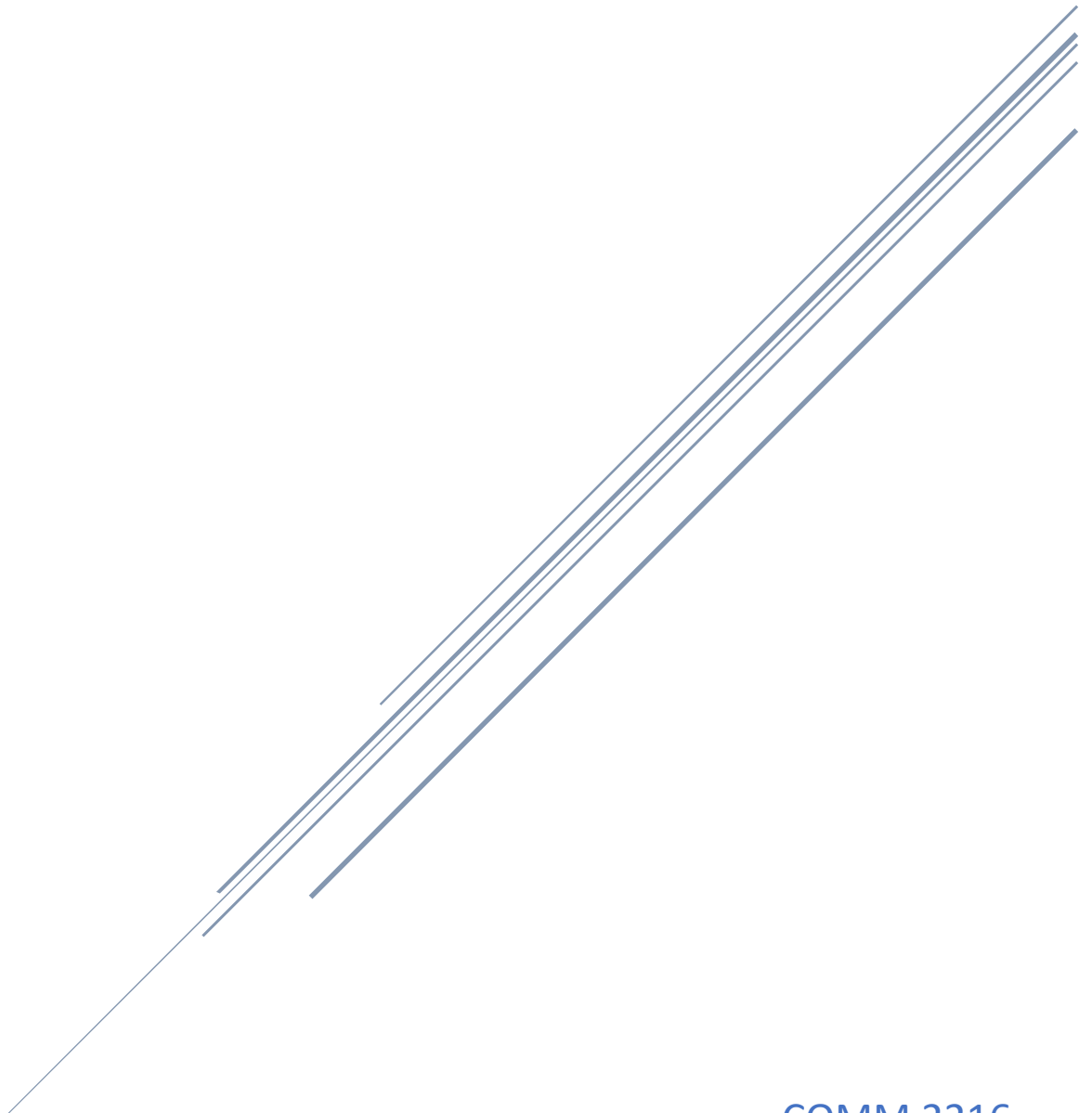


MAKING YOUR CODE EASIER TO READ IN VISUAL STUDIO CODE



COMM 2216
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Introduction

The Visual Studio Code (VSCode) software is a code editor made for Windows, Linux and macOS. It includes support for debugging, embedded Git control, syntax highlighting, and more. The intended use of VSCode is a general-purpose code editor, but it has specific support for web development and programming.

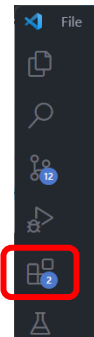
These instructions will walk you through the steps necessary to customize the appearance of your code editor to improve readability, ease of use, and organization. Whether you prefer a light or dark theme, or want to experiment with different color schemes, this guide will show you how to make those changes in VSCode. VSCode allows custom themes, fonts, and more to help you personalize your VSCode.

Change the Theme in VSCode

A theme is a personalization feature that changes the appearance of VSCode. For example, you can change the colours of VSCode to the colour palette of your favorite colours. There are thousands of themes available. Some themes are based on movies, while others are more practical. To change the theme of you VSCode, follow these steps to install your theme and to enable your theme:

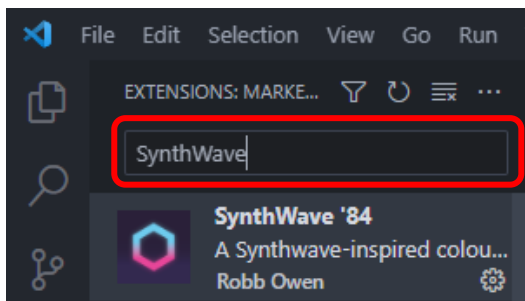
Step 1: Installing Your Theme

1. Click **Extensions** in the left-hand menu

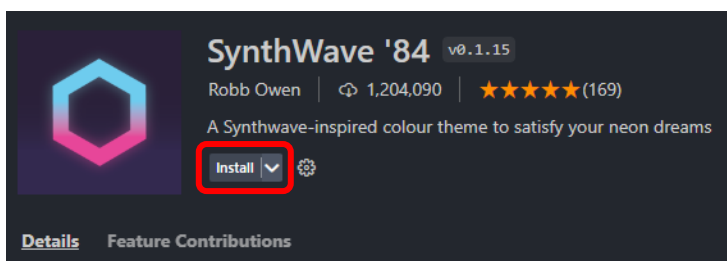


2. Type a theme in the **search box**.

Tip: Anything you type will search through the database of thousands of user created themes. Alternately, you can find many user generated themes at <https://vscodethemes.com/>

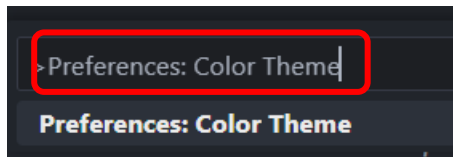


3. Click the desired **theme**
4. Click **Install**

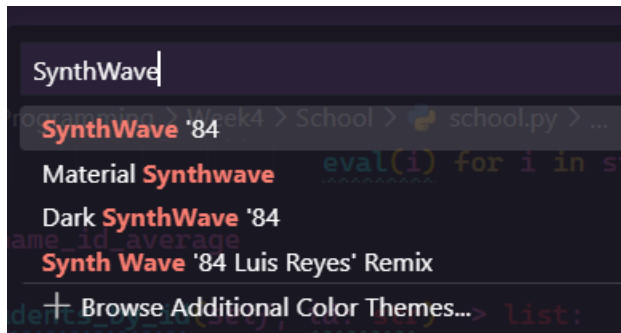


Step 2: Enabling Your Theme

1. Press **Ctrl + Shift + K**
2. Type 'Preferences Color Theme' in the **Search Box**



3. Press **Enter**
4. Type your newly installed theme



All installed themes will be listed here for you to easily switch between them.

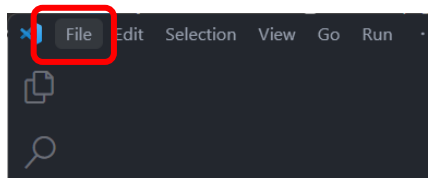
5. Click your installed theme to enable

Customizing the Font in VSCode

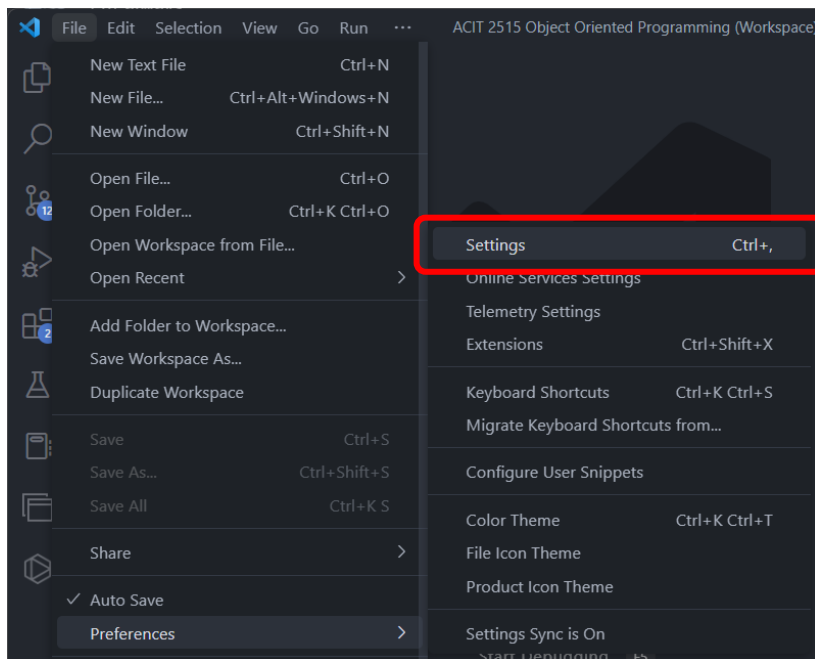
Changing the font, font size, font weight, and enabling ligatures in VSCode can help improve readability of code. Font weight is the thickness of the font like **bold**. Ligatures are unique representations of two or more symbols that are used together. For example, “!=” becomes “≠” or “<=” becomes “≤”. There are three steps to change font, font size, font weight and enabling Ligatures:

Step 1: Font

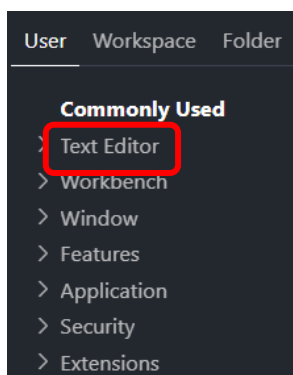
1. Click **File**



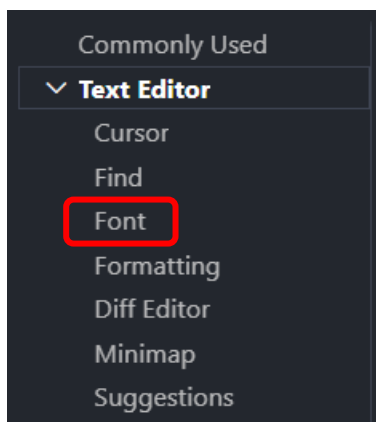
2. Click **Preferences > Settings** in the drop down menu



3. Click **Text Editor**

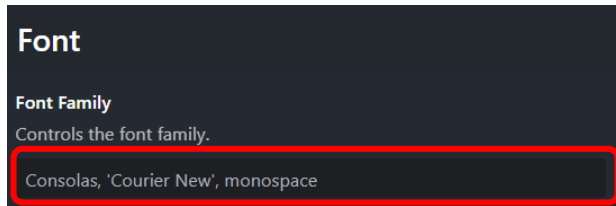


4. Click **Font** in the drop down menu under Text Editor



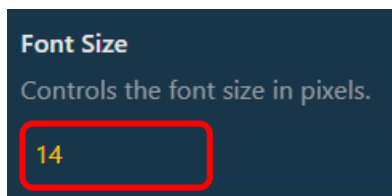
5. Type your desired font in the **Font Family** box

If the name of the chosen font contains a space it must be surrounded by quotations like: *'example font'*



Step 2: Font Size

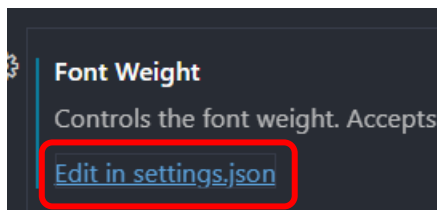
1. Type your desired Font Size in the **Font Size** box



We recommend a font size between 11-16 but test each size to find which font size works best for you.

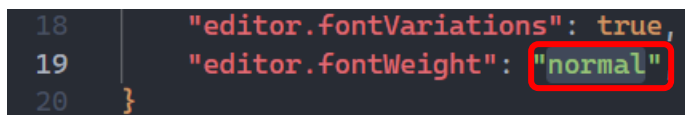
Step 3: Font Weight

1. Click **Edit in settings.json** under the Font Variations section



2. Replace 'editor.fontVariations' value with your desired value

This can be a number between 1 and 1000, or keywords like 'normal', 'bold', and 'light'



3. Press **Ctrl + S** to save

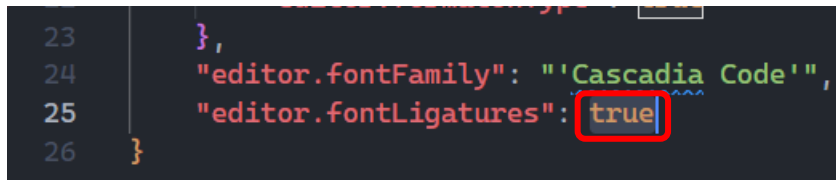
Step 4: Enable Ligatures

Changes made in the **settings.json** file could cause features to stop working, please proceed with caution.

1. Click **Edit in settings.json** under the Font Ligatures section



2. Replace 'editor.fontLigatures' value from **false** to **true**



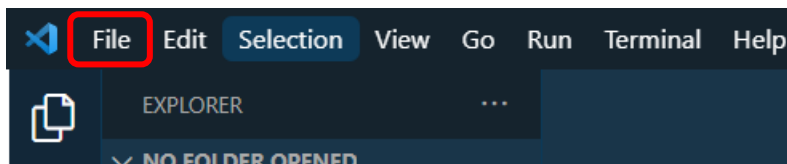
3. Press **Ctrl + S** to save

Creating and Saving Custom Workspace

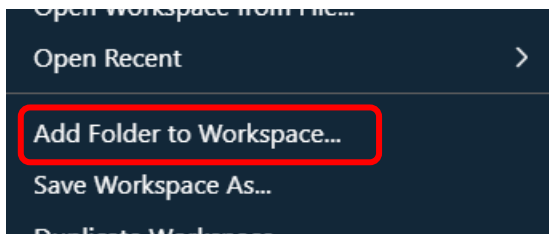
Creating a custom workspace helps improve the overall usability of VSCode. A workspace is a collection of files that is shown in the sidebar of VSCode. The workspace can be saved and imported so you can quickly change between different projects. There are a couple steps to do this:

Step 1: Importing Files

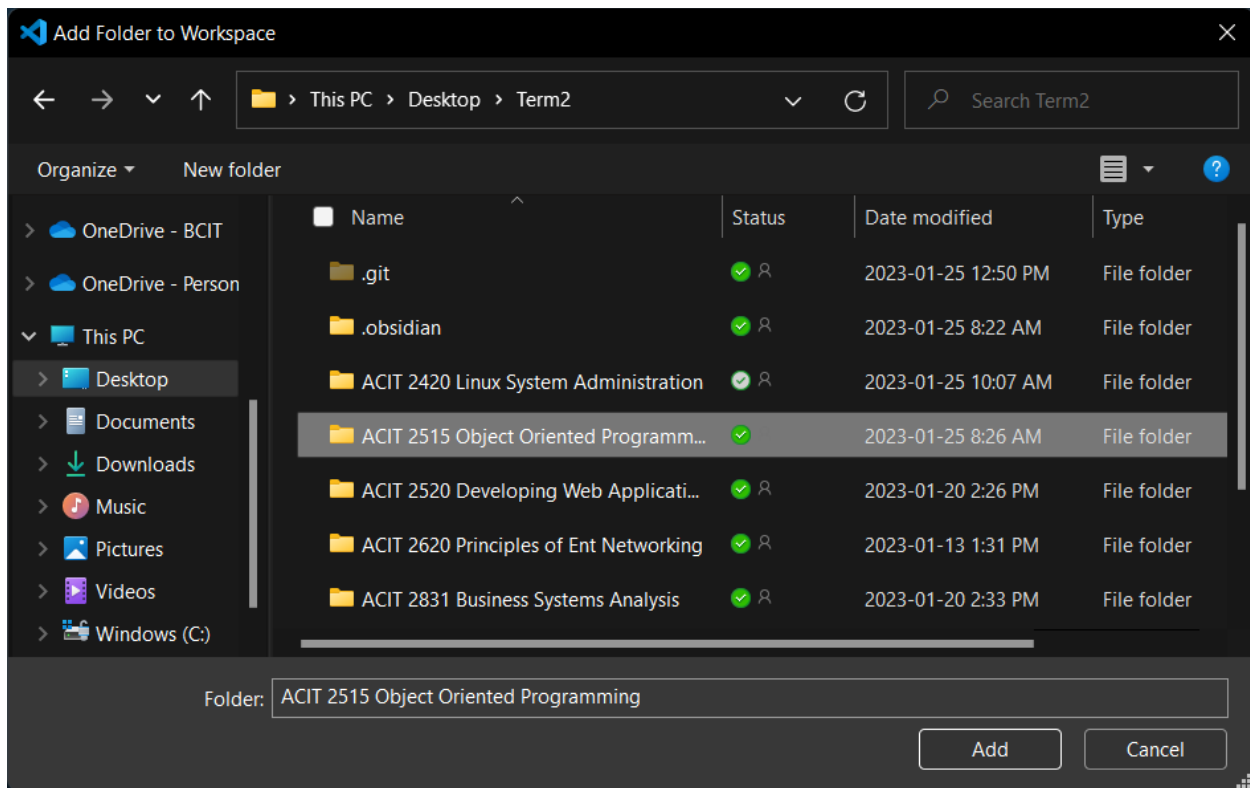
1. Click **File**



2. Click **Add Folder to Workspace** in the drop down menu



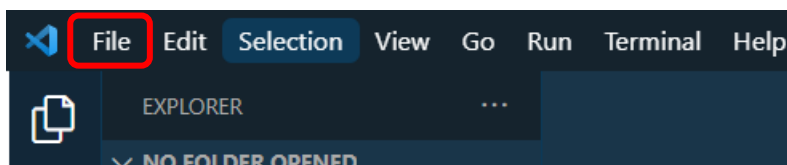
3. Click your desired **file**



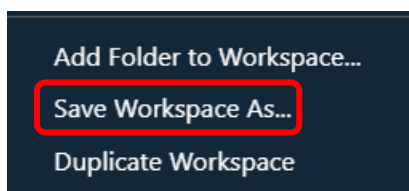
4. Click **Add**

Step 2: Save Your Workspace

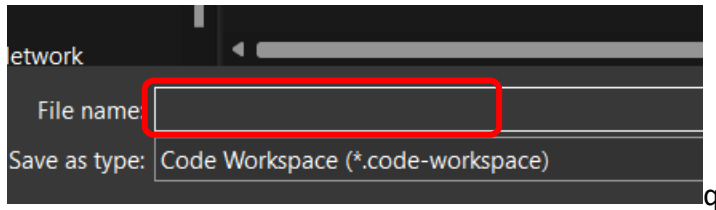
1. Click **File**



2. Click **Save Workspace As** in the drop down menu



3. Type your desired name for the workspace

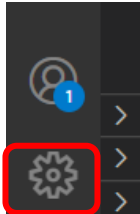


4. Click **Save**

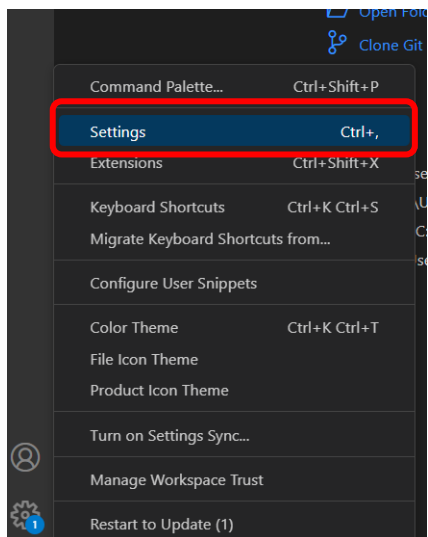
Customize Terminal

Customizing the terminal in Visual Studio Code (VSCode) allows you to personalize your development environment and streamline your workflow. A terminal is an input/output window that is used to interact with the code you're writing. To change the appearance of your terminal, follow these steps:

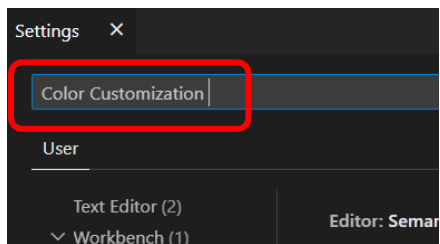
4. Click the **Gear Icon** on the bottom right



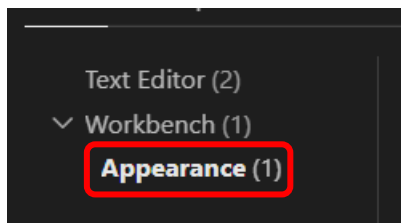
5. Click **Settings** in the drop-down menu



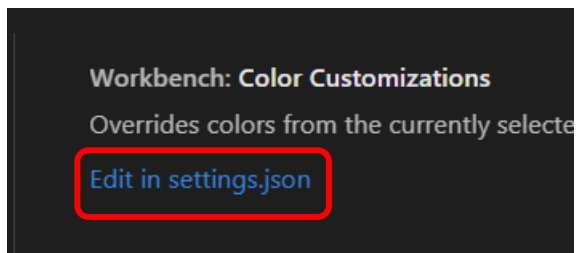
6. Type in 'Color Customization' in the **Search box**



7. Click **Appearance** Option



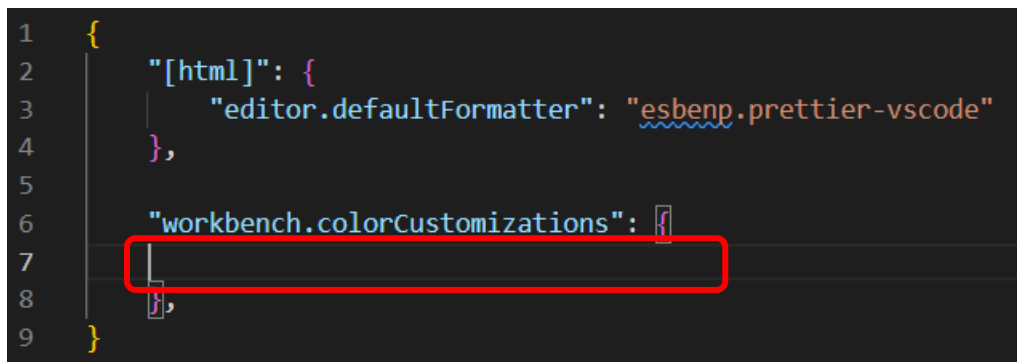
8. Click **Edit in settings.js**



9. Paste theme color pallet into 'workbench.colorCustomizaions: '

Note: All Color Pallets may be found on:

<https://gist.github.com/dcts/5b2af4c8b6918e7d35c4121f11d49fb1>



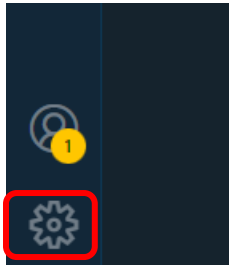
10. Press **Ctrl + S** to save

Title and Layout Customization

Custom titles are applied in your VSCode to help better organize your project, and an organized layout helps declutter your windows. A layout is the arrangement and organization of interactive elements on a page or screen in VSCode. Follow these steps to customize your title and layout of VSCode:

Step 1: Changing Titles

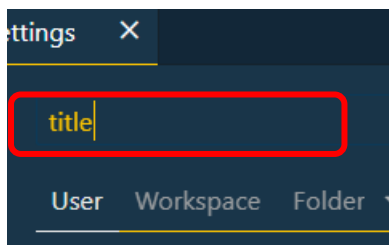
1. Click the **Gear Icon**



2. Click **Settings**

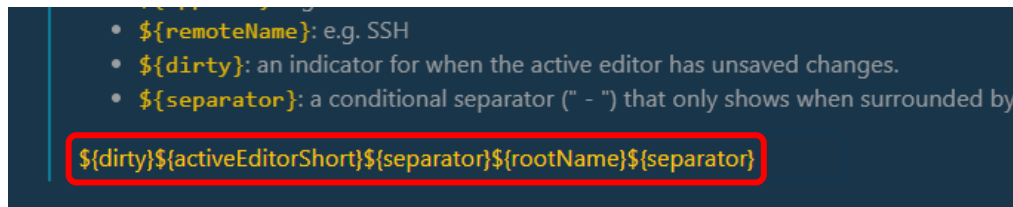


3. Type 'title' in the **Search Box**



4. Remove or Update commands in the **Window: Title Box**

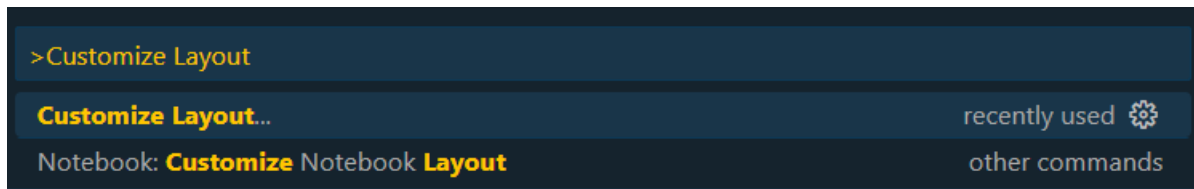
Under **Window: Title**, the use of each command is explained. Test configurations to find the best configuration for you.



Step 2: Customize Layout

1. Press **Ctrl + Shift + P**

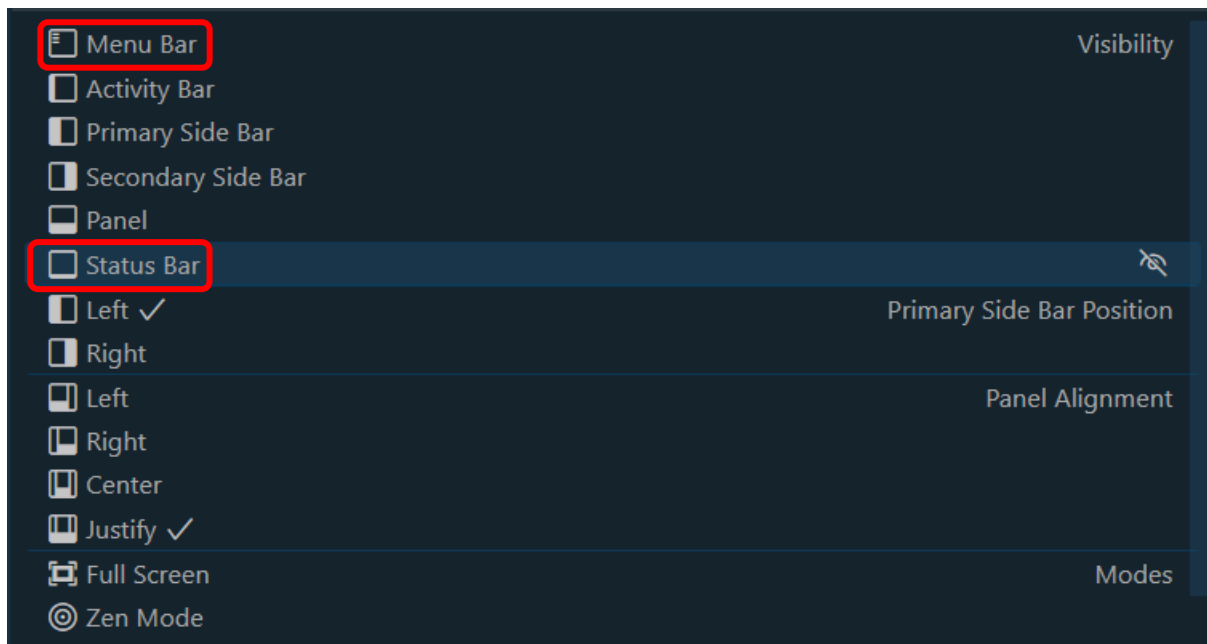
2. Type 'Customize Layout' in the **Search Bar**



3. Press **Enter**
4. Click your desired **Options** to toggle them

Try testing each option to find you favourite layout, but these are the ones we recommend disabling:

- **Menu Bar**
- **Status Bar**

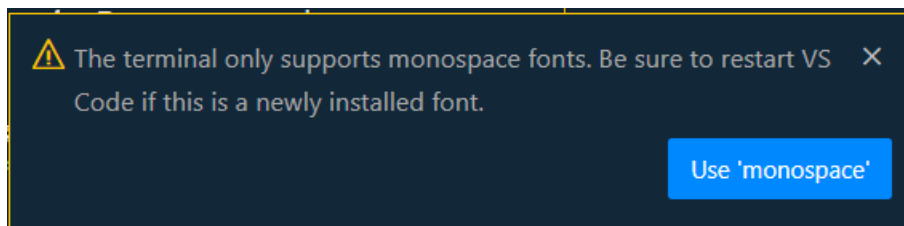


Glossary

Ligatures	Ligatures are unique representations of two or more symbols that are used together.
Terminal	A terminal is an input/output window that is used to interact with the code you're writing.
Theme	A theme is a personalization features that changes the appearance of VSCode.
Workspace	A workspace is a collection of files that is shown in the sidebar of VSCode.
Font Weight	Font weight is the thickness of the font like bold .
Layout	A layout is the arrangement and organization of interactive elements on a page or screen in VSCode.

Trouble-shooting Guide

If the font is not found, this error will appear.



Follow these steps to solve this issue:

1. Ensure that the **font** is spelled correctly
2. Download the font from <https://fonts.google.com/>

Changes in the settings.json are not applying

Follow these steps to solve this issue:

1. Ensure there is **not** white dot next to setting.json



2. Press **Ctrl + S** to save changes
3. Restart VSCode to see terminal changes