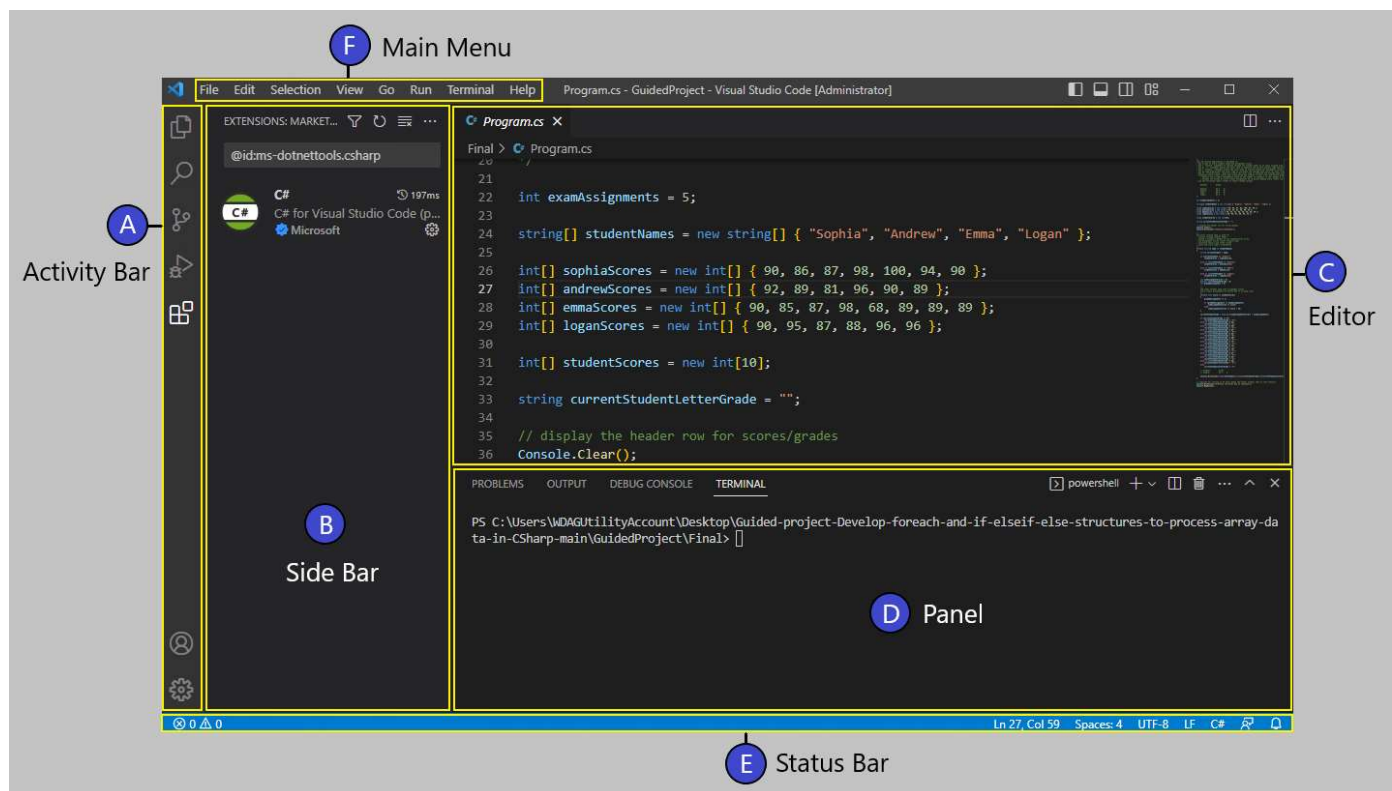< Previous        Unit 3 of 9 ∨        Next >

✓ 100 XP ▶

# Examine the Visual Studio Code user interface

4 minutes

At its heart, Visual Studio Code is a code editor, with a user interface and layout that is similar to many other code editors. On the left side of the interface is an explorer panel that shows all of the files and folders that you have access to. On the right side is an editor area that displays the contents of the files you've opened.

## Examine the main areas of the user interface

The following diagram shows the five main work areas included in the Visual Studio Code user interface.



**A** - The **Activity Bar** is the narrow vertical bar located on the far left-hand side of the window. The Activity bar lets you switch between views (such as Explorer or Extensions) and gives you other context-specific indicators.

**B** - The **Side Bar** contains different views, such as EXPLORER and EXTENSIONS, that provide tools and resources while you're working on your project.

**C** - The **Editor** is the area used to edit your files. You can open as many editors as you like side by side vertically and horizontally.

**D** - The **Panel** area is used to display different panels below the editor region for output or debug information, errors and warnings, or an integrated terminal.

**E** - The **Status Bar** is the horizontal bar along the bottom of the window that displays information about the opened project and the files you edit.

**F** - The **Main Menu** is the menu interface at the top of the application window. Among other options, these menu options enable the developer to save, edit, and run their code.

As you become more proficient with Visual Studio Code, you'll be working in the screen areas described. To start out, however, the most important areas for you to remember are the Activity bar, the Side bar, and the Editor. The Activity bar is where you select the activity you want to perform. The Side bar displays tools and options, and the Editor displays the information that you edit, usually your code.

# Next unit: Exercise - Explore the Visual Studio Code user interface

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