

Python Training Workstation Setup Guide

DataBank IMX

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Setting Up Your Workstation for Python Development

Performing Python development requires a few components to be installed on your workstation. You can, of course, install whatever IDE you prefer, but I will be teaching the class using Visual Studio Code (the most popular IDE for Python development) and other convenience tools that you may find useful. If you want to set up your development environment similar to mine, the instructions below will walk you through the setup process. If you're following these steps, it is best to do them in the order presented.

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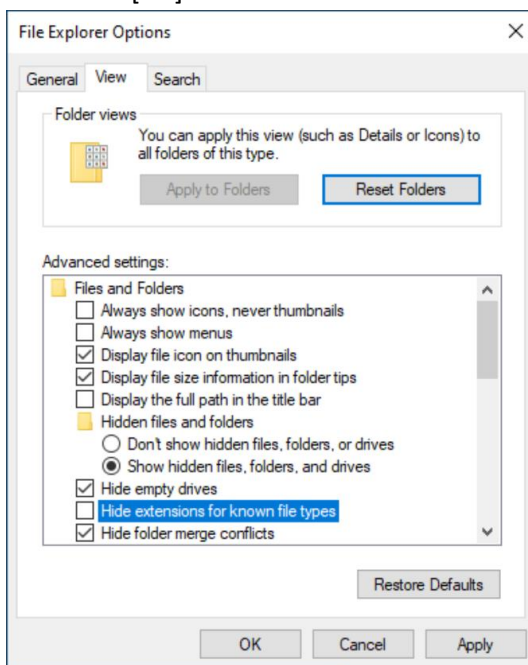
Configure Windows 10 to Show File Extensions

When doing development, the convenience feature in Windows that hides the extensions for known file types is an impediment to the process, so let's turn that off.

1. Launch the Control Panel and go into the settings for "File Explorer Options."



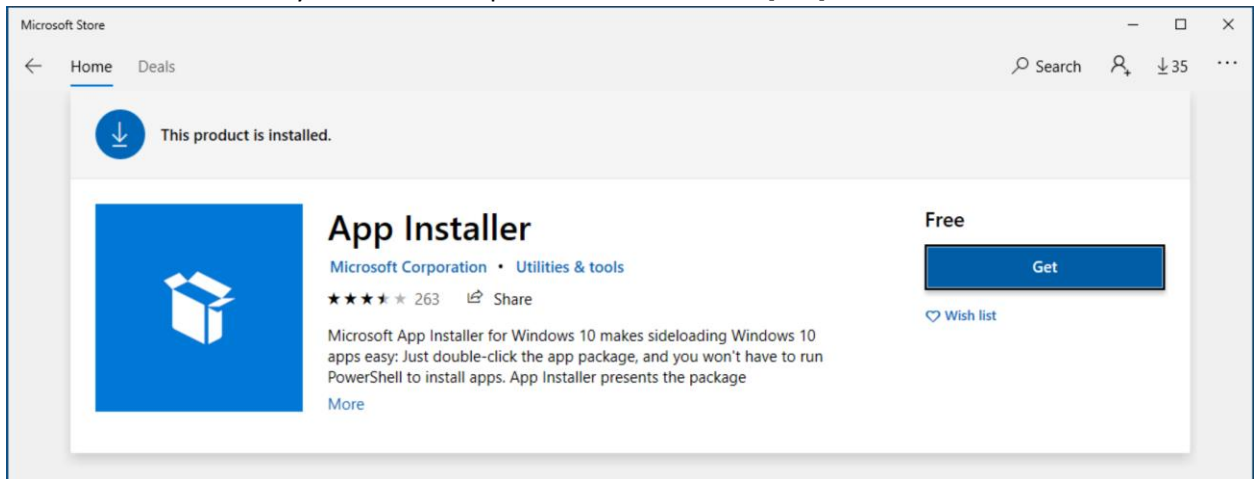
2. On the "View" tab, un-check the box labeled "Hide extensions for known file types"
Then click [OK]



Install Winget (App Installer)

Many of the components we will use are best installed from the terminal using the command-line installer **winget**. Follow the steps below to

1. Open the Microsoft Store and search for “App Installer”
2. Select the one created by “Microsoft Corporation” and click the [Get] button



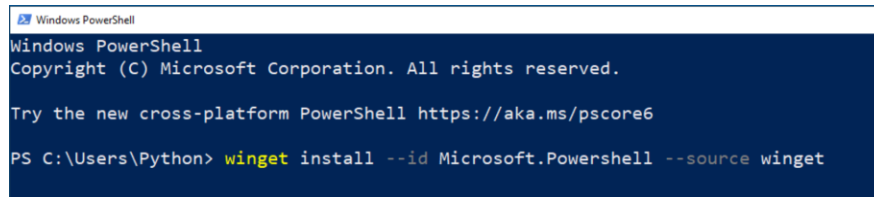
3. The application will install automatically

Install PowerShell 7

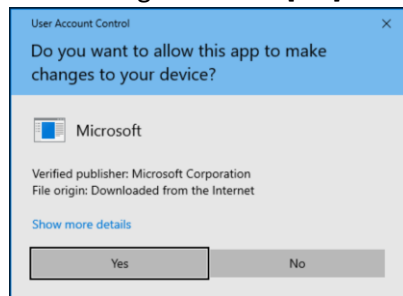
Although the built-in Windows PowerShell is sufficient for most activities, the newer, open-source PowerShell 7 is significantly more customizable and provides more robust functionality when used in both Windows Terminal and Visual Studio Code.

1. Launch Windows PowerShell and enter the following command:

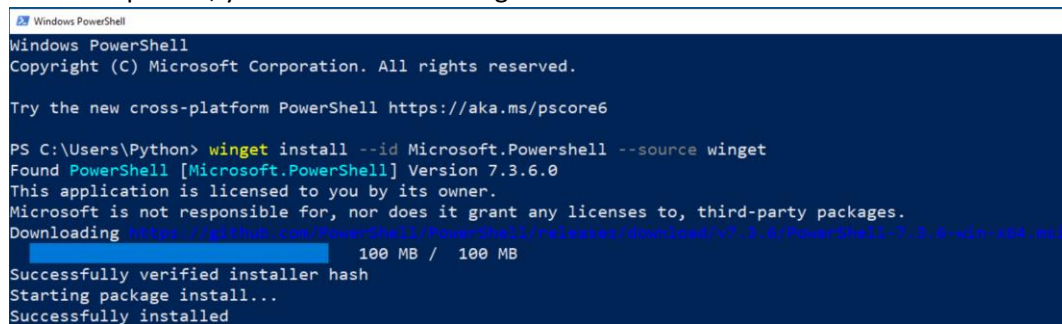
```
winget install -e --id Microsoft.PowerShell
```



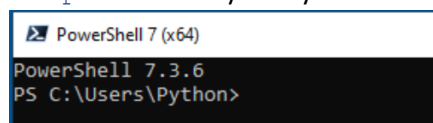
2. The installation will begin automatically. During the install, UAC will prompt you to allow the app to make changes. Choose [Yes]



3. After completion, you will see this message



4. Close Windows PowerShell
5. Run `pwsh` to verify that you can now launch PowerShell 7

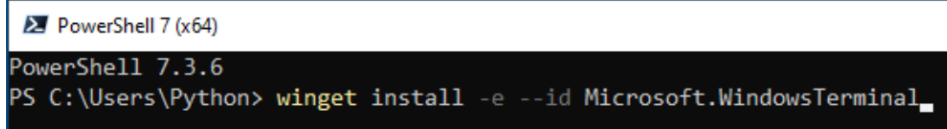


Install Windows Terminal

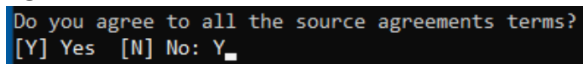
The Windows Terminal application allows you to have multiple terminal tabs open simultaneously and to control which of the command-line applications is in use at any time.

1. Open PowerShell 7 and enter the following command

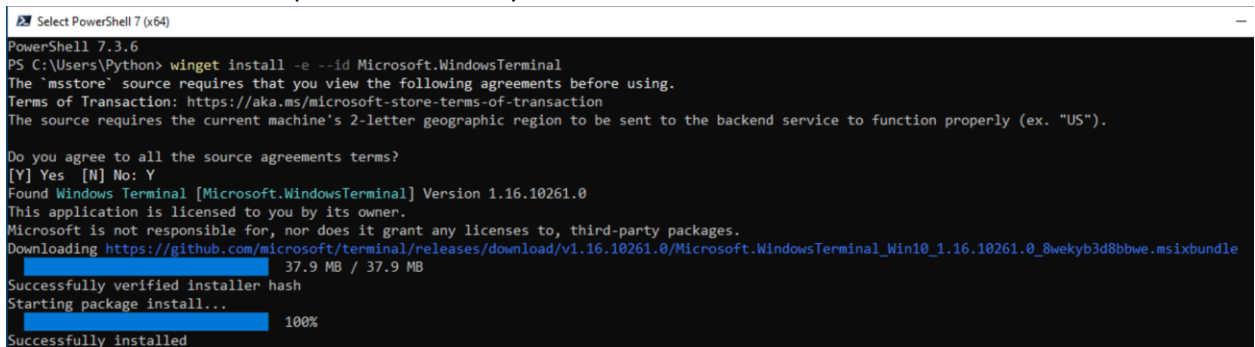
```
winget install -e --id Microsoft.WindowsTerminal
```



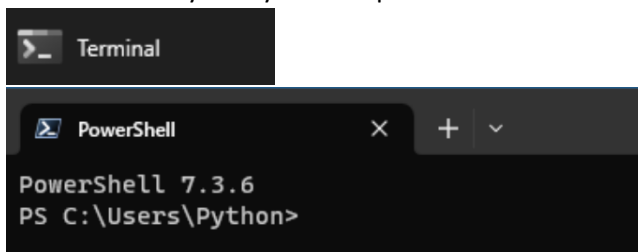
2. Agree to the terms



3. The installation will complete automatically



4. Close PowerShell 7
5. Run `wt` to verify that you can open Windows Terminal



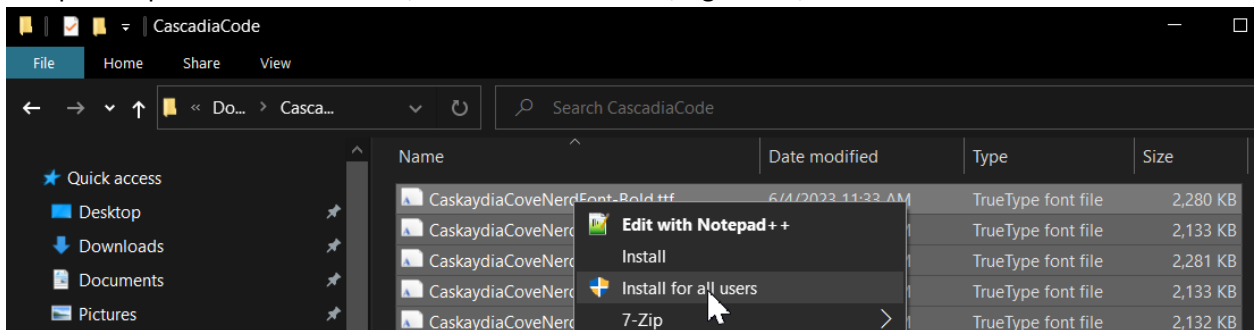
Install the CaskaydiaCove Nerd Font

We will be customizing our terminal to show additional information that will require glyph characters not included in most standard fonts. In order to support this, we'll be installing a so-called "nerd font" that includes these extra glyphs. The one I prefer is called CaskaydiaCove, which is a nerd-font port of Microsoft's Cascadia Code font. There are many different distributions of this font, and some don't include all of the glyphs, so I recommend obtaining the one distributed on the Nerd Fonts website (below).

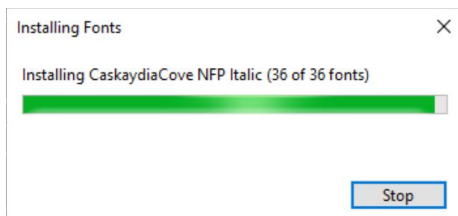
1. Launch a browser and navigate to:
<http://www.nerdfonts.com/font-downloads>
2. Find "CaskaydiaCove Nerd Font" and click on "Download"



3. Unzip and open the download file, select all of the fonts, right click, and select "Install for all users"



4. The fonts will install to Windows automatically

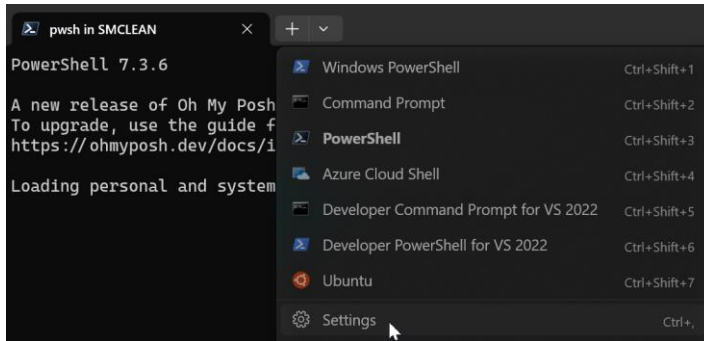


Customize the Windows Terminal

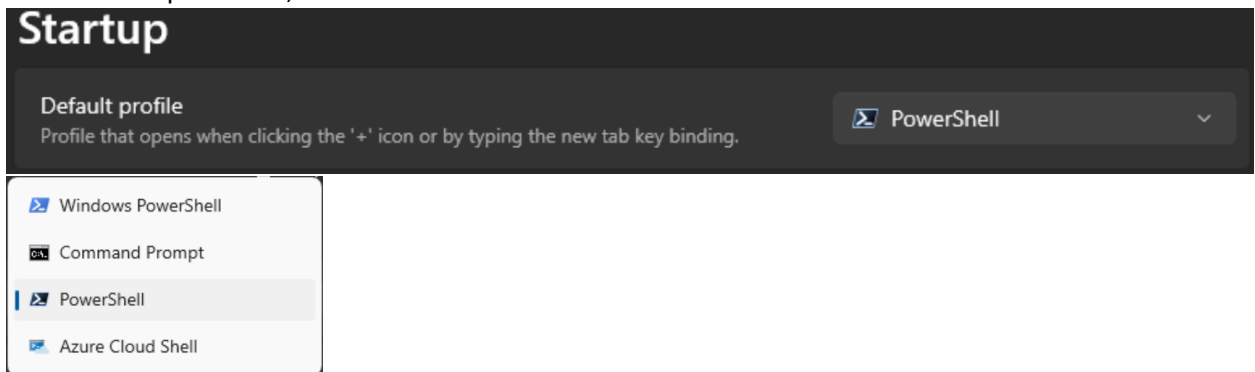
To ready the Windows Terminal for our later setup, we need to set up a few preliminary settings.

Note: You may have to reboot after installing your fonts before this step

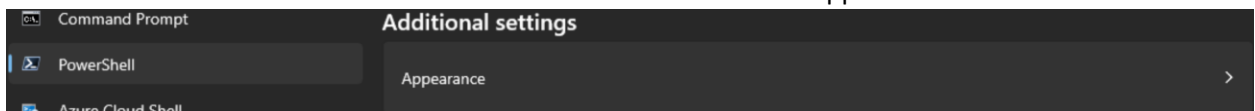
1. Open the Windows Terminal and click on the drop-down arrow next to the tab [+] button. Select “Settings”



2. In the “Startup” section, set the “Default Profile” to “PowerShell”



3. Under “Profiles” select “PowerShell” then scroll down and click on “Appearance”



4. In the “Font Face” setting, assign “CaskaydiaCove Nerd Font”

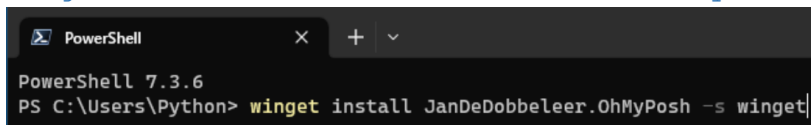


5. Click [Save]

Set Up Oh-My-Posh

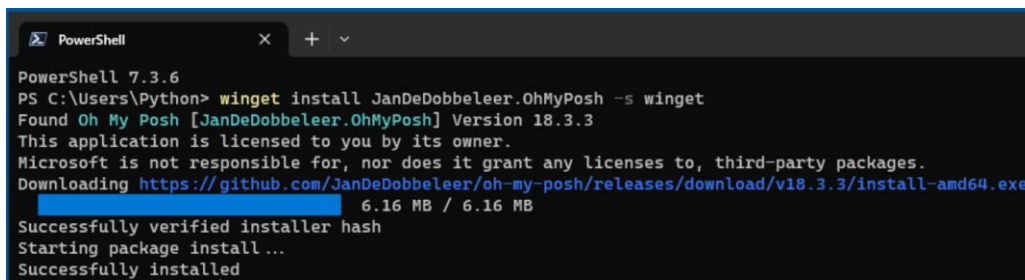
We often work in scenarios where it's useful to see additional information (like execution time, source code repository state, etc. in the terminal. We can set up PowerShell 7 in Windows Terminal to provide a much more meaningful prompt using a utility called "Oh My Posh"

1. Open Windows Terminal and in your PowerShell 7 tab, enter the following command
`winget install -e -id JanDeDobbeleer.OhMyPosh`



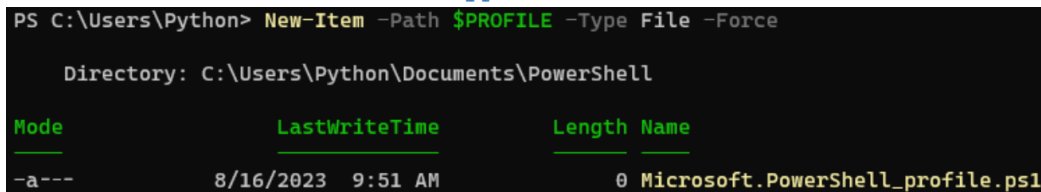
```
PowerShell 7.3.6
PS C:\Users\Python> winget install JanDeDobbeleer.OhMyPosh -s winget
```

2. A successful install will look like this



```
PowerShell 7.3.6
PS C:\Users\Python> winget install JanDeDobbeleer.OhMyPosh -s winget
Found Oh My Posh [JanDeDobbeleer.OhMyPosh] Version 18.3.3
This application is licensed to you by its owner.
Microsoft is not responsible for, nor does it grant any licenses to, third-party packages.
Downloading https://github.com/JanDeDobbeleer/oh-my-posh/releases/download/v18.3.3/install-amd64.exe
6.16 MB / 6.16 MB
Successfully verified installer hash
Starting package install...
Successfully installed
```

3. In the terminal, enter the following line to create a setup file for your PowerShell profile
`New-Item -Path $PROFILE -Type File -Force`

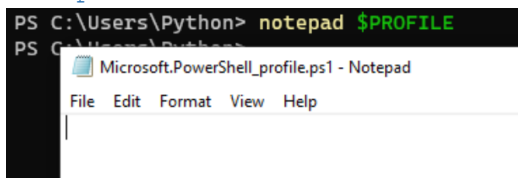


```
PS C:\Users\Python> New-Item -Path $PROFILE -Type File -Force

Directory: C:\Users\Python\Documents\PowerShell

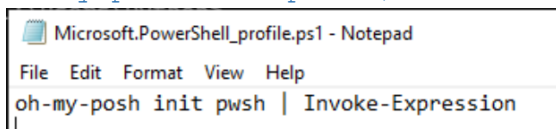
Mode                LastWriteTime         Length Name
----                -
-a---            8/16/2023  9:51 AM              0 Microsoft.PowerShell_profile.ps1
```

4. In the terminal, enter the following command to open the file in notepad
`notepad $PROFILE`



```
PS C:\Users\Python> notepad $PROFILE
PS C:\Users\Python>
```

5. In the Notepad file, add the following line and save the file
`oh-my-posh init pwsh | Invoke-Expression`



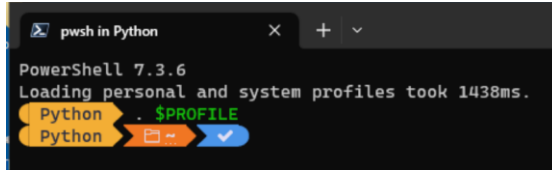
```
Microsoft.PowerShell_profile.ps1 - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
oh-my-posh init pwsh | Invoke-Expression
```

6. In the terminal, enter the following command to reload the profile

```
. $PROFILE
```

Note: You may need to close and reopen the terminal window or reboot to load the profile path.

7. You should now see a prompt like this in the terminal indicating that you've configured Oh My Posh



Note: If you don't see the folder glyph, make sure you installed and configured your nerd font

8. You can configure literally thousands of options for what information the terminal prompt will show, but for purposes of the Python training class, I will use Jan DeDobbeleer's default. To implement this, add the following line to the profile setup in Notepad and save

```
oh-my-posh init pwsh --config
```

```
"$env:POSH_THEMES_PATH/jandedobbeleer.omp.json" | Invoke-Expression
```



9. In the terminal, enter the following command to reload the profile



```
. $PROFILE
```

10. You should now see something like this



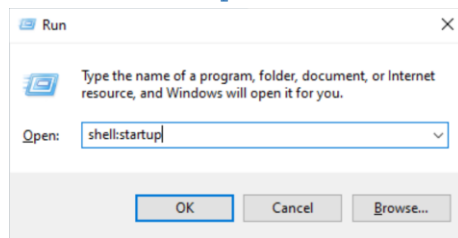
This is how we want our prompt to appear in Visual Studio Code, so we're done setting up the terminal

Set Up Quake Mode Terminal (optional)

I like to have the terminal available at all times. There is a special command to launch the Windows terminal in so-called “Quake-Mode.” When in this mode, the terminal is at the top of the main monitor screen and can be hidden or shown using the keyboard shortcut Window+back-tick []+[]

1. Click the start button and type “run” to open a run command.
In the run box, enter the following command and click [OK]

`shell:startup`



2. In the window that pops up, right click and choose New > Shortcut. In the shortcut wizard, enter the following location and click [Next]

`wt -w _quake`

Type the location of the item:

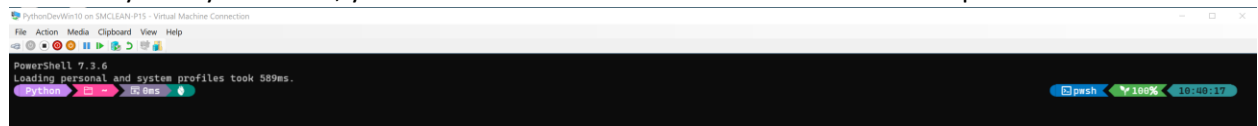
`wt -w _quake`

3. Name the shortcut whatever you want and click [Finish]

Type a name for this shortcut:

Quake Mode Terminal

4. Now every time you reboot, you'll have a hideable PowerShell terminal at the top of the screen



Install Notepad++ (optional)

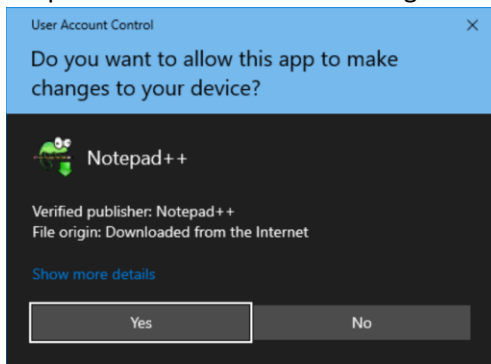
Even though we're using VS Code as our IDE, it's often useful to have a full-featured text editor as well. I like to use Notepad++ for this.

1. In the terminal, enter the following command

```
winget install -e --id Notepad++.Notepad++
```



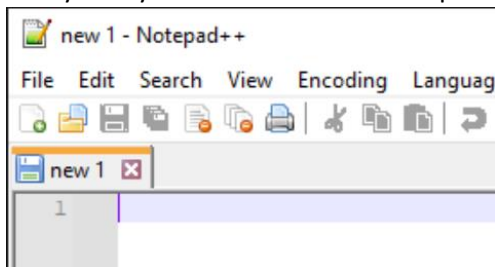
2. Respond "Yes" to the UAC warning



3. The installation will complete automatically

```
Python [Folder] ~ 134ms winget install -e --id Notepad++.Notepad++;
Found Notepad++ [Notepad++.Notepad++] Version 8.5.6
This application is licensed to you by its owner.
Microsoft is not responsible for, nor does it grant any licenses to, third-party packages.
Downloading https://github.com/notepad-plus-plus/notepad-plus-plus/releases/download/v8.5.6/npp.8.5.6.Installer.x64.exe
4.48 MB / 4.48 MB
Successfully verified installer hash
Starting package install...
The installer will request to run as administrator, expect a prompt.
Successfully installed
```

4. Verify that you can now launch Notepad++

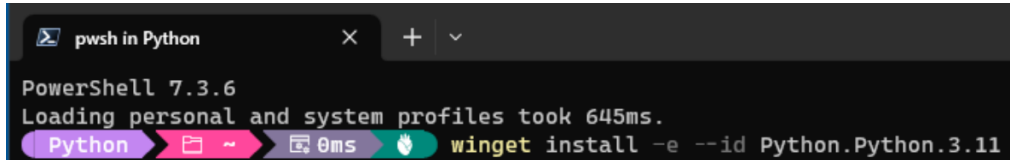


Install Python

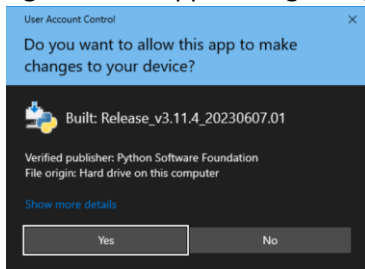
Before we can write and execute Python, we need to install the Python interpreter itself. The current version of Python is v3.11. This is compatible with the code examples we'll use in the course.

1. In the terminal, enter the following command

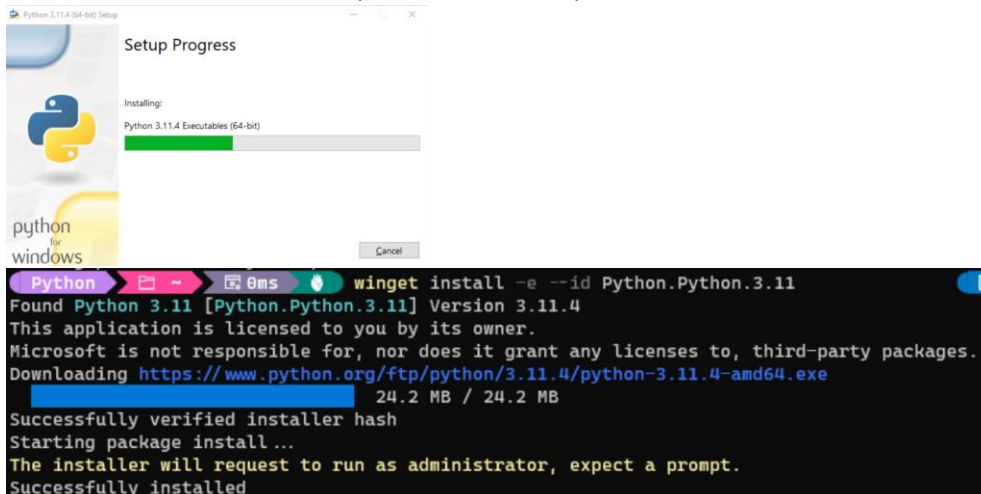
```
winget install -e --id Python.Python.3.11
```



2. Agree to the app making changes



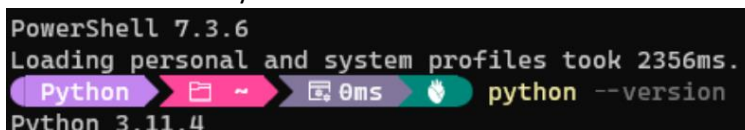
3. The installer will run and complete automatically



4. To verify that you have Python installed, enter the following in the terminal:

```
python --version
```

Note: You may need to reboot before this command will work



Install Visual Studio Code

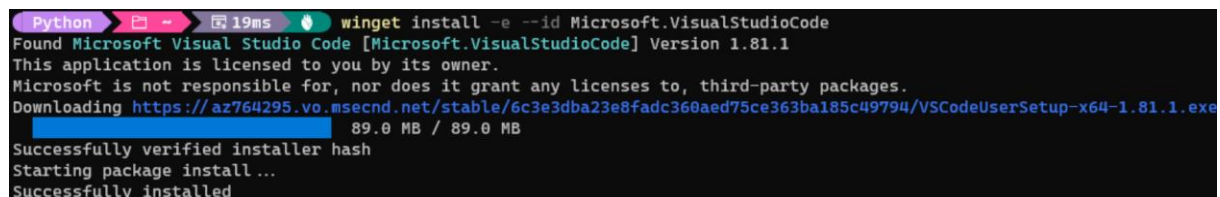
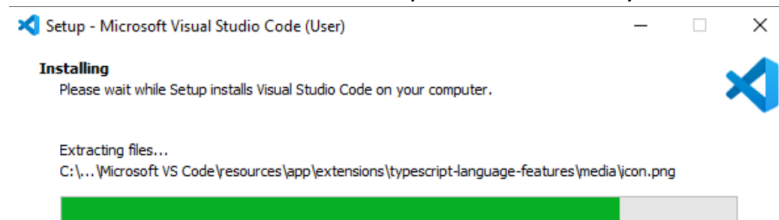
Visual Studio Code is an open-source IDE that's useful for a wide variety of coding languages. I use it for Python, HTML, JavaScript, and CSS, even though I have Visual Studio Enterprise available for .NET development. The slick, easy, and highly customizable interface make VS code the most popular IDE for Python developers.

1. In the terminal, enter the following command

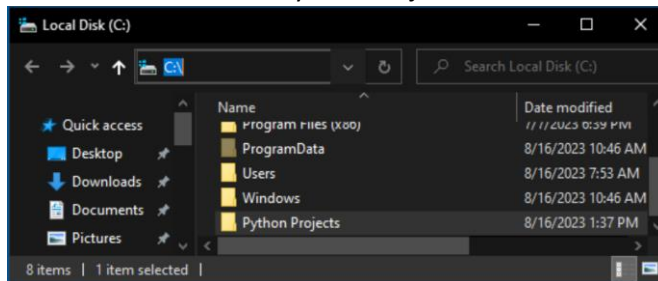
```
winget install -e --id Microsoft.VisualStudioCode
```



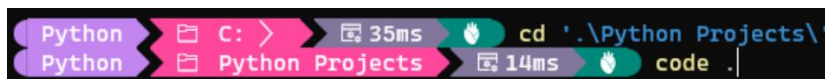
2. The installation will start and complete automatically



3. Create a folder called "Python Projects." I created mine on the C: root.

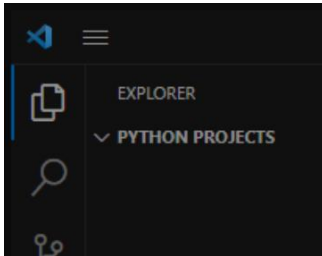


4. In the terminal, navigate to the folder you created and enter the following command
`code .`

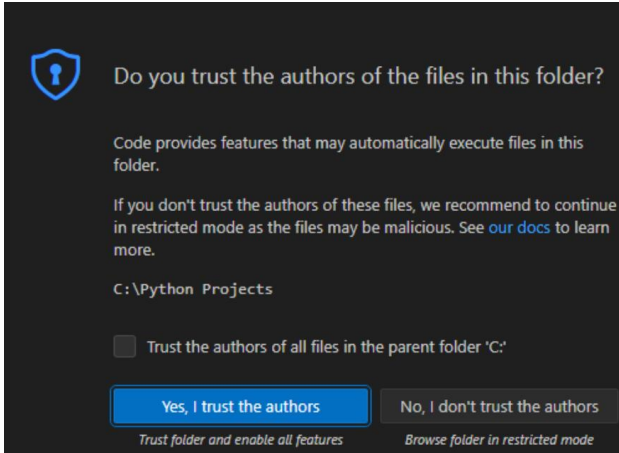


Note: You may have to reboot to update your system paths before this command will work

5. Visual Studio Code will automatically launch in your project folder



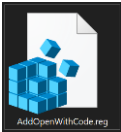
6. You can choose “Yes, I trust the authors” to allow VS Code to trust your project folder.



Add Visual Studio Context Menu Options (optional)

Sometimes, it can be useful to have the option to get to CS Code using the mouse instead of the terminal. Because we installed VS Code using WINGET, this option is not enabled during the install, and it is not available as a setting from within the application, because it requires editing the registry. If you want the “Open with VS Code” context menu options on a right click, do the following:

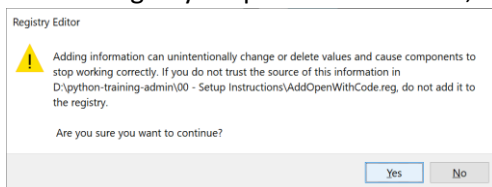
1. Create a text file anywhere on your PC and call it “AddOpenWithCode.reg”



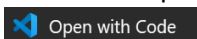
2. Edit the file in your preferred text editor and paste the text below. Make sure to replace all instances of “user_name” with your Windows username. Save the file.

```
Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00
; ***** Note: You must replace all instances of user_name with your username *****
;
; Open files
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\*\shell\VSCode]
@="Open w&ith VS Code"
"Icon"="C:\\Users\\user_name\\AppData\\Local\\Programs\\Microsoft VS Code\\Code.exe,0"
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\*\shell\VSCode\command]
@="\"C:\\Users\\user_name\\AppData\\Local\\Programs\\Microsoft VS Code\\Code.exe\" \"%1\"""
;
; This will make it appear when you right click ON a folder
; The "Icon" line can be removed if you don't want the icon to appear
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Directory\shell\VSCode]
@="Open w&ith VS Code"
"Icon"="\"C:\\Users\\user_name\\AppData\\Local\\Programs\\Microsoft VS Code\\Code.exe\",0"
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Directory\shell\VSCode\command]
@="\"C:\\Users\\user_name\\AppData\\Local\\Programs\\Microsoft VS Code\\Code.exe\" \"%1\"""
;
; This will make it appear when you right click INSIDE a folder
; The "Icon" line can be removed if you don't want the icon to appear
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Directory\Background\shell\VSCode]
@="Open w&ith VS Code"
"Icon"="\"C:\\Users\\user_name\\AppData\\Local\\Programs\\Microsoft VS Code\\Code.exe\",0"
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Directory\Background\shell\VSCode\command]
@="\"C:\\Users\\user_name\\AppData\\Local\\Programs\\Microsoft VS Code\\Code.exe\" \"%V\"""
```

3. Run the registry script as administrator, and choose the “Yes” option when prompted.



4. Once the script has run, you will now have the new option when you right-click.

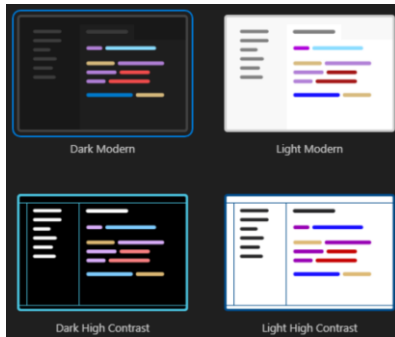


Customize Visual Studio Code

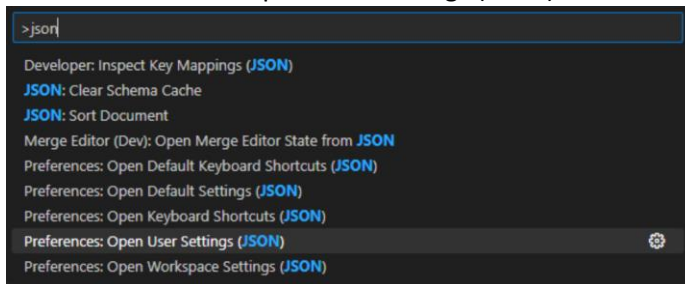
We need to set up VS Code and install a few add-ons before we're ready to start coding.

1. Set the Color Theme

On initial launch, you are prompted to select a color theme. I usually select "Dark Modern"



2. If you installed Oh My Posh, you'll want it to work in VS Code just like it does in Windows Terminal. To do this, press [CTRL]+[SHIFT]+[P] to bring up the menu. Search for "json" and select the options titled "Preferences: Open User Settings (JSON)"

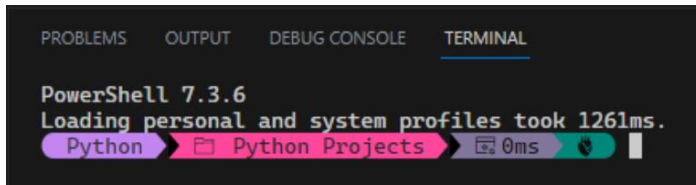


3. In the JSON file, add the following lines before the last closing curly-brace:

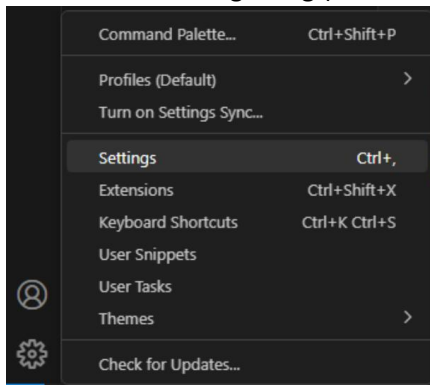
```
,  
  
"terminal.integrated.profiles.windows": {  
  "PowerShell": {  
    "path": "C:\\Program Files\\PowerShell\\7\\pwsh.exe",  
    "args": [  
      "-noexit"  
    ]  
  }  
},  
"terminal.integrated.defaultProfile.windows": "PowerShell",  
"terminal.integrated.fontFamily": "'CaskaydiaCove Nerd Font', monospace",  
"terminal.integrated.fontSize": 14
```

4. Save the JSON file and click on Terminal > New Terminal

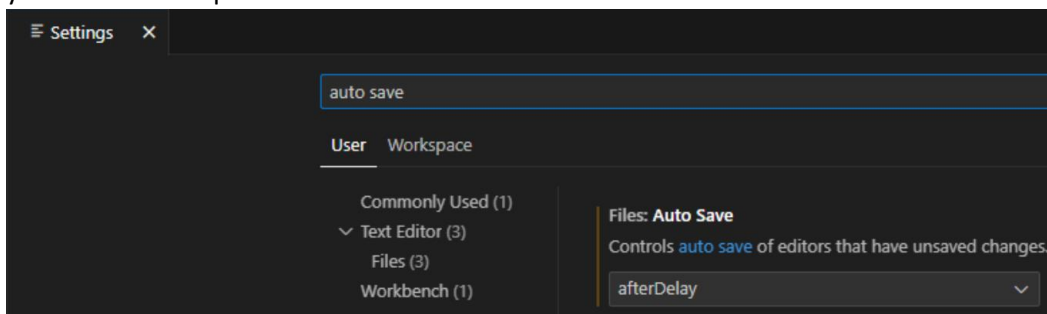
5. Your VS Code terminal should launch with the same settings you implemented for Windows Terminal



6. Click on the “settings” cog (at the lower left) and select “Settings”



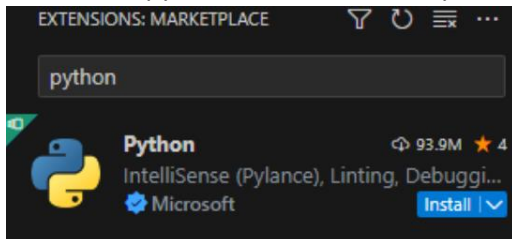
7. Search for “auto save” and change the “Files: Auto Save” setting to “afterDelay”
This ensures that your file changes save as you type and makes the process of updating and testing your code much quicker



8. Click on the “extensions” icon on the sidebar



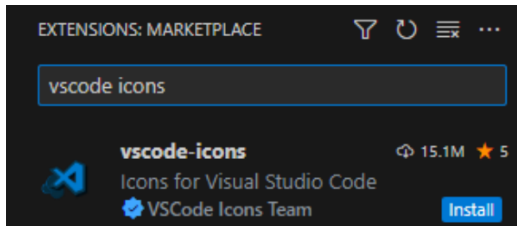
9. Search for “python” and install the Python extension



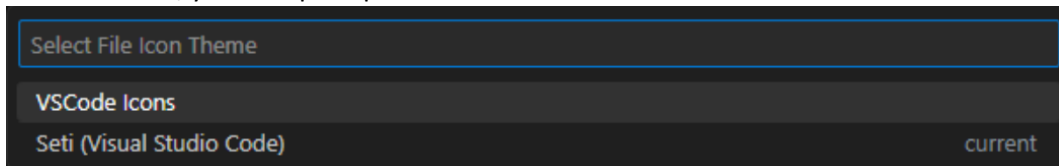
10. This also installs the Pylance component. You can install other add-ons if desired, but those are the only ones we need to get started with Python coding.



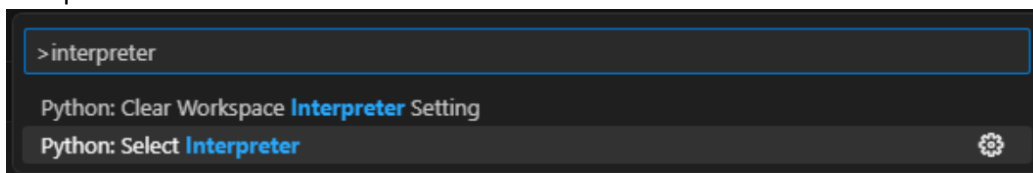
11. Search for “vscode icons” and install the extension



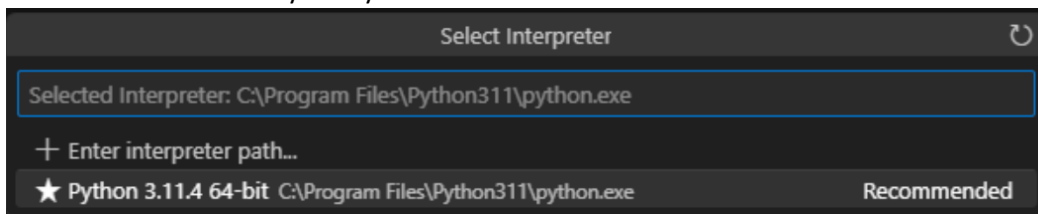
12. After it installs, you’ll be prompted to select a theme. Select the default “VSCode Icons”



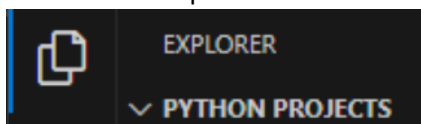
13. Press [CTRL]+[SHIFT]+[P] to bring up the menu. Search for “interpreter” and choose “Python: Select Interpreter”



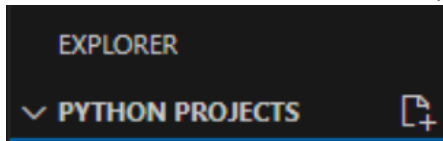
14. Choose the version of Python you installed earlier



15. Click on the “explorer” icon on the sidebar



16. Click on the “new file” icon in the explorer

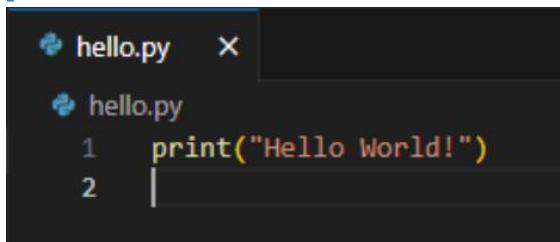


17. Title your file “hello.py”

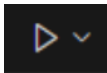


18. Enter the following code

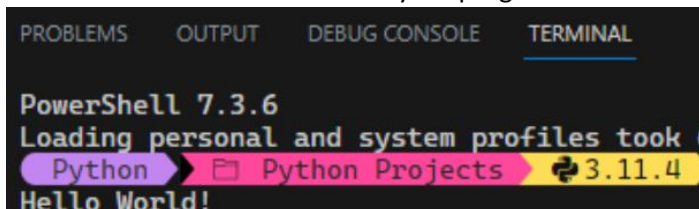
```
print("Hello World!")
```



19. Click the “Run” icon on the toolbar



20. The terminal will launch and run your program. You will see “Hello World!” in the terminal

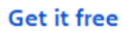


Set Up a Bitbucket (Source Control) Account

On the development team, we use Bitbucket as our source control system for code sharing. Since I share out development training repositories in the class, you'll need a Bitbucket account.

Note: If you already have a Bitbucket account, skip to step 8 below

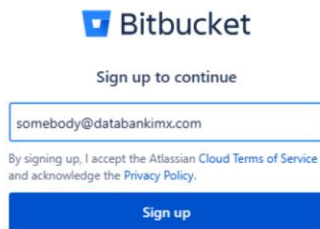
1. In a browser, navigate to <https://bitbucket.org> and click on [Get it free]

A blue rectangular button with the text "Get it free" in white.

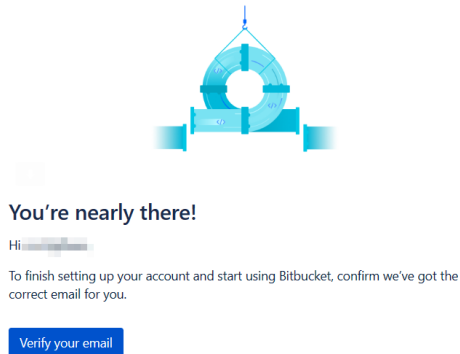
2. Click on [Next]

A blue rectangular button with the text "Next" in white.

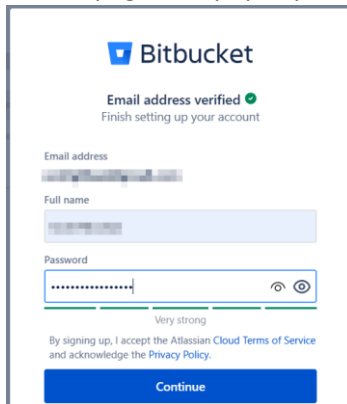
3. Enter your DataBank email address and click on [Sign up]

The Bitbucket sign-up form. It features the Bitbucket logo at the top, followed by the text "Sign up to continue". Below this is a text input field containing the email address "somebody@databankimx.com". Under the input field, there is a line of small text: "By signing up, I accept the Atlassian Cloud Terms of Service and acknowledge the Privacy Policy." At the bottom of the form is a blue "Sign up" button.

4. Check your email for a verification message. In the message, click [Verify your email]

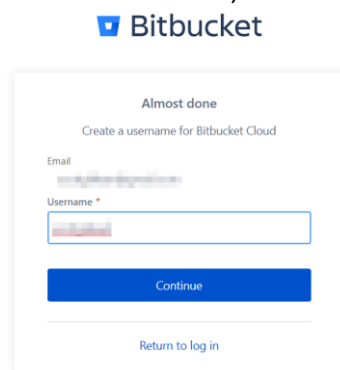


5. On the page that pops up, enter your full name and create a password



The screenshot shows the Bitbucket account setup page. At the top is the Bitbucket logo. Below it, a green checkmark indicates 'Email address verified' with the text 'Finish setting up your account'. There are three input fields: 'Email address' (pre-filled), 'Full name' (empty), and 'Password' (with a strength indicator showing 'Very strong'). Below the password field is a link to 'Terms of Service' and 'Privacy Policy'. At the bottom is a blue 'Continue' button.

6. On the next screen, create a Bitbucket username

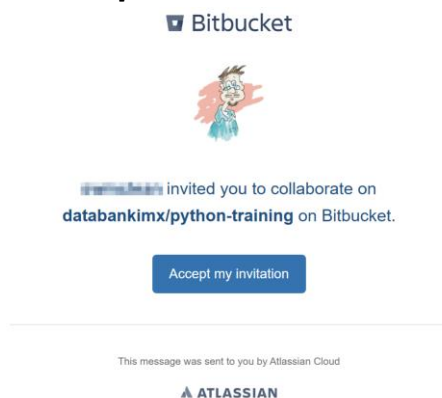


The screenshot shows the 'Almost done' screen for creating a Bitbucket username. It features the Bitbucket logo and the text 'Almost done' and 'Create a username for Bitbucket Cloud'. There are two input fields: 'Email' (pre-filled) and 'Username' (empty). Below the username field is a blue 'Continue' button and a link to 'Return to log in'.

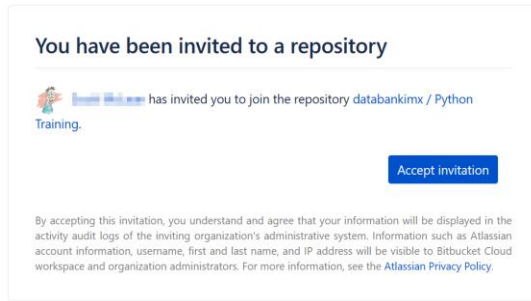
7. When you reach the survey page, just click on “Skip”

Skip Submit

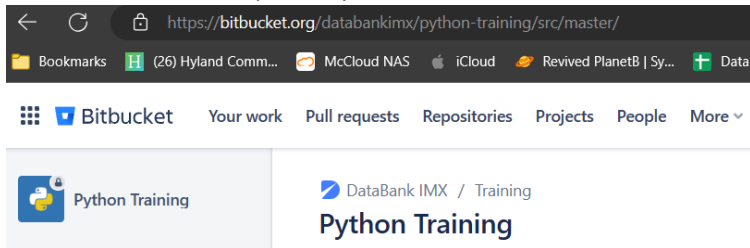
8. Email or Slack the class instructor with the email you used to sign up for Bitbucket
9. When you receive an email from me inviting you to the training repository, click [Accept my invitation]



10. Repeat that step on the page that launches



11. In a browser, navigate to <https://bitbucket.org/databankimx/python-training> and verify that you have access to the repository

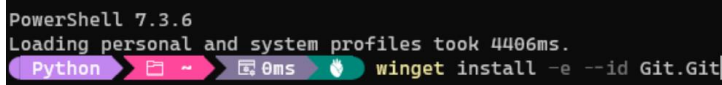


Install GIT

GIT is the underlying technology used to communicate with Bitbucket code repositories, so we'll need to install and configure it.

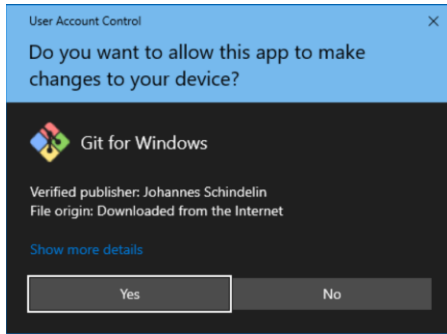
1. In your terminal, enter the following command

```
winget install -e --id Git.Git
```

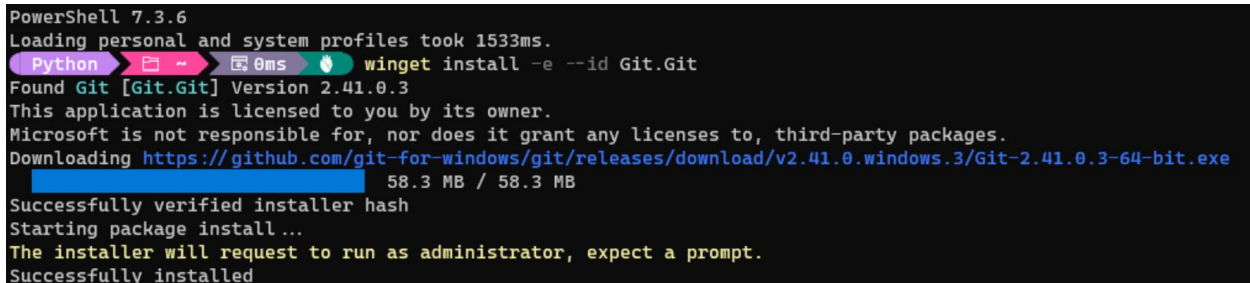


```
PowerShell 7.3.6
Loading personal and system profiles took 4406ms.
Python > [Folder Icon] > [0ms] > [Fire Icon] winget install -e --id Git.Git
```

2. Accept the UAC alert



3. After successful installation, you'll see this:



```
PowerShell 7.3.6
Loading personal and system profiles took 1533ms.
Python > [Folder Icon] > [0ms] > [Fire Icon] winget install -e --id Git.Git
Found Git [Git.Git] Version 2.41.0.3
This application is licensed to you by its owner.
Microsoft is not responsible for, nor does it grant any licenses to, third-party packages.
Downloading https://github.com/git-for-windows/git/releases/download/v2.41.0.windows.3/Git-2.41.0.3-64-bit.exe
58.3 MB / 58.3 MB
Successfully verified installer hash
Starting package install...
The installer will request to run as administrator, expect a prompt.
Successfully installed
```

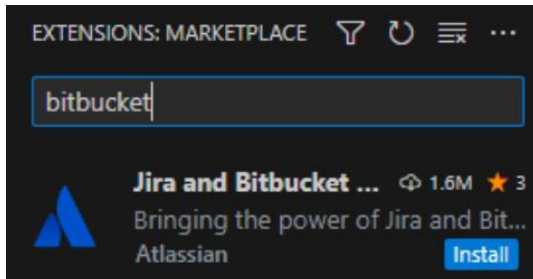
Set Up Visual Studio Code to Use Bitbucket

You'll need to configure the Bitbucket extension in VS Code in order to properly access the training repository.

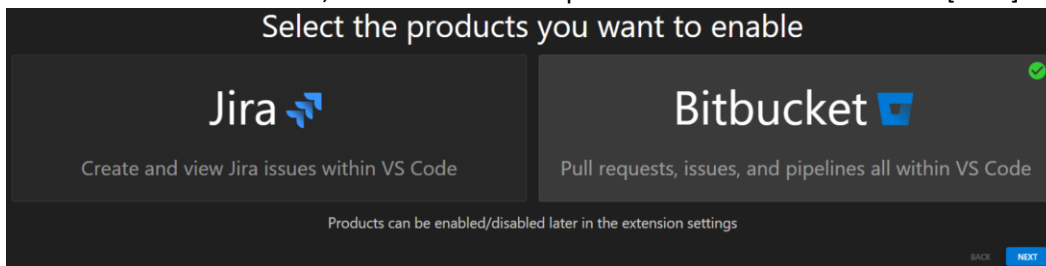
1. Launch Visual Studio Code
2. Click on the “extensions” icon on the toolbar



3. Search for “bitbucket” and install the “Jira and Bitbucket” extension



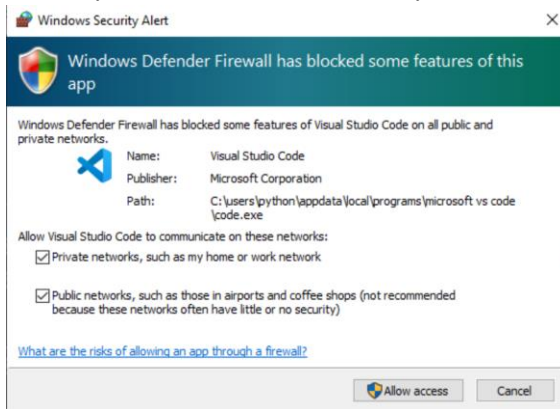
4. After the extension installs, it will launch a setup wizard. Unselect Jira and click [Next]



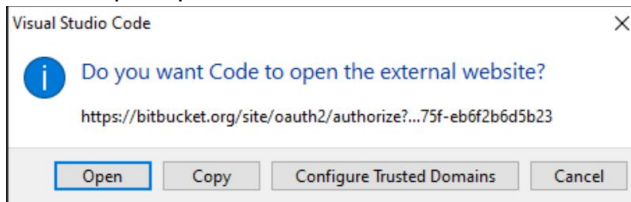
5. Select the option for “Bitbucket Cloud”



6. You may receive a firewall alert. If you do, click on [Allow Access]



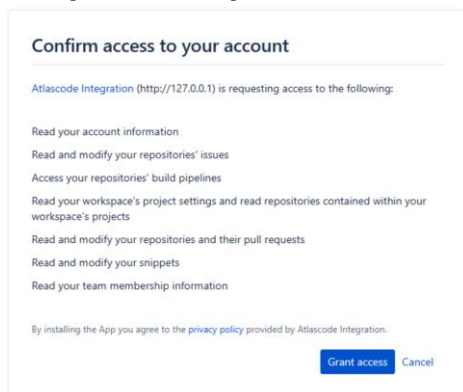
7. You'll be prompted to let VS Code access the Bitbucket URL. Click [Open]



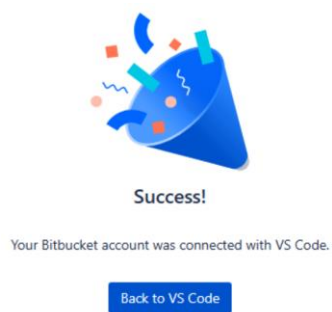
8. Log in



9. Click [Grant Access]



10. You'll see a success page. You can close the browser after this comes up



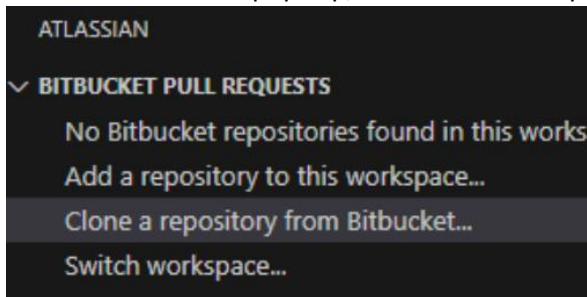
Clone the Python Training Repository

Finally, you'll need to clone a copy of the repository to work with.

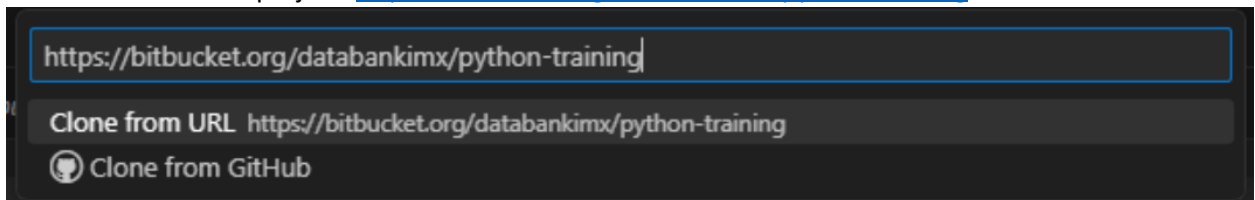
1. Click the Atlassian icon on the sidebar



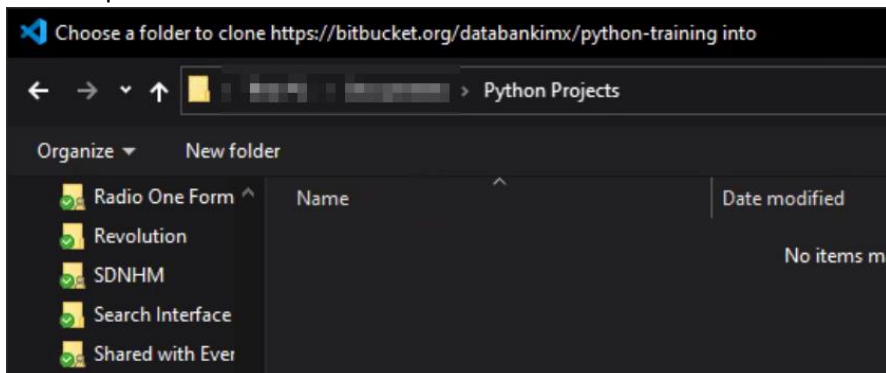
2. From the menu that pops up, select "Clone a repository from Bitbucket"



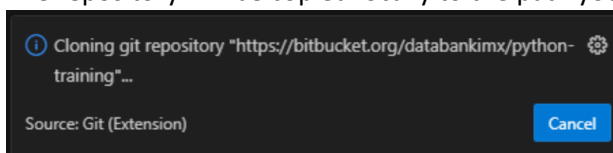
3. Enter the URL to our project: <https://bitbucket.org/databankimx/python-training>



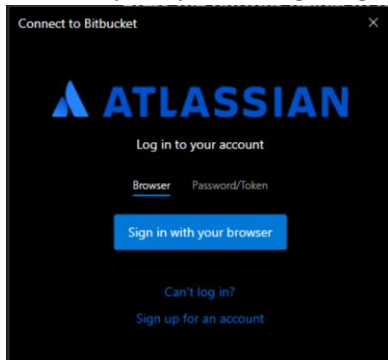
4. Select a path



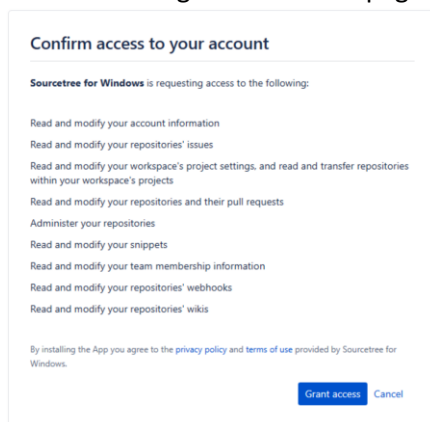
5. The repository will be copied locally to the path you selected



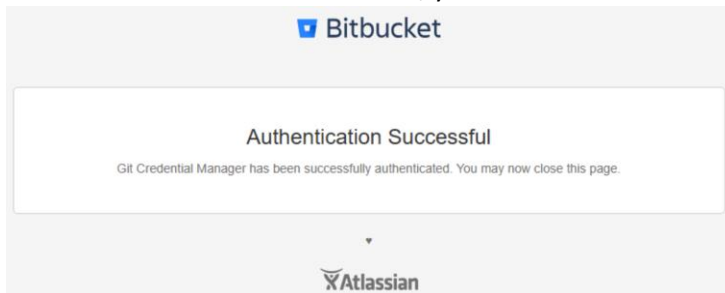
6. You'll be prompted to log in again



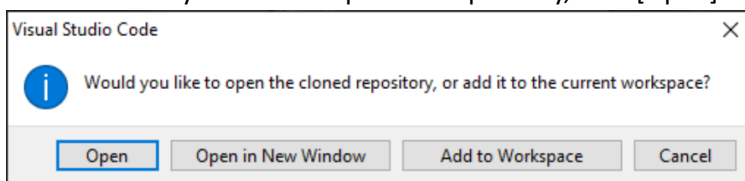
7. Grant access again in the web page that opens



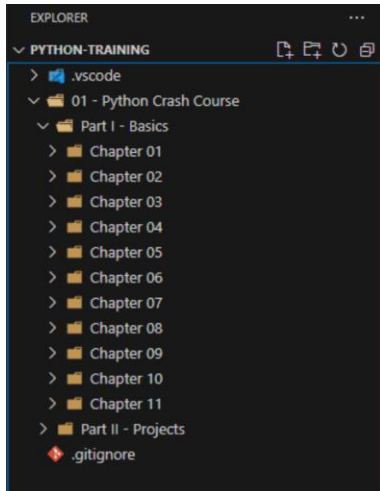
8. You'll see a success alert. After this, you can close the browser



9. When asked if you want to open the repository, click [Open]



10. The repository will open, and you should see a number of folders containing sample code from the textbook (with samples and commentary from me).



Congratulations! Your system is set up for Python training.

Happy Coding!