

# Exercise 42

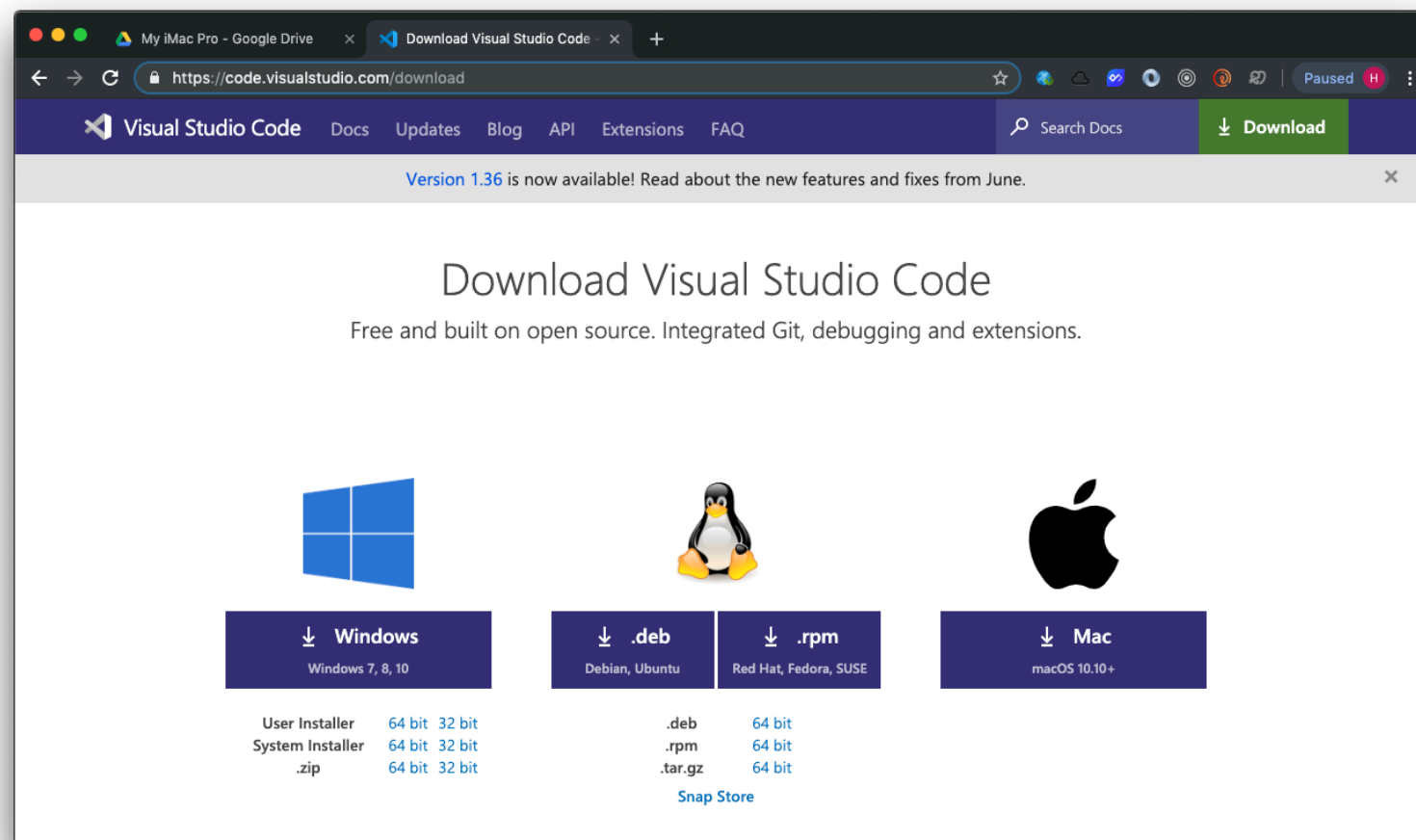
## SWITCHING TO AN IDE

So far, you've been using a repl to write and run your code. Repls are great for trying things out quickly, as there's minimal setup required. But professional programmers need professional tools to do their job — and this is where an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) comes into play.

IDEs offer programmers a great environment for writing code. One of the best is Visual Studio Code. It's built by Microsoft, it's absolutely best-of-class, and it's free! In this exercise, you're going to install VS Code on your computer and get a little experience working with it.

□ To start, head over to: <https://code.visualstudio.com/download>.

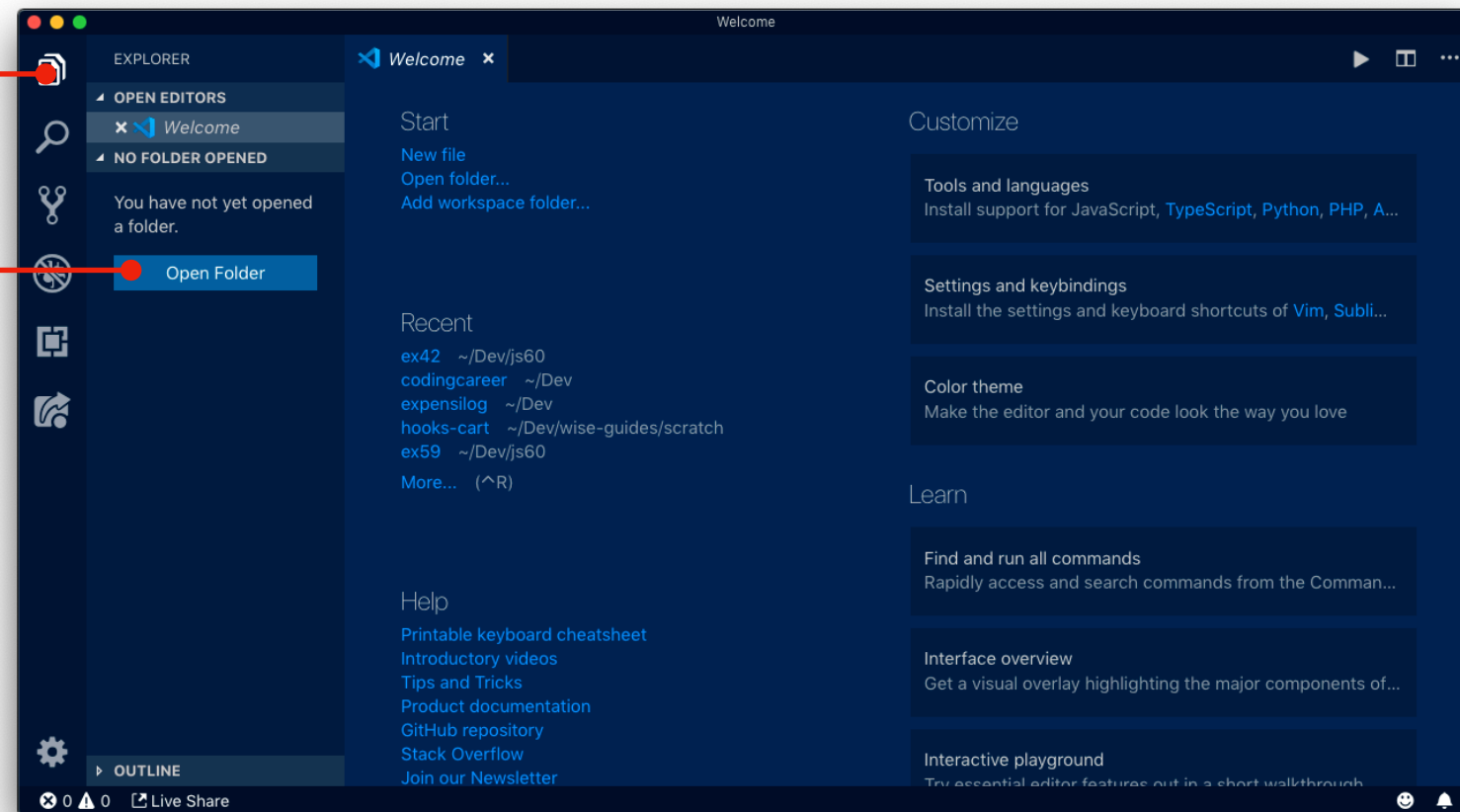
If you'd like to see a video  
on this, refer to the  
related video.



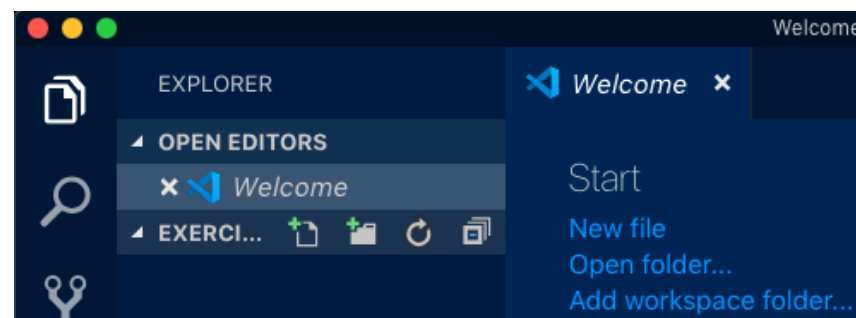
- ❑ Install the correct version for your computer.
- ❑ Open VS Code.

If you don't see the Explorer portion, click on this

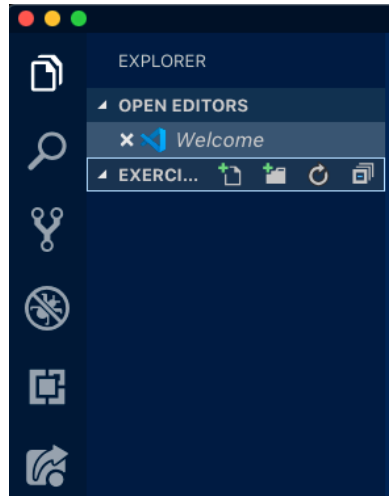
Open Folder button



- ❑ Click the **Open Folder** button and select the folder you want your code to go into — or click the **New Folder** button to create a new one. I created a new folder and named it **exercise-42**.

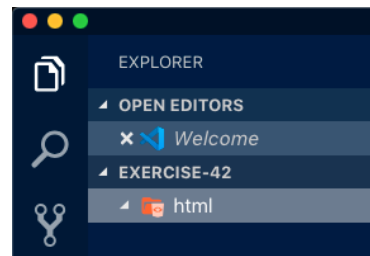


- ❑ Now, let's create an HTML file. Mouse over the name of your folder and you should see the following options:



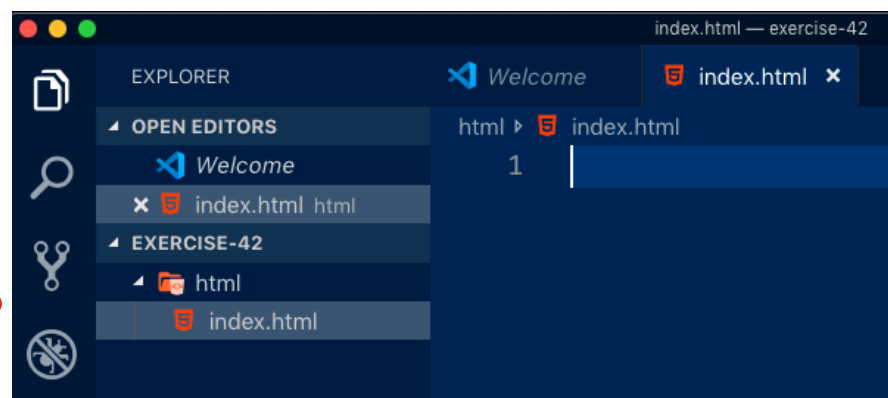
The options are: **New File**, **New Folder**, **Refresh Explorer**, and **Collapse Folders in Explorer**.

- ❑ Click the **New Folder** icon and name the new folder **html**.



- ❑ Click the **html** folder and choose **New File** from the available options. Name the file **index.html**.

You may not have the colorful icons for folders and various file types. That's being done by a plugin that we'll install later.



Boilerplate code is code that typically does some setup and varies little (if at all) between various files.

Now, it's time to write our first HTML file in VS Code. If you remember back to the many repls you've done, you might have noticed that there was some boilerplate code already included:

```
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="ie=edge">
  <title>Document</title>
</head>
<body>

</body>
</html>
```

There's no code included, so we'll have to write our own. BUT! What kind of self-respecting IDE would VS Code be if it didn't make this easy for you?

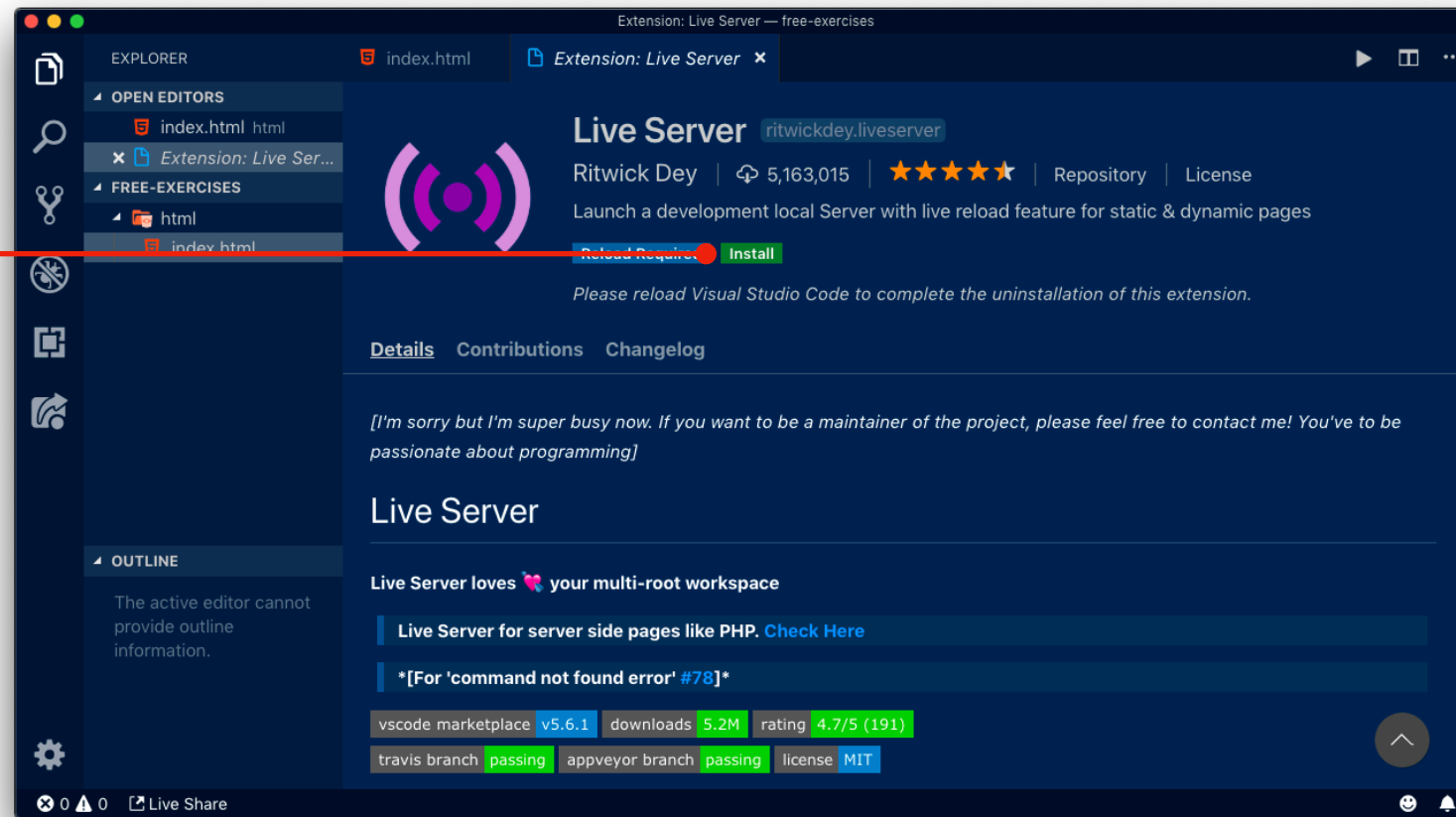
- ❑ Type `doc` and then immediately press the **Tab** key. That will put the boilerplate code into your file for you.
- ❑ Now, inside the `<body>` tags of your `index.html` file, type this:

```
<p>Hello, world</p>
```
- ❑ Save the file (**File > Save**).

VS Code has created a marketplace of plugins that work together with VS Code to enhance the developer's experience. We're going to install one now called **Live Server**. When we were working with repls, we had to click **Run** to reflect any changes. With Live Server, the browser will automatically update to show any changes made to the underlying code.

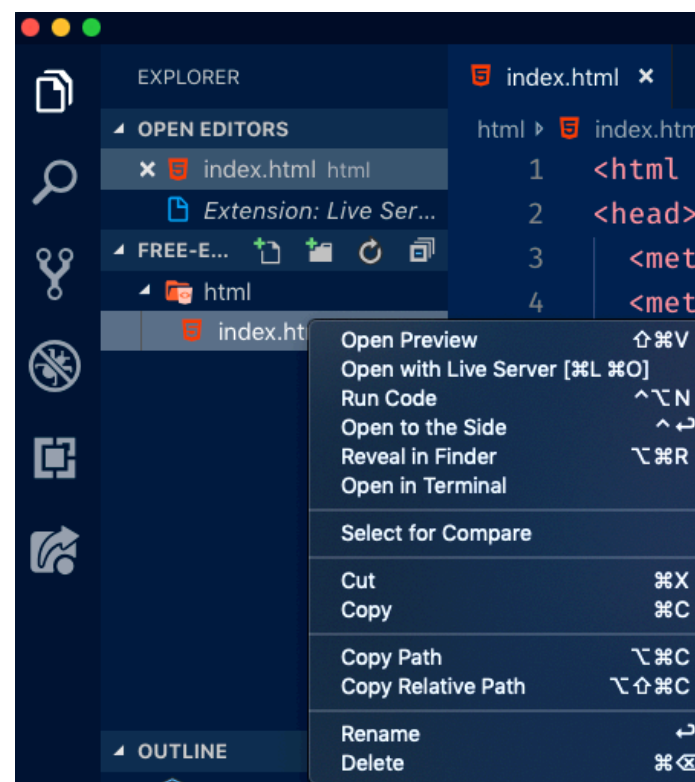
To install, go to: <https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=ritwickdey.LiveServer>. Click the **Install** button.

Install button



□ Your VS Code will change to look something like this. Click the **Install** button.

□ Now, let's see it in action. In the Explorer section of VS Code, mouse over **index.html**, then right-click.



- ❑ Click **Open with Live Server**. A new tab or window will open in your default browser, showing the results of your page.
- ❑ Now, back to VS Code, change the text to say, **Hello, fellow programmers**. Save the file and your browser should reflect the changes you made.

VS Code has lots of great things packed into it. In the next few exercises, we'll be learning more about them.