

Installing and Using Visual Studio Code

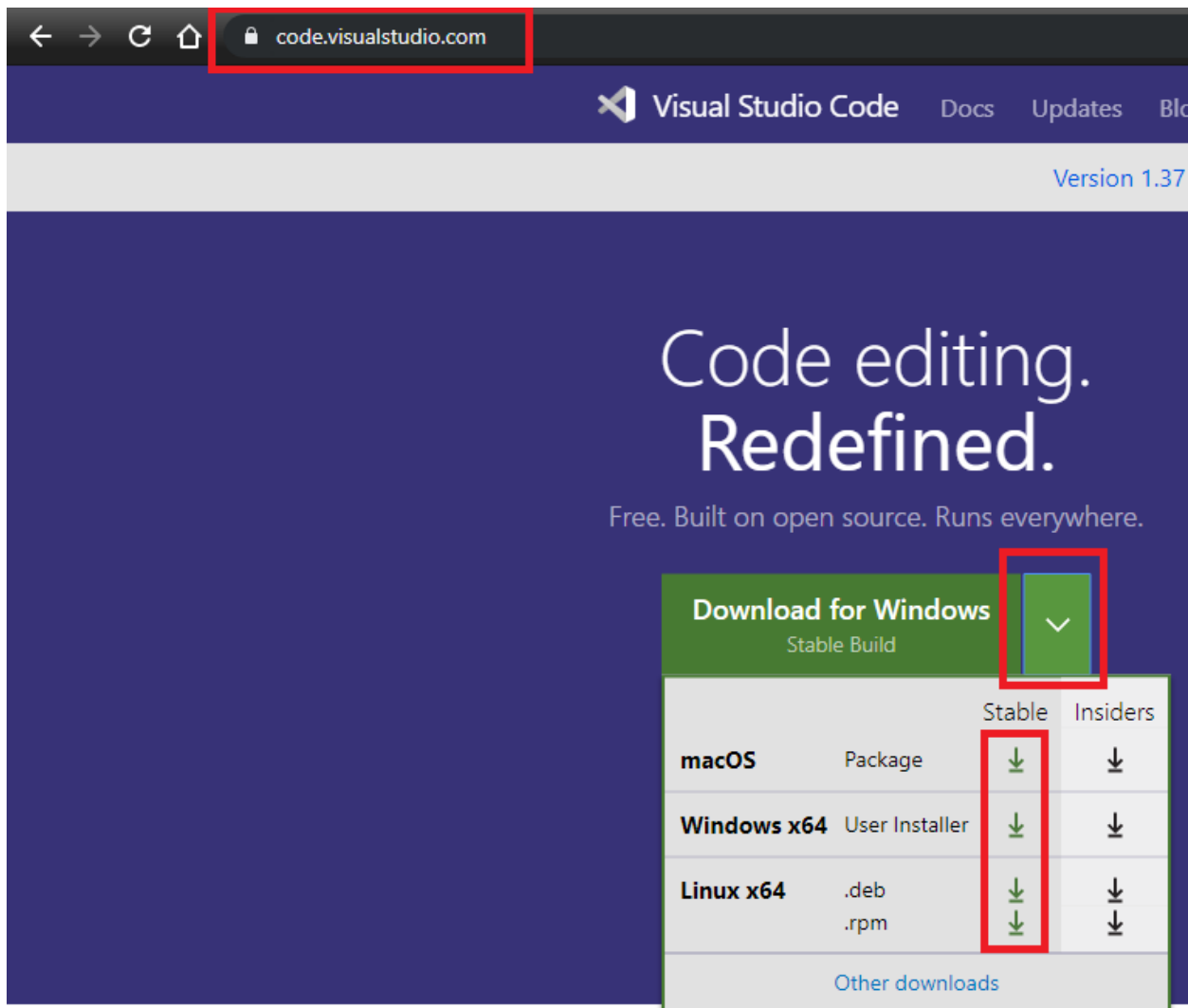
Visual Studio Code is a lightweight Integrated Development Environment (IDE), which allows you to write an edit code for a huge array of languages. Visual Studio Code also has an extensive library of extensions, so you can add precisely the functionality you need.

The first step to installing Visual Studio Code is to download it, of course!

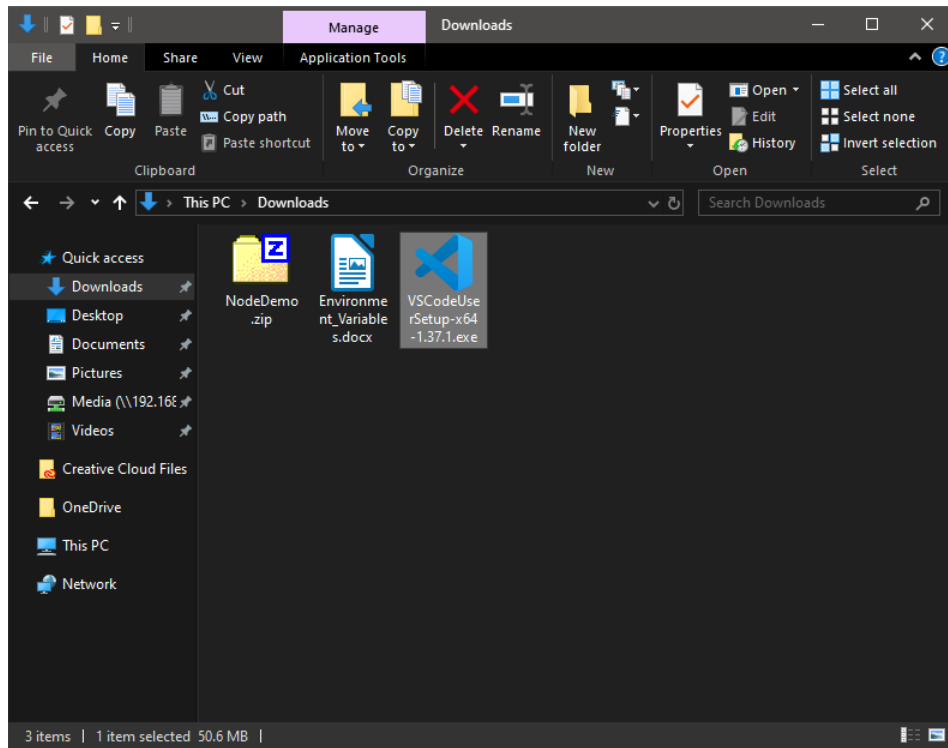
- [Visual Studio Code Download](#)

On the download page...

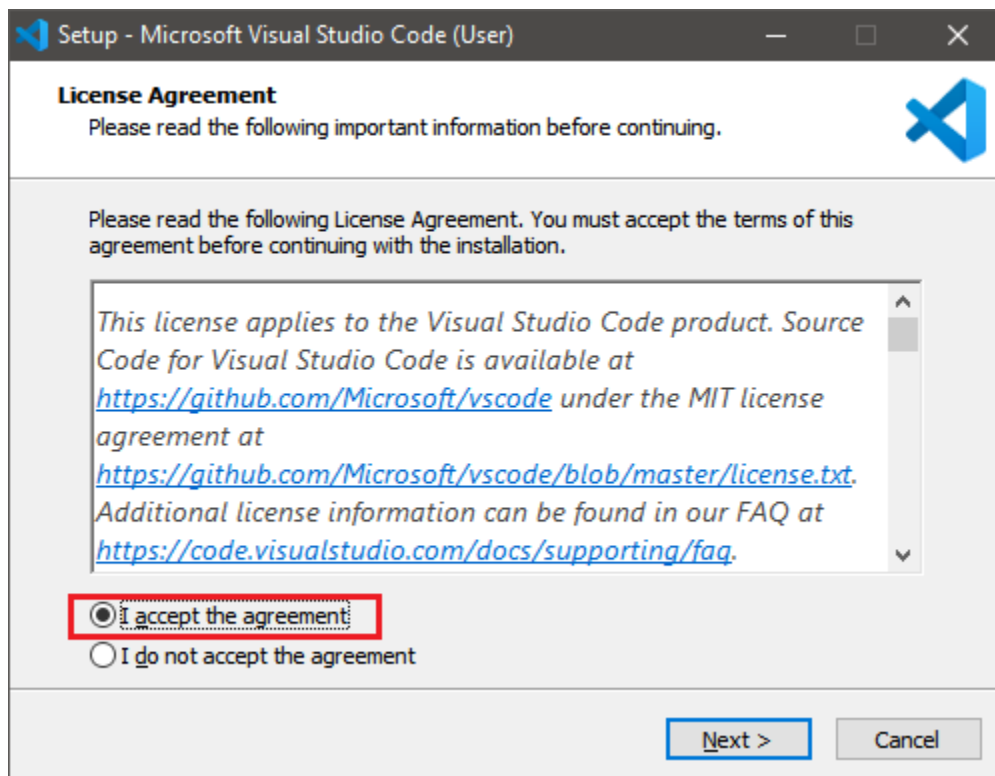
1. Click the arrow to expand the downloads list, and download the latest stable version for your operating system:



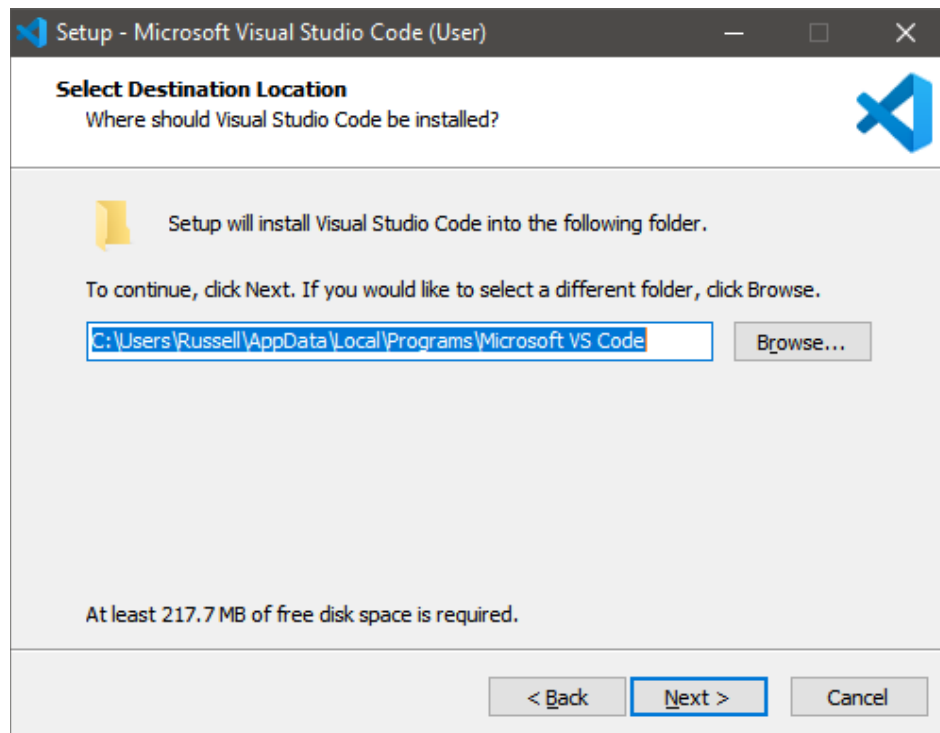
- Find the installer on your computer, and run it:



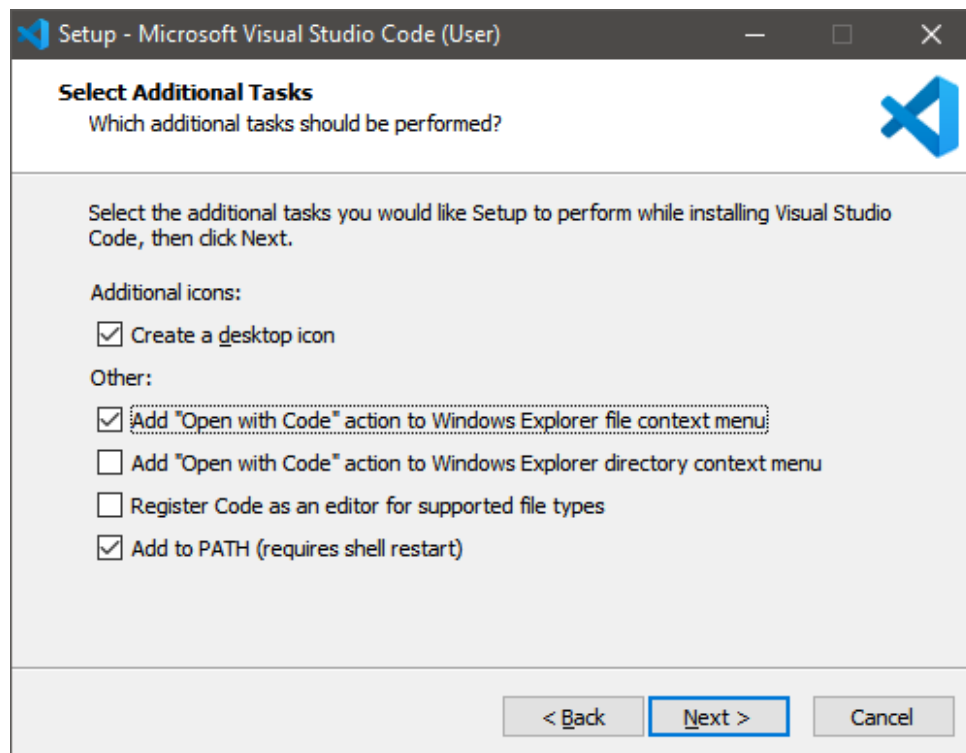
- Accept the license agreement, then click “Next >”:



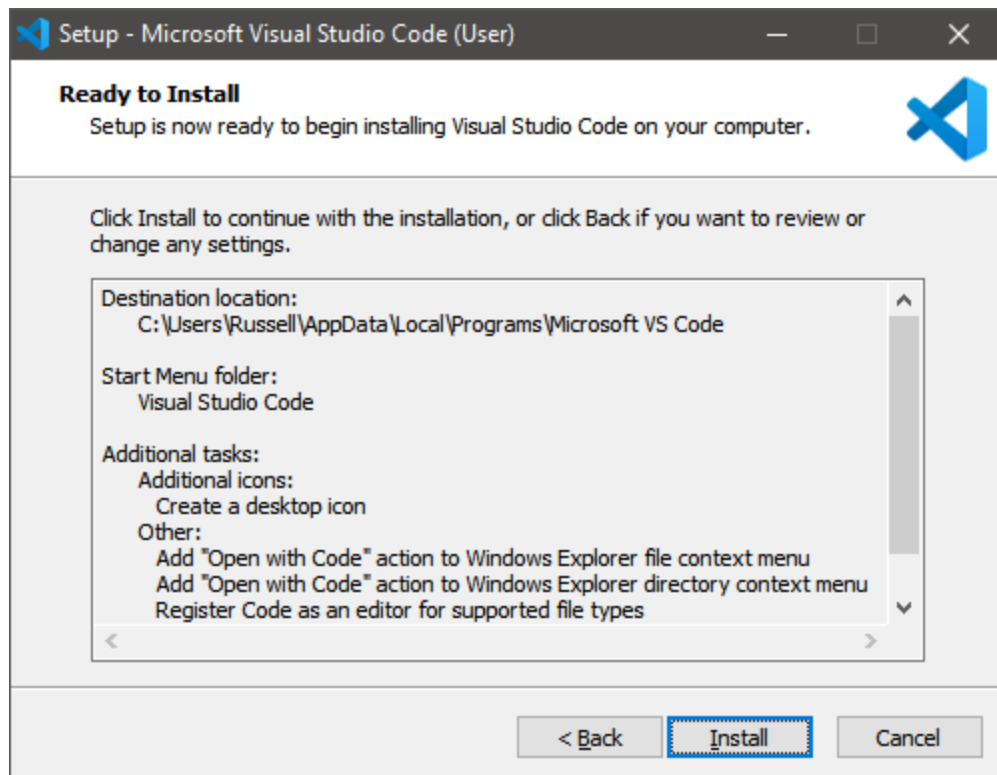
4. Select the installation location. You may leave this as the default value. Then click “Next >”



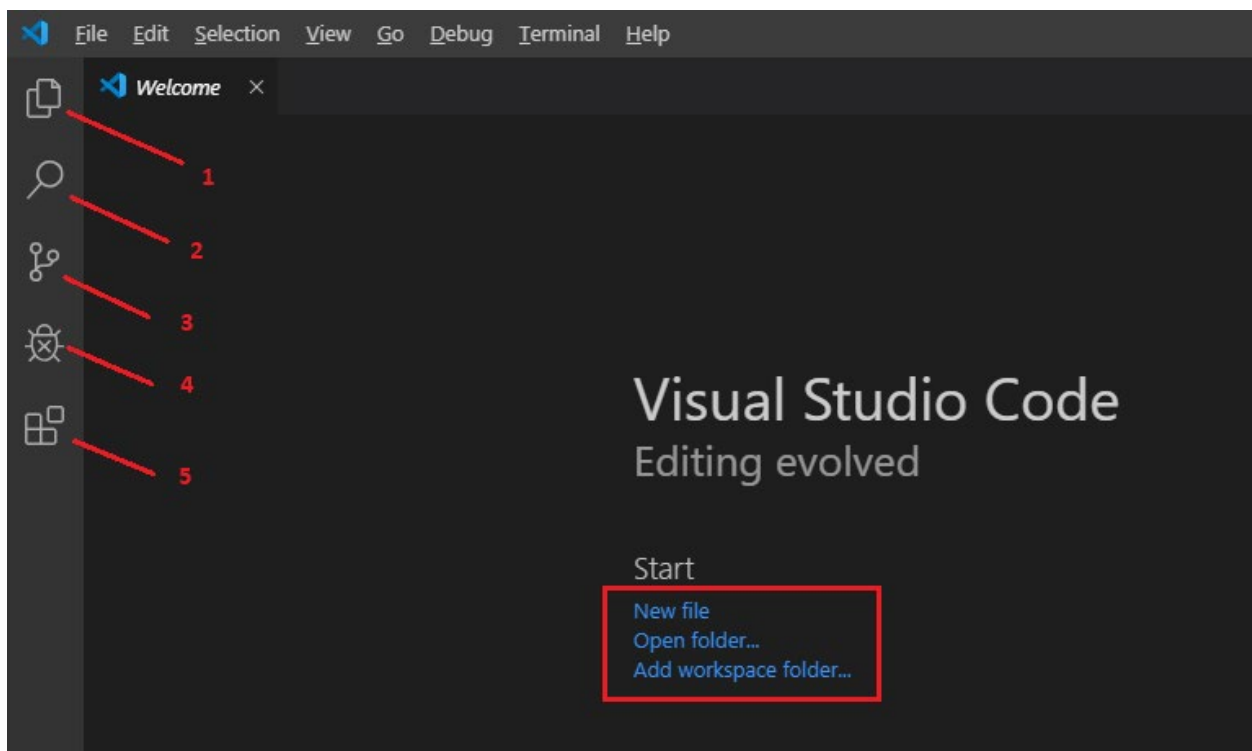
5. Select any options you like, then click “Next >”. None of these options are necessary, but you might like them:



6. Confirm your installation options, and click “Install”:



7. When you are done, launch Visual Studio Code. This is the Welcome page you should see:



Let's explain each of these sections:

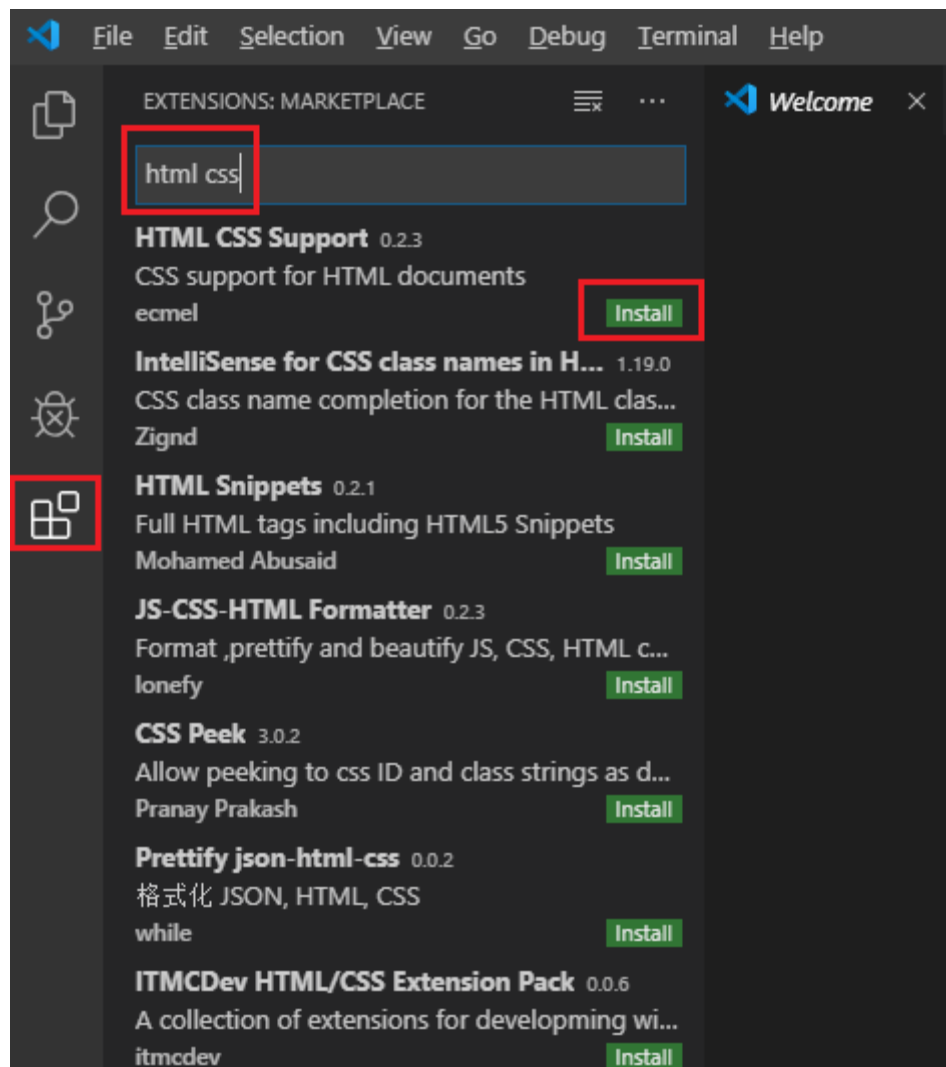
1. This is the file explorer. When you want to create or open files for editing, this is where you will do so.
2. This is the search menu
3. This is for integrating Visual Studio Code with your source control application of choice, like github.
4. This is the debug menu
5. This is the extensions menu. This is where you can search for and install extensions to add functionality to Visual Studio Code.

Lastly, the "Start" menu has a list of quick-links you can click to get started right away.

Installing Extensions in Visual Studio Code

Visual Studio Code allows you to install extensions to add functionality to the IDE. This is an incredibly simple process.

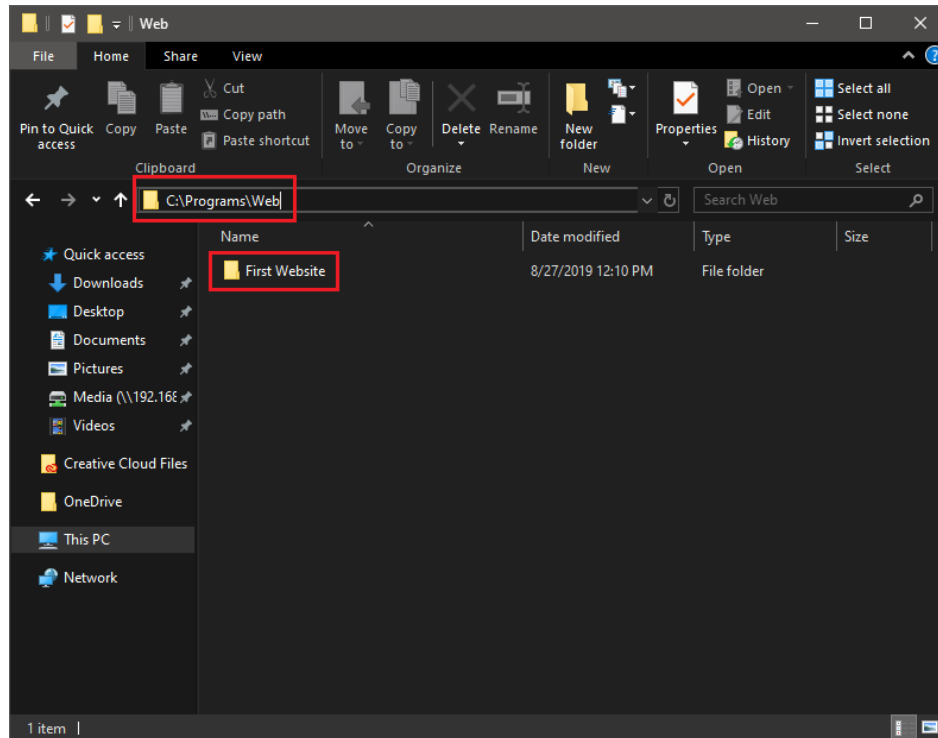
1. Click the Extensions button on the left side of the screen, and search for the desired extension. Then just click the Install button:



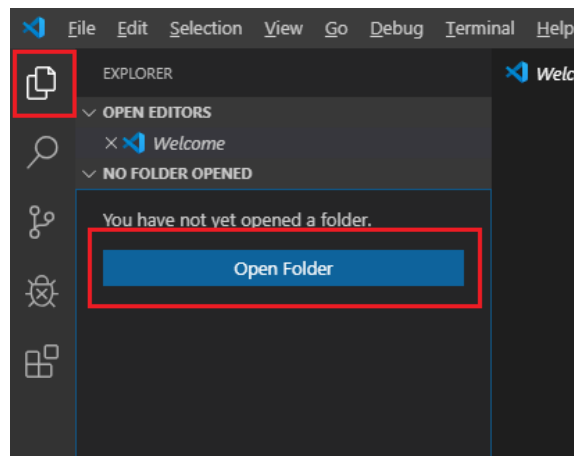
Using Visual Studio Code

Visual Studio Code assumes that for each project, all your files are organized into folders on your computer. You use Visual Studio Code to open this folder, and then edit the files therein, or add new files.

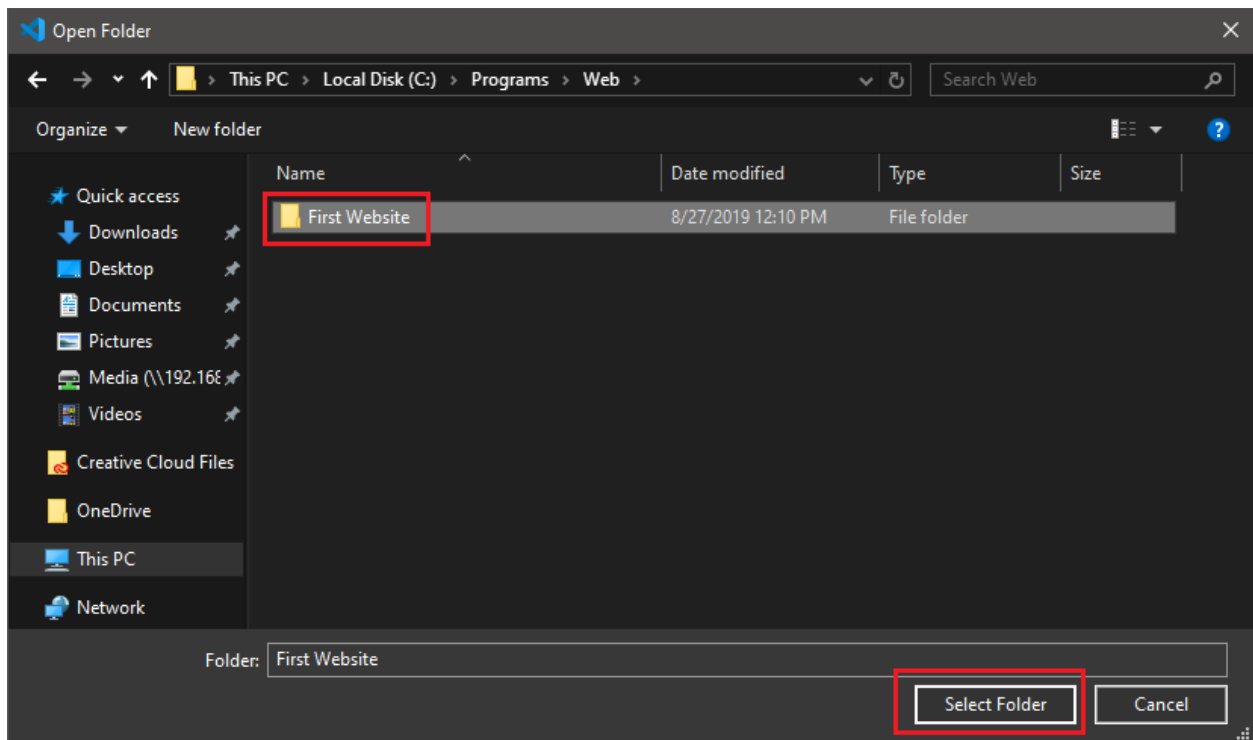
1. Create a folder somewhere on your computer. For this example, the folder “First Website” was created inside “C:\Programs\Web\”. You *do not* have to put your folders in a specific place, or name them in a particular manner:



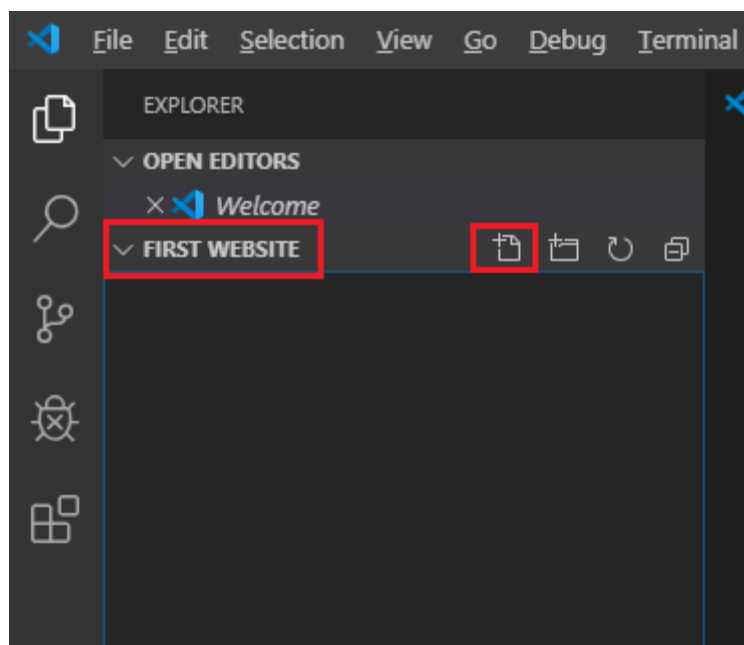
2. In Visual Studio Code, click the File Explorer button, then click the “Open Folder button”. Alternatively, you can go to the File menu, and select “Open Folder”:



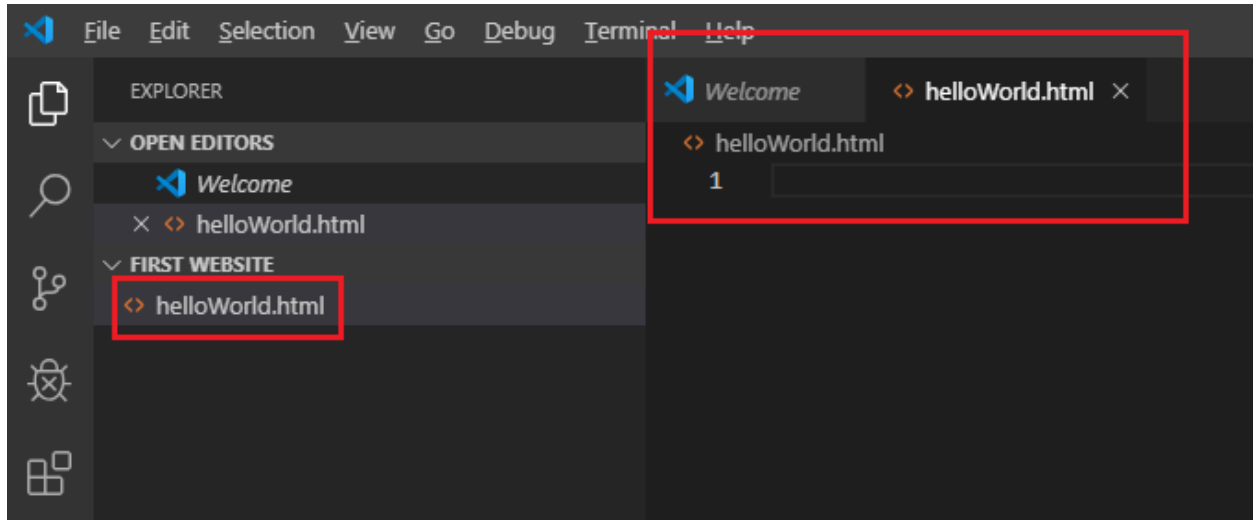
3. Select the folder you created for your project:



4. Now you will see the folder added to the menu in Visual Studio Code. Mouse over this folder, and then click the "New File" button:



5. Enter a name for the new file, including the desired file extension. Then hit “Enter” or click elsewhere. The file will be created, and opened for editing:



And that's it! Now you're ready to get started.