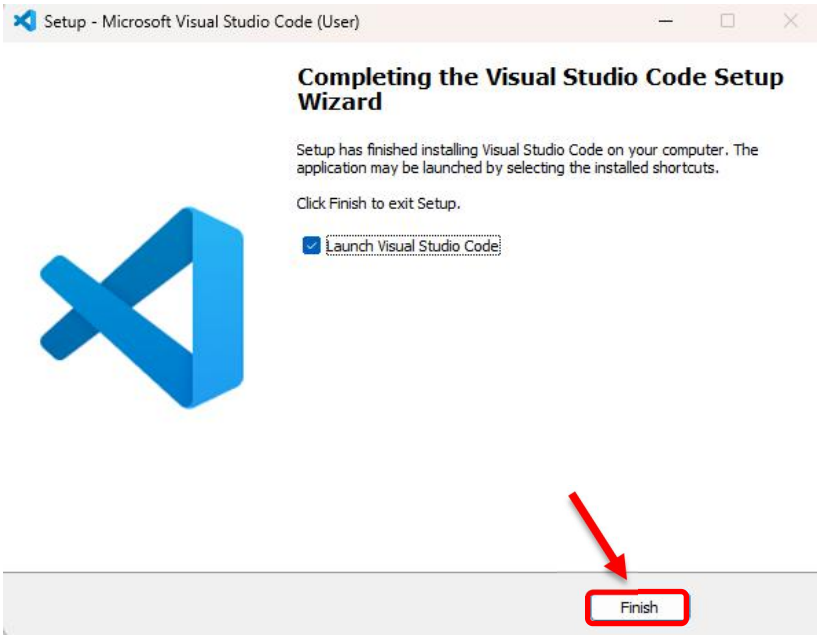
- Select the options like “Add to PATH” and “Create a desktop icon” (recommended).



- Click "Install" and wait for the process to finish.



- Once installed, click "Finish" to open VS Code.



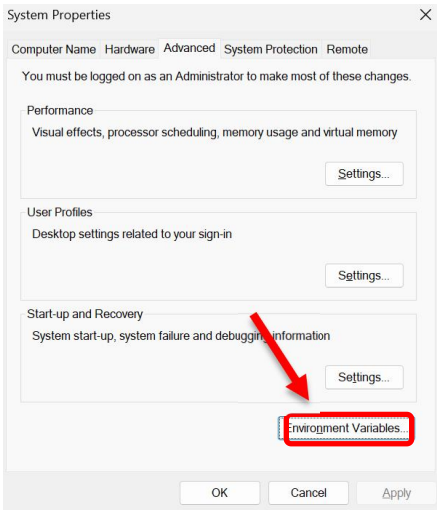
Step 3: Download PHP in VS Code

- Visit the official Rust website: (https://www.php.net/downloads.php)
- Scroll down and Click on the "Download PHP" button.

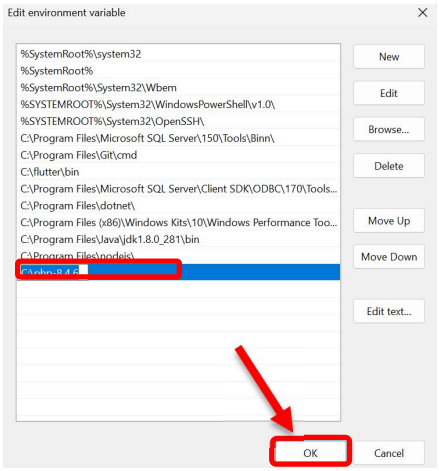
- Select a Thread Safe ZIP file for your system (e.g., php-8.x.x-Win32-vs16-x64.zip).

Step 2: Install PHP

- Extract the ZIP file to a folder (e.g., C:\php).
- Add PHP to system environment variables:
  - Open **Start > System > Advanced system settings > Environment Variables**.



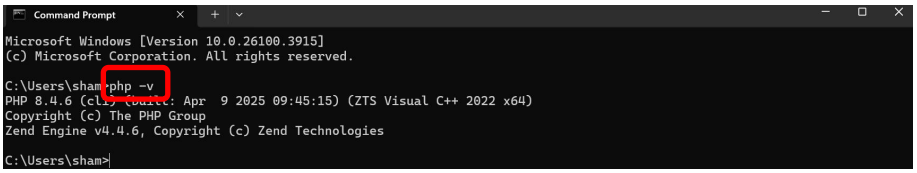
- Under **System variables**, select **Path**, click **Edit**, then click **New** and paste it.



- Click **OK** to save and close all windows.

Verify PHP installation:

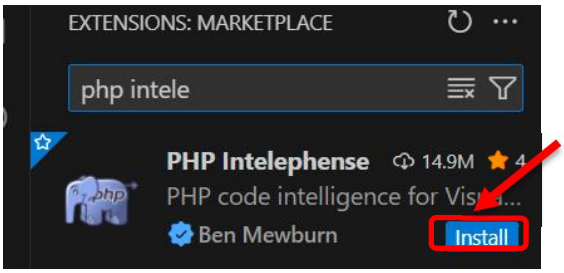
- Open **Command Prompt** and type php -v.
- You should see the installed PHP version.



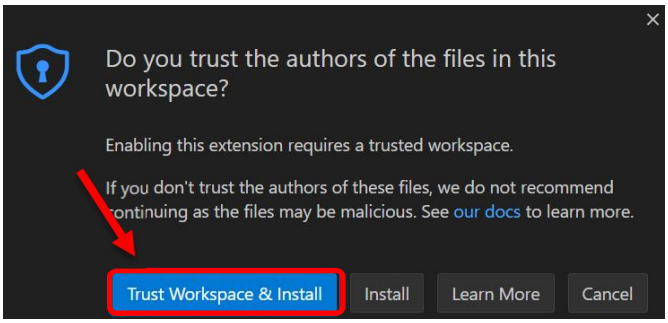
Step 3: Install Rust Extension in VS Code

- Open **Visual Studio Code**.
- Click on the **Extensions icon** (or press Ctrl+Shift+X).

- In the search bar, type **PHP Intelephense**.
- Click **Install** on the PHP Intelephense extension.



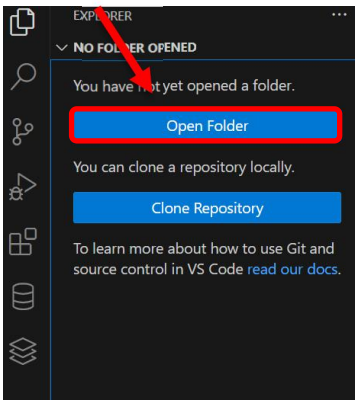
- Click on Trust and Install.



- Wait for the installation to complete.

Step 4: Create a New PHP Project

- In Explorer, Click on open Folder.



- Create new Folder in the respected directory where you want to save the projects and name it phpProjects.
- Now, Click on icon to create a new project and name it as Hello with php extension (Hello.php)
- Press Enter button.

Step 5: Write Your First PHP Program

1. In the VS Code file explorer, open src > Hello.php.
2. Replace the content with the provided source code file.
3. Save the code by clicking on Ctrl + S or go to file > Save it.

Step 6: Run the Program

- Click on RUN button icon to see the output in terminal.