Step by step approach to install and get running the Locator using ESP8266

The principle of things is the following :

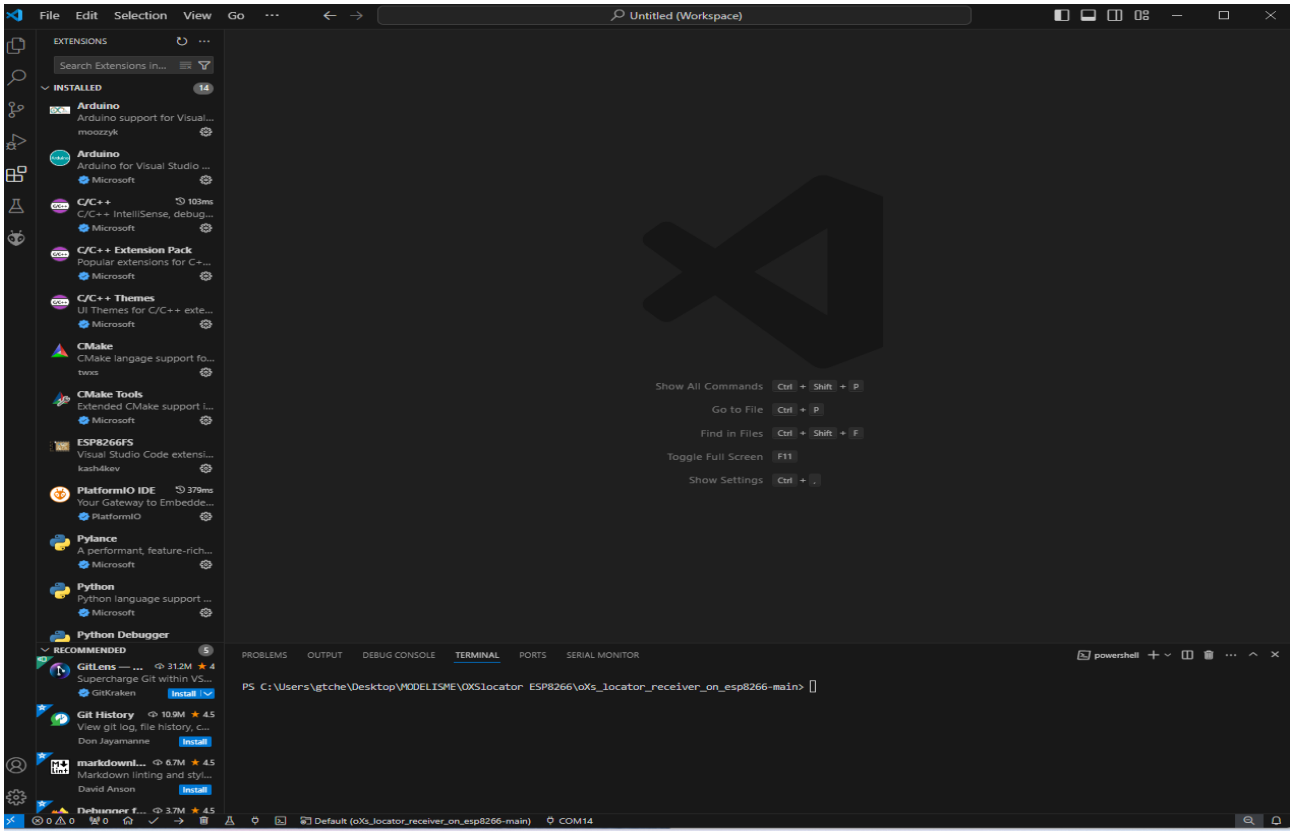
* This Locator receiver system has been developped with a VisualCode and PlatforIO software background.
It uses some Arduino coding within this context.

This is why you must install all of these software layers to get the Locator uploaded and running on your ESP8266 board.

1) install VisualCode for Windows which you can get at : https://code.visualstudio.com/
Download, double click and it installs as usually.

2) Install PlatformIO, whch is a software layer where your arduino will be worked on.
Go to https://platformio.org/ and download, then install.

3) Next :
* you start VisualCode by double click.
* in VisualCode you will find on the left hand side a column of items, one of which is called ‘extensions’. Its icon is a set of little squares. An extension is a piece of software which will be used for your project.
* You type in the box where it is written « market place » the name of extensions you need, those are :
-arduino for VisualCode
-PlatformIO
You install them. You get the following :



On the left hand column you will find an icon in the shape of an insect head. This is PlatformIo icon extension.

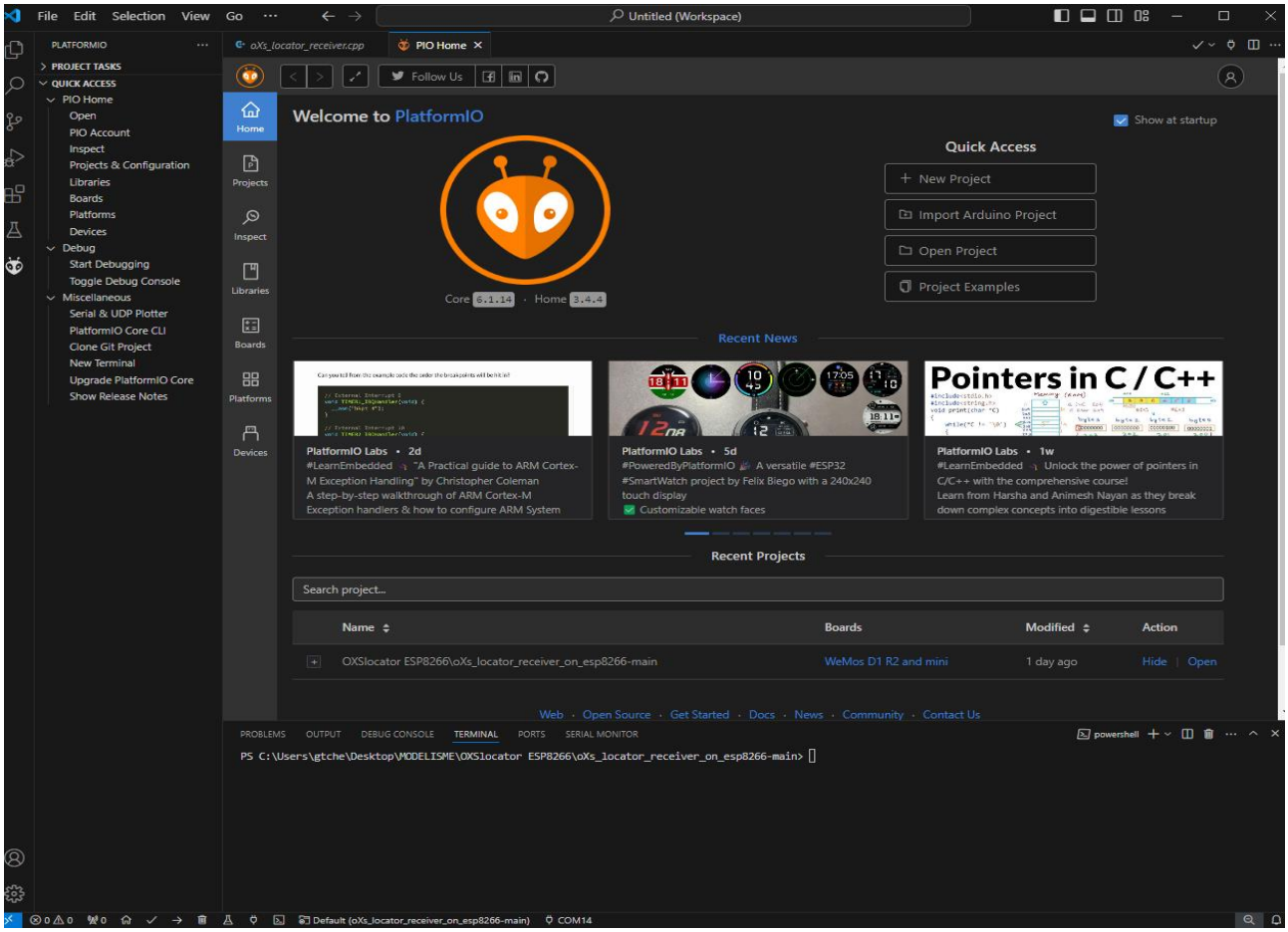
Before anything else, please download the « OXSLocator for ESP8266 » project from the GitHub where Michel has put it.
You unzip it and will find here a file named 'Platformio.ini'. You will use it.

Then you connect your ESP8266 device to your computer via an USB port.

> *Either the proper ESP8266 driver is already installed and then all is ok ;*
> *Or it is not. In this case the USB connexion will make noises, and you will eventually get a message that the proper driver is not installed. If no message but you cannot go further with your board, please check its status by going to your PC page « device management ». There you will see your board connected, eventually with a Warning.*
>
> *It is tricky to install a driver by hand, but very easy if you use a dedicated software. I used « Bit driver updater » which you can get at : https://www.techpout.com/bit-driver-updater/ .*
> *Download, install and use the free version which will detect the missing drivers (and the obsolete ones). Let it install the needed driver. For me it was CP2102 driver.*

Now, back to the VisualYou click on it. On the very first column left, click on the insect shaped icon, the PlatformIO one.

Clicking on 'open' brings you to the Welcome page of PlatformIO.



On the middle of this Welcome page, you can choose between options:

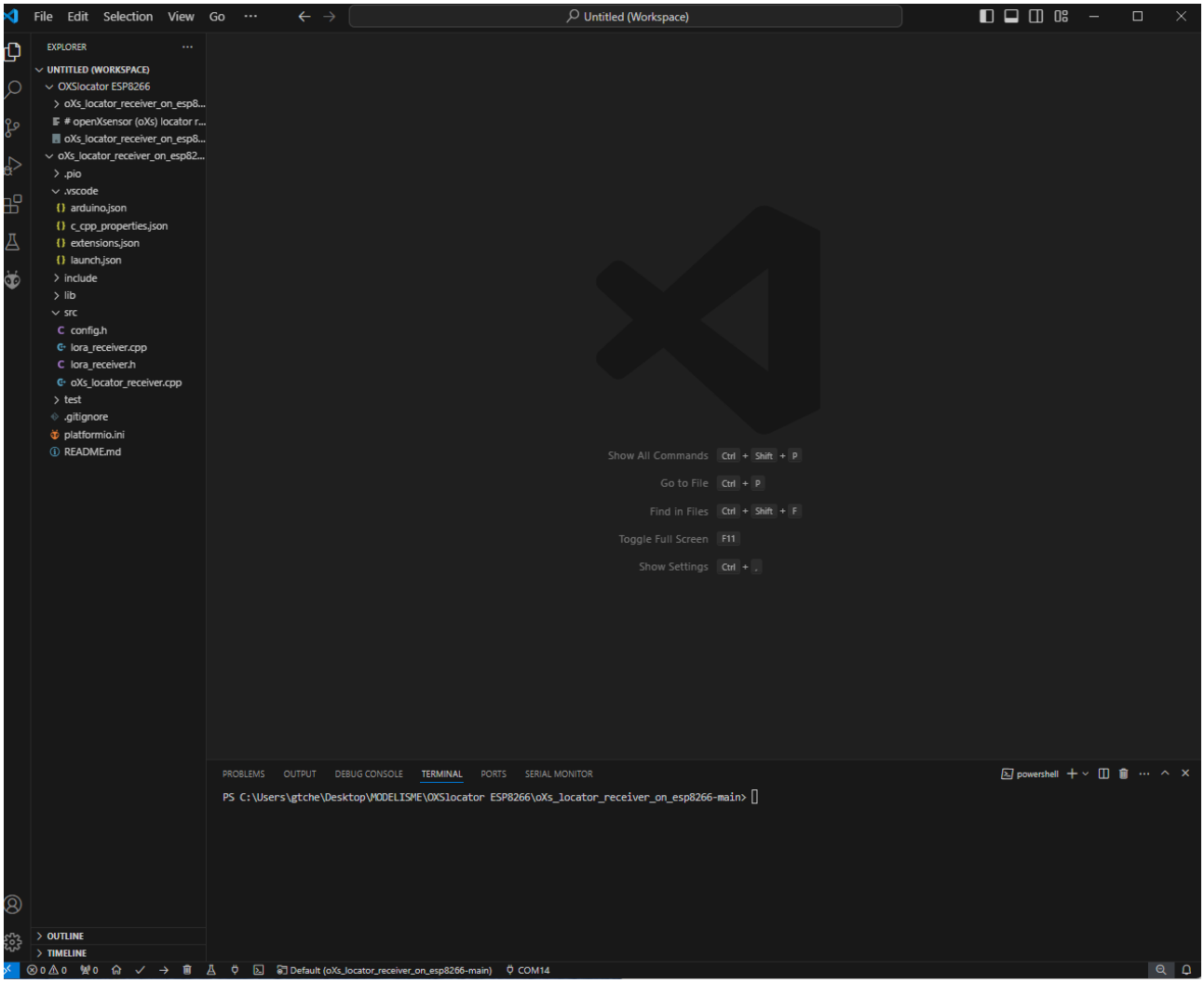
One is ‘open project’
Another is ‘open arduino project’.

Click on the ‘arduino project’ and you will have to choose which hardware you use (you select your board from the long list showing) and where it is located on your PC.

Now if all this has been properly done, you will see on the left hand side column of the PlatformIO page an icon « projects ». You click on it and there is your project and files.

To navigate from the PlatformIO page to you project page, you use the top left icon « explorer ».

In the 2nd column (next to the 1st one), some items will appear: One is called « Quick access ». You develop it. The first item in the menu is called ‘open’.
You click on it and it is now time to connect your project to this software environment.
Clicking on it will bring you on the following page :



You can see the list of your project pages.

You then click on « oxs_locator_receiver.cpp » file and now have a look at the bottom line of this page : an icon is a kind of ‘V’. running the mouse over it will show « platformIO Build ». This is the compilation part. Launch it. It will take some 20 seconds or so.
Then, no errors will appear, you can upload with the « -> » icon on the same bottom line.

IF you have errors :
I had errors because the arduino extension was not installed, and then because the Driver was not installed.
If you have done these steps then there will be no errors.

There you are !