This document will guide you through the process of installing all the necessary tools to be able to finish your prework successfully.

 It is **absolutely essential** that your Windows user account **has Admin rights**. You won't be able to install and use everything you need without those rights. If you are using a work computer with limited privileges, contact your IT person.

Important to know beforehand

- **You won't be able to see the password as you type it in the terminal.**

Sometimes you will be prompted to type a password in the terminal for security reasons. Keep in mind one thing:

 **In the terminal, passwords are invisible.**

This means that the *password is not going to be revealed* as you type. The main reason for this is security. Passwords won't be visually represented, not even with asterisks. If asterisks are shown, then others can see the length of the password, and that could lead to easier guessing what could be the password.

- **Don't type the dollar sign ($) in the terminal when adding commands.**

  What's up with those **dollar signs $** you might see before lines of code? Those are to visually distinguish **terminal commands** from other kinds of code. Remember, **we don't have to type the $**.

So for

Copy

```
$ some-command
```

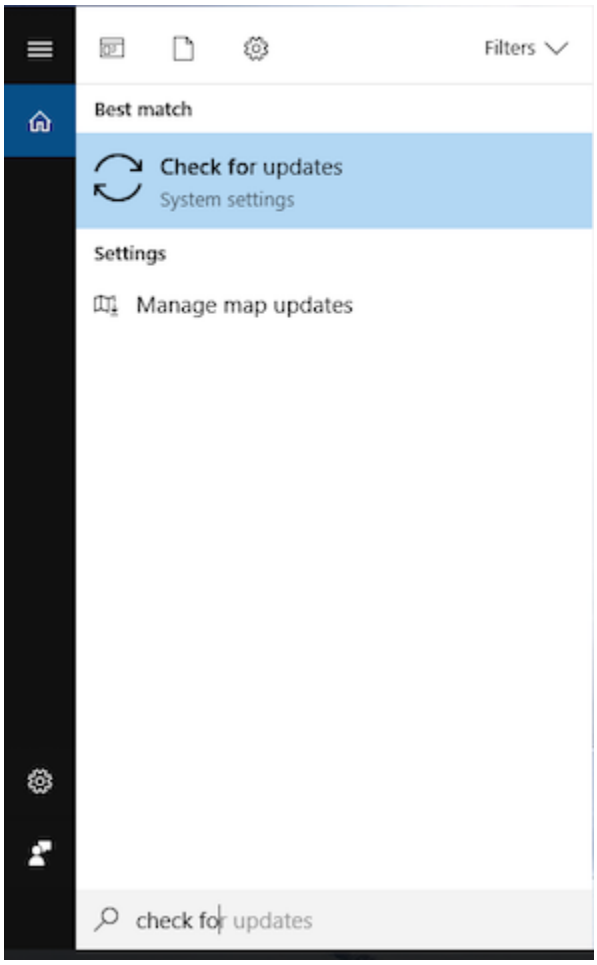
you only have to write some-command in your terminal.

If all this sounds pretty vague at this moment, do not worry. Soon you will know exactly what we are talking about.

Let's go!

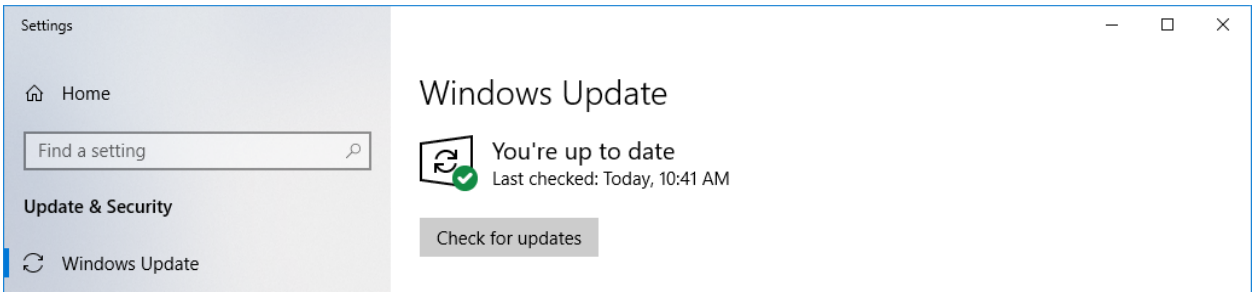
Step #1: Update your computer

We know, updating your computer is annoying. However, if you want to do great work, you need to keep your tools sharp. For computers, that means updating them. We will also use software that requires more recent versions of your operating system.



- Press the Windows key and type *check for* to search.
- Click on the *Check for updates* result.
- Follow the instructions to update and restart your computer.

- Repeat the previous three steps until you have no more updates.



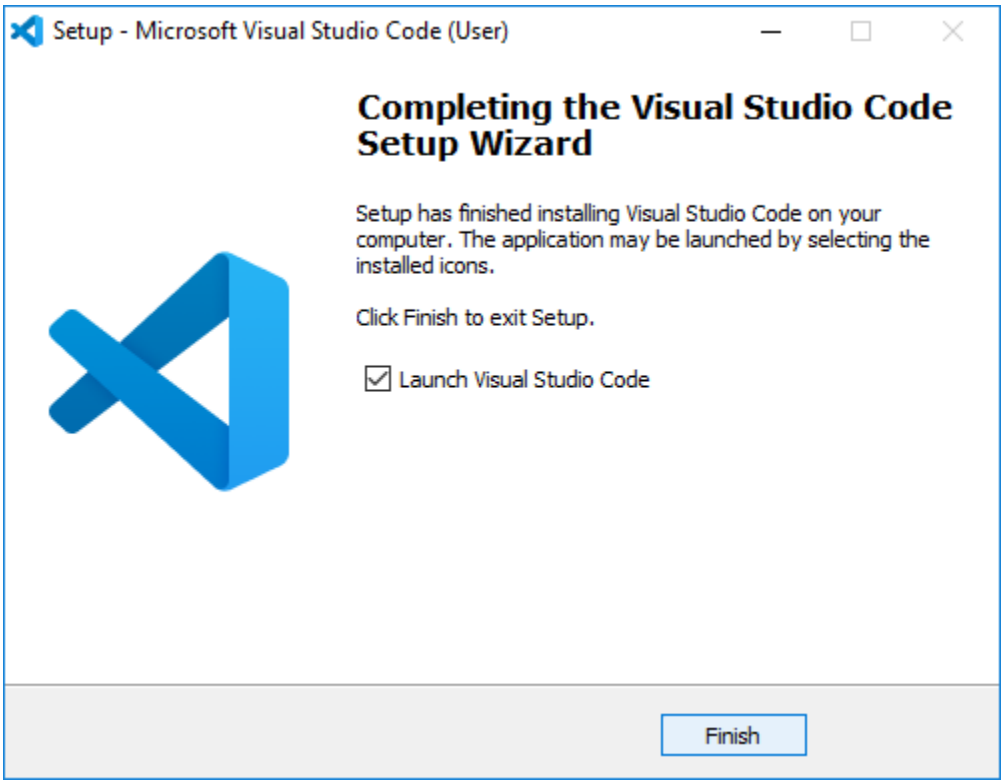
Step #2: Install Visual Studio Code

Visual Studio Code (VS Code for short) is a source code editor, an application that facilitates writing code. It is not just a text editor—it has a bunch of features specially made for editing source code of computer programs. This will be your fundamental programming tool when writing and editing code.

VS Code's site will detect your OS automatically. Visit https://code.visualstudio.com/ and download it by clicking on the *Download* button.

- Download the installer from https://code.visualstudio.com/.
- Click on the installer to open it.
- Follow the installations steps to install VS Code on your computer.

- When you click *Finish*, it will open the VS Code automatically.



You can also play around with the size of the text and your terminal colors here if you'd like.

Step #4: Install Google Chrome

Google may not be the best company for privacy, but their browser is one of the best for Web development.

- Visit the Google Chrome website.
- Click the *Download Chrome* button.
- Download the Chrome installer by clicking on the *Accept and Install* button.
- Once downloaded, run the installer to get Google Chrome installed.

Step #5: Install Git

Git is a system for keeping track of changes you make to files and folders in your projects. Don't get confused; later we will talk about GitHub - Git lives on your computer, GitHub is the online "storage" where you will keep your work and be able to share it with your collaborators.

To install Git on Windows, follow these steps:

1. download the latest Git for Windows installer,
2. when you have successfully started the installer, you should see the Git Setup wizard screen. Follow the *Next* and *Finish* prompts to complete the installation. The default options are pretty sensible for most users.

Basic configuration

The first thing you should do is to set your **username** and **email address**. This is important because every git commit uses this information to identify the user who made changes in the document. *This all will make much more sense when you get familiarized with git and start using it daily.*

In your terminal enter the following two lines, one after another:

Copy

```
$ git config --global user.name "John Doe"
```

```
$ git config --global user.email johndoe@example.com
```

 **Replace “John Doe” and the johndoe@example.com with your own info.**

You are good to go!