GitHub Copilot Integration with VS Code and IntelliJ (December 2025)

VS Code Setup

1. Install Extensions

Install both extensions from the VS Code Marketplace:

- **GitHub Copilot** — Core code completion
- **GitHub Copilot Chat** — Chat interface (included in Copilot extension as of 2024)

```
Extensions View: Ctrl+Shift+X (Windows/Linux) | Cmd+Shift+X (Mac)
Search: "GitHub Copilot"
```

2. Sign In to GitHub

1. After installation, click the Copilot icon in the status bar
2. Select "Sign in to GitHub"
3. Complete browser authentication
4. Verify subscription is active (Individual, Business, or Enterprise)

3. Configure Settings

Open Settings (`Ctrl+,` / `Cmd+,`) and search for "Copilot":

Setting	Description
`github.copilot.enable`	Enable/disable for specific languages
`github.copilot.advanced.model`	Select default model
`github.copilot.chat.localeOverride`	Language preference for responses

4. Key Features in VS Code

- **Inline Suggestions**: Type and see ghost text completions
- **Inline Chat**: `Cmd+I` / `Ctrl+I` for quick questions
- **Chat Panel**: Full chat interface in sidebar
- **Copilot Edits**: Multi-file editing (Command Palette → "Copilot Edits")
- **Model Picker**: Select GPT-4o, Claude 3.5, Gemini in chat

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IntelliJ IDEA Setup

1. Install Plugin

1. Open IntelliJ IDEA
2. Go to **Settings/Preferences → Plugins**
3. Search "GitHub Copilot" in Marketplace
4. Install and restart IDE

2. Sign In to GitHub

1. After restart, navigate to **Settings → GitHub Copilot**
2. Click "Sign in to GitHub"
3. Complete browser authentication

3. Configure Settings

Settings → GitHub Copilot:

Setting	Description
Enable completions	Toggle inline suggestions
Show completions automatically	Auto-show vs manual trigger
Model selection	Choose AI model for responses

4. Key Features in IntelliJ

- **Inline Suggestions**: Ghost text as you type
- **Copilot Chat**: Tool window for conversations
- **Inline Chat**: Context menu → "Ask Copilot"
- **Model Selection**: Available in chat settings

Other Supported IDEs

IDE	Extension/Plugin	Chat Support
Visual Studio	GitHub Copilot extension	Yes
Neovim	`copilot.vim` or `copilot.lua`	Limited
JetBrains IDEs	GitHub Copilot plugin	Yes
Xcode	GitHub Copilot for Xcode	Beta

Custom Instructions Setup

Create `.github/copilot-instructions.md` in your repository root to provide project-specific context:

```
# Project Instructions for Copilot

This is a Spring Boot application using:
- Java 21
- Maven
- H2 database for development

Please follow these conventions:
- Use constructor injection for dependencies
- Follow Google Java Style Guide
- Include Javadoc for public methods
```

Troubleshooting

Issue	Solution
No suggestions appearing	Check subscription status, verify sign-in
Chat not responding	Update extension/plugin to latest version
Model not available	Verify subscription tier supports selected model
Slow suggestions	Check network connection, try different model

For detailed troubleshooting including viewing Copilot logs, see Copilot-Limitations.md.