

## Installing VS Code on Raspbian Stretch Quote

Mon Aug 21, 2017 4:31 pm

The following sequence installs the pre-built Visual Studio Code editor binary (code-oss) provided by Headmelted on a Pi 3B.

My own last verification of the procedure described working was on 11th of March 2019, on a Pi 3B running Raspbian Stretch.

**However, due to a variety of ongoing issues with the Headmelted releases I have now taken to using the Steve Desmond release as detailed in later posts.**

This post should therefore now be considered as a historical document.

### 1) Install GPG key

Code:

```
sudo wget -qO - https://packagecloud.io/headmelted/codebuilds/gpgkey | sudo apt-key add -;
```

### 2) Add source repository

Code:

```
sudo nano /etc/apt/sources.list
```

and add ...

Code:

```
deb https://packagecloud.io/headmelted/codebuilds/raspbian/ jessie main
```

Ctrl-X, Y, enter to exit 'nano' and save the updated file.

Note it should be "jessie" even when using "stretch".

### 3) Install VS Code (code-oss)

Code:

```
sudo apt-get update  
sudo apt-get install code-oss
```

Note the "sudo apt-get update" is essential. Failing to do that will result in an "E: Unable to locate package code-oss" error.

Note that "sudo apt-get update" from now on will show entries for "packagecloud.io/headmelted/codebuilds/raspbian", and "packages.microsoft.com/repos/vscode".

### 4) Launching VS Code (code-oss)

Under the Pi desktop start menu, under Programming, there should now be a "Code - OSS" link.

VS Code can also be launched from the command line with -

```
Code:
code-oss
```

## 5) VS Code Version

This guide installs version 1.14.0 of code-oss ( as of 2019-03-11 ) which does not appear to be the latest version - *The reason for this will need to be investigated.*

The version number of what is currently installed can be determined from within VS Code using the Help then About menu options, or from the command line with -

```
Code:
code-oss -version
```

## 6) Black Window Issue

When VS Code first starts, and particularly immediately after its installation, it will display a blank black window for a good few seconds before it fills its window with a list of keyboard command options.

VS code ( and code-oss ) have experienced 'black window' issues where that is all one gets. The 1.14 version currently installed ( as of 2019-03-11 ) does not appear to have have such issues; just leave it for a few seconds before expecting it to be ready for use.

## 7) Links

Headmelted home page : <https://code.headmelted.com>

Package releases : <https://packagecloud.io/headmelted/codebuilds>

GPG key from : <https://packagecloud.io/headmelted/codebuilds/gpgkey>

## 8) Edit History

2017-08-21 : Original post

2018-05-30 : Added note about using "Jessie" in the sources.list

2019-01-12 : Added note about "sudo apt-get update" being essential

2019-01-12 : Added note about launching from command line

2019-01-12 : Verified as working on Pi 3B, Raspbian Stretch

2019-03-11 : Added note about Microsoft packages on apt-get update

2019-03-11 : Added section on version number

2019-03-11 : Added section on 'black window' issue

2019-03-11 : Verified as working on Pi 3B, Raspbian Stretch

2019-03-11 : Gave up on Headmelted, using Steve Desmond's release instead

2019-10-18 : Confirmed Steve Desmond's 1.28.2 working on Pi 3B under Buster