Version 1.11 (/updates) is now available! Read about the new features and fixes in March. ✕

Overview (/docs)

SETUP

GET STARTED

USER GUIDE

LANGUAGES

Overview (/docs/languages/overview)

JavaScript (/docs/languages/javascript)

JSON (/docs/languages/json)

HTML (/docs/languages/html)

CSS, Sass and Less (/docs/languages/css)

TypeScript (/docs/languages/typescript)

Markdown (/docs/languages/markdown)

PHP (/docs/languages/php)

Python (/docs/languages/python)

Go (/docs/languages/go)

Dockerfile (/docs/languages/dockerfile)

T-SQL (/docs/languages/tsql)

C# (/docs/languages/csharp)

C++ (/docs/languages/cpp)

NODE.JS / JAVASCRIPT

EXTENSION AUTHORING

EXTENSIBILITY REFERENCE

OTHER

CSS, Sass and Less

Edit (https://github.com/Microsoft/vscode-docs/blob/master/docs/languages/css.md)

Visual Studio Code has built-in support for editing style sheets in CSS `.css`, Sass `.scss` and Less `.less`. In addition, you can install an extension for greater functionality.

IntelliSense for CSS...
Zignd 268.4K
Provides CSS class name completion for the HTML c...
(https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=Zignd.html-css-class-completion)

HTML CSS Support
ecmel 209.8K
CSS support for HTML documents
(https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=ecmel.vscode-html-css)

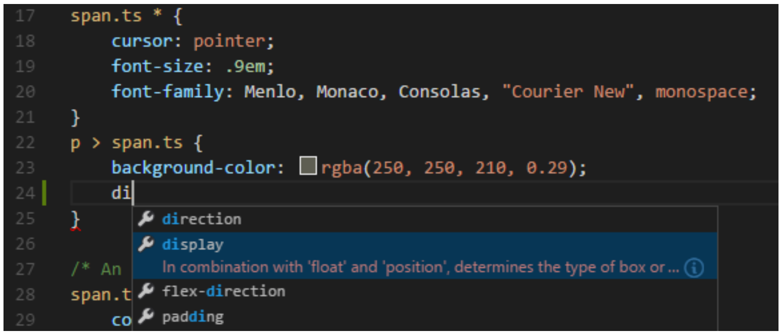
stylelint
shinnn 152.8K
Modern CSS/SCSS/Less linter
(https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=shinnn.stylelint)

Beautify css/sass/sc...
michelemelluso 65.7K
Beautify css, sass and less code (extension for V...
(https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=michelemelluso.code-beautifier)

> Tip: Click on an extension tile above to read the description and reviews to decide which extension is best for you. See more in the Marketplace (https://marketplace.visualstudio.com).

IntelliSense

We have support for selectors, properties and values. Use `^Space` to get a list of context specific options.



```
span.ts * {
    cursor: pointer;
    font-size: .9em;
    font-family: Menlo, Monaco, Consolas, "Courier New", monospace;
}
p > span.ts {
    background-color: rgba(250, 250, 210, 0.29);
    di
}

/* An
span.t
    co
```

direction
display
In combination with 'float' and 'position', determines the type of box or...
flex-direction
padding

Proposals contain extensive documentation, including a list of browsers that support the property. To see the full description text of the selected entry, use `^Space`.

Emmet snippets

Press `Tab` to expand the current abbreviation.

> **Tip:** See the CSS section of the Emmet cheat sheet (https://docs.emmet.io/cheat-sheet) for valid abbreviations.

If you'd like to use CSS Emmet abbreviations with other languages, you can associate an Emmet syntax profile (such as `css`, `html`) with other languages with the `emmet.syntaxProfiles` setting (/docs/getstarted/settings). The setting takes a language id (/docs/languages/overview#_language-id) and

Tweet

associates it with an Emmet profile.

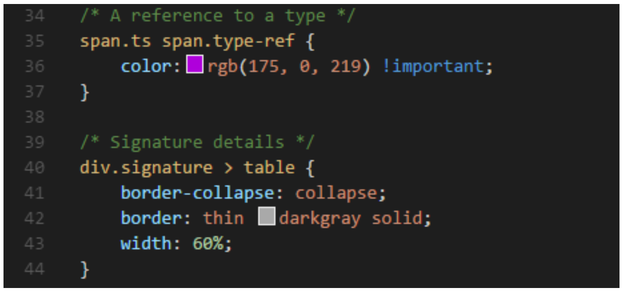
For example, to use Emmet CSS abbreviations inside JavaScript:

```
{
    "emmet.syntaxProfiles": {
        "javascript": "css"
     }
}
```

We also support User Defined Snippets (/docs/editor/userdefinedsnippets).

Syntax coloring & color preview

As you type, we provide syntax highlighting as well as in context preview of colors.



```
/* A reference to a type */
span.ts span.type-ref {
    color: rgb(175, 0, 219) !important;
}

/* Signature details */
div.signature > table {
    border-collapse: collapse;
    border: thin darkgray solid;
    width: 60%;
}
```

> **Note:** You can hide VS Code's color previews by setting the corresponding `.colorDecorators.enable` settings (/docs/getstarted/settings).
>
> ```
>    "css.colorDecorators.enable": false
> ```

Syntax Verification & Linting

We support CSS version <= 2.1, Sass version <= 3.2 and Less version <= 2.3.

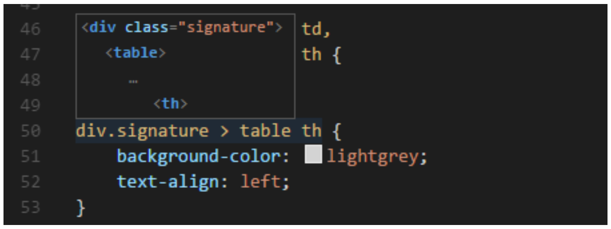
> **Note:** You can disable VS Code's default CSS, Sass or Less validation by setting the corresponding `.validate` User or Workspace setting (/docs/getstarted/settings) to false.
>
> ```
>    "css.validate": false
> ```

Go to Symbol in file

Press ⇧⌘O .

Hovers

Hovering over a selector or property will provide an HTML snippet that is matched by the CSS rule.



```
<div class="signature">
  <table>
    …
      <th>
```

```
td,
th {
div.signature > table th {
    background-color: lightgrey;
    text-align: left;
}
```

Go to Declaration and Find References

This is supported for Sass and Less variables in the same file. CSS variables (https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/Using_CSS_variables) per the draft standards proposal (https://drafts.csswg.org/css-variables/) are also supported.

> **Note:** Cross file references ('imports') are not resolved.

Transpiling Sass and Less into CSS

VS Code can integrate with Sass and Less transpilers through our integrated task runner (/docs/editor/tasks). We can use this to transpile `.scss` or `.less` files into `.css` files. Let's walk through transpiling a simple Sass/Less file.

Step 1: Install a Sass or Less transpiler

For this walkthrough, let's use either the node-sass (https://www.npmjs.com/package/node-sass) or less (https://www.npmjs.com/package/less) Node.js module.

> **Note:** If you don't have Node.js (https://nodejs.org) and the NPM (https://www.npmjs.com/) package manager already installed, you'll need to do so for this walkthrough. Install Node.js for your platform (https://nodejs.org/en/download/). The Node Package Manager (NPM) is included in the Node.js distribution. You'll need to open a new terminal (command prompt) for `npm` to be on your PATH.

```
npm install -g node-sass less
```

Step 2: Create a simple Sass or Less file

Open VS Code on an empty folder and create a `styles.scss` or `styles.less` file. Place the following code in that file:

```
$padding: 6px;

nav {
  ul {
    margin: 0;
    padding: $padding;
    list-style: none;
  }

  li { display: inline-block; }

  a {
    display: block;
    padding: $padding 12px;
    text-decoration: none;
  }
}
```

For the Less version of the above file, just change `$padding` to `@padding` .

> **Note:** This is a very simple example, which is why the source code is almost identical between both file types. In more advanced scenarios, the syntaxes and constructs will be much different.

Step 3: Create tasks.json

The next step is to set up the task configuration. To do this open the **Command Palette** with `⇧⌘P` and type in **Configure Task Runner**, press `Enter` to select it. In the selection dialog that shows up, select `Others`.

This will create a sample `tasks.json` file in the workspace `.vscode` folder. The initial version of file has an example to run an arbitrary command. We will modify that configuration for transpiling Less/Sass instead:

```
// Sass configuration
{
    "version": "0.1.0",
    "command": "node-sass",
    "isShellCommand": true,
    "args": ["styles.scss", "styles.css"]
}
```

```
// Less configuration
{
    "version": "0.1.0",
    "command": "lessc",
    "isShellCommand": true,
    "args": ["styles.less", "styles.css"]
}
```

VS Code interprets `node-sass` or `lessc` as an external task runner exposing exactly one task: the transpiling of Sass/Less files into CSS files. The command we run is `node-sass styles.scss styles.css` or `lessc styles.less styles.css`.

Step 4: Run the Build Task

As this is the only command in the file, you can execute it by pressing `⇧⌘B` (**Run Build Task**). The sample Sass/Less file should not have any compile problems, so by running the task all that happens is a corresponding `styles.css` file is created.

> **Note:** If your build fails or you see an error message such as "An output directory must be specified when compiling a directory", be sure the filenames in your `tasks.json` match the filenames on disk. You can always test your build by running `node-sass styles.scss styles.css` from the command line.

Automating Sass/Less compilation

Let's take things a little further and automate Sass/Less compilation with VS Code. We can do so with the same task runner integration as before, but with a few modifications.

Step 1: Install Gulp and some plug-ins

We will use Gulp (http://gulpjs.com/) to create a task that will automate Sass/Less compilation. We will also use the gulp-sass (https://www.npmjs.com/package/gulp-sass) plug-in to make things a little easier. The Less plug-in is gulp-less (https://www.npmjs.com/package/gulp-less).

We need to install gulp both globally (`-g` switch) and locally:

```
npm install -g gulp
npm install gulp gulp-sass gulp-less
```

> **Note:** `gulp-sass` and `gulp-less` are Gulp plug-ins for the `node-sass` and `lessc` modules we were using before. There are many other Gulp Sass and Less plug-ins you can use, as well as plug-ins for Grunt.

You can test that your gulp installation was successful but typing `gulp -v`. You should see a version displayed for both the global (CLI) and local installations.

Step 2: Create a simple Gulp task

Open VS Code on the same folder from before (contains `styles.scss` / `styles.less` and `tasks.json` under the `.vscode` folder), and create `gulpfile.js` at the root.

Place the following code in the `gulpfile.js` file:

```
// Sass configuration
var gulp = require('gulp');
var sass = require('gulp-sass');

gulp.task('sass', function() {
    gulp.src('*.scss')
        .pipe(sass())
        .pipe(gulp.dest(function(f) {
            return f.base;
        }))
});

gulp.task('default', ['sass'], function() {
    gulp.watch('*.scss', ['sass']);
})
```

```
// Less configuration
var gulp = require('gulp');
var less = require('gulp-less');

gulp.task('less', function() {
    gulp.src('*.less')
        .pipe(less())
        .pipe(gulp.dest(function(f) {
            return f.base;
        }))
});

gulp.task('default', ['less'], function() {
    gulp.watch('*.less', ['less']);
})
```

What is happening here?

1. Our `default` gulp task first runs the `sass` or `less` task once when it starts up.
2. It then watches for changes to any Sass/Less file at the root of our workspace, for example the current folder open in VS Code.
3. It takes the set of Sass/Less files that have changed and runs them through our respective compiler, for example `gulp-sass`, `gulp-less`.
4. We now have a set of CSS files, each named respectively after their original Sass/Less file. We then put these files in the same directory.

Step 3: Modify the configuration in tasks.json for watching

To complete the tasks integration with VS Code, we will need to modify the task configuration from before to run the default Gulp task we just created. We will set `isBackground` to true so that the task is kept running in the background watching for file changes.

Change your tasks configuration to look like this:

```
{
    "version": "0.1.0",
    "command": "gulp",
    "isShellCommand": true,
    "tasks": [
        {
            "taskName": "default",
            "isBuildCommand": true,
            "showOutput": "always",
            "isBackground": true
        }
    ]
}
```

Step 4: Run the Build Task

We marked this task as `isBuildCommand` so you can execute it by pressing `⇧⌘B` (**Run Build Task**). But this time since we've set `isBackground` to true, the task keeps running. If you create and/or modify other Less/Sass files, you will see the respective CSS files generated and/or changes reflected on save. You can also enable Auto Save (/docs/editor/codebasics#_saveauto-save) to make things even more streamlined.

If you want to stop the task, you can use the **Tasks: Terminate Running Task** command in the **Command Palette** (`⇧⌘P`).

Customizing CSS, Sass and Less Settings

You can configure the following lint warnings as User and Workspace Settings (/docs/getstarted/settings).

The `validate` setting allows you turn off the built-in validation. You would do this if you rather use a different linter.

Id	Description	Default
css.validate	Enables or disables all css validations	true
less.validate	Enables or disables all less validations	true
scss.validate	Enables or disables all scss validations	true

To configure an option for CSS, use `css.lint.` as the prefix to the id; for Sass and Less, use `scss.lint.` and `less.lint.`.

Set a setting to `warning` or `error` if you want to enable lint checking, use `ignore` to disable it. Lint checks are performed as you type.

Id	Description	Default
validate	Enables or disables all validations	true
compatibleVendorPrefixes	When using a property with a vendor-specific prefix (for example `-webkit-transition`), make sure to also include all other vendor-specific properties eg. `-moz-transition`, `-ms-transition and -o-transition`	ignore
vendorPrefix	When using a property with a vendor-specific prefix for example `-webkit-transition`, make sure to also include the standard property if it exists eg. `transition`	warning
duplicateProperties	Warn about duplicate properties in the same ruleset	ignore
emptyRules	Warn about empty rulesets	warning
importStatement	Warn about using an `import` statement as import statements are loaded sequentially which has a negative impact on web page performance	ignore

boxModel	Do not use `width` or `height` when using `padding` or `border`	ignore
universalSelector	Warn when using the universal selector `*` as it is known to be slow and should be avoided	ignore
zeroUnits	Warn when having zero with a unit e.g. `0em` as zero does not need a unit.	ignore
fontFaceProperties	Warn when using `@font-face` rule without defining a `src` and `font-family` property	warning
hexColorLength	Warn when using hex numbers that don't consist of three or six hex numbers	error
argumentsInColorFunction	Warn when an invalid number of parameters in color functions e.g. `rgb`	error
unknownProperties	Warn when using an unknown property	warning
ieHack	Warn when using an IE hack `*propertyName` or `_propertyName`	ignore
unknownVendorSpecificProperties	Warn when using an unknown vendor-specific property	ignore
propertyIgnoredDueToDisplay	Warn when using a property that is ignored due to the display. For example with `display: inline`, the `width`, `height`, `margin-top`, `margin-bottom`, and `float` properties have no effect.	warning
important	Warn when using `!important` as it is an indication that the specificity of the entire CSS has gotten out of control and needs to be refactored.	ignore
float	Warn when using `float` as floats lead to fragile CSS that is easy to break if one aspect of the layout changes.	ignore
idSelector	Warn when using selectors for an id `#id` as selectors should not contain IDs because these rules are too tightly coupled with the HTML.	ignore

Next Steps

Read on to find out about:

- Configure Tasks (/docs/editor/tasks) - Dig into Tasks to help you transpile your Sass and Less to CSS.
- Basic Editing (/docs/editor/codebasics) - Learn about the powerful VS Code editor.
- Code Navigation (/docs/editor/editingevolved) - Move quickly through your source code.
- HTML (/docs/languages/html) - CSS is just the start, HTML is also very well supported in VS Code.

Common Questions

Q: Do you provide a color picker?

A: No, this is currently not supported. There are however several extensions in the Marketplace supporting color pickers.

Q: Do you support the indentation based Sass syntax (.sass) ?

A: No, but there are several extensions in the Marketplace supporting the indented flavor of Sass.

Was this documentation helpful?

Yes **No**

Last updated on 4/5/2017

Hello from Seattle. Follow @code 77.2K followers Star 26,479

Support (https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/getsupport?wf=0&tenant=ClassicCommercial&oaspworkflow=start_1.0.0.0&locale=en-us&supportregion=en-us&pesid=16064&ccsid=636196895839595242)
Privacy (https://www.microsoft.com/privacystatement/en-us/core/default.aspx)
Terms of Use (https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/legal/intellectualproperty/copyright/default.aspx)
License (/License

(https://www.microsoft.com