SETTING UP VISUAL STUDIO CODE WITH ANACONDA

Visual Studio Code (VS Code) is a famous code editor that can be used for a variety of programming languages. One of the benefits of using VS Code is its integration with Anaconda, a powerful Python distribution that includes many popular packages and tools for data science. In this blog post, we will show you how to set up VS Code with Anaconda to create an efficient development environment for your Python projects.

But before that you should know that,

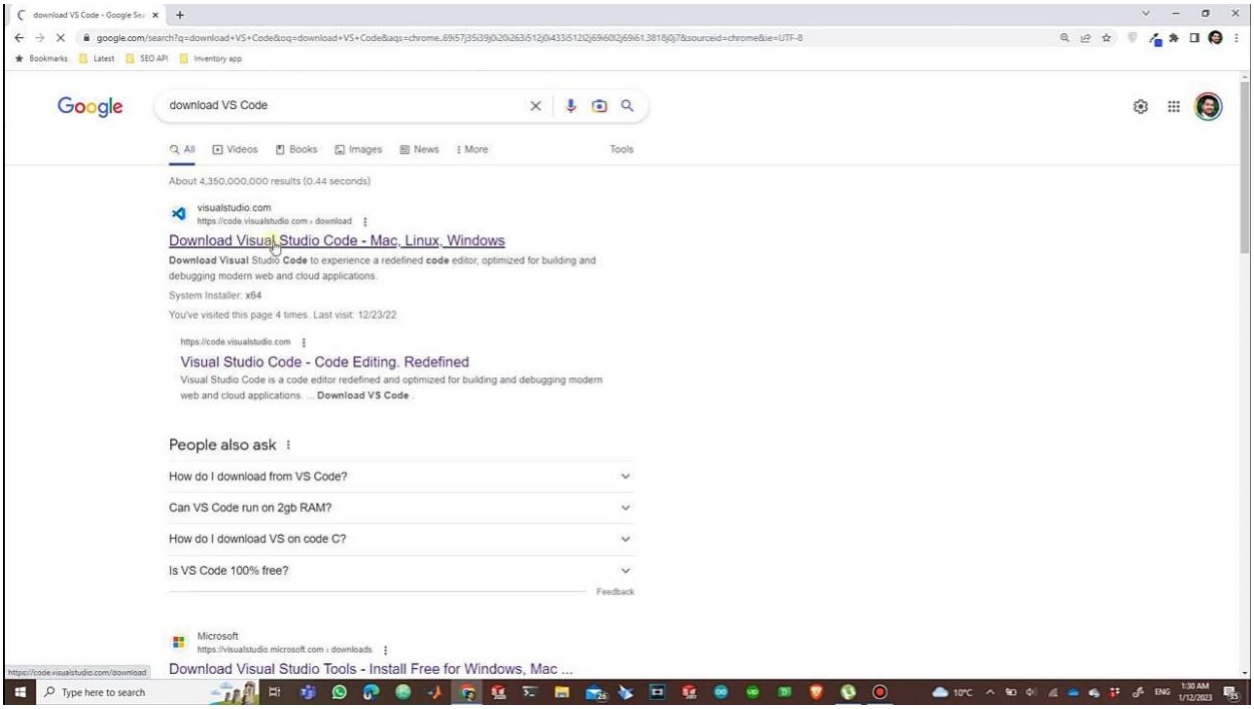
Why virtual environment is important?

A virtual environment is important because it allows you to create isolated Python environments to install packages and dependencies for specific projects. This can help prevent conflicts between dependencies of different projects and ensure that each project has the specific versions of packages that it requires to run correctly. Additionally, it makes it easy to manage and switch between multiple environments for different projects, without having to worry about affecting other projects or your system's global Python installation.

Now we shall start the process,

Step 1: Install VS Code

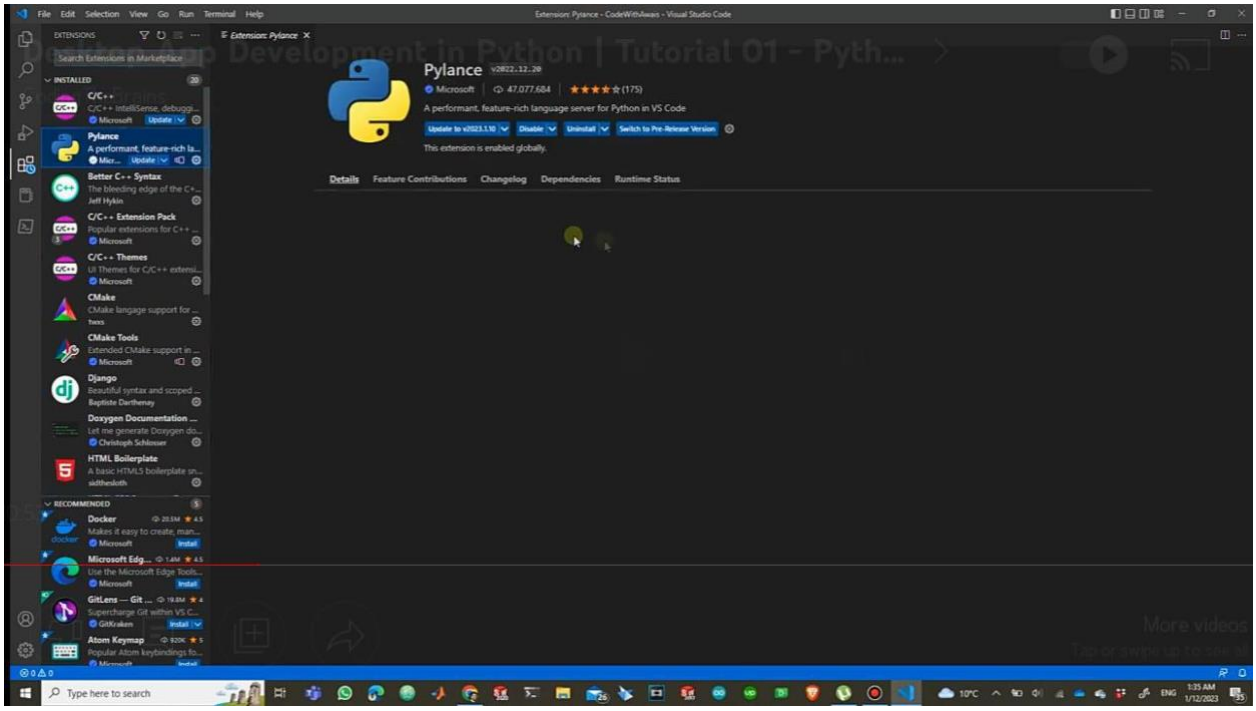
The first step in setting up VS Code with Anaconda is to download and install the code editor.



Once the installation is complete, you can launch the code editor and start exploring its features.

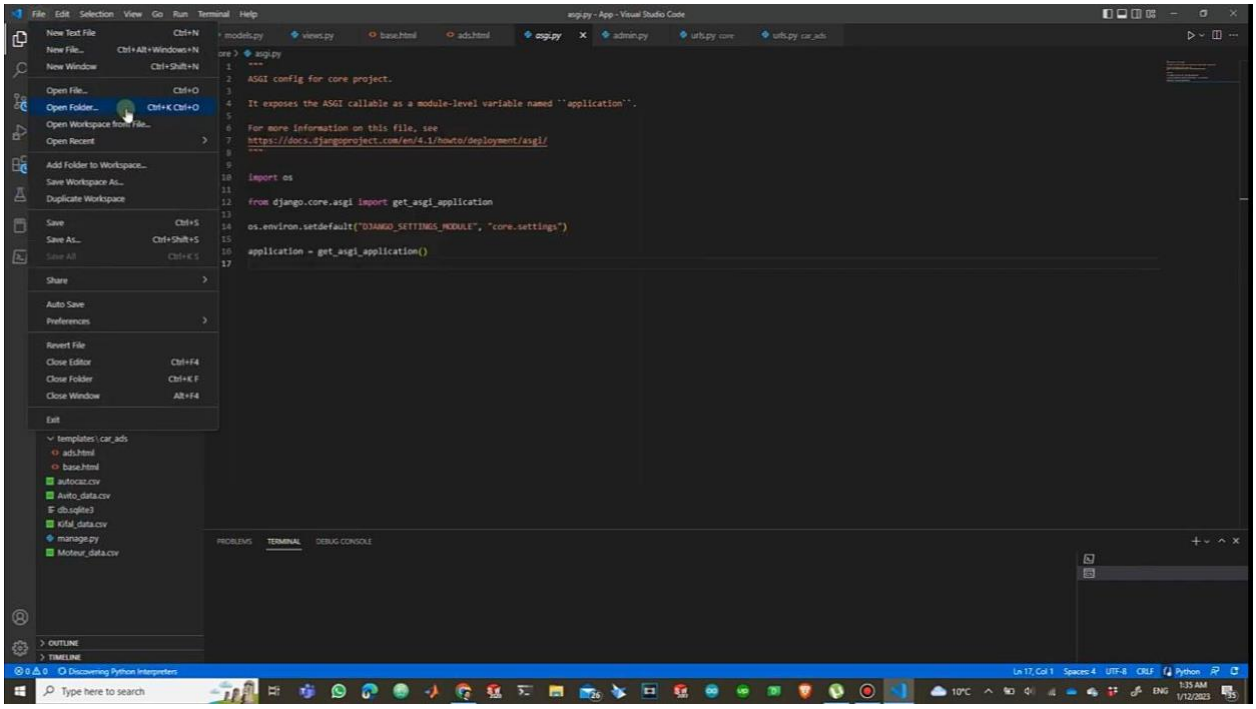
Step 2: Install the Pylance extension

Pylance is a powerful extension for VS Code that provides advanced IntelliSense for Python. It includes features such as auto-completion, type checking, and error checking, which can make your development experience more efficient. To install the Pylance extension, open the VS Code Extension Marketplace and search for “Pylance”. Once you find it, click the “Install” button to add it to your code editor.

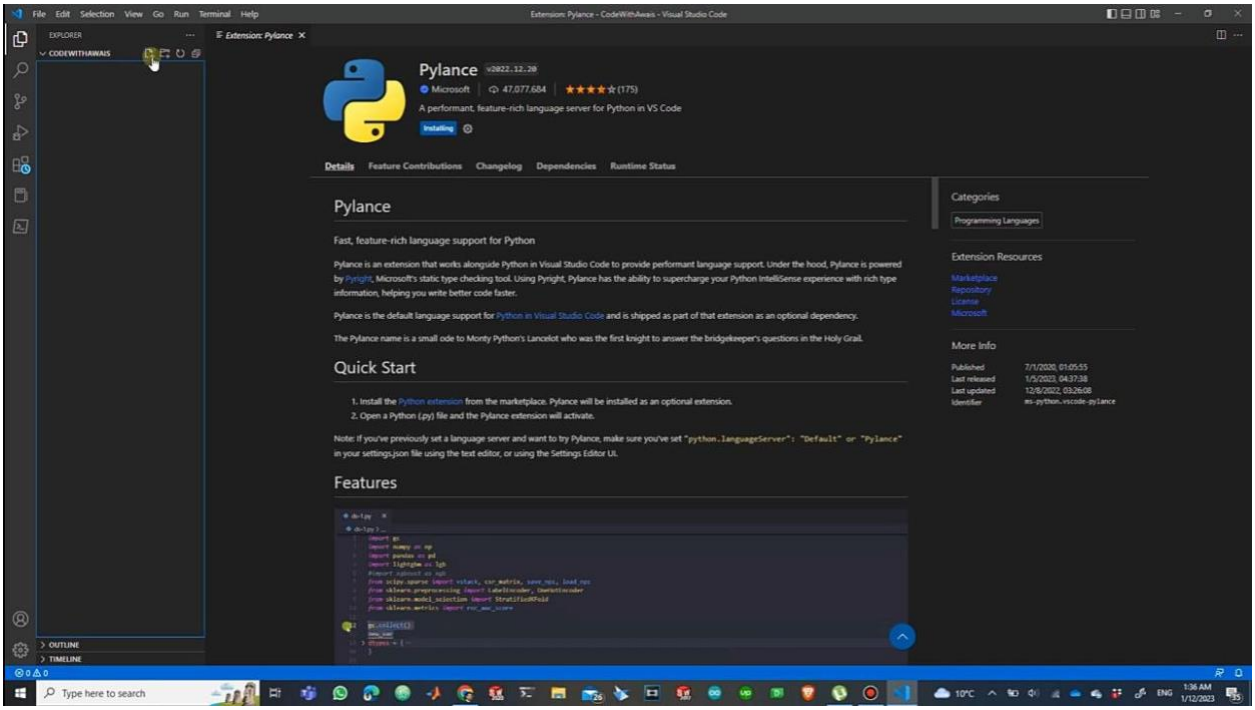


Step 3: Create a new folder in VS Code

With VS Code and the Pylance extension installed, you can now create a new folder to start writing your Python code. To create a new folder, go to the “File” menu and select “Open folder ”. You can then save the folder with a name of your choice, such as “codewithawais”.

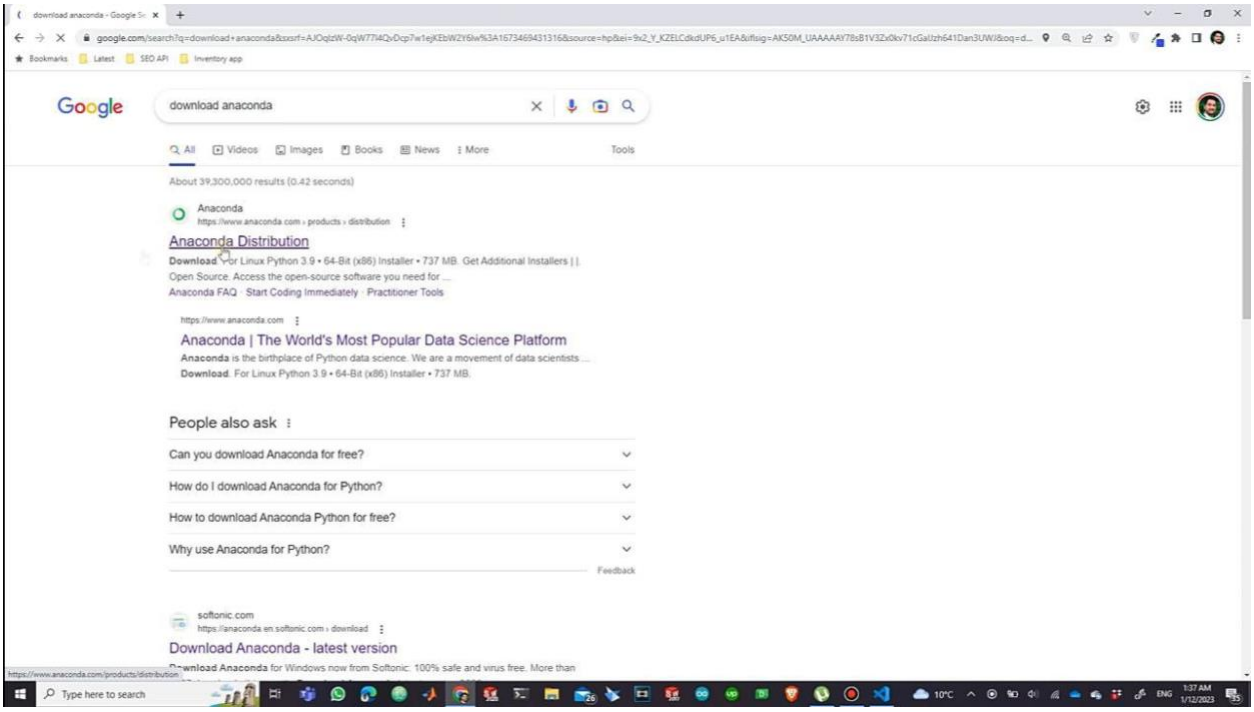


Create new file in this folder to start writing your Python code. You can name the file according to your choice, such as “myfirstcode.py”

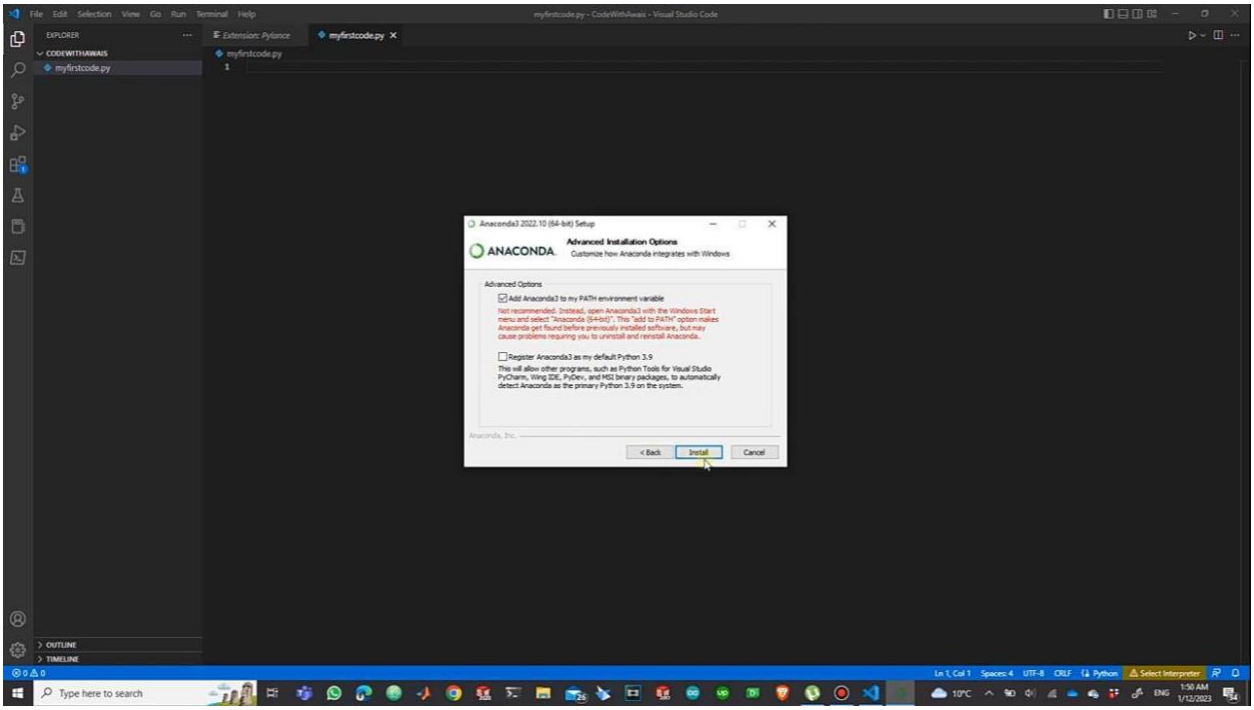


Step 4: Download and install Anaconda

Anaconda is a powerful Python distribution that includes many popular packages and tools for data science. To download and install Anaconda, visit the official website and download the latest version for your operating system.



During the installation process, tick ✔ the first box. (Important)

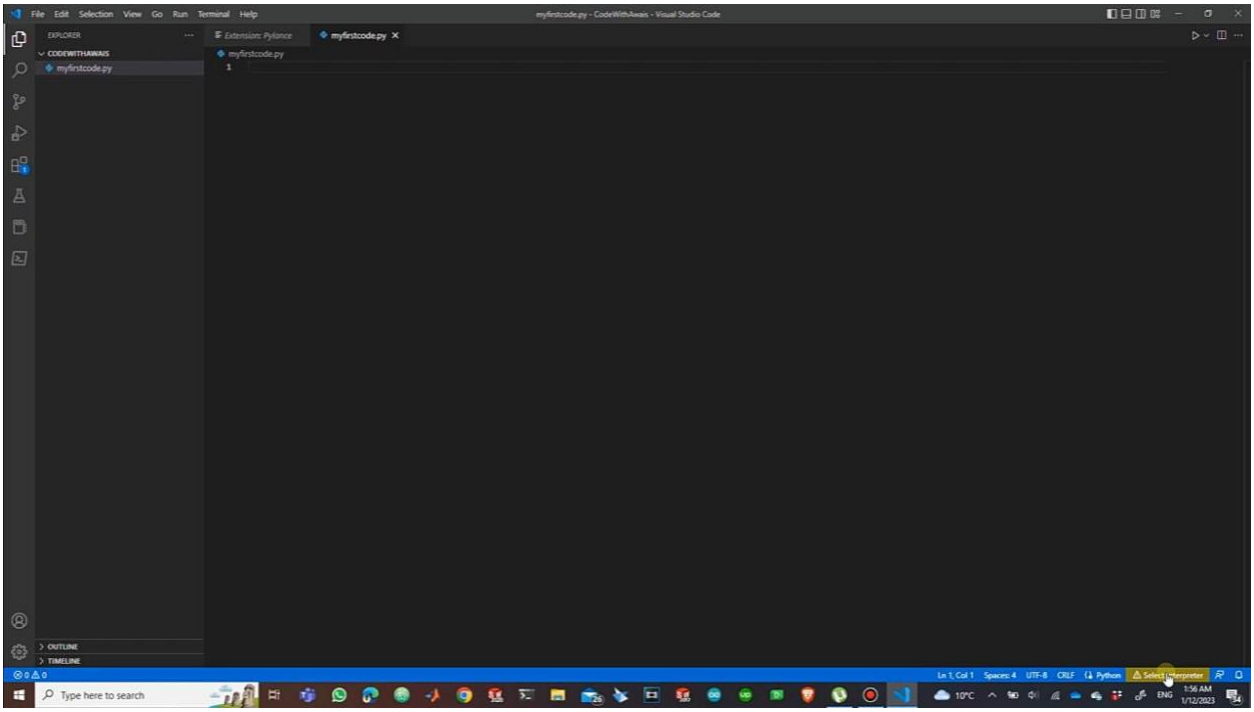


Step 5: Select the Anaconda/Python interpreter

With Anaconda installed, you can now configure VS Code to use the Anaconda/Python interpreter for your Python projects. To do this, open the “myfirstcode-py” file in VS Code and go to the “View” menu. Select “Command Palette” and type “Python: Select Interpreter” to open the interpreter selection menu. Select “Anaconda” from the list of options and you’re all set.

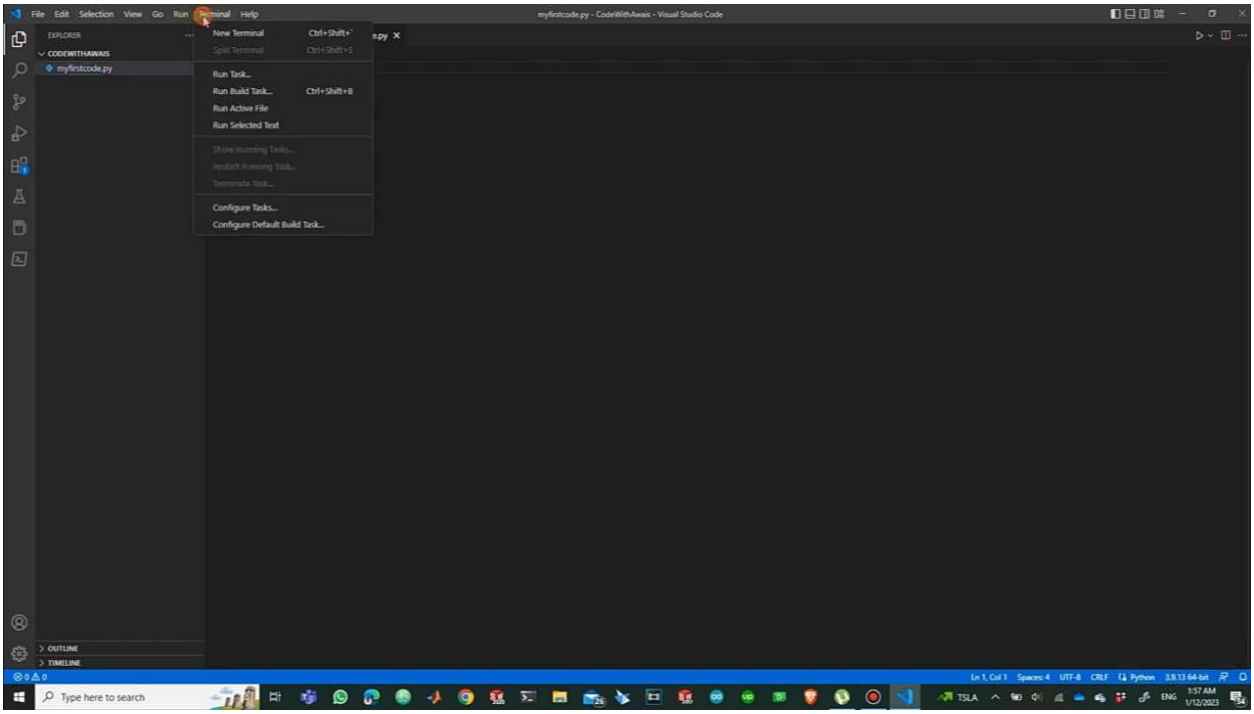
OR

Open your file, in the right bottom of the screen, click on select interpreter and then select anaconda/python as an interpreter.

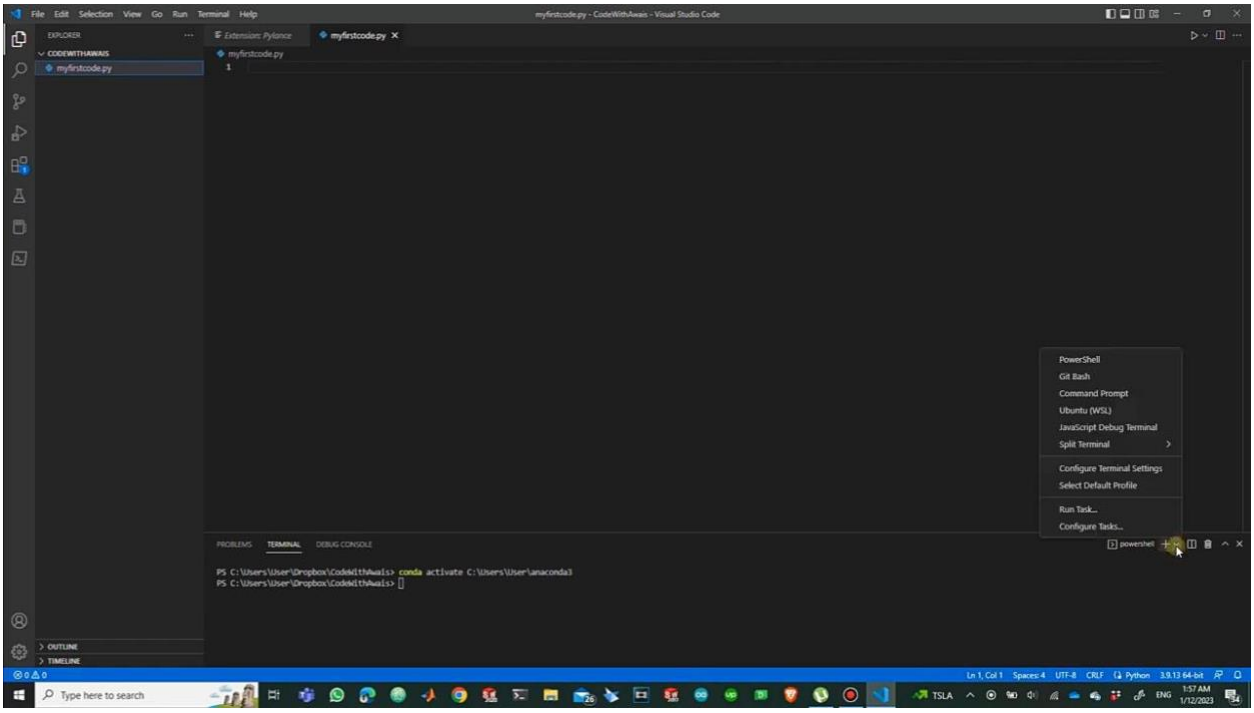


Step 6: Open the Terminal in VS Code

With your development environment set up, you can now start working on your Python projects. One of the most useful features of VS Code is its built-in terminal, which allows you to run commands and scripts directly from the code editor. To open the terminal, go to the “View” menu and select “Terminal”.



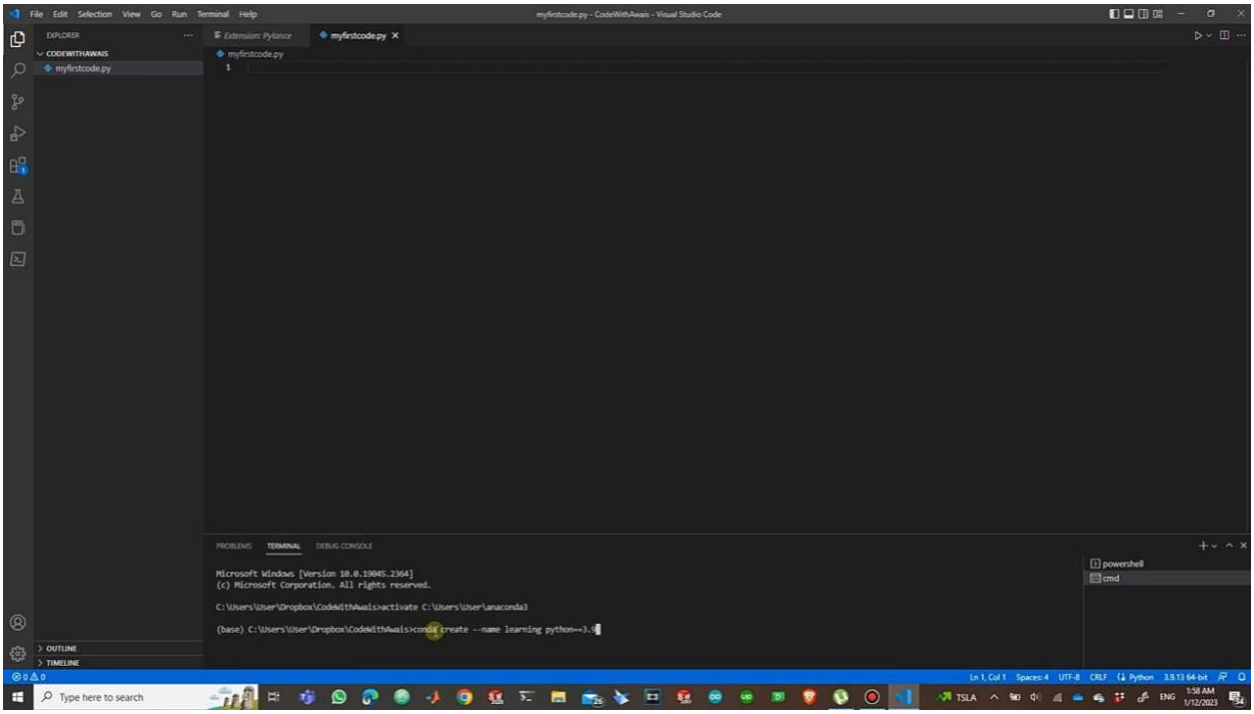
After creating New Terminal, change PowerShell to command prompt.



Step 7: Create a new environment

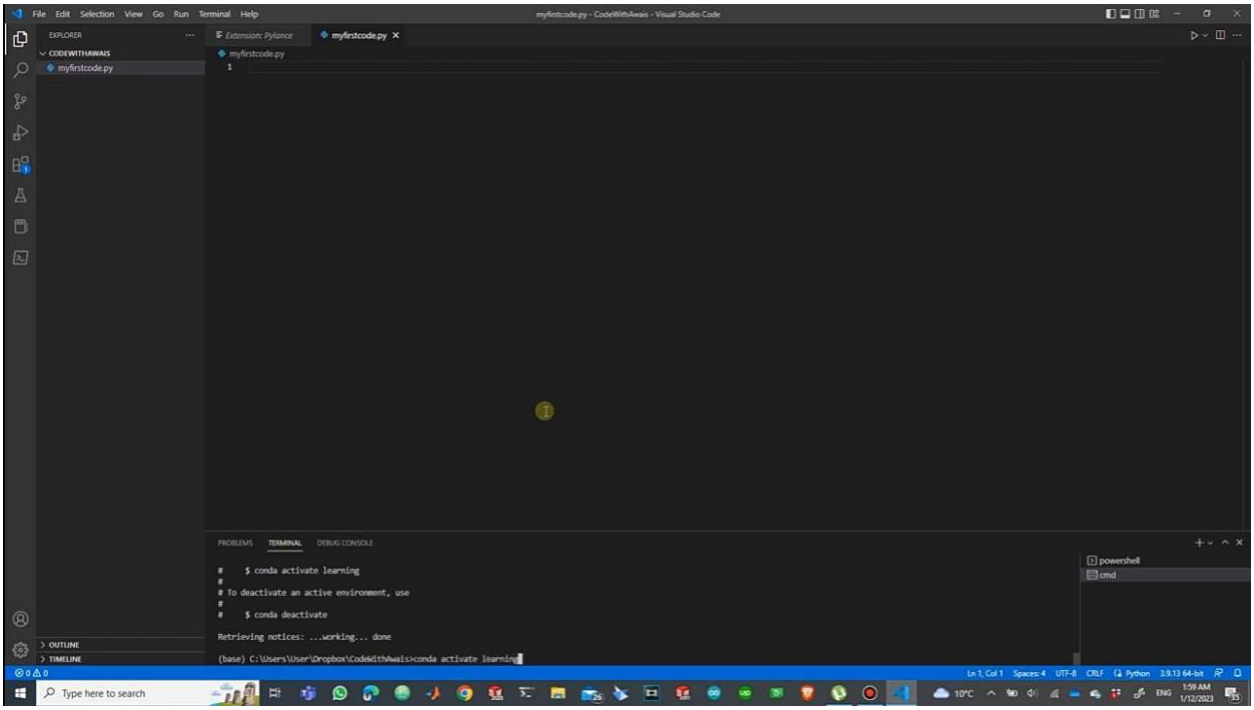
Anaconda allows you to create multiple environments for different projects, each with its own set of packages and dependencies. To create a new environment, open the terminal in VS Code and type the following command:

conda create –name learning ==python3. 9



This will create a new environment named “learning”. You can activate the environment by running the command:

conda activate learning



And deactivate it by running the command:

Conda deactivate

Conclusion

Setting up VS Code with Anaconda can make your Python development experience more efficient and enjoyable. With the powerful features of Pylance, Anaconda and the terminal, you'll have everything you need to write and run your Python code quickly and easily