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Are VS Code Extensions Safe?



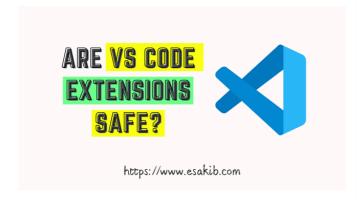
Author - Sakib Mahmud

⊟ August 28, 2022 **(**) 3 minute 0 **□**





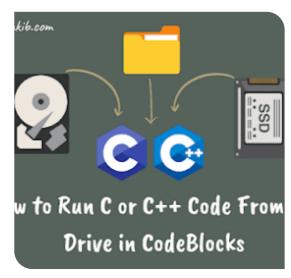
https://www.esakib.com/2022/08/are-vs-codeextensions-safe.html As a developer or learner, it's important to have a code editor that's flexible and extensible. Visual Studio Code is a code editor that's been gaining popularity lately, and for good reason. It's a lightweight code editor with a ton of features and extensions that make it ideal for developers of all levels of experience.



One of the best features of Visual Studio Code is the extensions. Extensions are pieces of code that can be added to the editor to add new features or modify existing ones. There are extensions for just about everything, from language support to code formatting to debugging.

Extensions are what make Visual Studio Code so powerful. They allow you to customize the editor to fit your specific needs. And because they're

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developed by the community, there's a huge variety of extensions available. But there is a common question, are visual studio code extensions safe? In this article, I will try to answer that question.

Visual Studio code extensions safe or not?

Most of the time Visual Studio code extensions are safe to use. But some of them can also introduce potential security risks. The features of an extension can create risks. For example, you installed an extension that hosts your code in their server as a backup and you gave permission to it to store your files. In that case, if that extension also stores your personal files without your permission then that is a representation of security risk and privacy violation.

Developers create extensions on their own and then they publish them in the Visual Studio marketplace. A publisher needs to have an access token which can be gotten only if you have a valid Microsoft account. So, ultimately developers are not anonymous. For this reason, most of the extensions are safe to use.

Learn How to Install Visual Studio Code in Ubuntu from this article.

What do you need to keep in mind when you install an extension?

First of all, you need to be aware of the potential impact on performance. Some extensions are very lightweight and won't have any impact on performance, while others can be quite heavy and slow down Visual Studio Code. If you're concerned about performance, you can always disable an extension or uninstall it completely.

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You need to be aware of the potential for conflicts. If you have two extensions that both modify the same thing, they could potentially conflict with each other and cause problems. To avoid this, you can either disable one of the extensions or uninstall one of them completely.

You need to be aware of the potential for security vulnerabilities. Some extensions might introduce security vulnerabilities into Visual Studio Code, so it's important to be aware of this and take precautions accordingly. Check which company or developer owns that extension and how many users use that. Do some simple google search to get a good knowledge of that product.

So those are three things to keep in mind when you install an extension on Visual Studio Code. Be aware of the potential impact on performance, the potential for conflicts, and the potential for security vulnerabilities. And you should be good to go!

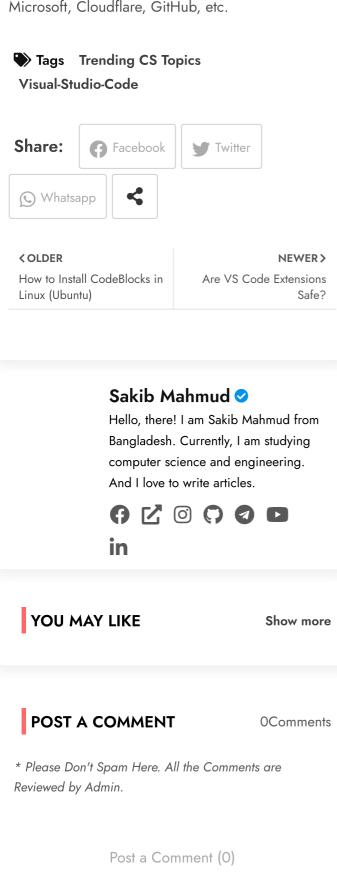
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Conclusion

Extensions can give you access to powerful features that can make your coding experience more efficient and enjoyable. They can also help you customize your editor to better suit your personal preferences. On the downside, extensions can introduce security risks if they're not carefully vetted. Additionally, they can sometimes cause instability or performance issues.

Ultimately, the decision of whether or not to use Visual Studio Code extensions is up to you. If you're willing to accept the risks, then go ahead and enjoy the benefits that they can offer. However, if you're not comfortable with the potential risks,

then it's probably best to avoid them or use only extensions from trusted companies like Google, Microsoft, Cloudflare, GitHub, etc.



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