GitHub Copilot and Copilot Chat Cheat Sheet

Autocomplete Suggestions

GitHub Copilot Hotkeys (Windows)

- Accept an inline suggestion: `Tab`
- Dismiss an inline suggestion: `Esc`
- Show next inline suggestion: `Alt +]`
- Show previous inline suggestion: `Alt + [`
- Trigger inline suggestion: `Alt + \`
- Open GitHub Copilot (additional suggestions in separate pane): `Alt + Enter`

GitHub Copilot Hotkeys (Mac)

- Accept an inline suggestion: `Tab`
- Dismiss an inline suggestion: `Esc`
- Show next inline suggestion: `Option (¬)` or `Alt +]`
- Show previous inline suggestion: `Option (¬)` or `Alt + [`
- Trigger inline suggestion: `Option (¬) + \`
- Open GitHub Copilot (additional suggestions in separate pane): `Option (¬)` or `Alt + Return`

GitHub Copilot Tips

Effective Prompts:

- **Be Descriptive**: Use clear and detailed comments to describe the desired functionality.

Example: `// Generate a function to sort an array of integers`

- **Provide Examples**: Include input and output examples in comments to guide Copilot.

Example: \(\)/ Example input: [3, 1, 4], Example output: [1, 3, 4]\(\)

- **Iterative Refinement**: Start with a basic prompt and refine it based on the suggestions provided by Copilot.

Common Prompts:

- Basic Function Generation:

Comment: `// Generate a function to reverse a string`

- Complex Algorithm:

Comment: `// Generate a func to find the longest common subsequence between two strings`

- Data Processing:

Comment: `// Generate a function to filter an array of objects based on a property value`



Intelligent Engineering with AI

GitHub Copilot Chat Tips

Engaging with Copilot Chat:

- **Interactive Debugging**: Ask Copilot Chat specific questions about errors or issues to get detailed explanations and solutions.

Example: `Why am I getting a null pointer exception here?`

- **Contextual Help:** Use Copilot Chat to get context-aware assistance.

Example: `Can you explain what this piece of code is doing?`

- Code Review Assistance: Ask Copilot Chat to review code and identify potential issues.

Example: `Are there any potential issues with this function?`

Common Queries:

- Understanding Code: `What does this code do?`
- Improving Code: `How can I improve this function?`
- Fixing Errors: `How do I fix this error: [error message]?`
- Best Practices: `What are the best practices for implementing [feature]?`

