

Instructions for Installing SpecStory

SpecStory is a Cursor extension and CLI that automatically captures your AI coding sessions locally as markdown files. It only records conversations and interactions that occur while a file is visible and open in your editor. All session data is stored locally in the `.specstory/` directory within your project folder.

SpecStory Cursor Extension

Follow the following steps to install the **SpecStory Cursor extension** manually from a `.vsix` file.

The screenshot shows the VS Code interface with the SpecStory extension installed. On the left, a file named "2025-10-17_23-17Z-just-a-friendly-hello.md" is open, showing a conversation between a user and an AI assistant. The user says "hi there", and the AI responds with a welcome message about the project "voxelize". On the right, a sidebar titled "Just a friendly hello" provides a summary of the project and asks how the user would like to proceed, listing options like "Work on the Rust code in the main project?", "Develop features in the TypeScript/JavaScript packages?", etc.

1. Download the Extension File

Get the installation file: [specstory-vscode-0.23.0.vsix](#)

2. Open Your IDE (Cursor)

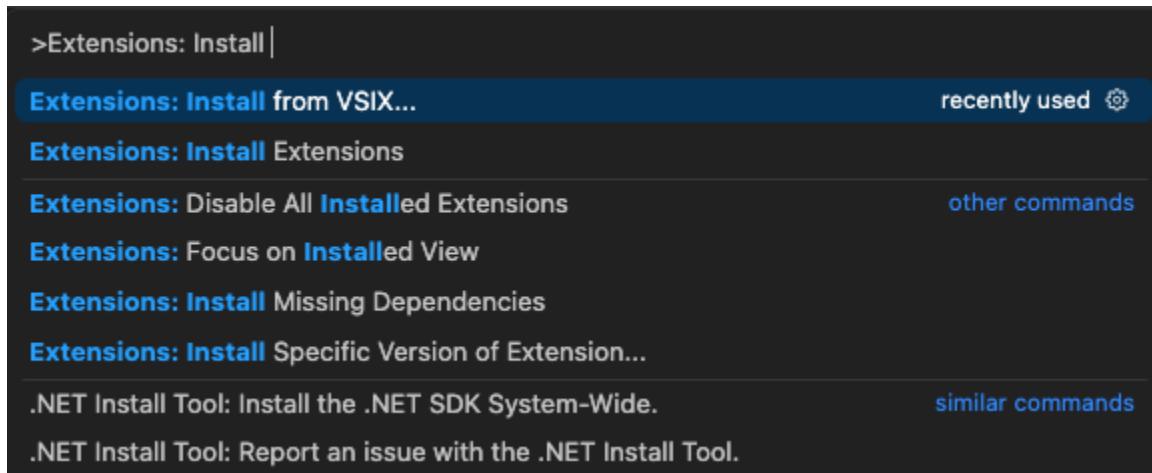
Launch your development environment. Both editors use the same underlying extension system, so the installation steps are identical.

3. Open Command Palette

- Windows/Linux: **Ctrl + Shift + P**
- macOS: **Cmd + Shift + P**

4. Search for “Extensions: Install from VSIX”

In the Command Palette, start typing: **Extensions: Install from VSIX**

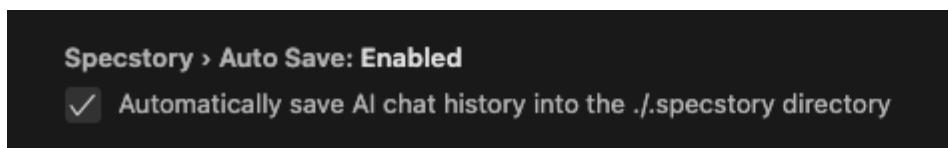
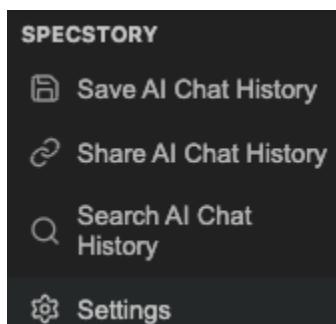


5. Select the Downloaded File

Choose **specstory-vscode-0.23.0.vsix** from your file browser and click Open. The installation will begin automatically. Wait until VS Code confirms that the extension was installed successfully.

6. Enable Auto Save

Open Command Palette again and search for **Show SpecStory** to bring up the left panel. From the side bar, select **Settings** and scroll to the Auto Save option. Click to enable it.



7. Verify That Conversations Are Being Saved

Open Cursor and start a quick conversation with an AI assistant. Navigate to the `.specstory` directory within the forked repository assigned to you and locate the `history` folder. You should see a new `.md` file for your session, with timestamps. This confirms that SpecStory is active and capturing your coding sessions.

8. Submit your SpecStory data with `.specstory/history`

At the end of the study, zip your `.specstory/history` folder and share it with us through the Google form. Do NOT push it to the updated branch.

Note: If you want to restrict SpecStory to a specific project, you can create a separate Cursor profile and enable the SpecStory extension only in that profile. This keeps SpecStory active for that project while leaving your other workspaces unaffected.

SpecStory CLI

To capture interactions with coding agents used via your terminal (e.g., Claude Code), we also need to install specstory CLI. Follow the following steps to install the

1. Install SpecStory

- [MacOS] Install through Homebrew below
- [Linux/WSL] [Download the binary here](#)

None

```
brew install specstoryai/tap/specstory
```

2. Install the SpecStory Wrapper

Under `tools/specstory/specstory_cli`, You will find two files: `install_specstory_wrapper.sh` and `specstory_wrapper.py`

Run the installer:

None

```
bash install_specstory_wrapper.sh
```

This script will:

- install the wrapper at `~/bin/specstory`

- install the Python logger at
`~/specstory_wrapper/specstory_wrapper.py`
- ensure `~/bin` is added to your PATH
- install Conda activation hooks so that when you run `claude`, it will be routed through specstory.

After installation, run `source ~/.zshrc` or `source ~/.bashrc`

You will be prompted to **choose the Conda environment** where SpecStory should run.

3. Use SpecStory

You can now run SpecStory through:

None

```
specstory run claude
```

All interactions during these sessions will be captured and saved in:

None

```
.yourproject/.specstory/history/
```

You should be able to use and prompt AI assistants just like you normally do during development. Just make sure you're prompting inside the assigned repository, so SpecStory saves the conversations in the right place.

4. Verify That Conversations Are Being Saved

Navigate to the `.specstory/` directory within the forked repository assigned to you and locate the `history` folder. You should see a new `.md` file for your session, with timestamps. Check that your conversations and AI interactions are being saved there — this confirms that SpecStory is active and capturing your coding sessions.

You should see a banner like the one below when you run `specstory run claude`



SpecStory Recording Active

Session will be logged to .specstory/

5. Submit your SpecStory data with .specstory/history

At the end of the study, zip your .specstory/history folder and share it with us through the Google form. Do NOT push it to the updated branch.