VSCode Tips & Tricks

Useful features of VSCode and keyboard shortcut tips

Overview

- An Introduction to VS Code
- Useful features of the editor
- Common Keyboard Shortcuts

Learning Objectives

- Be aware of the capabilities of VS Code
- Move around the editor using keyboard shortcuts
- Perform common text manipulation with keyboard shortcuts
- Use multiple cursors to work more efficiently

The command palette

Every function of VS Code can be accessed from the Command Palette.

Ctrl + Shift + P or **⌘ + ⇧ + P**

Type in what you're looking for.

It also shows the keyboard shortcuts if there is one.

Editor Layout

We can affect the panels in our editor window with keyboard shortcuts.

The Sidebar

- Show the file tree: **Ctrl + Shift + E** or **⌘ + ⇧ + E**
- Show the file search: **Ctrl + Shift + F** or **⌘ + ⇧ + F**
- Show the source control panel: **Ctrl + Shift + G** or **^ + ⇧ + G**
- Toggle sidebar visibility: **Ctrl + B** or **⌘ + B**

The Terminal

- Create a new terminal tab: **Ctrl + Shift + `**  or  **^ + ⇧ + `**
- Show (or hide) the terminal: **Ctrl + `**  or  **^ + `**

There isn't a default shortcut for moving between terminals (`focus next terminal` in command palette)

You can also move the terminal to the side (`move panel right` in command palette)

Split Editor

- Split the editor in two: **Ctrl + ** or **⌘ + **
- Change split direction: **Shift + Alt + 0** or **⌥ + ⌘ + 0**

Full screen

- Full Screen: **F11** or **^ + ⌘ + F**
- Zen mode: **Ctrl + K, Z** or **⌘ + K, Z**

Managing Files

Opening Files

- Open file: **Ctrl + O** or **⌘ + O**
- Open folder: **Ctrl + K, Ctrl O** or **⌘ + O**
- Quick open: **Ctrl + P** or **⌘ + P**

Other File Stuff

- Cycle through open files: **Ctrl + Tab** or **^ + ⇥**
- Save file: **Ctrl + S** or **⌘ + S**
- Save all files: **Ctrl + K, S** or **⌥ + ⌘ + S**
- Close file: **Ctrl + W** or **⌘ + W**
- Reopen last closed file: **Ctrl + Shift + T** or **⇧ + ⌘ + T**

Editing Text

We spend a lot of time writing code. Let's make it easier.

Moving Text Around

- Move line (or selected lines) up or down: **Alt + ↓, Alt + ↑** or **⌥ + ↓, ⌥ + ↑**
- Indent / Outdent line: **Ctrl +], Ctrl + [** or **⌘ + [**

Deleting Text

- Delete line: **Ctrl + Shift + K** or **⇧ + ⌘ + K**
- Cut line: **Ctrl + X** or **⌘ + X**
- Toggle line comment: **Ctrl + /** or **⌘ + /**

Duplicating Text

- Copy line: **Ctrl + C** or **⌘ + C**
- Duplicate line below/above: **Shift + Alt + ↓, ↑** or **⇧ + ⌥ + ↓, ↑**

Navigating Around Text

- Move left/right one word: **Ctrl + ←/→** or **⌥ + ←/→**
- Go to start/end of line: **Home / End** or **⌘ + ←/→**
- Go to matching bracket: **Ctrl + Shift + ** or **⇧ + ⌘ + **
- Go to line: **Ctrl + G** or **^ + G**
- Go to symbol: **Ctrl + Shift + 0** or **⌘ + ⇧ + O**
- Go to definition: **F12** or **fn + F12**
- Go back to where you were previously: **Alt + ←** or **^ + -**

Selecting Text

- Select text: **Shift + ←, ↑, ↓, →**
- Expand/shrink selection: **Shift + Alt + →/←** or **^ ⇧ ⌘ →/←**

Multiple Cursors

- Add cursor below: **Ctrl + Alt + ↓, Shift + Alt + ↓** or **⇧ + ⌥ + ⌘ + ↓**
- Undo last cursor: **Ctrl + U** or **⌘ + U**

You will find out which of these functions you can make most use of and which are worthwhile to learn the shortcuts for.

I would recommend starting off with:

1. Moving code around
2. Multiple cursors

Let's do some exercises to get familiar with these!

Learning Objectives Revisited

- Be aware of the capabilities of VS Code
- Move around the editor using keyboard shortcuts
- Perform common text manipulation with keyboard shortcuts
- Use multiple cursors to work more efficiently