

# Setting Up Hackatime for the Athena Award

Let's get your coding time tracked!

What we'll do today:











Install VS Code • Set up Hackatime • Connect GitHub • Start tracking

• • •

# What is Visual Studio Code?

A **free code editor** that runs on your computer. If you're coming from Replit, VS Code is like having Replit's editor installed directly on your machine - faster and works offline!

## VS Code vs Online Editors (like Replit)

VS Code (Local)	Replit (Online)	
 Faster - runs on your computer	 Works in any browser	
 Your code stays private	 No downloads needed	
 Tons of helpful extensions	 Easy to share projects	
 Save files on YOUR computer	 Files save to Replit's cloud	
 Works without internet	 Need internet always	

 **Key difference:** In VS Code, your files live on YOUR computer (like Word documents). You'll use GitHub to back them up online - we'll set that up later!

# Installing VS Code

## Steps to Install:

---

1. **Go to** `code.visualstudio.com`
2. **Click** the download button for your computer
3. **Install it:**
  - **Windows:** Double-click the .exe file and click "Next" a few times
  - **Mac:** Drag VS Code to your Applications folder
  - **Linux:** Use your package manager or download the .deb/.rpm file
4. **Open** VS Code when it's done!



**Check:** You should see the VS Code Welcome tab. If you do, you're ready for the next step!



# Setting up Hackatime - Part 1

## Run the Setup Script

---

### Step 1: Log In

- Go to **hackatime.hackclub.com**
- Click "**Log in with Slack**"
- Use your Hack Club Slack account to sign in

### Step 2: Run the Setup Script

- Click on **Settings** (look for a gear icon)
- Find "**Set up time tracking**"
- Follow the step-by-step instructions to copy and run the setup script on your computer

**Important:** Hackatime is Hack Club's free version of WakaTime. The setup script configures your editor to send data to our servers instead of WakaTime's.

# Installing the WakaTime Extension

## Adding Time Tracking to VS Code

---

1. **Open Extensions** in VS Code (press **Ctrl/Cmd + Shift + X**)
2. **Search** for "WakaTime"
3. **Click Install** on the WakaTime extension
4. **That's it!** The Hackatime setup script already configured everything



**Success!** Check the bottom of VS Code - you should see "Start coding to track your time". Once you start typing, it will begin tracking!

# Connecting to GitHub

## What's GitHub?

---

Think of **GitHub** as Google Drive for your code. It's where developers store and share their projects.

## Why Connect GitHub?

- 📁 **Backup** your code online 🤝 **Share** projects with others 🏆 **Show off** what you've built
- 📊 **Track** your coding activity for Athena

## How to Connect:

1. **Make an account** at github.com (pick a username you'll want to keep!)
2. **In VS Code**, click the Source Control icon (looks like a branch)
3. **Click** "Sign in to GitHub"
4. **Allow** VS Code to connect in your browser



# Understanding: Local vs Cloud Files

## Coming from Replit? Here's What's Different:

---

### In Replit:

- Your files live on Replit's servers ☁️
- You edit them through your browser
- They save automatically online
- You share by sending a link

### In VS Code:

- Your files live on YOUR computer 💻
- You edit them directly on your machine
- You save them to your hard drive
- You need GitHub to share/backup

💡 **Think of it this way:** VS Code = working on a document on your computer. GitHub = uploading it to Google Drive so it's safe and shareable.

# Creating Your First GitHub Project

## Let's Get Your Code Online!

---

### First, understand where your files are:

- When you create files in VS Code, they're **only on your computer**
- GitHub is where you'll **upload copies** of these files
- This keeps them safe and lets you access them anywhere

### Create a place on GitHub for your project:

1. Go to **github.com**
2. Click the green **"New"** button
3. Name it something simple like **"my-first-project"**
4. Leave everything else default
5. Click **"Create repository"**

**Don't worry!** Your GitHub repo starts empty. We'll add your files in the next steps.



# Connecting Your Local Files to GitHub

## Time to Upload Your Code!

---

### In VS Code:

1. **Open your project folder** (File → Open Folder)
2. Click the **Source Control** icon (branch symbol)
3. You'll see a message about no source control
4. Click **"Initialize Repository"** - this prepares your files
5. Write a message like **"My first commit"** in the text box
6. Click the **checkmark** ✓ to save this version
7. Click **"Publish Branch"** button that appears
8. Select your GitHub repository from the list

 **Success!** Your code is now on GitHub! You can see it at [github.com/\[your-username\]/\[your-repo-name\]](https://github.com/[your-username]/[your-repo-name])

# Your Daily Coding Workflow

Now that everything's connected, every time you code:

---

1. **Open VS Code** and your project
2. **Write code** and save files (Ctrl/Cmd + S)
3. **Every hour or when you finish something:**
  - Click Source Control icon
  - Type what you did (e.g., "Added homepage")
  - Click checkmark ✓ to commit & click sync button ➦ to push to GitHub

## Why this matters for Athena:

- Hackatime tracks your coding time 🕒 GitHub shows your project progress 📊

💡 **Remember:** Your files are on YOUR computer. GitHub is just a backup. If you don't push, your online copy won't update!

# Testing Your Setup

## Make Sure Everything Works

```
// 1. In VS Code, create a new file (Ctrl/Cmd + N)
// 2. Type some code like this:
console.log("Hello, Athena!");
// 3. Save it with a name like test.js (Ctrl/Cmd + S)
// 4. Choose WHERE to save it (make a new folder!)
// 5. Wait 5-10 minutes, then check hackatime.hackclub.com
```

💡 **Important for Replit users:** When VS Code asks WHERE to save, you're choosing a spot on YOUR computer (like Desktop or Documents). This is different from Replit where files auto-save to the cloud!



**Code every day** - even 10 minutes counts! **Create a folder** for each project **Push to GitHub** at least once per coding session **Check your progress** at [award.athena.hackclub.com](https://award.athena.hackclub.com)

# Troubleshooting Common Issues

## If Something's Not Working:

---

### "Setup script error"

→ Make sure you copied the entire command correctly

### "Can't see time tracking message"

→ Close VS Code completely and open it again

### "Time not showing up"





→ Make sure you're editing actual code files (.js, .py, .html, etc.)

💡 **Need help?** Ask in the #athena-award channel on Slack - someone's always happy to help!

# You're All Set!

## What You've Accomplished:

---

-  **Installed** VS Code for writing code
-  **Connected** Hackatime to track your progress
-  **Linked** GitHub to save your projects
-  **Learned** how to commit and push code

## Next Steps:

---






1. **Pick** a project you're excited about
2. **Code** a little bit every day
3. **Watch** your hours add up
4. **Earn** your Athena Award!

Happy coding!



## Useful Links:

---

-  **VS Code**: [code.visualstudio.com](https://code.visualstudio.com)
-  **Hacktime**: [hacktime.hackclub.com](https://hacktime.hackclub.com)
-  **GitHub**: [github.com](https://github.com)
-  **Athena Portal**: [award.athena.hackclub.com](https://award.athena.hackclub.com)
-  **Other Editors**: [wakatime.com/plugins](https://wakatime.com/plugins)

## Keyboard Shortcuts:

---

- **Ctrl/Cmd + S** → Save file
- **Ctrl/Cmd + Shift + P** → Command menu
- **Ctrl/Cmd + `** → Open terminal
- **Ctrl/Cmd + Shift + X** → Extensions panel



**Remember:** Every hour you code gets you closer to your Athena Award. You've got this!